

## Semi-annual Management Report of Fund Performance

### As at March 31, 2024

This Semi-annual Management Report of Fund Performance contains financial highlights but does not contain either semi-annual or annual financial statements of the investment fund. You can obtain a copy of the semi-annual or annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling 1-888-809-3333, by writing us at Northwest & Ethical Investments L.P., 151 Yonge Street Suite 1200, Toronto, ON M5C 2W7 or by visiting our website at [www.neiinvestments.com](http://www.neiinvestments.com) or SEDAR+ at [www.sedarplus.ca](http://www.sedarplus.ca).

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

## Management Discussion of Performance

### Results of Operations

The NEI Canadian Equity RS Fund's Series A units returned 10.7% for the six-month period ended March 31, 2024 compared with a return of 15.3% for the benchmark explained below.

Unlike the benchmark return, the Fund's returns are after the deduction of fees and expenses paid by the Fund. Performance differences between series of units are mainly attributable to management fees charged to each series. Refer to the Past Performance section for the details of returns by series.

The benchmark for this Fund is the S&P/TSX Composite TR Index.

The Fund's net asset value increased by 13.53% during the period, from \$725,912,385 as at September 30, 2023 to \$824,159,184 as at March 31, 2024. This change in net assets is attributed to net unitholder activity of \$14,185,822 and \$84,060,977 to investment operations, including market appreciation (depreciation), income and expenses.

### Market Overview

In the last six months, markets were strong across the board as economic data continued to support the narrative of a soft landing (versus a recession). While high-growth investments continued to outperform the market, so too did pro-cyclical investments that previously languished in the earlier part of 2023. In the portfolio sub-advisor's opinion, the Canadian economy appears to have avoided a deep recession for now, but they continue to see evidence of an economy that is highly variable. Some parts of the economy appear set to see some growth at least in the back half of 2024 while other areas of the economy continue to deal with very low earnings visibility.

### Factors That Have Affected Performance

The Fund's lack of exposure to high-growth investments, such as Shopify Inc., as well as being underweight Financials were the largest detractors from relative performance. These two factors were partially offset by strong stock selection in Energy and Materials.

Among the Fund's top contributing investments were CCL Industries Inc., Loblaw Cos. Ltd. and Royal Bank of Canada. The largest detractors were Empire Co. Ltd., Nutrien Ltd. and Canadian Tire Corp. Ltd.

## Portfolio Changes

The Fund bought a new position in Franco-Nevada Corp. The company is primarily a gold and precious metals streaming company. It derives its earnings and revenue by purchasing commodity streaming rights on producing mines (primarily gold). The company had a rare stumble in late 2023 as a large investment (Cobre Panama) was suddenly shut down due to political turmoil in Panama. This investment was a large portion of Franco-Nevada's intrinsic value and the potential failure of this investment resulted in considerable weakness to the company's share price. While the portfolio sub-advisor recognizes that Cobre Panama does indeed stand a high chance of failure, in the sub-advisor's opinion, the shares of Franco-Nevada have entirely discounted the failure of this investment.

The Fund sold out off Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. While the portfolio sub-advisor regards Agnico Eagle as a high-quality gold producer, the portfolio sub-advisor believes that Franco-Nevada is a higher-quality precious metals investment. Franco-Nevada has net cash, no capital expenditure risk and in their opinion, has a stronger long-term track record of capital deployment. The portfolio sub-advisor opted to upgrade the quality of the strategy by replacing the Fund's Agnico Eagle investment with Franco-Nevada.

## Environmental, Social, And Governance (ESG) Activities

In addition to any ESG-related commentary made in the sections above, other ESG-related activities undertaken in the period are described here.

NEI's Responsible Investing team (RI team) engaged 16 companies including AltaGas Ltd., Canadian Tire, and Loblaw, on topics such as supply chain risks, and net-zero commitments and transition plans.

The RI team voted against management on 58% of the proxy items at two annual general meetings and/or special meetings. They supported 83% of six shareholder resolutions filed on ESG topics such as anticompetitive practices and auditor rotation. All votes cast on shareholder resolutions were consistent with NEI's Proxy Voting Guidelines, available at [www.neiinvestments.com](http://www.neiinvestments.com).

## Recent Developments

The portfolio sub-advisor continues to lean more defensive within the Fund. Today, the Fund has a stronger balance sheet, higher long-term profitability, and lower valuation than the benchmark. The portfolio sub-advisor believes these factors will allow it to compound faster if the economy were to reaccelerate while protecting the downside if the economy were to deteriorate.

## Related Party Transactions

Northwest & Ethical Investments L.P. ("NEI LP") is the Manager, Trustee, Portfolio Manager and Registrar of the Fund. Northwest & Ethical Investments Inc., the general partner of NEI LP, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Aviso Wealth Inc. ("Aviso"). Aviso is also the sole limited partner of NEI LP. Aviso is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Aviso Wealth LP, which in turn is owned 50% by Desjardins Financial Holding Inc. and 50% by a limited partnership owned by the five Provincial Credit Union Centrals and The CUMIS Group Limited. Desjardins Financial Holding Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec ("Fédération").

NEI LP charges the Fund a fixed administration fee in place of certain variable expenses. NEI LP in turn, pays all operating expenses of the Fund, other than specified Fund costs (e.g. the fees and expense of the Independent Review Committee ("IRC"), taxes, and brokerage commissions) which include payments to related parties. These services are in the normal course of operations and are measured at an exchange amount that is consistent with other independent parties. Desjardins Trust Inc. ("Desjardins Trust") is the custodian of the Fund. Desjardins Trust is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Fédération. The Fund may engage in securities lending and repurchase transactions, and Desjardins Trust may act as the Fund's securities lending and repurchase transactions agent ("Agent"). Any revenue earned on such transactions is split 60%—40% between the Fund and the Agent. Desjardins Securities Inc. ("DSI") is a broker responsible for security transactions on behalf of the Fund. DSI is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Fédération.

Where applicable the amounts paid in commission by the Fund to DSI and amounts received from underlying funds managed by NEI LP during the period are presented.

	March 2024 (\$)	March 2023 (\$)
Commissions paid by the Fund to DSI	1,722	3,112

The Fund's sub-advisors may place a portion of the Fund's portfolio transactions with brokerage firms which are affiliates of NEI LP, provided that the affiliate's trade execution abilities and costs are comparable to those of non-affiliated qualified brokerage firms.

Effective April 1, 2024, Credential Asset Management Inc. and Credential Qtrade Securities Inc. merged into Aviso Financial Inc. As a result, the Fund is now distributed through Aviso Financial Inc., and members of the Fédération and other nonrelated parties by way of shared ownership. NEI LP pays to these parties distribution and servicing fees based on a percentage of the daily values of the units of each held by the dealer's clients and additionally, in some cases, on the amount of initial purchase.

NEI LP has established the IRC for the Fund in accordance with the requirements of National Instrument 81-107 – Independent Review Committee for Investment Funds in order to review conflicts of interest as they relate to investment fund management. The Fund did not rely on an approval, positive recommendation or standing instruction from the Fund's IRC with respect to any related party transactions.

This document contains forward-looking statements. Such statements are generally identifiable by the terminology used, such as "plan", "anticipate", "intend", "expect", "estimate", or other similar wording. These forward-looking statements are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties and other factors which may cause actual results, levels of activity and achievements 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, fluctuation in interest rates and foreign currency exchange rates; and actions by governmental authorities. Future events and their effects on the Fund may not be those anticipated by us. Actual results may differ materially from the results anticipated in these forward-looking statements. We do not undertake, and specifically disclaim, any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking information, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise.

## 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 six-month period ended March 31, 2024 and the past five fiscal years or for the periods since inception, as applicable.

### Net Assets per Unit (\$) <sup>(1)</sup>

Series	Period	Net Assets, Beginning of Period	Increase (Decrease) from Operations					Distributions						Net Assets, End of Period
			Total Revenue	Total Expenses	Realized Gains (Losses)	Unrealized Gains (Losses)	Total Increase (Decrease) from Operations <sup>(2)</sup>	From Income (Excluding Dividends)	From Dividends	From Underlying Funds	From Capital Gains	Return of Capital	Total Distributions <sup>(3)(4)</sup>	
A	Mar. 2024	25.53	0.41	-0.31	0.42	2.10	2.62	0.00	0.16	0.00	1.16	0.00	1.32	26.84
	Sept. 2023	25.14	0.78	-0.64	1.74	-0.25	1.63	0.00	0.07	0.00	1.08	0.00	1.15	25.53
	Sept. 2022	24.71	0.68	-0.65	2.02	-1.30	0.75	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	25.14
	Sept. 2021	18.73	0.61	-0.56	0.74	5.61	6.40	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	24.71
	Sept. 2020	20.60	0.66	-0.48	0.33	-2.17	-1.66	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	18.73
	Sept. 2019	21.08	0.69	-0.48	0.01	-0.05	0.17	0.00	0.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.93	20.60
F	Mar. 2024	12.43	0.20	-0.08	0.20	1.06	1.38	0.00	0.22	0.00	0.57	0.00	0.79	12.99
	Sept. 2023	12.22	0.38	-0.16	0.84	-0.18	0.88	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.53	0.00	0.70	12.43
	Sept. 2022	12.01	0.34	-0.16	0.98	-1.43	-0.27	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.16	12.22
	Sept. 2021	9.10	0.30	-0.14	0.36	2.69	3.21	0.00	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	12.01
	Sept. 2020	10.09	0.32	-0.12	0.16	-1.06	-0.70	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	9.10
	Sept. 2019	10.36	0.33	-0.12	0.00	-0.65	-0.44	0.00	0.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.60	10.09
I	Mar. 2024	33.87	0.55	0.00	0.55	2.87	3.97	0.09	0.94	0.00	1.55	0.00	2.58	35.17
	Sept. 2023	33.57	1.03	-0.02	2.29	-0.39	2.91	0.08	1.00	0.00	1.45	0.00	2.53	33.87
	Sept. 2022	32.86	0.91	-0.01	2.68	-1.95	1.63	0.00	0.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.73	33.57
	Sept. 2021	24.74	0.80	-0.01	0.99	6.46	8.24	0.00	0.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.74	32.86
	Sept. 2020	27.00	0.87	-0.01	0.43	-2.56	-1.27	0.01	0.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.70	24.74
	Sept. 2019	28.73	0.93	-0.01	0.01	1.27	2.20	0.05	0.70	0.00	2.06	0.00	2.81	27.00
O	Mar. 2024	12.13	0.19	0.00	0.20	1.00	1.39	0.02	0.34	0.00	0.55	0.00	0.91	12.61
	Sept. 2023	11.96	0.37	-0.01	0.82	-0.21	0.97	0.02	0.30	0.00	0.52	0.00	0.84	12.13
	Sept. 2022	11.77	0.33	-0.01	0.96	-0.88	0.40	0.00	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	11.96
	Sept. 2021	8.86	0.29	-0.01	0.35	2.62	3.25	0.00	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.26	11.77
	Sept. 2020	9.61	0.31	-0.01	0.15	-0.91	-0.46	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	8.86
	Sept. 2019	9.83	0.35	-0.01	0.00	1.41	1.75	0.01	0.05	0.00	0.54	0.00	0.60	9.61
P	Mar. 2024	12.89	0.21	-0.14	0.21	1.08	1.36	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.59	0.00	0.71	13.53
	Sept. 2023	12.70	0.40	-0.28	0.88	-0.18	0.82	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.55	0.00	0.63	12.89
	Sept. 2022	12.48	0.35	-0.29	1.02	-0.76	0.32	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	12.70
	Sept. 2021	9.45	0.31	-0.25	0.37	2.67	3.10	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	12.48
	Sept. 2020	10.35	0.34	-0.21	0.16	-1.14	-0.85	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	9.45
	Sept. 2019	10.00	0.30	-0.19	0.00	1.05	1.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.49	0.00	0.49	10.35
PF	Mar. 2024	13.03	0.21	-0.07	0.21	1.10	1.45	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.59	0.00	0.84	13.62
	Sept. 2023	12.84	0.40	-0.14	0.88	-0.24	0.90	0.00	0.22	0.00	0.55	0.00	0.77	13.03
	Sept. 2022	12.60	0.35	-0.14	1.03	-0.99	0.25	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	12.84
	Sept. 2021	9.52	0.31	-0.12	0.38	2.70	3.27	0.00	0.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.21	12.60
	Sept. 2020	10.42	0.34	-0.10	0.17	-1.24	-0.83	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	9.52
	Sept. 2019	10.00	0.30	-0.09	0.00	1.27	1.48	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.52	0.00	0.53	10.42

(1) All per unit figures presented in 2024 are referenced to net assets determined in accordance with IFRS and are derived from the Fund's semi-annual financial statements for the period ended March 31, 2024.

(2) Net assets and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase/decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial period.

(3) Distributions were paid in cash or reinvested in additional units of the Fund.

(4) Distributions (if any) that may have been made that included return of capital in excess of short term earnings were made to minimize disruption and provide stability to investors who have elected to take their distributions in the form of cash, and as disclosed in the simplified prospectus. These amounts are reviewed at each calendar year-end and management engages in discussions with the sub-advisor to determine the most applicable strategy on a go forward basis and will take any action(s) as needed for the long-term stability of the Fund.

## Ratios and Supplemental Data

Series	Period	Total Net Asset Value (000's of \$)	Number of Units Outstanding (000's)	Management Expense Ratio (%) <sup>(1)</sup>	Management Expense Ratio before Waivers and Absorptions (%)	Trading Expense Ratio (%) <sup>(2)</sup>	Portfolio Turnover Rate (%) <sup>(3)(4)</sup>	Net Asset Value per Unit (\$)
A	Mar. 2024	206,593	7,698	2.42	2.42	0.02	7.84	26.84
	Sept. 2023	206,782	8,101	2.42	2.42	0.03	24.13	25.53
	Sept. 2022	216,509	8,612	2.42	2.42	0.03	20.63	25.14
	Sept. 2021	251,966	10,197	2.42	2.42	0.04	32.98	24.71
	Sept. 2020	233,384	12,458	2.44	2.44	0.05	37.22	18.73
	Sept. 2019	305,859	14,844	2.42	2.42	0.05	31.29	20.60
F	Mar. 2024	23,877	1,838	1.20	1.20	0.02	7.84	12.99
	Sept. 2023	21,969	1,768	1.20	1.20	0.03	24.13	12.43
	Sept. 2022	20,206	1,653	1.19	1.19	0.03	20.63	12.22
	Sept. 2021	10,873	905	1.20	1.20	0.04	32.98	12.01
	Sept. 2020	9,805	1,077	1.21	1.21	0.05	37.22	9.10
	Sept. 2019	13,281	1,316	1.21	1.21	0.05	31.29	10.09
I	Mar. 2024	428,577	12,187	N/A	N/A	0.02	7.84	35.17
	Sept. 2023	350,676	10,353	N/A	N/A	0.03	24.13	33.87
	Sept. 2022	367,621	10,952	N/A	N/A	0.03	20.63	33.57
	Sept. 2021	382,305	11,633	N/A	N/A	0.04	32.98	32.86
	Sept. 2020	220,654	8,917	N/A	N/A	0.05	37.22	24.74
	Sept. 2019	216,633	8,023	N/A	N/A	0.05	31.29	27.00
O	Mar. 2024	12,905	1,024	0.04	0.04	0.02	7.84	12.61
	Sept. 2023	12,136	1,000	0.04	0.04	0.03	24.13	12.13
	Sept. 2022	10,890	910	0.04	0.04	0.03	20.63	11.96
	Sept. 2021	10,330	878	0.05	0.05	0.04	32.98	11.77
	Sept. 2020	8,955	1,011	0.05	0.05	0.05	37.22	8.86
	Sept. 2019	6,921	720	0.05	0.05	0.05	31.29	9.61
P	Mar. 2024	105,882	7,826	2.11	2.11	0.02	7.84	13.53
	Sept. 2023	95,462	7,407	2.11	2.11	0.03	24.13	12.89
	Sept. 2022	94,135	7,412	2.11	2.11	0.03	20.63	12.70
	Sept. 2021	97,463	7,811	2.11	2.11	0.04	32.98	12.48
	Sept. 2020	70,096	7,420	2.16	2.16	0.05	37.22	9.45
	Sept. 2019	77,850	7,523	2.23	2.23	0.05	31.29	10.35
PF	Mar. 2024	46,324	3,401	0.99	0.99	0.02	7.84	13.62
	Sept. 2023	38,888	2,984	0.99	0.99	0.03	24.13	13.03
	Sept. 2022	32,667	2,544	0.99	0.99	0.03	20.63	12.84
	Sept. 2021	27,491	2,181	0.99	0.99	0.04	32.98	12.60
	Sept. 2020	21,107	2,217	1.01	1.01	0.05	37.22	9.52
	Sept. 2019	32,123	3,082	1.03	1.03	0.05	31.29	10.42

(1) Management expense ratio is based on total expenses (excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs, as well as withholding taxes) for the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period.

(2) The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period.

(3) The portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's sub-advisor manages its investment holdings. 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 the 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 period. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a Fund.

(4) At the close of business on October 29, 2018, the Meritas Monthly Dividend and Income Fund was merged into the NEI Canadian Equity RS Fund. The portfolio turnover rates exclude the value of securities acquired and sold to realign the Fund's holdings.

## Management Fees

The Manager is responsible for the management, supervision and administration of the Fund. The Manager receives from the Fund management fees, before HST, calculated daily on the net asset value of the Fund at an annual rate shown below. The Fund does not pay management fees for Series I and O units. Series I and O unitholders pay a negotiated fee directly to NEI Investments.

The management fee covers the cost of investment advisory fees, sales, marketing, and distribution expenses of the Fund. In addition, the Manager may pay a trailer fee to dealers out of this management fee. The trailer fee is a percentage of the average daily value of the units of the Fund held by the dealer's clients. No trailer fees are paid in respect of any Series F and PF units of the Fund.

The following table shows the major services paid for out of management fees as a percentage of the management fee for all applicable series of the Fund:

	Management Fee (%)	Investment Advisory and Other Fees (%)	Trailer Fee (%)
Series A	1.90	49.98	50.02
Series F	0.85	100.00	N/A
Series P	1.65	39.31	60.69
Series PF	0.65	100.00	N/A

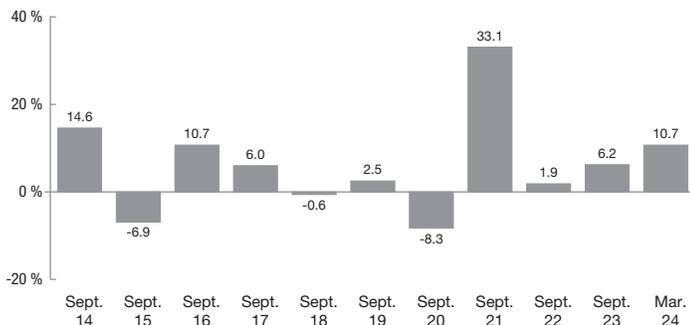
## Past Performance

The performance information provided will not necessarily indicate how the Fund will perform in the future. The information shown assumes that distributions made by the Fund in the periods shown were reinvested in additional units of the relevant series of the Fund. In addition, the information does not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or other optional charges that would have reduced returns or performance.

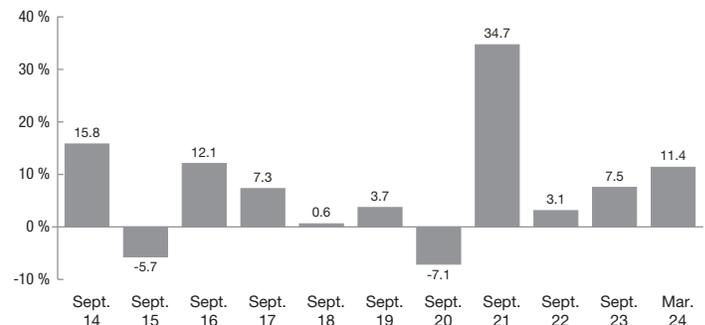
### Year-by-Year Returns

The following charts show the annual performance for each series of units of the Fund for each period shown and illustrate how the Fund's performance has varied from period to period with the exception of 2024, which shows the six-month return for the period ended March 31, 2024. The charts indicate how much an investment made on the first day of each financial period would have grown or decreased by the last day of each financial period.

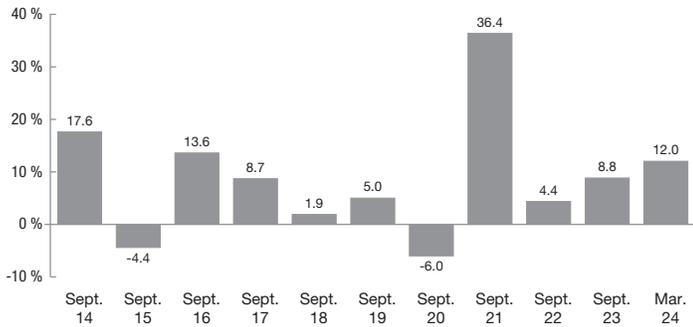
**Series A**



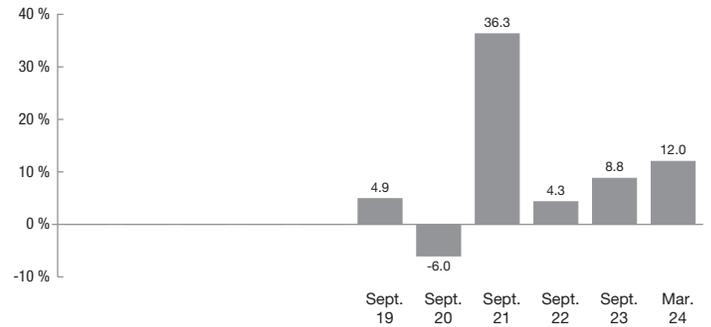
**Series F**



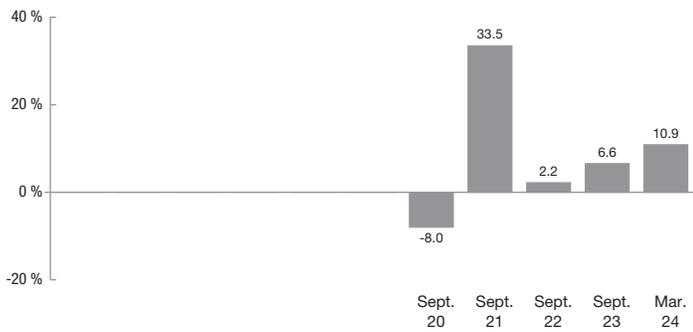
**Series I**



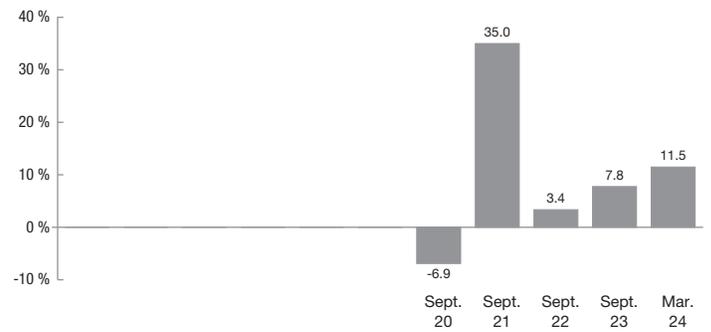
**Series O**



**Series P**



**Series PF**



## Annualized Compound Returns

The following table shows the annual compound returns for all series of the Fund. All returns are in Canadian dollars, on a total return basis, net of fees. For comparison, the returns for the benchmark are included. A discussion regarding the relative performance of the Fund is found in the Results of Operations section of this report and a description of indexes can be found in the Annualized Compound Returns section of this report.

The benchmark for this Fund is the S&P/TSX Composite TR Index.

The S&P/TSX Composite is the headline index for the Canadian equity market. It consists of the largest companies on the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX). The Index is comprised of the S&P/TSX 60 Index and the S&P/TSX Completion Index.

While the Fund uses this benchmark for long-term performance comparisons, it is not managed relative to the composition of the Index. As a result, the Fund may experience periods when its performance is not aligned with the Index, either positively or negatively. Please see the "Results of Operations" section of this report for a discussion of recent performance results.

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### Summary of Investment Portfolio as at March 31, 2024

Total Net Asset Value: \$824,159,184

Top Holdings		%	Net Asset Value Mix		%
Cash and Equivalents		5.8	Equity		94.2
CCL Industries, Class B		5.6	Cash and Equivalents		5.8
CGI, Class A		4.9	Total		100.0
Royal Bank of Canada		4.2			
Sun Life Financial		4.1			
Intact Financial Corporation		4.0			
Enbridge		3.5			
Toronto-Dominion Bank		3.3			
Loblaw Companies		3.3			
ARC Resources		3.1			
Toromont Industries		3.1			
TFI International		3.0			
Québecor, Class B		2.9			
Fortis		2.8			
iA Financial Group		2.7			
TC Energy		2.7			
Imperial Oil		2.6			
Magna International, Class A		2.6			
Canadian National Railway Company		2.5			
Finning International		2.2			
Emera		2.1			
Empire Company, Class A		2.1			
Alphabet Inc.		2.1			
Canadian Tire Corporation, Class A		1.9			
Nutrien		1.9			
Total		79.0			

Sector Allocation		%
Financials		24.4
Industrials		14.7
Energy		13.6
Materials		9.1
Consumer Discretionary		7.2
Utilities		6.8
Consumer Staples		6.8
Cash and Equivalents		5.8
Communication Services		5.0
Information Technology		4.9
Health Care		1.7
Total		100.0

Geographic Distribution		%
Canada		90.5
Cash and Equivalents		5.8
Other Countries		3.7
Total		100.0

"Other Countries" geographic category includes all countries individually representing less than 5% of the Fund's net asset value.

The Summary of Investment Portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the investment fund. Updates are available quarterly.