

### **MD Family of Funds**

# 2023 Annual Management Report of Fund Performance

#### **DISCLOSURE**

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 obtain a copy of the annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling 1 800 267-2332, by writing to us at MD Financial Management Inc., 1870 Alta Vista Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 6R7, or by visiting our website at md.ca or SEDAR+ at sedarplus.ca. Security holders 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.

# A Message to MD Family of Funds Investors

Dear MD Family of Funds Investor:

As part of our commitment to keeping you informed about your MD Fund investments, please find attached the 2023 Annual Management Report of Fund Performance (MRFP). If you also opted to receive the fund's financial statements, they are included in this package.

The annual MRFP is a regulatory document that supplements the annual financial statements. The document includes a brief discussion and analysis of the fund's investment activities, performance and financial highlights, as well as an explanation of how the markets and overall asset mix have affected the fund.

The report is produced on a fund-by-fund basis, and your report only includes information on the funds you owned as of December 31, 2023.

If you have any questions regarding these documents, please contact your MD Advisor or the MD Trade Centre at  $1\,800\,267$ -2332.

We thank you for your continued investment in the MD Family of Funds.

MD Financial Management Inc. wholly owns or has a majority interest in the MD Group of Companies. It provides financial products and services, is the fund manager for the MD Family of Funds and offers investment counselling services. For a detailed list of the MD Group of Companies, visit md.ca.

Commissions, trailing commissions, management fees and expenses all may be associated with mutual fund investments. The rate of return is used only to illustrate the effects of the compound growth rate and is not intended to reflect future values of the mutual fund or returns on investment in the mutual fund. Standard performance data assumes reinvestment of distributions only and does not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or optional charges payable by any securityholder which would have reduced returns. Mutual funds are not guaranteed, their values change frequently and past performance may not be repeated. Please read the prospectus before investing. You may obtain a copy of the prospectus before investing by calling your MD Advisor or the MD Trade Centre at 1 800 267-2332.

Management Report of Fund Performance (December 31, 2023)

### **Investment Objectives and Strategies**

The MDPIM International Equity Pool (the "Fund") seeks to achieve long-term capital growth by investing in a diversified portfolio of international equity securities.

The Fund invests directly in the securities that make up the index and is adjusted to reflect changes in the benchmark index.

The Fund may purchase exchange-traded funds that track the index.

The Fund may not invest in companies that manufacture tobacco or tobacco-related products or cannabis or cannabis related products.

#### Risk

The risks of investing in the Fund are stated in the Fund's Simplified Prospectus. The Fund is suitable for investors who have a medium tolerance for risk.

### **Results of Operations**

For the period ended December 31, 2023, the Fund had total returns of 15.4% (Series A), and 15.2% (Series F).

International equities advanced over the 12-month period as the MSCI EAFE Index (C\$) returned 15.7%. What a difference a year makes. This time last year, U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) Chairman Powell stated the Fed would 'stay the course' with interest rate hikes 'until the job [was] done.' While inflation was slowing, it was still elevated over 6%. Amid the uncertainty, a record number of CEOs said they expected a U.S. recession in 2023. Following that came bank stress, the debt ceiling and more geopolitical turmoil.

Today, inflation across the developed world has since more than halved, all the while growth has remained resilient and the recession many fretted over never happened. Market sentiment was even more unpredictable than normal over 2023, bouncing from recession worries at the start of the year, to resilient growth over the summer, to higher for longer in the autumn, and ending the year focused on future rate cuts.

The final quarter of 2023 delivered a welcome Christmas present for investors. A series of softer inflation numbers in the U.S. and Europe shifted investor expectations to expect pre-emptive cuts from the central banks sooner in 2024 than previously expected resulted in an 'almost everything rally'. The MSCI EAFE Index (C\$) returned 7.7% in the fourth quarter.

The Fund's regional allocations were split between Europe and Asia-Pacific. European equities, including the UK, represented the largest allocation, approximately 60% the portfolio by market value, on average. European equities were the largest positive contributors to return given strong returns and their dominant weight in the portfolio, however, all regions were positive with most posting strong double digit returns. Asia Pacific was the least positive region in the fund for the period due to economic challenges in China which weighed on equities in Hong Kong. Currency had a modestly negative impact on return for the period, due almost entirely to weakness of the Japanese yen.

All of the 11 sectors represented in the portfolio contributed positively to the Fund's return in Canadian dollar terms. Industrials, Financials, Information Technology and Consumer Discretionary were the biggest positive contributors to return due to their large weight and strong returns. Consumer Staples and Real Estate were the weakest performing sectors, although still positive.

The Fund is passively managed to match the benchmark index. All positioning and changes thereto are a function of changes in the index composition.

As at December 31, 2023, the total net asset value of the Fund was \$1.06 billion, a decrease of 3% since the beginning of the year. The decrease is due to net redemptions and income distributions to unitholders, offset by net investment gain.

### **Recent Developments**

#### STRATEGIC CHANGES

There were no strategic changes to the Fund. The Fund's core investment philosophy is to seek diversification through balanced exposure to securities in the International equity market.

### **Related Party Transactions**

MD Financial Management Inc. is the Manager, Registrar and Trustee of the Fund. As Manager, MD Financial Management Inc. manages the overall business of the MD Family of Funds and the MDPIM Pools (collectively "the Funds") and is responsible for: setting investment objectives, providing and/or retaining the services of third party service providers for fund accounting services, administration services, and promoting the sales of the Fund's units.

The Manager is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Bank of Nova Scotia (Scotiabank).

1832 Asset Management LP, a subsidiary of Scotiabank, is the portfolio manager of the Funds. MD Financial Management Inc., as Manager, continues to have overall responsibility for the management of the Funds. MD Financial Management Inc. is the registered portfolio manager and provides the discretionary portfolio management services to managed-account clients through MD Private Investment Counsel. 1832 Asset Management LP is responsible for the overall performance of the Funds, the management of fund assets and the selection and monitoring of the Funds' sub-advisors.

The Manager, on behalf of the Fund, may enter into transactions or arrangements with other members of Scotiabank or certain other companies that are related or connected to the Manager (each a "related party"). All transactions between the Fund and the related parties are in the normal course of business and are carried out at arm's length terms.

As Registrar, MD Financial Management Inc. keeps track of the owners of units of the MDPIM Pools, processes purchase, transfer and redemption orders, issues investor account statements, and issues annual tax reporting information.

As the Fund is organized as a Trust, investing in the Fund means purchasing units of the Trust. As Trustee to the Fund, MD Financial Management Inc. holds actual title to the property in the Fund—the cash and securities the Fund invests in—on behalf of the unitholders.

Units of the MDPIM Pools are only available to clients of MD Private Trust Company or discretionary managed account clients of MD Financial Management Inc. MD Management Limited ceased to be the principal distributor of the MDPIM Pools as effective October 29, 2018, except for Series F units of the Pools which are available through accounts held at MD Management Limited, which acts as principal distributor in respect of those units. MD Management Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of MD Financial Management Inc.

#### Management Report of Fund Performance (December 31, 2023)

#### INDEPENDENT REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Manager has established an independent review committee (the "IRC") in accordance with National Instrument 81-107 – Independent Review Committee for Investment Funds ("NI 81-107") with a mandate to review and provide recommendations or approval, as required, on conflict of interest matters referred to it by the Manager on behalf of the Fund. The IRC is responsible for overseeing the Manager's decisions in situations where the Manager is faced with any present or perceived conflicts of interest, all in accordance with NI 81–107.

The IRC may also approve certain mergers between the Fund and other funds and any change of the auditor of the Fund. Subject to any corporate and securities law requirements, no securityholder approval will be obtained in such circumstances, but you will be sent a written notice at least 60 days before the effective date of any such transaction or change of auditor. In certain circumstances, securityholder approval may be required to approve certain mergers.

The IRC has four members: Stephen J. Griggs (Chair), Heather A.T. Hunter, Jennifer L. Witterick and Steven Donald each of whom is independent of the Manager.

The IRC prepares and files a report to the securityholders each fiscal year that describes the IRC and its activities for securityholders, as well as contains a complete list of the standing instructions. These standing instructions enable the Manager to act in a particular conflict of interest matter on a continuing basis provided the Manager complies with its policies and procedures established to address that conflict of interest matter and reports periodically to the IRC on the matter. This report to the securityholders is available on the Manager's website or, at no cost, by contacting the Manager.

The compensation and other reasonable expenses of the IRC will be paid out of the assets of the Fund as well as out of the assets of the other investment funds for which the IRC may act as the independent review committee. The compensation for the IRC is an annual flat fee. Expenses of the IRC may include premiums for insurance coverage, travel expenses and reasonable out-of-pocket expenses.

The Manager is required to advise the IRC of any breach of a condition of any standing instructions. The standing instructions require, among other things, that the investment decision in respect to a related party transaction: (a) is made by the Manager free from any influence by an entity related to the Manager and without taking into account any consideration to any associate or affiliate of the Manager; (b) represents the business judgment of the Manager uninfluenced by considerations other than the best interests of the Fund; and (c) is made in compliance with the Manager's written policies and procedures. Transactions made by the Manager under the standing instructions are subsequently reviewed by the IRC to monitor compliance.

The Manager, in respect of its management of the Fund relied on IRC standing instructions regarding related party transactions as set out below:

- Paying brokerage commissions and spreads to a related party for effecting security transactions on an principal basis on behalf of the Fund;
- Purchases or sales of securities of an issuer from or to another investment fund managed by the Manager;
- Investments in the securities of issuers for which a related underwriter acted as an underwriter during the distribution of such securities and the 60-day period following the completion of such distribution;
- Purchases of securities of a related party;
- · Investment Advisor Monitoring and Oversight

### **Management Fees**

No management fee is charged in respect of Series A units of the Fund. Investors in these units have agreed to pay a managed account fee directly to MD Financial Management Inc.

Series F unitholders pay a separate managed account fee directly to MD Management Limited. 100% of the management fee on Series F is for investment management and other services.

#### **Past Performance**

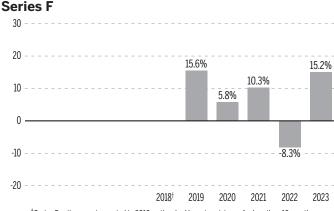
The following bar chart shows the Fund's annual performance for each of the years shown, and illustrates how the Fund's performance changed from year to year. The chart shows, in percentage terms, how much an investment made on the first day of each calendar year would have grown or decreased by the last day of each calendar year.

The performance information assumes that all distributions made by the Fund were reinvested in additional units of the Fund and does not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or other optional charges that would reduce returns. How the Fund has performed in the past does not necessarily indicate how the Fund will perform in the future.

#### YEAR-BY-YEAR RETURNS

#### **Series A**





†Series F units are not reported in 2018 as they had been in existence for less than 12 months.

Management Report of Fund Performance (December 31, 2023)

#### ANNUAL COMPOUND RETURNS

	1 year	3 year	5 years	Since Inception
MDPIM International Equity Index Pool - Series A	15.45%	5.44%	7.57%	5.32%
MDPIM International Equity Index Pool - Series F	15.17%	5.24%	7.35%	4.84%
MSCI EAFE Index	15.66%	5.74%	7.93%	

<sup>\*</sup>The Fund started series A units on April 4, 2017. †The Fund started series F units on January 9, 2018.

As the MDPIM International Equity Index Pool is an index fund, the Fund is designed to replicate the performance of the MSCI EAFE Index as closely as possible. Any deviation of the Pool's return from the MSCI EAFE Index is a function of cash flows in and out of the pool and no allocation to cannabis and tobacco stocks.

# Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

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. Actual results may differ materially from the results anticipated in these forward-looking statements.

Management Report of Fund Performance (December 31, 2023)

### **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, if applicable. This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements.

#### THE FUND'S NET ASSETS PER UNIT1

	Year ended December 31									
SERIES A		2023		2022		2021		2020		2019
Net assets – beginning of the year	\$	10.59	\$	11.92	\$	11.09	\$	10.70	\$	9.40
Increase (decrease) from operations:										
Total revenue	\$	0.36	\$	0.35	\$	0.33	\$	0.25	\$	0.31
Total expenses	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Net realized gains (losses) for the year	\$	0.15	\$	(0.05)	\$	0.05	\$	(80.0)	\$	(0.06)
Net unrealized gains (losses) for the year	\$	1.17	\$	(1.19)	\$	0.78	\$	0.55	\$	1.03
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>2</sup>	\$	1.68	\$	(0.89)	\$	1.16	\$	0.72	\$	1.28
Distributions:										
From income (excluding dividends)	\$	(0.36)	\$	(0.34)	\$	(0.32)	\$	(0.24)	\$	(0.18)
From dividends	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
From capital gains	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Return of capital	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Total annual distributions <sup>3</sup>	\$	(0.36)	\$	(0.34)	\$	(0.32)	\$	(0.24)	\$	(0.18)
Net assets – end of the year	\$	11.85	\$	10.59	\$	11.92	\$	11.09	\$	10.70

	Year ended December 31									
SERIES F		2023		2022		2021		2020		2019
Net assets – beginning of the year	\$	10.26	\$	11.54	\$	10.70	\$	10.33	\$	9.16
Increase (decrease) from operations:										
Total revenue	\$	0.34	\$	0.34	\$	0.32	\$	0.24	\$	0.37
Total expenses	\$	(0.02)	\$	(0.02)	\$	(0.02)	\$	(0.03)	\$	(0.02)
Net realized gains (losses) for the year	\$	0.12	\$	(0.05)	\$	0.04	\$	(0.08)	\$	(0.06)
Net unrealized gains (losses) for the year	\$	1.10	\$	(1.14)	\$	0.71	\$	0.70	\$	1.03
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>2</sup>	\$	1.54	\$	(0.87)	\$	1.05	\$	0.83	\$	1.32
Distributions:										
From income (excluding dividends)	\$	(0.29)	\$	(0.30)	\$	(0.26)	\$	(0.21)	\$	(0.24)
From dividends	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
From capital gains	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Return of capital	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Total annual distributions <sup>3</sup>	\$	(0.29)	\$	(0.30)	\$	(0.26)	\$	(0.21)	\$	(0.24)
Net assets – end of the year	\$	11.51	\$	10.26	\$	11.54	\$	10.70	\$	10.33

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 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 year. This table is not intended to be a reconciliation of beginning to ending net assets per unit.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Distributions were paid in cash or reinvested in additional units of the Fund, or both.

Management Report of Fund Performance (December 31, 2023)

### Financial Highlights (continued)

#### **RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA**

		Ye	ar end	led December 31		
SERIES A	2023	2022		2021	2020	2019
Total net assets, end of the year <sup>1</sup>	\$ 1,020,139,694	\$ 1,070,935,046	\$	1,105,094,330	\$ 1,002,808,984	\$ 863,003,390
Number of units outstanding	86,103,288	101,124,814		92,710,348	90,463,672	80,629,989
Management expense ratio <sup>2</sup>	0.00%	0.00%		0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Management expense ratio before tax	0.00%	0.00%		0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions	0.05%	0.04%		0.05%	0.06%	0.11%
Trading expense ratio <sup>3</sup>	0.01%	0.02%		0.01%	0.03%	0.20%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>4</sup>	8.74%	14.75%		10.01%	10.85%	9.94%
Net assets per unit	\$ 11.85	\$ 10.59	\$	11.92	\$ 11.09	\$ 10.70
		Ye	ar end	led December 31		
SERIES F	2023	2022		2021	2020	2019
Total net assets, end of the year <sup>1</sup>	\$ 39,690,226	\$ 27,214,893	\$	26,469,296	\$ 16,019,448	\$ 10,229,697
Number of units outstanding	3,448,037	2,652,606		2,294,154	1,496,561	990,098
Management expense ratio <sup>2</sup>	0.21%	0.21%		0.21%	0.21%	0.22%
Management expense ratio before tax	0.19%	0.19%		0.19%	0.19%	0.19%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions	0.26%	0.25%		0.26%	0.27%	0.32%
Trading expense ratio <sup>3</sup>	0.01%	0.02%		0.01%	0.03%	0.20%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>4</sup>	8.74%	14.75%		10.01%	10.85%	9.94%
Net assets per unit	\$ 11.51	\$ 10.26	\$	11.54	\$ 10.70	\$ 10.33

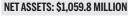
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This information is provided as at December 31 of the year shown.

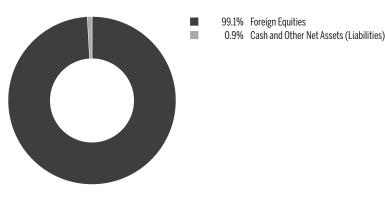
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The management expense ratio ("MER") is based on total expenses for the stated period (excluding commissions, withholding taxes and other portfolio transaction costs) and the Fund's proportionate share of the MER, if applicable, of exchange traded funds ("ETFs") in which the Fund has invested, expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period.

<sup>3</sup> The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net assets during the period.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> 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 the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher a fund's portfolio turnover rate in a year, the greater the trading costs payable by the fund in the year, 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.

#### Summary of Investment Portfolio, December 31, 2023





#### **TOP 25 HOLDINGS (PERCENTAGE OF NET ASSETS)** Novo Nordisk A/S Cl. B 2.1% Nestlé SA Registered Shares 1.9% ASML Holding NV 1.9% LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE 1.4% Shell PLC 1.3% Roche Holding AG 1.3% AstraZeneca PLC 1.3% **Novartis AG Registered Shares** 1.3% **Toyota Motor Corporation** 1.2% SAP SE 1.0% **HSBC Holdings PLC** 1.0% TotalEnergies SE 1.0% Siemens AG Registered Shares 0.9% Commonwealth Bank of Australia 0.8% **Unilever PLC** 0.8% 0.7% Sony Group Corporation 0.7% L'Oréal SA Sanofi 0.7% Schneider Electric SE 0.7% Allianz SE Registered Shares 0.7% **UBS Group AG Registered Shares** 0.6% Air Liquide SA 0.6% BP PLC 0.6% AIA Group Limited 0.6% **BHP Group Limited** 0.6%

#### PORTFOLIO ALLOCATION (PERCENTAGE OF NET ASSETS)

FOREIGN EQUITIES	
Australia	7.4%
Austria	0.2%
Belgium	0.8%
Bermuda	0.1%
Cayman Islands	0.5%
Denmark	3.3%
Finland	1.1%
France	11.0%
Germany	8.4%
Hong Kong	1.7%
Ireland	1.0%
Isle of Man	0.1%
Israel	0.7%
Italy	1.9%
Japan	22.2%
Jersey	0.7%
Luxembourg	0.2%
Netherlands	6.1%
New Zealand	0.3%
Norway	0.7%
Portugal	0.2%
Singapore	1.2%
Spain	2.6%
Sweden	3.2%
Switzerland	10.1%
United Kingdom	13.4%
	99.1%
CASH AND SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS	0.4%
OTHER NET ASSETS	0.5%
TOTAL NET ASSETS	100.0%

The Cash and Short-Term Investments and Other Net Assets may appear negative due to the timing of cash flows between the trade date and settlement date for transactions on underlying securities.

Note: Summary of Investment Portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the investment fund. A quarterly update is available.

The Net Assets, Portfolio Allocation and Top 25 Holdings in the tables are based on the net assets as at December 31, 2023.

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. To obtain a copy of the prospectus, please call your MD Advisor, or the MD Trade Centre at 1800 267-2332.



