

Annual Management Report of Fund Performance

for the financial year ended December 31, 2023

All figures are reported in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted.

This annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete annual financial statements of the investment fund. You can get a copy of the annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling toll-free at [1 800 465-3863](tel:18004653863), by emailing us at info@cibcassetmanagement.com, by writing to us at CIBC Square, 81 Bay Street, 20th floor, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 0E7, or by visiting our website at www.cibc.com/mutualfunds or SEDAR+ at www.sedarplus.ca.

Unitholders may also contact us using one of these methods to request a copy of the investment fund's interim financial report, proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosure.

Management Discussion of Fund Performance

Investment Objective and Strategies

Investment Objective: CIBC Financial Companies Fund (referred to as the *Fund*) seeks to provide long-term growth through capital appreciation by investing primarily in companies involved in the Canadian financial services industry.

Investment Strategies: The Fund identifies stocks and sub-sectors of the financial services industry, real estate investment trust units and real estate stocks that are expected to outperform over upcoming periods. Adjustments to the portfolio are based on a review of macroeconomic trends and themes and research that identifies stocks that exhibit strong earnings growth potential that trade at reasonable value in the market.

Risk

The Fund is a financial services equity fund that is suitable for long term investors who can tolerate medium to high investment risk.

For the period ended December 31, 2023, the Fund's overall level of risk remained as discussed in the simplified prospectus.

Results of Operations

The Fund's portfolio advisor is CIBC Asset Management Inc. (referred to as *CAMI* or the *Portfolio Advisor*). The commentary that follows provides a summary of the results of operations for the period ended December 31, 2023. All dollar figures are expressed in thousands, unless otherwise indicated.

The Fund's net asset value decreased by 2% during the period, from \$159,960 as at December 31, 2022 to \$156,727 as at December 31, 2023. Net redemptions of \$14,749 were partially offset by positive investment performance, resulting in an overall decrease in net asset value.

Class A units of the Fund posted a return of 7.8% for the period. The Fund's primary benchmark, the S&P/TSX Composite Index (referred to as the *primary benchmark*), returned 11.8% for the same period. The Fund's return is after the deduction of fees and expenses, unlike the primary benchmark's return. See the section *Past Performance* for the returns of other classes of units offered by the Fund.

Investor concerns about high inflation declined throughout the year. Late in 2023, the U.S. Federal Reserve Board signalled that it could lower interest rates in the coming year, earlier than some market participants had anticipated. The Bank of Canada was also expected to pivot to interest rate reductions in 2024.

In March, financial markets experienced a significant shock when concerns about potential insolvency at U.S. regional banks led customers to make massive withdrawals, resulting in the second- and third-largest bank failures in U.S. history. Despite support from federal regulators, the turbulence spilled over into Europe with the collapse of Switzerland's Credit Suisse Group AG, an important financial institution that was ultimately merged with its largest domestic peer, UBS Group AG. These bank failures heightened financial market volatility in the first half of 2023.

In Canada, consumer demand was supported by high household savings rates, but pandemic-era savings were largely depleted.

A moderate overweight exposure to U.S. banks and a moderate underweight exposure to Canadian insurance companies detracted from the Fund's performance. Individual detractors from the Fund's performance included overweight holdings in SVB Financial Group and AIA Group Ltd., and an underweight holding in Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd. SVB Financial, which was added to the Fund in January, is the parent company of Silicon Valley Bank, which failed in March after a liquidity crunch. AIA Group modestly detracted from performance as its shares were affected by negative news relating to the economies of China and Hong Kong. Fairfax Financial continued to perform well, benefiting from reinvesting its cash and short-term fixed income portfolio into higher-yielding securities.

A moderate underweight exposure to regional banks and a significant underweight exposure to more defensive financials stocks contributed to the Fund's performance. Individual contributors to the Fund's performance included underweight holdings in The Charles Schwab Corp. and PayPal Holdings Inc., and an overweight holding in JPMorgan Chase & Co. Along with regional banks in general, Charles Schwab encountered concerns around client deposits and fund flows. PayPal Holdings Inc., along with the entire payments segment, was out of

favour with investors. JPMorgan benefited from its defensive characteristics in a volatile market environment for U.S. banks.

New holdings were added to the Fund in Lincoln National Corp., Visa Inc. and Fairfax Financial. The Portfolio Advisor believes Lincoln National benefits from higher interest rates, and the stock was trading below its long-term average price-to-book-value ratio. As interest rates rise, the Portfolio Advisor believes that Visa is more defensively positioned than companies exposed to credit, such as banks. Fairfax Financial was added to help reduce the Fund's risk.

Several of the Fund's existing holdings were increased. The Portfolio Advisor expected improving fundamentals at Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce over 2023, with lower year-over-year expense growth and an expansion of net interest margins. The Portfolio Advisor believes Manulife Financial Corp. could benefit from near-term positive sentiment related to the reopening of China and Hong Kong. Holdings in Mastercard Inc., National Bank of Canada and Intact Financial Corp. were increased as a result of the Portfolio Advisor's higher conviction.

Several holdings were eliminated from the Fund. LPL Financial Holdings Inc., Moody's Corp. and MSCI Inc. were sold to raise cash for higher-conviction opportunities. First Republic Bank was eliminated in response to the risk and volatility of the stock.

Several of the Fund's holdings were reduced. The Portfolio Advisor believes expectations for earnings-per-share growth at The Toronto-Dominion Bank are presently too high. Brookfield Corp. has substantial exposure to office real estate, an area the Portfolio Advisor expects will face further pressure. Royal Bank of Canada, Globe Life Inc., Bank of America Corp., Morgan Stanley and JPMorgan were trimmed in favour of higher-conviction holdings.

Recent Developments

Effective April 27, 2023, Bryan Houston was appointed Chair of the Independent Review Committee.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war have disrupted the global economy and financial markets in unprecedented and unpredictable ways. This has resulted in significant volatility and uncertainty in financial markets. It is unclear what further actions may be taken by governments and the resulting impact on global economies, businesses and financial markets. Inflation has increased in many markets across the globe, leading central banks to raise interest rates in order to counter rapidly rising prices. These factors may adversely affect the performance of the Fund. The Manager continues to monitor ongoing developments and the impact to investment strategies.

Related Party Transactions

CIBC and its affiliates have the following roles and responsibilities with respect to the Fund, and receive the fees described below in connection with their roles and responsibilities.

Manager

CIBC is the Fund's manager (referred to as the *Manager*). CIBC receives management fees with respect to the Fund's day-to-day business and operations, calculated based on the net asset value of each respective class of units of the Fund as described in the section entitled *Management Fees*. The Manager compensates its wholesalers

in connection with their marketing activities regarding the Fund. From time to time, CIBC may invest in units of the Fund.

Trustee

CIBC Trust Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of CIBC, is the Fund's trustee (referred to as the *Trustee*). The Trustee holds title to the Fund's property (cash and securities) on behalf of its unitholders.

Portfolio Advisor

The portfolio advisor provides, or arranges to provide, investment advice and portfolio management services to the Fund. CAMI, a wholly-owned subsidiary of CIBC, is the Fund's portfolio advisor.

Distributor

Dealers and other firms sell the units of the Fund to investors. These dealers and other firms include CIBC's related dealers such as the principal distributor, CIBC Securities Inc. (referred to as *CIBC SI*), the CIBC Investor's Edge discount brokerage division of CIBC Investor Services Inc. (referred to as *CIBC ISI*), the CIBC Imperial Investor Service division of CIBC ISI, and the CIBC Wood Gundy division of CIBC World Markets Inc. (referred to as *CIBC WM*). CIBC SI, CIBC ISI, and CIBC WM are wholly-owned subsidiaries of CIBC.

CIBC may pay trailing commissions to these dealers and firms, in connection with the sale of units of the Fund. These dealers and other firms may pay a portion of these trailing commissions to their advisors who sell units of the Fund to investors.

Brokerage Arrangements and Soft Dollars

The Portfolio Advisor makes decisions, including the selection of markets and dealers and the negotiation of commissions, with respect to the purchase and sale of portfolio securities, certain derivative products and the execution of portfolio transactions. Brokerage business may be allocated by the Portfolio Advisor to CIBC WM and CIBC World Markets Corp., each a subsidiary of CIBC. CIBC WM and CIBC World Markets Corp. may also earn spreads on the sale of fixed income securities and other securities and certain derivative products to the Fund. A spread is the difference between the bid and ask prices for a security in the applicable marketplace, with respect to the execution of portfolio transactions. The spread will differ based upon various factors such as the type and liquidity of the security.

Dealers, including CIBC WM and CIBC World Markets Corp., may furnish goods and services, other than order execution, to the Portfolio Advisor in partial exchange for processing trades through them (referred to in the industry as "soft dollar" arrangements). These goods and services are paid for with a portion of the brokerage commissions and assist the Portfolio Advisor with investment decision-making services for the Fund or relate directly to the execution of portfolio transactions on behalf of the Fund.

During the period, the Fund paid brokerage commissions and other fees of \$467 to CIBC World Markets Corp.; the Fund did not pay any brokerage commissions or other fees to CIBC WM. Spreads associated with fixed income and other securities are not ascertainable and, for that reason, cannot be included when determining these amounts.

Fund Transactions

The Fund may enter into one or more of the following transactions (referred to as the *Related Party Transactions*) in reliance on the standing instructions issued by the IRC:

- invest in or hold equity securities of CIBC or issuers related to a portfolio sub-advisor;
- invest in or hold non-exchange-traded debt securities of CIBC or an issuer related to CIBC, with terms-to-maturity of 365 days or more, issued in a primary offering and in the secondary market;
- make an investment in the securities of an issuer for which CIBC WM, CIBC World Markets Corp., or any affiliate of CIBC (referred to as a *Related Dealer* or the *Related Dealers*) acts as an underwriter during the offering of the securities or at any time during the 60-day period following the completion of the offering of such securities (in the case of a "private placement" offering, in accordance with the exemptive relief order granted by the Canadian securities regulatory authorities and in accordance with the policies and procedures relating to such investment);
- purchase equity or debt securities from or sell them to a Related Dealer, where it is acting as principal;
- undertake currency and currency derivative transactions where a Related Dealer is the counterparty;
- purchase securities from or sell securities to another investment fund or a managed account managed by the Manager or an affiliate; and
- engage in in-specie transfers by receiving portfolio securities from, or delivering portfolio securities to, a managed account or another investment fund managed by the Manager or an affiliate, in respect of a purchase or redemption of units in the fund, subject to certain conditions.

At least annually, the IRC reviews the Related Party Transactions for which they have issued standing instructions. The IRC is required to advise the Canadian securities regulatory authorities, after a matter has been referred or reported to the IRC by the Manager, if it determines that an investment decision was not made in accordance with a condition imposed by securities legislation or the IRC in any Related Party Transactions requiring its approval.

Custodian

CIBC Mellon Trust Company is the Fund's custodian (referred to as the *Custodian*). The Custodian holds all cash and securities for the Fund and ensures that those assets are kept separate from any other cash or securities that the Custodian might be holding. The Custodian also provides other services to the Fund including record-keeping and processing of foreign exchange transactions. The fees and spreads for the services of the Custodian directly related to the execution of portfolio transactions by the Fund are paid by CAMI and/or the dealer(s) directed by CAMI, up to the amount of the credits generated under soft dollar arrangements from trading on behalf of the Fund during that month. All other fees and spreads for the services of the Custodian are paid by the Manager and charged to the Fund on a recoverable basis. CIBC owns a 50% interest in the Custodian.

Service Provider

CIBC Mellon Global Securities Services Company Inc. (referred to as *CIBC GSS*) provides certain services to the Fund, including securities lending, fund accounting and reporting, and portfolio valuation. Such servicing fees are paid by the Manager and charged to the Fund on a recoverable basis. CIBC indirectly owns a 50% interest in CIBC GSS.

Financial Highlights

The following tables show selected key financial information about the Fund and are intended to help you understand the Fund's financial performance for the period ended December 31.

The Fund's Net Assets per Unit¹ - Class A Units

Inception date: September 22, 1997

	2023		2022		2021		2020		2019	
Net Assets, beginning of period	\$	34.72	\$	38.97	\$	30.22	\$	31.62	\$	25.92
Increase (decrease) from operations:										
Total revenue	\$	1.13	\$	0.84	\$	0.95	\$	0.88	\$	0.82
Total expenses		(0.80)		(0.82)		(0.92)		(0.71)		(0.77)
Realized gains (losses) for the period		3.25		0.49		1.98		(0.14)		2.19
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period		(1.07)		(4.64)		6.67		(1.51)		3.56
Total increase (decrease) from operations²	\$	2.51	\$	(4.13)	\$	8.68	\$	(1.48)	\$	5.80
Distributions:										
From income (excluding dividends)	\$	–	\$	–	\$	–	\$	–	\$	–
From dividends		0.21		–		–		0.04		–
From capital gains		–		–		–		–		–
Return of capital		–		–		–		–		–
Total Distributions³	\$	0.21	\$	–	\$	–	\$	0.04	\$	–
Net Assets, end of period	\$	37.21	\$	34.72	\$	38.97	\$	30.22	\$	31.62

Ratios and Supplemental Data - Class A Units

	2023		2022		2021		2020		2019	
Total Net Asset Value (000s)⁴	\$	131,257	\$	136,802	\$	179,340	\$	137,055	\$	152,988
Number of Units Outstanding⁴		3,528,228		3,940,876		4,602,240		4,535,084		4,837,740
Management Expense Ratio⁵		2.14%		2.13%		2.43%		2.45%		2.45%
Management Expense Ratio before waivers or absorptions⁶		2.15%		2.13%		2.43%		2.48%		2.46%
Trading Expense Ratio⁷		0.03%		0.02%		0.02%		0.07%		0.05%
Portfolio Turnover Rate⁸		24.95%		13.78%		18.69%		37.24%		27.50%
Net Asset Value per Unit	\$	37.21	\$	34.72	\$	38.97	\$	30.22	\$	31.62

The Fund's Net Assets per Unit¹ - Class F Units

Inception date: July 6, 2020

	2023		2022		2021		2020 ^a	
Net Assets, beginning of period	\$	13.98	\$	15.78	\$	12.12	\$	10.00 ^b
Increase (decrease) from operations:								
Total revenue	\$	0.47	\$	0.93	\$	0.25	\$	0.37
Total expenses		(0.16)		(0.19)		(0.19)		(0.09)
Realized gains (losses) for the period		1.35		(0.27)		0.46		0.03
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period		(0.39)		(2.80)		1.95		1.81
Total increase (decrease) from operations²	\$	1.27	\$	(2.33)	\$	2.47	\$	2.12
Distributions:								
From income (excluding dividends)	\$	–	\$	–	\$	–	\$	–
From dividends		0.27		0.23		–		–
From capital gains		–		–		–		–
Return of capital		–		–		–		–
Total Distributions³	\$	0.27	\$	0.23	\$	–	\$	–
Net Assets, end of period	\$	14.97	\$	13.98	\$	15.78	\$	12.12

Ratios and Supplemental Data - Class F Units

	2023		2022		2021		2020 ^a	
Total Net Asset Value (000s)⁴	\$	25,470	\$	23,158	\$	455	\$	–
Number of Units Outstanding⁴		1,701,025		1,656,449		28,831		1
Management Expense Ratio⁵		1.00%		1.03%		1.31%		1.31%*
Management Expense Ratio before waivers or absorptions⁶		1.00%		1.03%		1.31%		1.31%*
Trading Expense Ratio⁷		0.03%		0.02%		0.02%		0.07%
Portfolio Turnover Rate⁸		24.95%		13.78%		18.69%		37.24%
Net Asset Value per Unit	\$	14.97	\$	13.98	\$	15.78	\$	12.12

^a Information presented is for the period from the inception date to December 31.

^b Initial offering price.

* Ratio has been annualized.

- ¹ This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements.
- ² Net assets and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The total increase (decrease) from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding during the period.
- ³ Distributions were paid in cash, reinvested in additional units of the Fund, or both.
- ⁴ This information is presented as at December 31 of the period(s) shown.
- ⁵ Management expense ratio is based on the total expenses of the Fund (excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs), incurred by or allocated to a class of units for the period shown, expressed as an annualized percentage of the daily average net asset value of that class during the period. The management expense ratio includes the fees attributable to exchange traded funds, where applicable.
- ⁶ The decision to waive management fees is at the discretion of the Manager. The practice of waiving management fees may continue indefinitely or may be terminated at any time without notice to unitholders. The management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions includes the fees attributable to exchange traded funds, where applicable.
- ⁷ The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs before income taxes expressed as an annualized percentage of the daily average net asset value during the period. Spreads associated with fixed income securities trading are not ascertainable and, for that reason, are not included in the trading expense ratio calculation.
- ⁸ The portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the portfolio advisor and/or portfolio sub-advisor manages the portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the period. The higher a portfolio turnover rate in a period, the greater the trading costs payable by the Fund in the period, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the year. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of the Fund.

Management Fees

The Fund, either directly or indirectly, pays CIBC an annual management fee to cover the costs of managing the Fund. Management fees are based on the Fund's net asset value and are calculated daily and paid monthly. Management fees are paid to CIBC in consideration for providing, or arranging for the provision of, management, distribution, and portfolio advisory services. Advertising and promotional expenses, office overhead expenses and trailing commissions are paid by CIBC out of the management fees received from the Fund. The Fund is required to pay applicable taxes on the management fees paid to CIBC. Refer to the Simplified Prospectus for the annual management fee rate for each class of units.

The following table shows a breakdown of the services received in consideration of the management fees, as a percentage of the management fees collected from the Fund for the period ended December 31, 2023. These amounts do not include waived fees or absorbed expenses.

	Class A Units	Class F Units
Sales and trailing commissions paid to dealers	22.38%	0.00%
General administration, investment advice, and profit	77.62%	100.00%

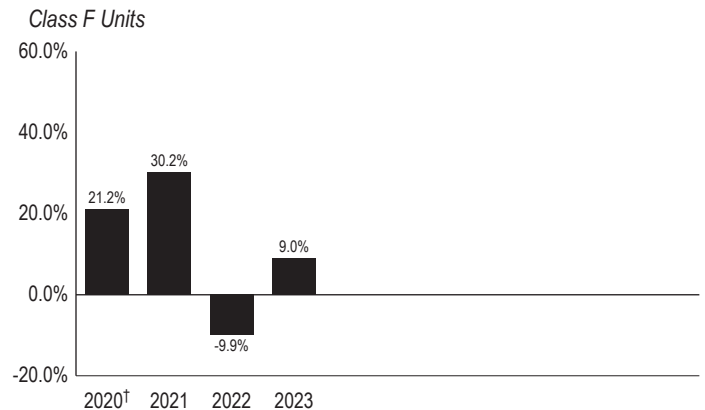
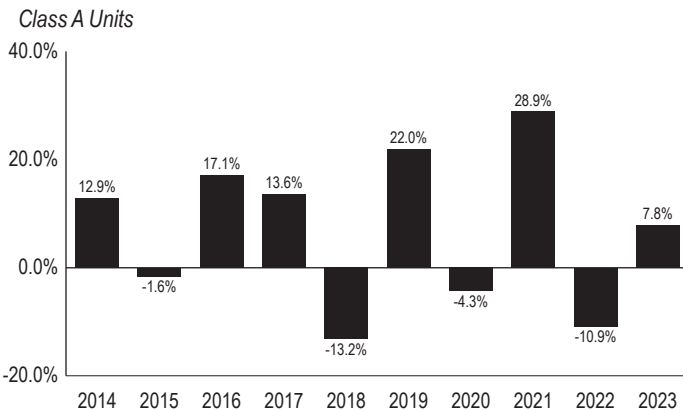
Past Performance

The performance data provided assumes reinvestment of distributions only and does not take into account sales, redemption, distribution, or other optional charges payable by any unitholder that would have reduced returns. Past performance does not necessarily indicate how a fund will perform in the future.

The Fund's returns are after the deduction of fees and expenses, and the difference in returns between classes of units is primarily due to differences in the management expense ratio. See the *Financial Highlights* section for the management expense ratio.

Year-by-Year Returns

These bar charts show the annual performance of each class of units of the Fund for each of the periods shown, and illustrate how the performance has changed from period to period. These bar charts show, in percentage terms, how an investment made on January 1 would have increased or decreased by December 31, unless otherwise indicated.



† 2020 return is for the period from July 6, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

Annual Compound Returns

This table shows the annual compound return of each class of units of the Fund for each indicated period ended on December 31, 2023. The annual compound total return is also compared to the Fund's benchmark(s).

The Fund's primary benchmark is the S&P/TSX Composite Index.

The Fund's blended benchmark (referred to as *Blended Benchmark*) is comprised of the following:

- 55% S&P/TSX Composite Financials Sector Index
- 45% S&P 500 Financials Index (Hedged to CAD)

	1 Year (%)	3 Years (%)	5 Years (%)	10 Years* (%)	or Since Inception* (%)	Inception Date
Class A units	7.8	7.4	7.7	6.4		September 22, 1997
S&P/TSX Composite Index	11.8	9.7	11.3	7.6		
Blended Benchmark	13.2	11.6	12.0	9.9		
Class F units	9.0	8.5			13.4	July 6, 2020
S&P/TSX Composite Index	11.8	9.7			12.2	
Blended Benchmark	13.2	11.6			16.9	

* If a class of units has been outstanding for less than 10 years, the annual compound return since inception is shown.

S&P 500 Financials Index (Hedged to CAD) is hedged against the Canadian dollar currency.

S&P/TSX Composite Financials Sector Index is intended to represent the Canadian financial services sector and primarily includes banks and insurance companies that are listed on the TSX.

S&P/TSX Composite Index is intended to represent the Canadian equity market and includes the largest companies listed on the TSX.

A discussion of the Fund's relative performance compared to its benchmark(s) can be found in *Results of Operations*.

Summary of Investment Portfolio (as at December 31, 2023)

The summary of investment portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the investment fund. A quarterly update is available by visiting www.cibc.com/mutualfunds. The Top Positions table shows the Fund's 25 largest positions. If the fund holds fewer than 25 positions in total, all positions are shown. Cash and cash equivalents are shown in total as one position.

<i>Portfolio Breakdown</i>	<i>% of Net Asset Value</i>	<i>Top Positions</i>	<i>% of Net Asset Value</i>
Banks	50.8	Royal Bank of Canada	9.0
Insurance	13.5	Toronto-Dominion Bank (The)	8.6
Financials	11.3	Bank of Montreal	8.0
Diversified Financial Services	10.9	Berkshire Hathaway Inc., Class 'B'	6.2
Capital Markets	6.4	Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce	5.8
Consumer Finance	3.5	Visa Inc., Class 'A'	5.7
Cash & Cash Equivalents	2.5	Bank of Nova Scotia	5.2
Commercial Services & Supplies	1.0	Brookfield Corp., Class 'A'	5.1
Forward & Spot Contracts	0.1	Mastercard Inc., Class 'A'	4.3
		Bank of America Corp.	4.2
		Manulife Financial Corp.	4.0
		Wells Fargo & Co.	4.0
		JPMorgan Chase & Co.	3.9
		American Express Co.	3.5
		Sun Life Financial Inc.	3.3
		BlackRock Inc.	2.5
		Cash & Cash Equivalents	2.5
		Morgan Stanley	1.9
		CME Group Inc.	1.8
		Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd.	1.7
		AIA Group Ltd.	1.5
		National Bank of Canada	1.4
		Lincoln National Corp.	1.4
		Element Fleet Management Corp.	1.0
		Global Payments Inc.	0.9

A note on forward-looking statements

The management report of fund performance may contain forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements include statements that are predictive in nature, that depend upon or refer to future events or conditions, or that include words such as "expects", "anticipates", "intends", "plans", "believes", "estimates", or other similar wording. In addition, any statements that may be made concerning future performance, strategies, or prospects and possible future actions taken by the fund, are also forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance. These statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties, and other factors that may cause the actual results and achievements of the fund to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such statements. Such factors include, but are not limited to: general economic, market, and business conditions; fluctuations in securities prices, interest rates, and foreign currency exchange rates; changes in government regulations; and catastrophic events.

The above list of important factors that may affect future results is not exhaustive. Before making any investment decisions, we encourage you to consider these and other factors carefully. CIBC does not undertake, and specifically disclaims, any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future developments, or otherwise prior to the release of the next management report of fund performance.



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