# **Annual Management Report of Fund Performance**

## for the financial year ended August 31, 2024

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>1-888-888-3863</u>, by emailing us at <u>info@cibcassetmanagement.com</u>, by writing to us at 1000, rue De La Gauchetière Ouest, bureau 3200, Montréal, (Québec), H3B 4W5, or by visiting our website at <u>www.renaissanceinvestments.ca</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 2025 Investment Grade Bond Fund (the *Fund*) aims to provide income over a predetermined time period by investing in a portfolio consisting primarily of Canadian dollar-denominated bonds with an effective maturity in 2025. The Fund will terminate on or about November 30, 2025, or such earlier date upon not less than 60 days' notice to unitholders (the *Termination Date*).

Investment Strategies: The Fund invests primarily in Canadian-dollar corporate and/or government bonds that are, at the time of purchase, investment grade bonds, with an effective maturity in the calendar year outlined in the investment objectives. As the bonds reach maturity, the Fund will transition the portfolio to cash and cash equivalents, and it is expected that the portfolio will consist primarily, or entirely, of cash and cash equivalents by the Termination Date.

## Risk

The Fund is a Canadian short term fixed income fund suitable for investors who can tolerate low investment risk.

For the period ended August 31, 2024, 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. (*CAMI*, the *Manager*, or *Portfolio Advisor*). The commentary that follows provides a summary of the results of operations for the period ended August 31, 2024. All dollar figures are expressed in thousands, unless otherwise indicated.

Since the Fund's inception on January 23, 2024 the net asset value increased to \$1,767,995 as at August 31, 2024.

The Canadian yield curve, defined as the difference in two-year and 30year bond yields, reversed part of its inversion as expectations increased that central banks would begin to lower their overnight lending rates. The short-term end of the yield curve decreased more than the yields on 10- and 30-year bonds. Corporate bonds outperformed as credit spreads (the difference in yield between corporate and government bonds) continued to narrow, reflecting strong demand for higher-risk assets, lower new issuance supply and betterthan-anticipated corporate profitability.

The Fund's maximum weighting in corporate bonds and minimum cash allocation increased its yield to maturity, contributing to performance. The Fund's maximum weighting in bonds also contributed to performance.

Individual contributors to the Fund's performance included holdings in BMW Canada Inc. (0.99%, 2025/01/14) and Equitable Bank (1.94%, 2025/03/10).

An existing holding in Glacier Credit Card Trust (1.39%, 2025/09/22) was increased. At the end of the period, it was the Fund's largest holding. This bond provides a high yield and trades at a discount.

## **Recent Developments**

Effective August 21, 2024, Series A, Series F, Series S, and Series O units of the Fund were closed to all new purchases from existing and new investors, including investments through pre-authorized chequing plans. Unitholders will continue to have the right to redeem their units in these series of the Fund.

On July 16, 2024, ETF Series units of the Fund were made available for purchase.

The level of geopolitical risk 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. These factors may adversely affect the Fund's performance. The Manager continues to monitor ongoing developments and the impact to investment strategies.

#### **Related Party Transactions**

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (*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, Trustee, and Portfolio Advisor of the Fund

CAMI, a wholly-owned subsidiary of CIBC, is the Fund's Manager, Trustee, and Portfolio Advisor. As Manager, CAMI 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 series of units of the Fund as described in *Management Fees*.

The Manager pays the Fund's operating expenses (other than certain fund costs) in respect of the series of units of the Fund (except Series O unit), which may include but are not limited to, operating and administrative costs; regulatory fees; audit, and legal fees and expenses; trustee, safekeeping, custodial, and any agency fees; and investor servicing costs and costs of unitholder reports, prospectuses, Fund Facts, and other reports, in exchange for the Fund paying a fixed rate administration fee (plus applicable GST/HST) to the Manager with respect to those series of units. For Series O units, no fixed administration fee will be charged. The Manager pays the Fund's operating expenses (other than certain Fund costs) allocated to Series O units of the Fund. The fixed administration fee payable by the Fund, may, in any particular period, exceed or be lower than the expenses we incur in providing such services to the Fund.

As Trustee, CAMI holds title to the Fund's property (cash and securities) on behalf of its unitholders. As Portfolio Advisor, CAMI provides, or arranges to provide investment advice and portfolio management services to the Fund. CAMI also compensates dealers in connection with their marketing activities regarding the Fund. From time to time, CAMI may invest in units of the Fund.

# Distributor

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

CAMI may pay sales commissions and 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 sales commissions and trailing commissions to their advisors who sell units of the Fund to investors.

# Brokerage Arrangements and Soft Dollars

The Portfolio Advisor or any portfolio sub-advisors make 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 or any portfolio sub-advisor(s) 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, 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 nature 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 or any portfolio sub-advisor(s) when they process trades through them. These types of goods and services for which the Portfolio Advisor or a portfolio sub-advisor may direct brokerage commissions are research goods and services and order execution goods and services, and are referred to in the industry as "soft-dollar" arrangements. These goods and services received through soft dollar arrangements assist the Portfolio Advisor or any portfolio sub-advisor(s) with investment decision-making services for the Fund, or relate directly to the execution of portfolio transactions on behalf of the Fund. As per the terms of the portfolio advisory agreement and portfolio sub-advisory agreements, such soft dollar arrangements are in compliance with applicable laws.

During the period, the Fund did not pay any brokerage commissions or other fees to CIBC WM or 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 (the *Related Party Transactions*) in reliance on the standing instructions issued by the Independent Review Committee (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 (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 Private Placement Relief Order and 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 party is the counterparty;
- purchase securities from or sell securities to another investment fund or a managed account managed by the Manager or an affiliate (*inter-fund trades* or *cross-trades*); 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 of 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 to or reported to it by the Manager, if it determines that an investment decision was not made in accordance with conditions imposed by securities legislation or the IRC in any Related Party Transactions requiring its approval.

# Custodian

CIBC Mellon Trust Company is the custodian of the Fund (the *Custodian*). The Custodian holds 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 are paid by the Manager. CIBC owns a 50% interest in the Custodian.

# Service Provider

CIBC Mellon Global Securities Services Company Inc. (*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. 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 August 31.

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

Inception date: January 23, 2024

Inception date: January 29, 2024

	2024 <sup>a</sup>	
Net Assets, beginning of period	\$ 10.00 <sup>b</sup>	
Increase (decrease) from operations:		
Total revenue	\$ 0.12	
Total expenses	(0.03)	
Realized gains (losses) for the period	_	
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	0.26	
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>2</sup>	\$ 0.35	
Distributions:		
From income (excluding dividends)	\$ 0.06	
From dividends	-	
From capital gains	-	
Return of capital	-	
Total Distributions <sup>3</sup>	\$ 0.06	
Net Assets, end of period	\$ 10.23	

#### Ratios and Supplemental Data - Series A Units

	2024 <sup>a</sup>
Total Net Asset Value (000s) <sup>4</sup>	\$ 1,609,774
Number of Units Outstanding <sup>4</sup>	157,290,324
Management Expense Ratio⁵	0.51%*
Management Expense Ratio before waivers or	
absorptions <sup>6</sup>	0.51%*
Trading Expense Ratio <sup>7</sup>	0.00%*
Portfolio Turnover Rate <sup>8</sup>	0.00%
Net Asset Value per Unit	\$ 10.23

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

2024<sup>a</sup> Net Assets, beginning of period \$ 10.00<sup>b</sup> Increase (decrease) from operations: Total revenue \$ 0.12 Total expenses (0.01) Realized gains (losses) for the period Unrealized gains (losses) for the period 0.25 Total increase (decrease) from operations<sup>2</sup> \$ 0.36 Distributions: 80.0 From income (excluding dividends) \$ From dividends \_ From capital gains \_ Return of capital Total Distributions<sup>3</sup> \$ 0.08 Net Assets, end of period \$ 10.23

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

2024 <sup>a</sup>
\$ 117,837
11,514,618
0.23%*
/*
0.23%*
0.00%*
0.00%
\$ 10.23
\$

000 42

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

## Inception date: January 29, 2024

Inception date: July 16, 2024

	2024 <sup>a</sup>
Net Assets, beginning of period	\$ 10.00 <sup>b</sup>
Increase (decrease) from operations:	
Total revenue	\$ 0.04
Total expenses	-
Realized gains (losses) for the period	-
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	0.10
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>2</sup>	\$ 0.14
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	\$ 10.28

## **Ratios and Supplemental Data - Series S Units**

	2024 <sup>a</sup>
Total Net Asset Value (000s) <sup>4</sup>	\$ 22,435
Number of Units Outstanding <sup>4</sup>	2,182,492
Management Expense Ratio <sup>5</sup>	0.09%*
Management Expense Ratio before waivers or	
absorptions <sup>6</sup>	0.22%*
Trading Expense Ratio <sup>7</sup>	0.00%*
Portfolio Turnover Rate <sup>8</sup>	0.00%
Net Asset Value per Unit	\$ 10.28

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

	2024 <sup>a</sup>
Net Assets, beginning of period	\$ 20.03 <sup>b</sup>
Increase (decrease) from operations:	
Total revenue	\$ 0.05
Total expenses	(0.01)
Realized gains (losses) for the period	-
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	0.11
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>2</sup>	\$ 0.15
Distributions:	
From income (excluding dividends)	\$ 0.02
From dividends	-
From capital gains	-
Return of capital	-
Total Distributions <sup>3</sup>	\$ 0.02
Net Assets, end of period	\$ 20.16

## **Ratios and Supplemental Data - ETF Series Units**

2024 <sup>a</sup>	
\$ 12,300	
610,000	
0.23%*	
0.23%*	
0.00%*	
0.00%	
\$ 20.16	
\$ 20.16	
	\$ 12,300 610,000 0.23%* 0.23%* 0.00%* 0.00% \$ 20.16

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

Inception date: January 29, 2024

	2024 <sup>a</sup>
Net Assets, beginning of period	\$ 10.00 <sup>b</sup>
Increase (decrease) from operations:	
Total revenue	\$ 0.06
Total expenses	-
Realized gains (losses) for the period	-
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	0.14
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>2</sup>	\$ 0.20
Distributions:	
From income (excluding dividends)	\$ 0.06
From dividends	-
From capital gains	-
Return of capital	-
Total Distributions <sup>3</sup>	\$ 0.06
Net Assets, end of period	\$ 10.26

#### Ratios and Supplemental Data - Series O Units

	2024 <sup>a</sup>	
Total Net Asset Value (000s) <sup>4</sup>	\$ 5,649	
Number of Units Outstanding <sup>4</sup>	550,425	
Management Expense Ratio⁵	0.00%*	
Management Expense Ratio before waivers or		
absorptions <sup>6</sup>	0.00%*	
Trading Expense Ratio <sup>7</sup>	0.00%*	
Portfolio Turnover Rate <sup>8</sup>	0.00%	
Net Asset Value per Unit	\$ 10.26	

<sup>a</sup> Information presented is for the period from the inception date to August 31, 2024.

<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 August 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 series of units for the period shown, expressed as an annualized percentage of the daily average net asset value of that series during the period. The management expense ratio includes the fees attributable to exchange traded funds.
- <sup>6</sup> The decision to waive management fees and/or fixed administration fees is at the discretion of the Manager. The practice of waiving management fees and/or fixed administration 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 a 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 a 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 a fund.

#### Management Fees

The Fund pays CAMI 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 CAMI in consideration for providing, or arranging for the provision of, management, distribution, and portfolio advisory services. Advertising and promotional expenses, office overhead expenses related to the Manager's activities, and trailing commissions are paid by CAMI out of the management fees received from the Fund. The Fund is required to pay applicable taxes on the management fees paid to CAMI. Refer to the simplified prospectus for the annual management fee rate for each series of units.

For Series O units, the management fee is negotiated with and paid by, or as directed by, unitholders or dealers and discretionary managers on behalf of unitholders. Such Series O management fee will not exceed the Series F unit management fee rate.

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 August 31, 2024. These amounts do not include waived fees or absorbed expenses.

	Series A Units	Series F Units	Series S Units	ETF Series
Sales and trailing commissions paid to dealers	34.75%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
General administration, investment advice, and profit	65.25%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

# **Past Performance**

Past performance is not presented because, as at August 31, 2024, the Fund had not yet completed its first full financial year.

#### Summary of Investment Portfolio (as at August 31, 2024)

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.renaissanceinvestments.ca</u>. The Top Positions table shows a fund's 25 largest positions. For funds with fewer than 25 positions in total, all positions are shown.

Portfolio Breakdown	% of Net Asset Value	Тс
Corporate Bonds	87.4	G
Foreign Currency Bonds	5.2	R
Government of Canada & Guaranteed Bonds	4.1	Ba
Municipal Government & Guaranteed Bonds	2.1	Ba
Provincial Government & Guaranteed Bonds	0.7	M
Cash	0.5	Ca

Top Positions	% of Net Asset Value
Glacier Credit Card Trust, Series '20', 1.39%, 2025/09/22	7.9
Royal Bank of Canada, Variable Rate, Callable, 2.09%, 2030/06/30	6.9
Bank of Nova Scotia, 1.95%, 2025/01/10	6.8
Bank of Montreal, Variable Rate, Callable, 2.08%, 2030/06/17	6.6
Manulife Financial Corp., Variable Rate, Callable, 2.24%, 2030/05/12	6.6
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Variable Rate, Callable, 2.01%, 2030/07/21	6.5
VW Credit Canada Inc., 1.50%, 2025/09/23	6.4
Athene Global Funding, 2.10%, 2025/09/24	5.2
AltaGas Ltd., Callable, 2.16%, 2025/06/10	5.0
Eagle Credit Card Trust, Series 'A', 1.27%, 2025/07/17	5.0
General Motors Financial of Canada Ltd., 1.70%, 2025/07/09	5.0
Canada Housing Trust No. 1, Series 'MAR', 0.95%, 2025/06/15	3.8
Equitable Bank, 1.94%, 2025/03/10	3.4
Thomson Reuters Corp., Callable, 2.24%, 2025/05/14	3.2
Dream Summit Industrial L.P., Series 'A', Callable, 2.15%, 2025/09/17	3.0
SmartCentres REIT, Series 'X', Callable, 1.74%, 2025/12/16	2.9
National Bank of Canada, Variable Rate, Callable, 1.57%, 2026/08/18	2.1
Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia, 1.10%, 2025/06/01	1.9
BMW Canada Inc., Series 'X', 0.99%, 2025/01/14	1.8
RioCan REIT, Series 'AB', Callable, 2.58%, 2025/02/12	1.6
Hydro One Inc., Callable, 1.76%, 2025/02/28	1.4
Toronto-Dominion Bank (The), 1.13%, 2025/12/09	0.8
Chartwell Retirement Residences, Series 'B', Callable, 4.21%, 2025/04/28	0.7
Equitable Bank, 1.88%, 2025/11/26	0.6
Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec, Floating Rate, Callable, 2.86%, 2030/05/26	0.5

#### 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 Asset Management Inc. 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.



CIBC Asset Management Inc. 1000, rue De La Gauchetière Ouest, bureau 3200 Montréal (Québec) H3B 4W5

> <u>1-888-888-3863</u> www.renaissanceinvestments.ca info@cibcassetmanagement.com

The CIBC logo and "CIBC Asset Management" are trademarks of CIBC, used under license.