

# PORTLAND GLOBAL BALANCED FUND INTERIM MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE

MARCH 31, 2023

**PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT TEAM** 

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Chief Investment Officer, Executive Vice President and Portfolio Manager

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Portfolio Manager

## Management Discussion of Fund Performance **Portland Global Balanced Fund**

This interim management report of fund performance contains financial highlights, but does not contain either interim or annual financial statements of the investment fund. You can get a copy of the interim or annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling 1-888-710-4242, by writing to us at info@portlandic.com or 1375 Kerns Road, Suite 100, Burlington, ON L7P 4V7 or visiting our website at www. portlandic.com or SEDAR at www.sedar.com.

Securityholders 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.

The views of Portland Investment Counsel Inc. (the Manager) contained in this report are as of March 31, 2023 and this report is not intended to provide legal, accounting, tax or specific investment advice. Views, portfolio holdings and allocations may have changed subsequent to this date. For current information, please contact us using the above methods. All references to performance relate to Series F units. The performance of other units may be different than that of the Series F units due to differing fees.

#### **INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE AND STRATEGIES**

The investment objectives of the Portland Global Balanced Fund (the Fund) is to provide positive long term total returns, consisting of both income and capital gains by investing primarily in a portfolio of global fixed income and equity securities. The Fund seeks to provide income and capital growth while moderating the volatility of equities by investing primarily in a globally diversified portfolio of equities, American Depository Receipts, income securities, preferred shares, options and exchange traded funds (ETFs). The Fund may also invest over 30% in foreign securities in a manner consistent with its investment objective.

#### **RISK**

The overall risk level has not changed for the Fund. Investors should be able to accept a low to medium level of risk and plan to hold for the medium to long term.

## RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

For the six-months ended March 31, 2023, the Fund's Series F units had a return of 9.53%. For the same period, the Fund's Blended Benchmark (which is a composite consisting of 60% MSCI All Country World Index and 40% iShares Core Canadian Short Term Bond Index ETF) had a return of 10.65%. For the full period since inception of the Fund on December 17, 2013 to March 31, 2023, the Fund's Series F units had an annualized return of 4.30%. For the same period, the Blended Benchmark had an annualized return of 6.74%. Unlike the Blended Benchmark, the Fund's return is after the deduction of its fees and expenses.

The Fund's net asset value as at March 31, 2023 was \$2.9 million. The top five sector holdings at March 31, 2023 were consumer staples, 26.2%; health care, 15.8%; utilities, 14.6%; cash and cash equivalents, 14.4%; and consumer discretionary, 8.9%.

By geography, assets were invested in securities of issuers classified as United States, 50.6%; cash and cash equivalents, 14.4%; United Kingdom, 8.0%; other net assets (liabilities), 6.3%; Switzerland, 5.6%; Denmark, 3.6%; Canada, 3.0%; Germany, 2.4%; France, 2.2%; Ireland, 2.2%; and Spain, 1.7%.

The top three contributors to the Fund's performance during the sixmonths ended March 31, 2023 were SJW Group, Coloplast A/S, and Sanofi. The bottom three contributors to the Fund's performance during the six-months ended March 31, 2023 were Hormel Foods Corporation, Johnson & Johnson, and Roche Holding AG.

The sectors contributing positively to the Fund's return for the period were materials (Linde PLC), industrials (Bunzl PLC), consumer discretionary (Compass Group PLC), financials (Cincinnati Financial Corporation), health care (Sanofi), utilities (SJW Group) and consumer staples (The Clorox Company). The sector contributing negatively to the Fund's return for the period was real estate (American Tower Corporation).

Heightening geopolitical conflicts, uncertainty regarding inflation, and the fallout from the banking crisis in the first quarter, we expect, will contribute to ongoing pockets of volatility in global markets throughout 2023. We believe there will be opportunities to deploy cash in attractively priced equities throughout the remainder of 2023. We expect central banks globally to continue to increase interest rates in order to reduce inflation. These actions may eventually create buying opportunities throughout equity markets, which we look forward to taking advantage of when they occur.

#### RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

On March 8, 2023, the Bank of Canada announced it would maintain its overnight interest rate at 4.50%. This was followed by the U.S. Federal Reserve increasing its overnight interest rate to 5.00% on March 22, 2023. We are aware of inflation that has exceeded the target 2% range in Canada and the United States. The likely cause for this overshoot is supply chains re-adjusting to global lockdowns due to COVID-19 and fiscal and monetary stimulus that have been applied within the financial system during the pandemic. If inflation observed remains above the target 2% range then central banks may continue to increase interest rates. Increasing interest rates reduce economic activity. If interest rates continue to increase, we will continue to monitor the yield curve to detect indications that a recession is predicted by the market.

Positions in the Fund are expected to be primarily large marketcapitalization dividend global aristocrat equities. We prefer defensive sectors such as utilities, real estate and consumer staples that will likely benefit from interest rate cuts in a poor economic environment. The Fund is currently well positioned to meet its investment objective for the medium to long term. We will continue to hold high quality businesses, and evaluate opportunities that we believe may generate income, enhance returns and/or reduce risk wherever possible.

## **RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

The Manager is responsible for the day-to-day operation of and for providing investment management services to the Fund. The Manager receives a fee for providing these services. This is calculated daily based on the net asset value of the Fund and paid monthly. During the sixmonth period ended March 31, 2023, the Manager received \$17,788 in management fees from the Fund, net of applicable taxes (March 31, 2022; \$21,404).

Any administrative services paid for or provided by the Manager are charged to the Fund and are grouped and presented by expense type in the statements of comprehensive income (loss). Depending on their nature, some expenditures are allocated to the Fund based on a variety of methods including net asset value or actual costs incurred. During the six-month period ended March 31, 2023, the Manager was reimbursed \$6,767 for operating expenses incurred on behalf of the Fund, including amounts paid to affiliates, net of applicable taxes (March 31, 2022: \$7,327). The Manager absorbed \$86,701 of operating expenses during the six-month period ended March 31, 2023, net of applicable taxes (March 31, 2022: \$69,840). Affiliates of the Manager provide administrative services associated with the day-to-day operations of the Fund. These affiliates of the Manager were reimbursed \$442 during the six-month period ended March 31, 2023 by the Fund for such services (March 31, 2022: \$631).

The Manager and/or its affiliates and key management personnel of the Manager and their family (collectively referred to as Related Parties) may invest in units of the Fund from time to time in the normal course of business. Transactions to purchase or redeem units are made at net asset value per unit. Standing instructions from the independent review committee (IRC), as described below, were not required or obtained for such transactions. As at March 31, 2023, Related Parties owned 17,128 shares of the Fund (March 31, 2022: 14,435).

The Fund has received standing instructions from the Fund's IRC. The standing instructions constitutes a written recommendation from the IRC that permits the Manager to proceed with specific action(s) set out in the standing instructions on an ongoing basis as detailed in the annual IRC Report to Securityholders. The standing instructions are designed to ensure that the Manager's actions are carried out in accordance with National Instrument 81-107 - Independent Review Committee for Investment Funds and the Manager's policies and procedures in order to achieve a fair and reasonable result for the Fund. The IRC reviews reports periodically, at least annually, which assess compliance with applicable conflicts of interest policies and standing instructions.

Except as otherwise noted above, the Fund was not a party to any related party transactions during the six-month period ended March 31, 2023.

The Board of Directors of the Manager is responsible for reviewing and approving the financial statements and overseeing management's performance of its financial reporting responsibilities.

#### Notes

Certain statements included in this Management Discussion of Fund Performance constitute forward-looking statements, including those identified by the expressions "may", "should", "will", "anticipate", "believe", "plan", "predict", "estimate", "expect", "intend" and similar expressions to the extent they relate to the Fund. These forward-looking statements are not historical facts, but reflect the current expectations of the portfolio management team regarding future results or events that may impact the Fund. These forward-looking statements are subject to a number of risks, uncertainties, assumptions and other factors that could cause actual results or events to differ materially from current expectations. The portfolio management team has no specific intention of updating any forward-looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by securities legislation.

Certain research and information about specific holdings in the Fund, including any opinion, is based upon various sources believed to be reliable, but it cannot be guaranteed to be current, accurate or complete. It is for information only, and is subject to change without notice.

## Summary of Investment Portfolio as at March 31, 2023

## Top 25 Investments\*

	% of Net Asset Value
Cash & Cash Equivalents	14.4%
Consolidated Edison, Inc.	4.3%
Walmart Inc.	4.2%
Johnson & Johnson	3.9%
Coloplast A/S	3.6%
SJW Group	3.5%
The Procter & Gamble Company	3.4%
McDonald's Corporation	3.4%
Genuine Parts Company	3.2%
PepsiCo, Inc.	2.8%
Cincinnati Financial Corporation	2.6%
The Coca-Cola Company	2.6%
American States Water Company	2.5%
Fresenius SE & Co KGaA	2.4%
Bunzl PLC	2.3%
Compass Group PLC	2.3%
Hormel Foods Corporation	2.2%
Sanofi	2.2%
Linde PLC	2.2%
California Water Service Group	2.1%
Novartis AG	2.0%
Nestle S.A.	2.0%
Diageo PLC	1.7%
Red Electrica Corporacion S.A.	1.7%
American Tower Corporation	1.7%
Grand Total	79.2%_

Total net asset value \$2,925,367

\* Where the Fund holds less than 25 holdings, all investments have been disclosed. There may be other assets and liabilities which are not included, and therefore the summary may not add up to 100%.

The investment portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the investment fund. Quarterly updates are available within 60 days of each quarter end by visiting www.portlandic.com or contacting us at 1-888-710-4242. The prospectus and other information about the underlying exchange traded funds held in the portfolio are available on the internet at www.sedar.com and/or www.sec.gov/edgar.shtml, as applicable.

## Portfolio Composition

Sector	
Consumer Staples	26.2%
Health Care	15.8%
Utilities	14.6%
Cash & Cash Equivalents	14.4%
Consumer Discretionary	8.9%
Other Net Assets (Liabilities)	6.3%
Materials	3.8%
Financials	3.7%
Industrials	3.6%
Real Estate	1.7%
Exchange Traded Funds	1.0%

Geographic Region	
United States	50.6%
Cash & Cash Equivalents	14.4%
United Kingdom	8.0%
Other Net Assets (Liabilities)	6.3%
Switzerland	5.6%
Denmark	3.6%
Canada	3.0%
Germany	2.4%
France	2.2%
Ireland	2.2%
Spain	1.7%

Other Net Assets (Liabilities) refers to all other assets and liabilities in the Fund excluding portfolio investments and cash.

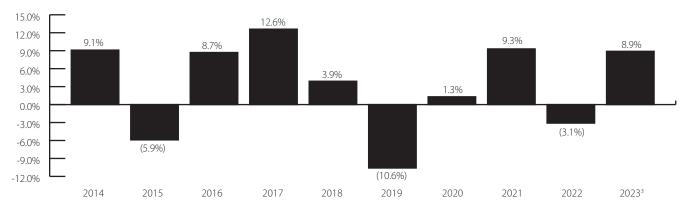
## Past Performance

The past performance information shown in this section is calculated using the net asset value per unit and assumes that all distributions made by the Fund in the periods shown were reinvested in additional securities of the Fund. The past performance information does not take into account sales, redemptions, distribution or other optional charges or income taxes payable by the unitholder that would have reduced returns or performance. Investment funds are not guaranteed, their values change frequently and past performance may not be repeated.

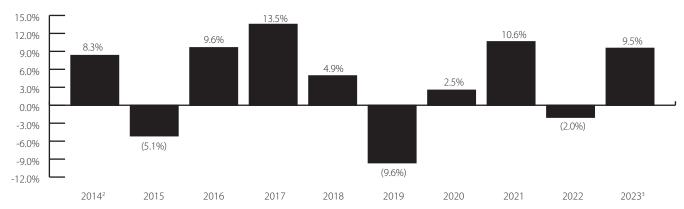
## Year-By-Year Returns

The following bar charts show the performance of each series of the Fund for each of the financial years shown and illustrates how the investment fund's performance has changed from year to year. The charts show in percentage terms how an investment made on the first day of each financial year would have increased or decreased by the last day of each financial year. Note the Fund changed its financial year end from December 31 to September 30 in 2013.

#### Series A Units<sup>1</sup>



#### Series F Units



- 1. Prior to December 13, 2013 the Fund operated as Copernican British Banks Fund, a closed-end fund listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol CBB.UN. On December 13, 2013 CBB.UN was Restructured, became a multi-class open end mutual fund, and changed its investment objectives and strategies. If the Restructuring had not occurred and the investment objectives and strategies had remained the same, performance since then may have been different.
- 2. Return for 2014 represents a partial year starting December 17, 2013 to September 30, 2014.
- 3. Return for 2023 represents a partial year starting October 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023.

## Management Fees

The Manager is responsible for the day-to-day management and administration of the Fund. The Manager monitors and evaluates the performance of the Fund, pays for the investment management services of the portfolio adviser and arranges for the administrative services required to be provided to the Fund. As compensation for its service, the Manager is entitled to receive a fee, payable monthly, calculated based on the average daily net asset value of the Fund.

		Expenses Paid Out of the Management Fee (%)				
Series of Units	Management Fee (%)	Dealer compensation	General administration, investment advice and profit	Absorbed expenses		
Series A	1.55%	60%	-	40%		
Series F	0.55%	-	-	100%		

## 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 past five years. Information for 2023 is presented for the six-month period ended March 31, 2023 and for all other periods, information is as at September 30 of the year shown.

Series A Units - Net Assets per unit1

For the periods ended	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Net assets, beginning of the period	\$7.82	\$8.52	\$8.18	\$8.54	\$10.10	\$10.21
Increase (decrease) from operations:						
Total revenue	0.11	0.22	0.25	0.23	0.43	0.42
Total expenses	(0.11)	(0.23)	(0.22)	(0.21)	(0.23)	(0.23)
Realized gains (losses)	(0.16)	0.09	0.47	(1.62)	(0.19)	0.37
Unrealized gains (losses)	0.86	(0.21)	0.23	1.67	(1.14)	(0.20)
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>2</sup>	0.70	(0.13)	0.73	0.07	(1.13)	0.36
Distributions to unitholders:						
From income	(0.02)	-	-	(0.01)	(0.03)	(0.04)
From dividends	-	(0.00)	(0.02)	(0.20)	(0.19)	(0.12)
From capital gains	-	-	-	-	-	-
Return of capital	(0.21)	(0.46)	(0.38)	(0.25)	(0.28)	(0.34)
Total annual distributions <sup>3</sup>	(0.23)	(0.46)	(0.40)	0.46	(0.50)	(0.50)
Net assets, end of period <sup>4</sup>	\$8.29	\$7.82	\$8.52	\$8.18	\$8.54	\$10.10

Series A Units - Ratios/Supplemental Data

For the periods ended	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Total net asset value	\$2,119,304	\$1,990,955	\$2,708,282	\$3,733,020	\$5,092,010	\$7,288,781
Number of units outstanding	255,651	254,496	317,778	456,359	596,518	721,639
Management expense ratio⁵	2.31%	2.31%	2.32%	2.38%	2.47%	2.41%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions <sup>5</sup>	9.53%	8.56%	6.71%	4.94%	4.22%	3.67%
Trading expense ratio <sup>6</sup>	0.02%	0.01%	0.05%	0.15%	0.04%	0.08%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>7</sup>	0.03%	3.58%	26.63%	95.39%	10.59%	20.84%
Net asset value per unit	\$8.29	\$7.82	\$8.52	\$8.18	\$8.54	\$10.10

Series F Units - Net Assets per unit<sup>1</sup>

For the periods ended	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Net assets, beginning of the period	\$8.74	\$9.36	\$8.85	\$9.09	\$10.61	\$10.59
Increase (decrease) from operations:						
Total revenue	0.12	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.45	0.44
Total expenses	(0.07)	(0.14)	(0.13)	(0.12)	(0.13)	(0.12)
Realized gains (losses)	(0.17)	0.10	0.50	(1.77)	(0.18)	0.34
Unrealized gains (losses)	0.94	(0.92)	0.27	1.82	(1.36)	(0.19)
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>2</sup>	0.82	0.71	0.91	0.18	(1.22)	0.47
Distributions to unitholders:						
From income	(0.02)	-	-	(0.08)	(0.01)	(0.04)
From dividends	-	(0.01)	(0.02)	(0.17)	(0.24)	(0.21)
From capital gains	-	-	-	-	-	-
Return of capital	(0.22)	(0.45)	(0.38)	(0.21)	(0.25)	(0.25)
Total annual distributions <sup>3</sup>	(0.24)	(0.46)	(0.40)	(0.46)	(0.50)	(0.50)
Net assets, end of period⁴	\$9.33	\$8.74	\$9.36	\$8.85	\$9.09	\$10.61

Series F Units - Ratios/Supplemental Data

For the periods ended	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Total net asset value	\$806,063	\$578,261	\$255,028	\$489,403	\$835,635	\$1,241,554
Number of units outstanding	86,428	66,189	27,250	55,323	91,901	117,069
Management expense ratio⁵	1.17%	1.16%	1.18%	1.25%	1.35%	1.43%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions <sup>5</sup>	8.38%	7.41%	5.57%	3.81%	3.09%	2.69%
Trading expense ratio <sup>6</sup>	0.02%	0.01%	0.05%	0.15%	0.04%	0.08%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>7</sup>	0.03%	3.58%	26.63%	95.39%	10.59%	20.84%
Net asset value per unit	\$9.33	\$8.74	\$9.36	\$8.85	\$9.09	\$10.61

## **Explanatory Notes**

- 1. The information for March 31, 2023 is derived from the Fund's unaudited interim financial statements. For the remaining periods, the information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. The net assets per security presented in the financial statements may differ from the net asset value calculated for fund pricing purposes.
- 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 daily average number of units outstanding over the financial period.
- 3. Distributions are paid out in cash/reinvested in additional units of the Fund, or both.
- 4. This is not a reconciliation of the beginning and ending net assets per unit.
- 5. The management expense ratio (MER) is based on total expenses (excluding foreign withholding taxes, commissions and other portfolio transaction costs but including management fee distributions paid to certain unitholders in the form of additional units) for the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period. The Manager may absorb certain expenses otherwise payable by the Fund. The amount of expenses absorbed is determined annually at the discretion of the Manager.

The Fund may hold investments in exchange traded funds (ETFs). The MER is calculated taking into consideration the expenses of the Fund allocated to the series including expenses indirectly attributable to its investment in the ETFs divided by the average daily NAV of the series of the Fund during the period.

On April 20, 2020, the management fees decreased from 1.65% and 0.65% to 1.55% and 0.55% on Series A and Series F, respectively. For the year ended September 30, 2020, if the change in management fees had been effective since the start of that financial year, the MER after waivers or absorptions would have been 2.34% and 1.21% Series A and Series F, respectively.

- The trading expense ratio (TER) represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of the daily average net asset value of the Fund during the period.
  - The TER is calculated taking into consideration the costs attributable to its investment in ETFs.
- 7. The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio advisor manages its 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 fund's 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.

Portfolio turnover rate is calculated based on the lesser of the cumulative cost of purchases or cumulative proceeds of sales divided by the average market value of the portfolio, excluding short-term investments.



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