

# CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER UPDATE

JANUARY 31, 2023



### AGENDA

- I. A Reluctant Recession?
- 2. Back to the Future?
- 3. PIC Performance 2022
- 4. Outlook

### A RELUCTANT RECESSION?



- The **Unemployment rate** is a key indicator of the macroeconomic environment
  - U.S. Federal reserve's **COVID response** averted a deep recession
  - Unemployment is back to pre-COVID levels
  - Currently a delicate balancing act by central banks: How many jobs are they willing to sacrifice to tame inflation as redundancies (Alphabet, Amazon, Microsoft...) and general strikes begin to surface (Denmark, France, UK...)?
- We expect Fed Policy to be a key driver for asset prices in 2023, and to anticipate Fed Policy we must closely examine **inflation**... which was *supply-driven* precipitously upwards in 2022, by supply chain shortages... with concerns (for central banks) as to whether *demand-driven* inflation would follow...
- More recently, inventories are steadily rising as supply chain pressures have eased
- Producers opinions are increasingly depressing... spells contraction
- Central banks finally responded to inflation that proved not to be "transient"
  - Yields have soared to pre-financial crisis levels

## **BACK TO THE FUTURE?**

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- The COVID shock has distorted growth and inflation
  - If history is not to be repeated, then the U.S. federal reserve will learn from the 1970's when their response to early-stage inflation was insufficient and subsequently required newly elected Paul Volcker (Fed chairman from 1979-1987) to raise rates to 20% by June 1981.
- Stock markets go up the escalator and down the elevator'
  - Historically, bull markets are persistent whereas bear markets are more likely sudden and short lived
- Generally, the US dollar is preferred to be held during times of market turbulence and global economic uncertainty (a.k.a 'flight of capital to safety'):
  - LATAM debt crisis/OPEC Embargo- Early 1980's
  - 'Tech Bubble' -2000/September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001
  - The Great Recession– 2007-2009
  - COVID to date
- A return to pre-COVID positive real U.S. Treasuries: 10 year vs 5 year maturities
- Price-to-Earnings ratios for the TSX and S&P 500 (based on trailing operating earnings), have reverted to long-term median multiples
- TSX-listed companies: Price-to-Book ratios have reverted to more attractive levels
- TSX Earnings Yield on equities remains more attractive than long-term Canadian Government Bonds



# PIC RELATIVE TO STYLE/SEGMENTS OF MARKET PERFORMANCE...

- Large-Cap Value significantly outperformed all-sized Growth
- Energy sector was a very high performer, Technology a significant detractor

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#### **Our Performance**



#### Aggregate Performance by Asset Class<sup>1</sup>

Portland's Reference Investment Performance document serves to illustrate our mission and belief that a client portfolio that incorporates private and alternative assets provides better risk-adjusted returns in the long run.

The document shows annualized returns based on multiple scenarios – by asset class, in aggregate, and also by varying levels of capital allocation between public and private.



#### PORTLAND INVESTMENT COUNSEL'S APPROACH

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#### Private Vs. Public<sup>2</sup> - Allocations

Annualized Returns

#### **Our Commitment**

To provide all wealth-seeking clients, institutions and advisors with access to unique opportunities to co-invest with Portland Holdings group of companies in high quality private and alternative investments typically reserved for the affluent and institutional investor.

### POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF PRIVATE INVESTING

- Access to Increased Opportunities
- Capture Illiquidity Premium
- Less Correlated to Public
  Investments
- Disciplined Long-Term Investment Focus
- Lower Volatility

OUTLOOK...CLIMBING THE WALL OF WORRY

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AREA	END OF 2021	END OF 2022	
Supply Chain (General)	Ĩ	$\bigcirc \circ \bigcirc$	
Supply Chain (Energy, Food, and Semiconductor Security)		ÍÌ	
COVID			
Inflation		(I)	
Borrowing Costs			
Geopolitical Environment		ĨÌ	
Extreme Weather			
Demand			



### CITI GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN PRESSURE INDEX





January 31, 2016 to December 31, 2022



### ENERGY SUPPLY CHAIN



Seaborne Oil Trade Diversion: Longer-Haul Routes



 Seaborne oil trade routes significantly lengthened upon Russian Ukraine War

- ---> Pre-Invasion Seaborne Oil Trade Flows from Russia to Europe
- --> Post-Invasion Diverted Oil Trade Flows





Reported COVID cases have eased except most recently China



## INFLATION $(=) \longrightarrow (i)$

- After a rapid hike in inflation, general expectation is that inflation has peaked, and should ease through 2023...
  - ...assuming demand/discretionary spend- driven inflation eases





## BORROWING COSTS



 Global financial crisis induced negative interest rates and quantitative easing, both of which now appear in the rearview mirror as positive/higher interest rates rapidly return.





### **GEOPOLITICAL ENVIRONMENT**



- Worst backdrop in a generation
- End of post Cold War 'Peace Dividend'
  - Lengthening Russia Ukraine War
  - China/Taiwan tensions
  - Iran- civil unrest
  - Cyberattacks
- Shift to a bipolar global financial system based on US Dollar and Chinese Renminbi
- Increases in defense and cybersecurity investing

### **EXTREME WEATHER**





### DEMAND



### University of Michigan Consumer Sentiment Index







 ISM Manufacturing and Services Indices are viewed as predictors of recessions when falling below 50... as at December 31, 2022 Services was 49.6 and Manufacturing was 48.4

ISM Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index





#### ISM Services Purchasing Managers' Index

#### From December 31, 2006 to December 31, 2022

### **INVERTING YIELD CURVE – PREDICTOR OF RECESSION**



- Canadian Government Yield Curve is currently inverted; signaling a recession
- The 2-Year and 10-Year maturities began to invert around July 11, 2022; signaling the formation of an inverted yield curve





### OUTLOOK...

#### As with every year, markets will respond to cyclical and secular factors...

Cyclical

### End of Rate Hikes Once Inflation Peaks

We are not so sure, it depends on whether the Federal Reserve is still targeting 2% inflation... Cyclical

Weak Growth

We believe restrictive monetary policy and decelerating global growth will keep growth weak during 2023 Secular

**Fiscal Challenges** 

To support higher costs of living, we believe budget deficits will stay high. Because borrowing costs will remain elevated, we believe governments will turn to tax increases to fund their spending (a.k.a fiscal transfers) Cyclical

#### **Global Trading**

In the near term, due to political conflicts, we believe global trade as a share of GDP will decline, and we anticipate strategic industries to be repatriated as bipolar trading replaces globalization



### OUTLOOK...

### Cyclical Return of Bonds

We see bonds resetting at higher yields. Once central banks stop hiking rates, these high yielding bonds should remain attractive.

### Cyclical Volatility in Equities

We expect corporate profits to be challenged during 2023 – a driver of volatility in equity markets.

#### Secular US Dollar Strong vs Emerging Markets

We expect the US Dollar to have an interest rate advantage through 2023, which we believe may further strengthen it compared

to emerging currencies. However, developed currencies that are perceived as undervalued could strengthen versus the US Dollar.

#### Secular

# Strength in Alternatives

We anticipate hedge funds/private equity may do well this year.

We anticipate private debt should do well via dislocations/institutional borrowing challenges...

- Private credit is now a \$1.2 trillion asset class
- Private debt helps insulate portfolios against future price shocks/equity volatility



Crisis... a crucial point, when something begins to change...

- Climate Change: \_\_\_\_\_\_ Transitioning from fossil fuels to renewables and nuclear
  - Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, CEO of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company:

"the world must triple renewable energy generation ... via a transition that leaves no one behind".

- Our focus is on helping to solve the world's energy needs sustainably, including leveraging nuclear technology
- Trade between nations: \_\_\_\_\_ Less global more bi-polar... more cybersecurity
- Work environment / Digital: More remote, more AI (synthesizing information retrieval) ... more ChatGPT

... leading corporates are addressing these '3D' business challenges - Decarbonization, Deglobalization, Digitalization



### **OUTLOOK - CONTINUED**

- Health and Ageing Pressure for: i) more cures (rather than Populations treatment) and:
  - ii) more preventions (less pandemics)
  - Our focus is on curing forms of cancer via radionuclide precision oncology
  - U.S. Inflation Reduction Act empowers the Federal Government to negotiate prices for drugs purchased by Medicare
  - BioNTech buys UK AI start-up InstaDeep £560 million
  - Targeted Radionuclide Therapies in the ascendancy
  - Pharma biotech dealmaking has mushroomed since 2000 while 2022 is the lowest in 5 years...



### OUTLOOK SUMMARIZED...



- S&P 1-year forward Price/Earnings expectations opened 2022 around 22x
- S&P 1-year forward Price/Earnings expectations opened 2023 around 16.5x
  - Year on year decrease of -24.49%



- Ferocity of 2022 bear market has probably priced in tougher earnings outcomes and fiscal transfers (across Europe) will likely help smooth out downturn over next couple of years.
- This could potentially result in a normalized year of market recovery with the caveat that the market will likely need to deal with some risks by the latter 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the year...

# ...OUTLOOK SUMMARIZED



## After a bumpy ride, hoping for a soft landing...

Ist third of 2023...

2<sup>nd</sup> third of 2023...

3<sup>rd</sup> third of 2023...



- Tough talk, hawkish central banks
- COVID outbreak in China
- Recession worries



- Possibly easiest period for markets
- Headline Consumer Price Index falls sharply
- More realistic peak rates priced in



- Hopes of rate cuts may meet headwind fears:
  - Second inflation wave post China recovery, as hopefully COVID abates
  - U.S. Fiscal Cliff
  - European winter challenges re energy shortages
  - Ukraine / Russia War may escalate



### Concentration

- Leverage (for alternative, private debt, and private equity funds)
- Equity Markets
- Foreign Exchange Rates
- Liquidity (for private funds)

### **RISK TOLERANCE**

Risk tolerance measures the degree of uncertainty that an investor can handle regarding fluctuations in the value of their portfolio. The amount of risk associated with any particular investment depends largely on your own personal circumstances including your time horizon, liquidity needs, portfolio size, income, investment knowledge and attitude toward price fluctuations. Investors should consult their financial advisor before making a decision as to whether this Fund is a suitable investment for them.

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Bay & Scollard Development Trust, ITM AG Investment Trust, ITM AG Investment LP, ITM SE Investment LP III, OncoBeta Investment LP, and Portland Private Growth Fund are all closed to new investments. The alternative hedge funds, private debt funds, and private equity funds are not publicly offered and only available under prospectus exemptions and other exemptions available to investors who meet certain eligibility or minimum or maximum purchase requirements. Currently these exemptions include, but are not limited to, the accredited investor exemption and the \$150,000 minimum purchase exemption for institutional investors.

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### DISCLOSURES FOR SLIDES 18 & 19

I The following lists funds and accounts included in each category and the associated time period (reference to Current Date is as at December 31, 2022, reference to Ongoing is the last valuation date and any other date reflects the termination date):

Private Equity	Portland CVBI Holdings LP - Series F (September 19, 2013 – July 31, 2014),
	ITM AG Investment Trust (October 12, 2018 – Ongoing),
	Portland Private Growth Fund - Series F (March 13, 2015 – Current Date),
	OncoBeta Investment LP (November 12, 2020 – Ongoing),
	ITM AG Investment LP (March 15, 2021 – Ongoing),
	ITM SE Investment LP III (January 14, 2022 – Ongoing)

- Private Debt Portland Private Income Fund Series F Common Units (January 7, 2013 Current Date)
- Hedge Funds Portland Special Opportunities Fund Series F (December 14, 2017 Current Date)
- Real Estate Bay & Scollard Development Trust (December 14, 2017 Ongoing)
- Sustainable Portland Global Sustainable Evergreen LP Series F (April 30, 2018 Current Date), Portland Global Sustainable Evergreen Fund - Series F (February 28, 2018 – Current Date), Portland Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund LP - Series F (October 31, 2013 – Current Date)
- Public Portland India Select Business Portfolio Trust Series F (December 31, 2011 September 30, 2013), Portland Focused Plus Fund LP - Series F (October 31, 2012 – Current Date), Portland Focused Plus Fund - Series F (March 31, 2016 – Current Date), Portland Advantage Plus — Everest Fund - Series F (April 30, 2014 – May 15, 2020), Portland Advantage Plus McKinley Fund - Series F (April 30, 2014 – March 29, 2019) (On March 29, 2019, Portland Advantage Plus – McKinley Fund merged into Portland Advantage Plus – Everest Fund), Portland Advantage Plus – Kilimanjaro Fund - Series F (April 30, 2014 – December 31, 2014),



### DISCLOSURES FOR SLIDES 6 & 7

Public (cont'd) Portland Value Plus Fund - Series F (January 30, 2015 – Current Date) (From January 30, 2015 to September 23, 2015, Portland Value Plus Fund was named "Portland Advantage Plus - Logan Fund" and from September 23, 2015 to October 15, 2017 the fund was named "Portland Advantage Plus – Value Fund". Portland Value Plus Fund merged into Portland Special Opportunities Fund on July 31, 2020), Portland Canadian Balanced Fund - Series F (October 31, 2012 – Current Date), Portland Canadian Focused Fund - Series F (October 31, 2012 – April 17, 2020) (On April 17, 2020, Portland Canadian Balanced Fund was merged with Portland Canadian Focused Fund), Portland Global Balanced Fund - Series F (February 18, 2005 – Current Date) (On April 17, 2020, Portland Global Income Fund was renamed Portland Global Balanced Fund. Portland Global Balanced Fund was converted from being a closed-end investment fund into an open-end mutual fund on December 13, 2013. Prior to the conversion, Portland Global Balanced Fund was named Global Banks Premium Income Trust ("GBP"). On December 10, 2010, Copernican World Banks Income and Growth Trust merged into GBP. Upon the conversion of GBP, Portland Global Income Fund ("PGIF"), a then-existing Portland mutual fund, merged into GBP such that unitholders of PGIF became unitholders of GBP.), Portland Global Alternative Fund - Series F (July 17, 2007 - Current Date) (On April 17, 2020, Portland Global Banks Fund was renamed Portland Global Alternative Fund. Portland Global Alternative Fund was converted from being a closed-end investment fund into an open-end mutual fund on December 13, 2013. Prior to the conversion in 2013, Portland Global Alternative Fund was named Copernican British Banks Fund.), Portland Life Sciences Alternative Fund - Series F (April 15, 2021 – Current Date), Portland North American Alternative Fund - Series F (April 17, 2020 – Current Date), Portland Energy Opportunities Alternative Fund - Series F (April 17, 2020 – December 31, 2020), Portland 15 of 15 Alternative Fund - Series F (May 16, 2007 – Current Date) (On April 17, 2020), Portland Advantage Fund ("PAV"), Portland Value Fund ("PVF") and Portland 15 of 15 Fund ("P15F") was merged into Portland Global Dividend Fund and was renamed Portland 15 of 15 Alternative Fund such that unitholders of PAV, PVF, and P15F become unitholders of Portland 15 of 15 Alternative Fund. Portland 15 of 15 Alternative Fund was converted from being a closed-end investment fund into an open-end mutual fund on May 23, 2014. Prior to the conversion in 2014, Portland 15 of 15 Alternative Fund was named Copernican International Premium Dividend Fund ("CPD"). On December 10, 2010, European Premium Dividend Fund merged into the CPD.), Portland Global Aristocrats Plus Fund (June 30, 2016 – Current Date), Global Equity Separately Managed Account Mandate (July 31, 2009 – Current Date), R Opportunities Separately Managed Account Mandate (March 31, 2020 – Current Date), Advantage Equity Separately Managed Account Mandate (December 31, 2014 – February 29, 2020), and Discretionary managed accounts (December 13, 2016 – Current Date)



### **DISCLOSURES FOR SLIDES 6 & 7**

#### Fixed Income Portland Private Income Fund - Series F Preferred Units (June 29, 2018 – Current Date)

- 2 The differentiation between the categories of Private and Public refers to the nature of the underlying securities. The category of Private includes all other categories not included in the category of Public under Our Performance. In calculating performance, the same methodology is used as under Our Performance, except for the categories of 25%/75% private vs. public and vice versa, approximately CA\$150 worth is invested for the 75% portion on each start date.
- 3 The 100% Private allocation has a start date of January 7, 2013, whereas each of the other allocations have a start date of December 31, 2011.

Performance numbers are to provide investors with an understanding of the overall performance of funds and discretionary accounts managed by Portland. There is no single portfolio with all funds and securities. The start date for the performance is December 31, 2011, which is the start date of Portland India Select Business Portfolio Fund – Series F, the first fund launched after Portland's parent company AIC Limited had sold most of its management contracts to a leading Canadian financial services group.

The Private and Alternative Funds listed are not publicly offered. They are only available under offering memorandum and other exemptions to investors who meet certain eligibility or minimum purchase requirements such as "accredited investors". Information herein pertaining to the Funds is solely for the purpose of providing information and is not to be construed as a public offering in any jurisdiction of Canada. The offering of Units of the Funds is made pursuant to an Offering Memorandum and the information contained herein is a summary only and is qualified by the more detailed information in the Offering Memorandum.

For investment funds, the indicated rates of return are the historical annual compounded total returns including changes in units value and reinvestment of all distributions and do not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or optional charges or income taxes payable by any security holder that would have reduced returns. The rates of return are used only to illustrate the effects of the average annual return and are not intended to reflect future values of the investment fund or returns on investment in the investment fund. Investment funds are not guaranteed, their values change frequently and past performance may not be repeated.



# APPENDIX



### BIOTECH- PHARMACEUTICALS- INFO TECH SECTORS JANUARY 2022 TO DECEMBER 2022



Source: Bloomberg 30



Portland Investment Counsel Inc. ("Portland") would like to provide the below update with respect to its investment in ITM Isotope Technologies Munich SE ("ITM") and the valuation of its funds that hold ITM as of December 31, 2022, namely ITM AG Investment Trust, ITM SE Investment LP, ITM SE Investment LP II and ITM SE Investment LP III (collectively, the "Funds").

Portland, aligned with its Valuation Policy, takes into account a number of relevant factors in order to fair value the investment of ITM including the following:

Industry and sector specific market conditions - in 2022 there was a continued slowdown in the biotech industry, as illustrated by an annual 26% decline in the performance of the companies included in a broad biotech index.

- Company specific updates in 2022 this included:
- o A currently confidential, direct treasury investment by a third-party institutional investor that was completed in January 2023.

o ITM continues to deliver on its business plan objectives by substantially increasing its revenues from its long-term supply agreement partners, such as Novartis AG.

o ITM's progression of its clinical development programs (recruitments are finalized and data is expected to be released in the coming months).

Based on the above fair value measures, the value of the investment held in the Funds have been updated and any working capital and currency impact have been factored into the net asset value per unit. Portland will continue to provide further company specific updates.

For any questions, please contact your financial advisor.

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