



## NEI INVESTMENTS WINS TWO FUNDGRADE A+ AWARDS AT FUNDATA CANADA'S 2014 AWARD CEREMONY

[TORONTO, JANUARY 27, 2015] NEI Investments ["NEI"] is pleased to announce the winning of three Fundata FundGrade A+ Awards, presented on January 21, 2015 at Fundata Canada Inc.'s 4<sup>th</sup> annual Evening of Excellence award ceremony.

*The **NEI Northwest Canadian Dividend Fund** and **NEI Ethical Special Equity Fund** were recognized with A+ Awards in their respective mutual fund categories. The **NEI Ethical Special Equity Fund** was additionally honoured in the socially responsible investing ["SRI"] category.*

The Fundata FundGrade A+ Awards are presented annually to Canadian investment funds that achieve consistently high FundGrade scores through an entire calendar year. The Fundata FundGrade A+ rating is a score-based calculation that determines the annual "best-of-the-best" in the Canadian mutual fund industry. It provides investors, advisors, and fund managers with a single, reliable, easy-to-understand fund-performance rating based on an entire calendar year.

"We are quite honored that Fundata has recognized some of the strong performance our fund lineup", said NEI CIO Daniel Solomon. "We are particularly proud of the fact that the NEI Ethical Special Equity Fund was recognized both in its Canadian small/mid cap equity category and in the SRI category. It proves what we've always known – when managed well socially responsible funds can and do outperform regardless of category."

A synopsis of Fundata's rating system is provided below. More information about the 2014 A+ Award recipients and Fundata's methodology can be found at: <http://www.fundgradeawards.com>.

### ABOUT NEI INVESTMENTS

NEI Investments is a national investment firm with over \$6 billion in assets under management. It offers Canadian retail investors unique access to top independent money managers through high quality investment solutions in two fund families, Northwest Funds and Ethical Funds. Its products provide investors with a full range of investment management styles as well as conventional and socially responsible investment choices.

NEI Investments is owned 50% by the Provincial Credit Union Centrals and 50% by Desjardins Group. This backing of experience and resources allows NEI Investments to actively support business growth in these networks as well as independent advisor channels.

NEI Investments has offices in Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal.

### ABOUT FUNDATA'S FUNDGRADE METHODOLOGY

FundGrades range from A to E, based solely on a fund's risk-adjusted performance relative to its peers in the respective CIFSC category.

Risk-adjusted performance is defined by an equal weighted measure of the Sharpe ratio, Sortino ratio, and Information ratio. Only funds with at least two years of performance are eligible for a FundGrade, with higher weight placed on recent performance, up to 10 years.

A fund will receive multiple FundGrades each year as new performance data becomes available and risk-adjusted metrics are calculated for subsequent rolling periods.

COMMISSIONS, TRAILING COMMISSIONS, MANAGEMENT FEES, AND EXPENSES ALL MAY BE ASSOCIATED WITH MUTUAL FUND INVESTMENTS. PLEASE READ THE PROSPECTUS BEFORE INVESTING. MUTUAL FUNDS ARE NOT GUARANTEED, THEIR VALUES CHANGE FREQUENTLY AND PAST PERFORMANCE MAY NOT BE REPEATED. ETHICAL FUNDS, NORTHWEST FUNDS, AND NEI INVESTMENTS ARE REGISTERED MARKS AND TRADEMARKS OWNED BY NORTHWEST AND ETHICAL INVESTMENTS L.P.