



**MD Financial  
Management Inc.**

## **MD Family of Funds**

# 2023 Interim Management Report of Fund Performance

### **DISCLOSURE**

This interim management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete interim financial statements of the investment fund. You can obtain a copy of the interim 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](http://md.ca) or SEDAR+ at [sedarplus.ca](http://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 Interim Management Report of Fund Performance (MRFP). If you also opted to receive the fund's financial statements, they are included in this package.

The interim MRFP is a regulatory document that supplements the interim financial statements. The document includes a brief discussion and analysis of the funds as well as an explanation of how the markets and overall asset mix have affected the fund 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 June 30, 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](http://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.

# MDPIM Strategic Opportunities Pool

## Management Report of Fund Performance (June 30, 2023)

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### Results of Operations

For the period ended June 30, 2023, the Fund had a total return of 2.9% (Series A).

Inflation remained the dominant economic issue over the period. Many central banks continued to tighten monetary policy by raising interest rates or tapering their asset purchase programs to curb inflation. This has marked a deceleration in the CPI for most major economies; a major contributor was also the decline in oil prices from \$80 U.S. dollars to around \$71 U.S. dollars a barrel. Central banks continue to face the delicate task of balancing the need for economic stimulus with the risk of elevated prices. Nonetheless, the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed), the European Central Bank (ECB) and the Bank of England (BoE) have not reached their target inflation rate of 2%, all three major central banks have hinted it is not done raising interest rates.

Tight monetary conditions and the rising odds for a potential recession were key headwinds facing the global economy over this period. Nevertheless, global equities advanced over the 6-month period, with inflation coming in from high levels and secular themes in the tech space outweighing investor's concerns.

The MDPIM Strategic Opportunities Pool delivered positive returns over the first half of the year; the global exposure of the Pool detracted as the Canadian Dollar appreciated relative to the US Dollar reducing some of the returns. The inflation protection profile of the Pool hurt performance as Commodities, Natural Resources equities and Precious Metals delivered negative returns over the period.

Significant exposures to Small and Mid Cap securities helped drive the Pool's performance. However, their strength was offset as Natural Resource equities suffered over the period with oil prices coming in from their peak.

Tactical asset allocation over the period added value for the Pool, as overweighting Large Cap equities in the middle of the period, and then adding exposures back into Small Cap securities provided a boost for performance. Underweighting Real Estate companies for the majority of the first half also added to performance.

As at June 30, 2023, the total net asset value of the Fund was \$1.39 billion, an increase of 2% since the beginning of the year. The increase is due to net investment loss, income distributions to unitholders, and net redemptions.

### Recent Developments

#### STRATEGIC CHANGES

There have been no strategic changes and the Fund continues to be managed in a manner consistent with its investment mandate and is positioned to achieve its long-term objectives. The Investment Advisers have adhered to their investment disciplines and portfolio strategies.

### 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.

#### 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 five members: Stephen J. Griggs (Chair), Simon Hitzig, Heather A.T. Hunter, Jennifer L. Witterick and Steven Donald each of whom is independent of the Manager.

# MDPIM Strategic Opportunities Pool

## Management Report of Fund Performance (June 30, 2023)

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

MD Financial Management Inc. provides the Fund with management and administrative services. No management fee is charged in respect of units of the Fund. Investors in these units have agreed to pay a managed account fee directly to MD Financial Management Inc.

The Fund invests a large proportion of its assets in ETFs, which are managed by parties unrelated to MD Financial Management Inc. Because those ETFs pay their managers a management fee and bear certain operating costs, the management expense ratio ("MER") for the Fund includes the fees and expenses of those ETFs.

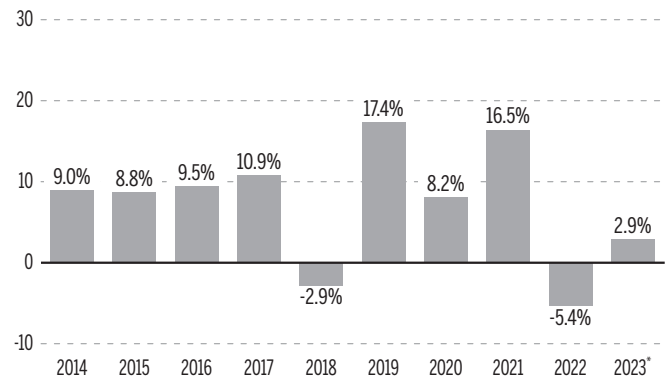
## Past Performance

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



<sup>†</sup> Series A units are not reported in 2013 as they had been in existence for less than 12 months.

<sup>\*</sup> Returns for the period from January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023.

## 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.

# MDPIM Strategic Opportunities Pool

## Management Report of Fund Performance (June 30, 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 and unaudited interim financial statements.

#### THE FUND'S NET ASSETS PER UNIT<sup>1</sup>

SERIES A	Six months ended		Year ended December 31			
	June 30, 2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Net assets – beginning of the period	\$ 14.31	\$ 16.37	\$ 15.11	\$ 14.73	\$ 13.31	\$ 14.24
Increase (decrease) from operations:						
Total revenue	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.31	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.36	\$ 0.28
Total expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Net realized gains (losses) for the period	\$ 0.28	\$ 1.06	\$ 1.43	\$ 0.52	\$ 0.97	\$ 0.30
Net unrealized gains (losses) for the period	\$ 0.05	\$ (2.21)	\$ 0.74	\$ 0.48	\$ 1.00	\$ (1.01)
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>2</sup>	\$ 0.43	\$ (0.91)	\$ 2.48	\$ 1.25	\$ 2.33	\$ (0.43)
Distributions:						
From income (excluding dividends)	\$ -	\$ (0.33)	\$ (0.20)	\$ (0.43)	\$ (0.31)	\$ (0.25)
From dividends	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
From capital gains	\$ -	\$ (0.85)	\$ (1.03)	\$ (0.40)	\$ (0.58)	\$ (0.26)
Return of capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total annual distributions <sup>3</sup>	\$ -	\$ (1.18)	\$ (1.23)	\$ (0.83)	\$ (0.89)	\$ (0.51)
Net assets – end of the period	\$ 14.73	\$ 14.31	\$ 16.37	\$ 15.11	\$ 14.73	\$ 13.31

<sup>1</sup> This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements and unaudited interim financial statements.

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

#### RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

SERIES A	Six months ended		Year ended December 31			
	June 30, 2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Total net assets, end of the period <sup>1</sup>	\$ 1,389,141,623	\$ 1,365,693,127	\$ 1,601,153,311	\$ 1,390,090,892	\$ 1,291,839,590	\$ 1,177,221,717
Number of units outstanding	94,290,193	95,421,843	97,813,377	91,971,993	87,701,846	88,440,531
Management expense ratio <sup>2</sup>	0.29%	0.26%	0.38%	0.38%	0.38%	0.39%
Management expense ratio before tax	0.29%	0.26%	0.38%	0.38%	0.38%	0.39%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions	0.32%	0.28%	0.40%	0.40%	0.41%	0.42%
Trading expense ratio <sup>3</sup>	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.03%	0.04%	0.01%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>4</sup>	41.53%	65.18%	45.67%	69.94%	69.05%	27.03%
Net assets per unit	\$ 14.73	\$ 14.31	\$ 16.37	\$ 15.11	\$ 14.73	\$ 13.31

<sup>1</sup> This information is provided as at June 30 or December 31 of the period shown.

<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.

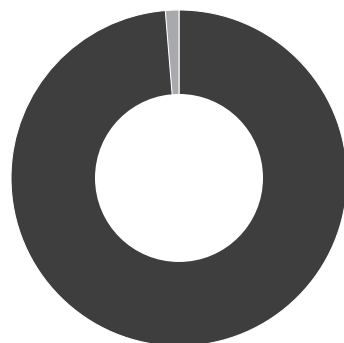
<sup>3</sup> The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net assets during the period.

<sup>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.

# MDPIM Strategic Opportunities Pool

## Summary of Investment Portfolio, June 30, 2023

**NET ASSETS: \$1,389.1 MILLION**



■ 98.7% Exchange Traded Funds - Equity  
■ 1.3% Cash and Other Net Assets (Liabilities)

### PORTFOLIO ALLOCATION (PERCENTAGE OF NET ASSETS)

EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS - EQUITY	98.7%
CASH AND SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS	1.2%
OTHER NET ASSETS	0.1%
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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.

### TOP 25 HOLDINGS (PERCENTAGE OF NET ASSETS)

iShares MSCI Global Min Vol Factor ETF	12.0%
Vanguard Mid-Cap ETF	9.6%
Vanguard Small-Cap ETF	9.0%
iShares Global Infrastructure ETF	9.0%
FlexShares Morningstar Global Upstream Natural Resources Index Fund	6.0%
VanEck Gold Miners ETF	5.9%
Vanguard FTSE All World ex-US Small-Cap ETF	5.6%
iShares Micro-Cap ETF	5.0%
Vanguard Small-Cap Growth ETF	4.5%
iShares MSCI ACWI ETF	4.1%
Vanguard Mid-Cap Value ETF	3.1%
Vanguard Mid-Cap Growth ETF	3.0%
VanEck Agribusiness ETF	3.0%
Global X Silver Miners ETF	2.7%
iShares Gold Trust	2.4%
Vanguard Real Estate ETF	2.3%
SPDR S&P Global Natural Resources ETF	1.9%
iShares Silver Trust	1.9%
Invesco Optimum Yield Diversified Commodity Strategy No K-1 ETF	1.6%
iShares Global Timber & Forestry ETF	1.5%
First Trust Water ETF	1.3%
Invesco Global Water ETF	1.2%
Cash and short-term investments	1.2%
Invesco DB Agriculture Fund	1.1%
Invesco Water Resources ETF	1.0%

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 June 30, 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 1 800 267-2332.



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