


ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE

GUARDIAN INVESTMENT GRADE CORPORATE BOND FUND

DECEMBER 31, 2022



This annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights, but does not contain either the annual financial report or annual financial statements of the investment fund. You can obtain a copy of the annual financial report or annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling 1-866-383-6546, by writing to us at Guardian Capital LP, Commerce Court West, 199 Bay Street, Suite 2700, P.O. Box 201, Toronto, Ontario, M5L 1E8, or by visiting our website at www.guardiancapital.com/investmentsolutions 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.



GUARDIAN CAPITAL

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION OF FUND PERFORMANCE

Investment Objective and Strategies

Guardian Investment Grade Corporate Bond Fund (the "Fund") seeks to provide investors with a higher level of income by investing primarily in mid-term investment grade corporate bonds. The Manager uses a proactive, disciplined management approach while employing various analytical tools to identify investments that offer value on a relative basis, with a view to maximizing current income. The Manager adheres to a risk management process that is designed to limit total exposure to individual issuers, diversify exposure to various term maturities and credit risks, and maintain portfolio liquidity.

Risk

The risks associated with investing in the Fund remain as discussed in the prospectus. The Fund may be suitable for investors with a low tolerance for risk, particularly those who are looking for the potential for higher income from Canadian investment grade corporate bonds.

Results of Operations

(This commentary is based on the performance of Series I units of the Fund. Returns for other Series of units may vary, largely due to differences in fees and expenses. Please refer to the Past Performance section for specific Series level performance details.)

The Fund's net asset value increased by 25% to \$112.7 million at December 31, 2022 from \$90.1 million at December 31, 2021. Of this change, a decrease of \$10.3 million was due to investment performance and an increase of \$32.9 million was attributable to net subscriptions.

Series I units of the Fund posted a return of -9.7% for the year. The Fund's benchmark, the FTSE Canada Mid-Term Corporate Bond Index, returned -10.0% for the same period. The Fund's return is after the deduction of fees and expenses, where applicable for the Series, unlike the benchmark's return.

Fixed income markets globally experienced one of the worst years, on a total return basis, in decades. The FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index (Index) ended the year down, while returning 0.10% in the fourth quarter. It has been the worst year on record since the inception of the Index, and this is the first time in its history that we have witnessed two consecutive years of negative returns. FTSE Canada Short-, Mid- and Long-term indices returned -4.04%, -10.29% and -21.76%, respectively. Provincial bonds (overall) returned -15.05% and Corporate bonds (overall) returned -9.87%.

The Bank of Canada (BoC) raised its key policy rate by 50 bps in its year-end meeting on December 8, 2022. With this seventh consecutive increase in the overnight rate this year, the BoC has raised its policy rate by a cumulative of 400 bps in 2022. The US Federal Reserve (Fed) policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), on December 14, 2022, raised its target range for the fed funds rate by 50 basis points to an upper bound of 4.50%, bringing the cumulative increase to 425 basis points for the year. During the past year, we have witnessed extensive curve flattening and inversion in some yield curve relationships, a measure of the relationship between short- and long-term interest rates on the back of central bank efforts to control rising inflation. To put the current inversion/flattening into perspective, the last time we saw these levels in 10-year vs. 2-year (-75 bps) bond yields was in the 1990s.

In Canada, the non-seasonally adjusted year-on-year Consumer Price Index (CPI) declined by 0.1% on a month-over-month basis in November. This is the lowest reading since May 2022. Coming into 2022, corporate bonds significantly outperformed government bonds, as spreads tightened to a multi-decade low since reaching the highs during COVID-19. The credit market, however, since the beginning of 2022, sold off massively, as risk-off sentiments (concerns around global growth slowdown) and geopolitical tensions all weighed on the asset class.

The Fund's yield curve positioning and exposure to selective corporate sectors contributed to outperformance over the past 12 months, relative to the benchmark. Also contributing to positive performance was the Fund's overweight exposure

to the Communication Services sector, as well as its underweight exposure to 7- and 10-year key rate nodes. The Fund's underweight exposure to the Infrastructure sector significantly contributed to relative performance. Overweight exposure to the Financials sector along with an overweight position in the select names within the Communications Services sector, each detracted from performance.

The Fund's underweight positions in Bank of Nova Scotia 2028 bonds, Enbridge Inc. 2031 bonds and BMO 2028 bonds each contributed to performance, while the Fund's overweight positions in Sunlife Financial Inc. 2032 bonds, Royal Bank of Canada 2027 bonds and TD Bank 2028 bonds each detracted from performance.

Over the past 12 months, the Fund slightly increased its overweight exposure in the Financials sector, both in MV% and contribution to duration terms. The Fund also moved from underweight exposure in the Real Estate sector to a modest overweight over the past 12 months, and increased its underweight exposure in the Infrastructure sector.

The Fund ended the year overweight in the Financials sector and underweight in the Infrastructure sector and Industrials sectors relative to the benchmark (MV%).

The Manager integrates ESG considerations into its investment analysis and stewardship activities with the objective of enhancing long-term investment performance. Active engagement and proxy voting are a core part of the Manager's stewardship approach, and the Fund's investment team participates in these activities in a manner suitable to the asset class and Fund. Our investment teams focus on ESG and other issues which they believe could be financially material and/or impact the long-term sustainability of the company. The consideration of ESG issues is one of a number of elements in the portfolio construction process and, may or may not have a material influence on portfolio composition at any given time. For more information, the Manager posts its annual proxy voting activities and an annual Responsible Investing report on its website: <https://www.guardiancapital.com/investmentsolutions/>

Recent Developments

With global monetary policy tightening throughout the last calendar year, the material adjustment to higher yields, wider credit spreads, and extremes in many yield curve relationships provide relative value opportunities.

Central banks across the globe, particularly in North America, have been aggressive with their interest rate policies, driving interest rates higher. This has resulted in yield curve inversions in shorter tenors not seen in decades. The Manager expects central banks to pause in the not-too-distant future as they near the end of their current tightening cycle. One of the key drivers for the aggressive hiking is the exceptionally strong inflation data. However, inflation and inflation expectations, have turned in the past few months, and are now either steady or increasing at a slower pace, i.e. while inflation is still positive; it is rising to a lesser extent. Despite slowing inflation, employment metrics in Canada and the US are still strong, and wage gains represent a wildcard to price stability in the near future. Under a scenario where North American central banks decide to halt their key policy rates at their current levels, the degree of quantitative tightening, both by the Fed and the BoC, represents another layer of risk to concerns regarding growth slowdown. Given the delayed impact of monetary policy adjustments, we believe it prudent for North American central banks to allow time to assess the impacts of recent rate increases on economies.

Canadian investment grade bond (IG) spreads volatility continued in the fourth quarter of 2022 and reached their year-to-date high near the end of October, which coincided with increased concerns of inflation and its impact on monetary policy going forward. Starting in November though the Fed started sounding slightly less hawkish and subsequent inflation data started to inflect lower. This reversed markets' fears about tighter monetary policy and spreads tightened significantly and retraced almost all of the widening in October.

The Manager continues to expect interest rates and credit spreads to be volatile in 2023, however, with Canadian IG spreads still at elevated levels relative to history, the increased yield carry provides a

significant support to total returns if there is further spread widening, especially for corporate bonds with maturities of 10-years or less.

In 2023, we expect there to be at least some deterioration in corporate fundamentals as tighter labour markets and still persistent inflation keep costs high while weakness in economic growth will result in lower revenue growth; while this would argue for wider credit spreads, most corporates have relatively strong balance sheets so we would expect this to limit spread widening

The Manager continues to expect IG credit spreads to be range-bound during 2023. Any breakout wider from here, due to a continued too hot economy with the Fed having to tighten monetary policy further or a severe recession ("hard landing"), resulting in a flight to quality into federal government bonds and any further significant tightening will be due to a "soft landing" scenario and with evidence that the Fed will not need to continue tightening.

To summarise, the Manager believes the risk reward appears quite compelling in the Canadian IG space.

Related Party Transactions

Guardian Capital LP, the Manager of the Fund, is considered to be a "related party" of the Fund. The Manager is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Fund and also acts as the portfolio manager, managing the investment portfolio of the Fund. These services are in the normal course of operations and the Fund pays a management fee to the Manager for these services, as detailed in the Management Fees section below. The Manager also receives an Administration Fee from the Fund, amounting to 0.10% of the average daily net asset value of the Fund, in return for the payment by the Manager of all the variable operating expenses of the Fund. The Independent Review Committee ("IRC") has approved the Manager's Policy for this item, and the Manager relies on this approval as a standing instruction from the IRC. The Manager received the Administration Fee and paid Fund expenses in accordance with this Policy during the year. The Manager is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Guardian Capital Group Limited, a publicly traded

firm listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

The Fund may invest some of its available short-term cash in units of Guardian Canadian Short-Term Investment Fund, another investment fund managed by Guardian Capital LP and a related issuer, which invests its assets in high-quality short-term fixed-income securities. As at December 31, 2022, the Fund had invested \$966,471 or 0.9% of its net assets, in units of the Guardian Canadian Short-Term Investment Fund. With respect to investments in related issuers, the Manager has relied on the approval that it has received from the IRC. The approval requires the Manager to comply with its current policy and procedures regarding investments in related issuers and to report periodically to the IRC. The Manager will not duplicate management fees paid to an underlying fund that is a related issuer.

Management Fees

No management fees are payable or collected for Series I units of the Fund. Series A and Series F units are subject to a management fee which is based on a percentage of the average Series NAV during each month, calculated and accrued daily, and payable monthly. The Series A management fee is 0.90% per annum. The Series F management fee is 0.40% per annum. The table below provides a breakdown of services received in consideration of the management fees, as a percentage of the management fees, for the period.

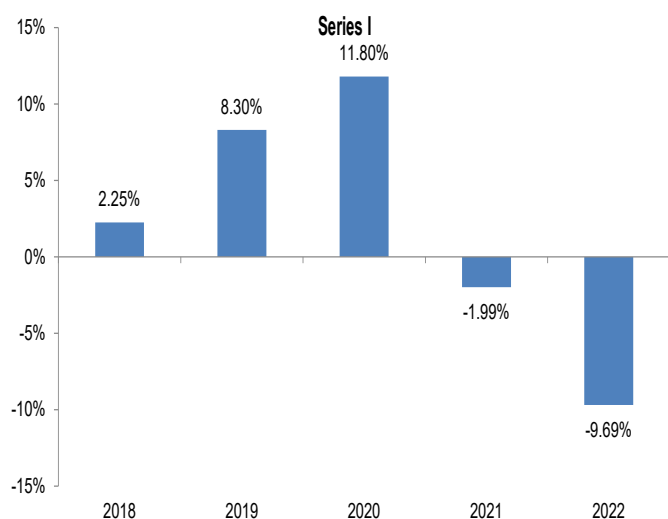
	Series I	Series A	Series F
Investment management and other general administration	n/a	44.4%	100%
Trailer Commission	n/a	55.6%	0.0%

Past Performance

The performance information shown below assumes that all distributions made by the Fund in the periods shown were reinvested in additional units of the Fund. This performance information does not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or other optional charges that would have reduced returns or performance.

Year-by-Year Returns

The bar charts show the Fund's performance for the period from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022, and annual performance for each of the prior years shown, and illustrates how the Fund's performance has changed from year to year. The chart shows in percentage terms, how much an investment made on the first day of each financial year would have grown or decreased by the last day of that financial year.



Annual Compound Returns

The tables below shows the historical compound returns of the Fund's Series I units for the periods indicated, as at December 31, 2022. The returns of a broad based market index are also shown.

	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs	Since Inception*
Series I (%)	-9.69	-0.35	n/a	n/a	1.97
FTSE Canada Mid Term Corporate Bond Index	-10.04	-0.52	n/a	n/a	1.84

* Inception date - May 3, 2018

The FTSE Canada Mid Term Corporate Bond Index consists of semi-annual pay fixed rate corporate bonds, with an effective term to maturity between five and ten years, a credit rating of BBB or higher and a minimum size of \$100 million per issue.

For Series A and Series F units, please note that it has not yet been 12 consecutive months since the start date of this Series and so in accordance with regulatory requirements, investment performance cannot be shown.

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 periods indicated. The information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements.

The Fund's Net Assets per Unit (Series I)

	12 months ended Dec. 31, 2022	12 months ended Dec. 31, 2021	12 months ended Dec. 31, 2020	12 months ended Dec. 31, 2019
Net Assets per unit, Beginning of Period ^[1]	\$10.77	\$11.28	\$10.51	\$10.07
Increase (decrease) from operations per unit: ^[1]				
Total revenue	0.34	0.30	0.32	0.33
Total expenses	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)
Realized gains (losses)	(0.33)	0.01	0.33	0.18
Unrealized gains (losses)	(0.95)	(0.52)	0.62	0.13
Total increase (decrease) from operations per unit	(0.95)	(0.22)	1.26	0.63
Distributions per unit from: ^{[1][2]}				
Income (excluding dividends)	(0.31)	(0.28)	(0.30)	(0.28)
Canadian dividends	-	-	-	-
Foreign dividends	-	-	-	-
Capital gains	-	(0.01)	(0.15)	(0.11)
Return of capital	-	-	-	-
Total Distributions per unit	(0.31)	(0.29)	(0.45)	(0.39)
Net Assets per unit, End of Period ^[1]	\$9.42	\$10.77	\$11.28	\$10.51

^[1] Net assets per unit and distributions per unit are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase (decrease) from operations per unit is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial period.

^[2] Substantially all distributions were reinvested in additional units of the Fund.

Ratios and Supplemental Data (Series I)

	12 months ended Dec. 31, 2022	12 months ended Dec. 31, 2021	12 months ended Dec. 31, 2020	12 months ended Dec. 31, 2019
Total net asset value (000's) ^[1]	\$112,730	\$90,053	\$86,014	\$59,651
Number of units outstanding ^[1]	11,968,564	8,361,630	7,623,734	5,675,549
Management expense ratio ^[2]	0.11%	0.11%	0.11%	0.11%
Management expense ratio before waivers and absorptions	0.11%	0.11%	0.11%	0.11%
Trading expense ratio ^[3]	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Portfolio turnover rate ^[4]	48.13%	95.42%	140.99%	136.30%
Net asset value per unit ^[1]	\$9.42	\$10.77	\$11.28	\$10.51

^[1] This information is provided as at the end of each period indicated.

^[2] The management expense ratio is based on total expenses (excluding commissions, other portfolio transaction costs and withholding taxes) of the Fund and its proportionate share of the total expenses of the Underlying Funds, where applicable, for the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period.

^[3] The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs of the Fund and its proportionate share of the Underlying Funds' portfolio transaction costs, where applicable, expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value for the period.

^[4] The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively its portfolio advisor trades portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in the portfolio once in the course of a 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.

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 periods indicated. The information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements.

The Fund's Net Assets per Unit (Series A)

	12 months ended Dec. 31, 2022	Period from Apr. 30 to Dec. 31, 2021
Net Assets per unit, Beginning of Period ^[1]	\$9.90	\$10.00
Increase (decrease) from operations per unit: ^[1]		
Total revenue	0.13	0.18
Total expenses	(0.10)	(0.08)
Realized gains (losses)	(0.15)	0.00
Unrealized gains (losses)	(0.92)	(0.05)
Total increase (decrease) from operations per unit	(1.04)	0.05
Distributions per unit from: ^[1] ^[2]		
Income (excluding dividends)	(0.18)	(0.14)
Canadian dividends	-	-
Foreign dividends	-	-
Capital gains	-	(0.01)
Return of capital	-	-
Total Distributions per unit	(0.18)	(0.15)
Net Assets per unit, End of Period ^[1]	\$8.68	\$9.90

^[1] Net assets per unit and distributions per unit are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase (decrease) from operations per unit is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial period.

^[2] Substantially all distributions were reinvested in additional units of the Fund.

Ratios and Supplemental Data (Series A)

	12 months ended Dec. 31, 2022	Period from Apr. 30 to Dec. 31, 2021
Total net asset value (000's) ^[1]	\$4	\$5
Number of units outstanding ^[1]	518	507
Management expense ratio ^[2]	1.13%	1.11%
Management expense ratio before waivers and absorptions	1.13%	1.11%
Trading expense ratio ^[3]	0.00%	0.00%
Portfolio turnover rate ^[4]	48.13%	95.42%
Net asset value per unit ^[1]	\$8.68	\$9.90

^[1] This information is provided as at the end of each period indicated.

^[2] The management expense ratio is based on total expenses (excluding commissions, other portfolio transaction costs and withholding taxes) of the Fund and its proportionate share of the total expenses of the Underlying Funds, where applicable, for the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period.

^[3] The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs of the Fund and its proportionate share of the Underlying Funds' portfolio transaction costs, where applicable, expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value for the period.

^[4] The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively its portfolio advisor trades portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in the portfolio once in the course of a 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.

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 periods indicated. The information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements.

The Fund's Net Assets per Unit (Series F)

	12 months ended Dec. 31, 2022	Period from Apr. 30 to Dec. 31, 2021
Net Assets per unit, Beginning of Period ^[1]	\$9.91	\$10.00
Increase (decrease) from operations per unit: ^[1]		
Total revenue	0.13	0.18
Total expenses	(0.05)	(0.04)
Realized gains (losses)	(0.15)	0.00
Unrealized gains (losses)	(0.92)	(0.06)
Total increase (decrease) from operations per unit	(0.99)	0.08
Distributions per unit from: ^{[1][2]}		
Income (excluding dividends)	(0.23)	(0.17)
Canadian dividends	-	-
Foreign dividends	-	-
Capital gains	-	(0.01)
Return of capital	-	-
Total Distributions per unit	(0.23)	(0.18)
Net Assets per unit, End of Period ^[1]	\$8.68	\$9.91

^[1] Net assets per unit and distributions per unit are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase (decrease) from operations per unit is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial period.

^[2] Substantially all distributions were reinvested in additional units of the Fund.

Ratios and Supplemental Data (Series F)

	12 months ended Dec. 31, 2022	Period from Apr. 30 to Dec. 31, 2021
Total net asset value (000's) ^[1]	\$5	\$5
Number of units outstanding ^[1]	522	509
Management expense ratio ^[2]	0.57%	0.56%
Management expense ratio before waivers and absorptions	0.57%	0.56%
Trading expense ratio ^[3]	0.00%	0.00%
Portfolio turnover rate ^[4]	48.13%	95.42%
Net asset value per unit ^[1]	\$8.68	\$9.91

^[1] This information is provided as at the end of each period indicated.

^[2] The management expense ratio is based on total expenses (excluding commissions, other portfolio transaction costs and withholding taxes) of the Fund and its proportionate share of the total expenses of the Underlying Funds, where applicable, for the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period.

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SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

As at December 31, 2022

Portfolio Allocation	% of Net Asset Value	Top 25 Holdings	% of Net Asset Value
Canadian Bonds		Sun Life Financial Inc.	8.5%
Federal and guaranteed	1.0%	The Toronto-Dominion Bank	6.2%
Provincial and guaranteed	-	Enbridge Inc.	5.9%
Corporate	93.8%	TELUS Corporation	5.2%
United States corporate bonds	2.0%	TransCanada Pipelines Limited	4.8%
United Kingdom corporate bonds	1.3%	Royal Bank of Canada	4.5%
Short-Term Securities	0.9%	Rogers Communications Inc.	4.3%
Other net assets (liabilities)	1.0%	Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited	3.6%
		Manulife Financial Corporation	3.2%
		Keyera Corporation	3.1%
		Crombie Real Estate Investment Trust	3.0%
		Pembina Pipeline Corporation	3.0%
		Great-West Lifeco Inc.	2.9%
		The Bank of Nova Scotia	2.9%
		Inter Pipeline Limited	2.7%
		SmartCentres Real Estate Investment Trust	2.5%
		Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce	2.5%
		Brookfield Infrastructure Finance ULC	2.4%
		Bell Canada Inc.	2.2%
		Shaw Communications Inc.	2.1%
		Choice Properties Real Estate Investment Trust	1.4%
		JPMorgan Chase & Company	1.3%
		RioCan Real Estate Investment Trust	1.3%
		National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC	1.3%
		Ventas Canada Finance Limited	1.3%
		Top 25 Holdings as a percentage of net asset value	82.1%
		Total Net Asset Value	\$112,739,331

The Summary of Investment Portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund. A quarterly update is available. If the Fund has invested in other investment funds, the prospectus and other information about the underlying investment funds are available on the internet via www.sedar.com.



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This document may contain forward-looking statements relating to anticipated future events, results, circumstances, performance or expectations that are not historical facts, but rather represent our beliefs regarding future events. By their nature, forward-looking statements require us to make assumptions and are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties. There is significant risk that predictions and other forward-looking statements will not prove to be accurate. We caution readers of this document not to place undue reliance on our forward-looking statements, as a number of factors could cause actual future results, conditions, actions or events to differ materially from the expectations, estimates or intentions expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements. Actual results may differ materially from management expectations as projected in such forward-looking statements for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to market and general economic conditions, interest rates, regulatory and statutory developments and the effects of competition in the geographic and business areas in which the Fund may invest. We caution that the foregoing list of factors is not exhaustive and that when relying on forward-looking statements to make decisions with respect to investing in the Fund, investors and others should carefully consider these factors, as well as other uncertainties and potential events, and the inherent uncertainty of forward-looking statements. Due to the potential impact of these factors, Guardian Capital LP does not undertake, and specifically disclaims, any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, unless required by applicable law.

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