# **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 <u>1 800 465-3863</u>, by emailing us at <u>info@cibcassetmanagement.com</u>, by writing to us at CIBC Square, 81 Bay Street, 20th floor, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 0E7, or by visiting our website at <u>www.cibc.com/mutualfunds</u> or SEDAR+ at <u>www.sedarplus.ca</u>.

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 Global Equity Fund (referred to as the *Fund*) seeks to provide long-term growth through capital appreciation by investing primarily in a diversified portfolio of equity securities of foreign companies located in North America, Europe, the Far East, and the Pacific Basin.

Investment Strategies: The Fund invests in equity securities of companies located around the world that are priced below their intrinsic value as determined by the portfolio advisor. Investments will be focused in areas the portfolio advisor finds the most compelling at any given time. The Fund also attempts to hold a portfolio that is diversified among different sectors and geographies using multiple risk factors in relation to perceived valuation attractiveness.

#### Risk

The Fund is a global equity fund that is suitable for long term investors who can tolerate medium 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 was nearly unchanged during the period, decreasing from \$49,946 as at December 31, 2022 to \$49,744 as at December 31, 2023. Net redemptions of \$5,250 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 10.4% for the period. The Fund's benchmark, the MSCI World Index (referred to as the *benchmark*), returned 21.1% for the same period. The Fund's return is after the deduction of fees and expenses, unlike the benchmark's return. See the section *Past Performance* for the returns of other classes of units offered by the Fund.

Over the period, inflationary pressures began to ease while earnings reports indicated consumption of goods and services were still healthy. This brought into question the severity of a potential recession in an environment of high interest rates.

Bank failures occurred at several regional U.S. banks, raising systemic concerns about the health of the economy and the global financial system. This, in part, led to the collapse of Credit Suisse Group AG in Europe.

China's economic reopening after COVID-19 lockdowns early in 2023 did not result in the economic boost that markets had expected, despite growth from a low base in 2022. The travel industry was the exception, showing elevated activity.

Similar to other markets, Europe's labour market remained resilient amid the environment of high interests.

Stock selection and a significant underweight exposure to the information technology sector detracted most from the Fund's performance. Selection in the consumer discretionary and financials sectors also detracted from performance, as did an overweight sector allocation to financials. Individual detractors from performance included China Mengniu Dairy Co. Ltd., which was impacted by economic weakness in China, and Dollar General Corp., which reported poor sales and store traffic.

Stock selection in the health care sector contributed to the Fund's performance. Top individual contributors to the Fund's performance included holdings in NVIDIA Corp. and Netflix Inc. NVIDIA reported higher-than-expected orders for data centre graphics processing unit chips, driven by the potential to apply artificial intelligence to improve productivity. Netflix outperformed in response to higher subscriber numbers, the monetization of password sharing, and clarity on advertising opportunities.

Several new holdings were added to the Fund. The Portfolio Advisor expects healthy growth at Amadeus IT Group SA as its software solutions become more popular with airlines. HDFC Bank Ltd. was added as it has experienced double-digit growth supported by its recent merger with its parent company, Housing Development Finance Corp. Ltd. Nestlé SA replaced Colgate-Palmolive Co. in the Fund as the Portfolio Advisor prefers its exposure to Asian end markets. The Portfolio Advisor believes Safran SA is positioned to benefit from the global travel recovery and the economic reopening of China. Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. has high exposure to business process outsourcing, an area the Portfolio Advisor expects to remain robust in an uncertain economic environment.

The Fund's existing holding in American Tower Corp. was increased based on share price weakness, given that the Portfolio Advisor believes the company has a solid business model and defensive end markets.

Several of the Fund's holdings were eliminated. Accenture PLC was sold in favour of Tata Consultancy, while Bridgestone Corp. was replaced by Amadeus. L'Oréal SA was sold based on its valuation and replaced by Equifax Inc. The Portfolio Advisor believes performance at LPL Financial Holdings Inc. is heavily weighted toward the direction of interest rates, which is outside the company's control. Teleperformance SE was sold in favour of other opportunities. The Fund's holding in NVIDIA was trimmed as its valuation reached the Portfolio Advisor's target.

# **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 \$7 to CIBC WM and \$299 to CIBC World Markets Corp. 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 Unit <sup>1</sup> - Class	A Units	6			In	ceptio	n date: January	1, 1988
		2023	2022	2021	2020		2019	
Net Assets, beginning of period	\$	25.74	\$ 30.94	\$ 26.67	\$ 24.48	\$	21.08	
Increase (decrease) from operations:								
Total revenue	\$	0.50	\$ 0.43	\$ 0.33	\$ (0.32)	\$	1.46	
Total expenses		(0.66)	(0.64)	(0.80)	(0.69)		(0.65)	
Realized gains (losses) for the period		1.08	(0.39)	2.07	3.42		1.61	
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period		1.78	(4.95)	2.69	(0.33)		1.06	
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>2</sup>	\$	2.70	\$ (5.55)	\$ 4.29	\$ 2.08	\$	3.48	
Distributions:								
From income (excluding dividends)	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$	0.04	
From dividends		-	-	-	-		-	
From capital gains		-	-	-	-		-	
Return of capital		-	-	_	-		-	
Total Distributions <sup>3</sup>	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$	0.04	
Net Assets, end of period	\$	28.42	\$ 25.74	\$ 30.94	\$ 26.67	\$	24.48	
Ratios and Supplemental Data - Class A	Units							
		2023	2022	2021	2020		2019	
Total Net Asset Value (000s) <sup>4</sup>	\$	44,579	\$ 45,172	\$ 61,632	\$ 53,838	\$	53,398	
Number of Units Outstanding <sup>4</sup>		1,568,618	1,755,138	1,991,801	2,018,963		2,181,112	
Management Expense Ratio <sup>5</sup>		2.15%	2.15%	2.57%	2.56%		2.58%	
Management Expense Ratio before waivers or absorptions <sup>6</sup>		2.16%	2.29%	2.58%	2.72%		2.79%	
Trading Expense Ratio <sup>7</sup>		0.08%	0.14%	0.10%	0.14%		0.11%	

#### The Fund's Net Assets per Unit<sup>1</sup> - Class F Units

Portfolio Turnover Rate<sup>8</sup>

Net Asset Value per Unit

Inception date: July 6, 2020

45.81%

24.48

	2023	2022	2021	2020 <sup>a</sup>	
Net Assets, beginning of period	\$ 11.17	\$ 13.27	\$ 11.25	\$ 10.00 <sup>b</sup>	
Increase (decrease) from operations:					
Total revenue	\$ 0.22	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.09	\$ -	
Total expenses	(0.15)	(0.15)	(0.09)	(0.01)	
Realized gains (losses) for the period	0.46	(0.50)	0.44	0.01	
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	0.77	(0.16)	0.38	0.12	
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>2</sup>	\$ 1.30	\$ (0.61)	\$ 0.82	\$ 0.12	
Distributions:					
From income (excluding dividends)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ _	\$ -	
From dividends	-	-	_	-	
From capital gains	-	-	_	-	
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	
Total Distributions <sup>3</sup>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Net Assets, end of period	\$ 12.48	\$ 11.17	\$ 13.27	\$ 11.25	

74.72%

25.74

\$

48.05%

30.94

\$

102.83%

26.67

\$

39.81%

28.42

\$

\$

#### Ratios and Supplemental Data - Class F Units

	2023	2022	2021	2020 <sup>a</sup>	
Total Net Asset Value (000s) <sup>4</sup>	\$ 5,165	\$ 4,774	\$ 26	\$ 70	
Number of Units Outstanding <sup>4</sup>	413,779	427,333	1,927	6,217	
Management Expense Ratio⁵	0.96%	0.99%	1.17%	1.41%*	
Management Expense Ratio before waivers or absorptions <sup>6</sup>	0.99%	1.08%	1.18%	1.42%*	
Trading Expense Ratio <sup>7</sup>	0.08%	0.14%	0.10%	0.14%	
Portfolio Turnover Rate <sup>8</sup>	39.81%	74.72%	48.05%	102.83%	
Net Asset Value per Unit	\$ 12.48	\$ 11.17	\$ 13.27	\$ 11.25	

<sup>a</sup> Information presented is for the period from the inception date to December 31.

<sup>b</sup> Initial offering price.

Ratio has been annualized.

- <sup>1</sup> This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements.
- <sup>2</sup> 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.
- <sup>3</sup> Distributions were paid in cash, reinvested in additional units of the Fund, or both.
- <sup>4</sup> This information is presented as at December 31 of the period(s) shown.
- <sup>5</sup> 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.
- <sup>6</sup> 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.
- <sup>7</sup> 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.
- <sup>8</sup> 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	15.91%	0.00%
General administration, investment advice, and profit	84.09%	100.00%

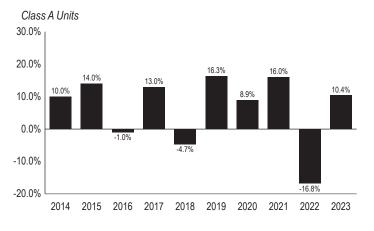
#### **Past Performance**

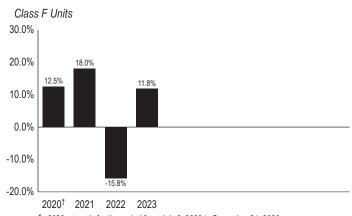
The performance data provided assumes reinvestment of distributions only and does not take into account sales, redemption, distribution, or other optional charges payable by any unitholder that would have reduced returns. Past performance does not necessarily indicate how a fund will perform in the future.

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.





<sup>†</sup> 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 benchmark is the MSCI World Index.

	1 Year (%)	3 Years (%)	5 Years (%)	10 Years* (%)	or Since Inception* (%)	Inception Date
Class A units	10.4	2.2	6.2	6.1		January 1, 1988
MSCI World Index	21.1	9.0	12.6	11.6		•
Class F units	11.8	3.5			6.6	July 6, 2020
MSCI World Index	21.1	9.0			12.0	

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

**MSCI World Index** is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index composed of companies representative of the market structure of developed market countries in North America, Europe and the Asia/Pacific region.

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 <u>www.cibc.com/mutualfunds</u>. 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.

	% of Net Asset		% of Net Asset
Portfolio Breakdown	Value	Top Positions	Value
United States	59.5	Microsoft Corp.	3.8
Other Equities	9.2	Alphabet Inc., Class 'C'	3.0
France	6.3	UnitedHealth Group Inc.	2.7
India	4.4	Novo Nordisk AS, Class 'B'	2.7
United Kingdom	4.1	Amazon.com Inc.	2.6
Hong Kong	3.2	Visa Inc., Class 'A'	2.6
Denmark	2.7	Apple Inc.	2.5
Switzerland	2.5	Nestlé SA, Registered	2.5
Canada	2.2	Netflix Inc.	2.5
Japan	2.2	McDonald's Corp.	2.4
Netherlands	2.1	Sherwin-Williams Co. (The)	2.4
Cash & Cash Equivalents	1.6	Abbott Laboratories	2.3
		HDFC Bank Ltd.	2.3
		Safran SA	2.3
		Union Pacific Corp.	2.3
		Sanofi SA	2.3
		Service Corp. International	2.3
		Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.	2.3
		Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group Inc.	2.2
		McKesson Corp.	2.2
		Intact Financial Corp.	2.2
		Tata Consultancy Services Ltd.	2.1
		Republic Services Inc.	2.1
		Deere & Co.	2.1
		Linde PLC	2.1

#### 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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