

# Annual Management Report of Fund Performance

December 31, 2023

**Beutel Goodman Canadian Equity Fund** 

**BEUTEL GOODMAN MANAGED FUNDS** 

This Annual Management Report of Fund Performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete annual or interim financial statements of the investment fund. You can get a copy of the annual or interim financial statements at your request at no cost (contact details on this page) or by visiting our website at www.beutelgoodman.com or SEDAR at www.sedar.com.

Security holders may also contact us using one of these methods to request the investment fund's prospectus, proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record or quarterly portfolio disclosure.

Certain portions of this report, including, but not limited to, "Results of Operations" and "Recent Developments", may contain forward-looking statements about the Fund, including its strategy, risks, expected performance and condition. Forward-looking statements include statements that are predictive in nature, that depend upon or refer to future events or conditions, or that include words such as "expects", "anticipates", "intends", "plans", "believes", "estimates" and other similar forward-looking expressions. In addition, any statement that may be made concerning future performance, strategies or prospects, and possible future Fund action, is also a forward-looking statement. Forward-looking statements are based on current expectations and forecasts about future events and are inherently subject to, among other things, risks, uncertainties and assumptions which could cause actual events, results, performance or prospects to be incorrect or to differ materially from those expressed in, or implied by, these forward-looking statements.

These risks, uncertainties and assumptions include, but are not limited to, general economic, political and market factors, domestic and international, interest and foreign exchange rates, equity and capital markets, business competition, technological change, changes in government regulations, unexpected judicial or regulatory proceedings, and catastrophic events. This list of important factors is not exhaustive. Please consider these and other factors carefully before making any investment decisions and avoid placing undue reliance on forward-looking statements. The Fund has no specific intention of updating any forward-looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, prior to the release of the next Management Report of Fund Performance.

#### **Beutel Goodman Managed Funds**

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### Management Discussion of Fund Performance

#### Investment Objectives and Strategies

This Fund invests in common shares and other equity securities of established Canadian issuers.

The Fund seeks to make investments in issuers that are undervalued in relation to the business value of the issuer. If financial results fall short of expectations, the intrinsic value of the underlying assets of the issuer should provide downside protection.

The Fund seeks to buy the best economic value in the market regardless of what sector an issuer operates in, therefore sector weighting differences between this Fund and the index can differ substantially. However, guidelines are in place to protect from over exposure on a sector or individual holdings basis.

The Fund focuses on absolute risk (avoiding capital loss) and a highly disciplined buy/sell process.

#### Risk

There were no significant changes to the investment objectives or strategies that affected the Fund's overall level of risk during the year. The risks of investing in this Fund and the suitability of the Fund for investors remain as discussed in the Prospectus.

#### **Results of Operations**

Over the 12-month period ended December 31, 2023, Beutel Goodman Canadian Equity Fund (the "Fund"), Class B returned 7.80% versus 11.75% for the Fund's benchmark, the S&P/TSX Composite Index. Unlike the benchmark, the Fund's return is net of fees and expenses paid by the Fund. Please refer to the "Annual Compound Returns" in the Past Performance section for the returns of all classes of the Fund. Detailed performance is provided under the heading "Past Performance" in this report.

Canadian equities started and finished the year strongly as the S&P/TSX Composite Index bounced back after a difficult 2022. Inflation and the response by central banks continued to be a major driver of market volatility in 2023, but it now appears likely that we have reached the end of the interest rate tightening cycle. This shift in sentiment contributed to a rally in stocks during the final quarter of the year.

#### Key Contributors to Performance

- The top-performing sectors during the period relative to the benchmark were Materials, Energy and Financials.
  - An underweight position in the Materials and Energy sectors, areas of relative weakness in the benchmark, contributed to the Fund's relative performance.
  - A combination of both stock selection and an overweight position in the Financials sector, an area of relative strength in the benchmark, contributed to the Fund's relative performance.
- Over the period, the largest individual contributors to Fund performance included Open Text Corp., Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc., Manulife Financial Corp., Restaurant Brands International Inc. and Brookfield Corporation.

#### **Key Detractors from Performance**

- From a sector perspective, the Fund's holdings in the Information Technology, Consumer Staples and Industrials sectors were the largest detractors from the Fund's relative performance over the period.
  - A combination of both stock selection and an underweight position in the Information Technology and Industrials sectors, areas of relative strength in the benchmark, detracted from the Fund's relative performance.
  - Stock selection in Consumer Staples detracted from the Fund's relative performance.
- Over the period, the largest individual detractors from Fund performance included Nutrien Ltd., Saputo Inc., BRP Inc., Franco-Nevada Corp. and Metro Inc.

#### **Portfolio Activity**

- The portfolio management team (the "team") employs a stock selection
  process that is based on identifying securities trading at a significant
  discount to their business value. The Fund's sector and stock weights
  are outcomes of the team's investment decisions based on bottom-up
  fundamentals and business quality. As a by-product of the team's bottomup investment process, market performance and general management
  activity, the following changes occurred in the Fund's portfolio during the
  reporting period:
  - The Fund's Financials, Real Estate, Industrials and Information Technology sector weightings increased over the period because of relative performance and the team's buy/sell activities.
  - The Fund's Consumer Discretionary, Communication Services, Energy, Consumer Staples, Materials and Utilities sector weightings decreased over the period because of relative performance and the team's buy/sell activities.
  - Colliers International Group Inc. was a new addition to the Fund. Some of the more significant additions in existing holdings included Brookfield Asset Management Ltd., Metro Inc., RB Global Inc. (formerly Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers Inc.) and Toronto-Dominion Bank.
  - The Fund's position in TELUS Corp. was liquidated. Some of the more significant reductions from the Fund over the period included Brookfield Corporation, Restaurant Brands International Inc., Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc. and Great-West Lifeco Inc.
- Including small-capitalization stocks, at period-end, there were 70 holdings in the Fund, down from 73 at the beginning of the period.
- The Fund's level of cash and cash equivalents decreased from the beginning of the period.

#### **Recent Developments**

In March, Sara Shahram, CFA joined the company as Vice President, Canadian Equities. There has been no impact on the Fund as a result of this change, nor does Beutel Goodman expect there to be.

During the review period, Independent Review Committee (IRC) member Gary Brent retired and was replaced by John Smeeton.

The Canadian economy is facing potential headwinds heading into 2024, with consumer confidence declining and vulnerabilities in Canada's housing market a concern. Inflation is less of a worry than this time last year, however, with the rate hiking cycle of central banks having the desired effect of cooling price increases.

#### **Related Party Transactions**

Beutel, Goodman & Company Ltd. ("BG") is the Manager, Trustee and Portfolio Advisor to this Fund. The Fund pays a management fee to BG as compensation for its services. The Fund pays a fixed administration fee to BG, which in turn pays certain operating expenses of the Fund. BG as trustee of the Fund earns a fee which is paid by the Manager from the fixed administration fee paid by the Fund.

The Fund did not rely on any recommendation or approval of its Independent Review Committee to proceed with any transaction involving related parties because it did not conduct any related party transactions, except for certain inter-fund trades and the management and administrative fees as described above, as approved by the Independent Review Committee by standing instructions, and subject to regulatory requirements. Management Fees: As Manager, BG is paid a management fee from each class of the Fund based on the average daily net asset value of the particular class. The fee is payable monthly, in arrears, and is calculated at the annualized rate specified for each class of the Fund as set out in the table below. Management fees for Class I units are negotiated and paid directly by the investor, not by the Fund, and, therefore, are not listed.

		As a Percentage of Management Fees				
	Maximum Annual Management Fee Rate %	Dealer Compensation %	General Administration, Investment Advice and Profit %			
Class B	1.85	54	46			
Class D	1.25	22	78			
Class F	0.90	0	100			

Administration Fee: The Manager receives a fixed administration fee to pay certain operating expenses of the Fund. These expenses include audit and legal fees; custodian and transfer agent fees; costs attributable to the issue, redemption and change of units, including the cost of the security holder record-keeping system; expenses incurred in respect of preparing and distributing all regulatory reports; fund accounting and valuation costs; independent review committee fees and filing fees, including those incurred by us. The administration fee may vary by class of units and by Fund.

BG, as trustee of the Fund, earns a fee which is paid by the Manager from the administration fee paid by the 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 past 5 years ended December 31. This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements and is provided for each class of units.

#### Financial Highlights per unit

#### **Class B Units**

(for the years ended December 31)

\$	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Net assets, beginning of year	16.50	18.18	15.68	15.65	14.07
Increase (decrease) from operations					
Total revenue	0.54	0.51	0.49	0.44	0.45
Total expenses	(0.37)	(0.39)	(0.39)	(0.31)	(0.33)
Realized gains (losses) for the year	0.57	1.50	2.34	(0.02)	0.56
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year	0.53	(2.24)	1.24	(0.25)	1.00
Total increase (decrease) from operations (1)	1.27	(0.62)	3.68	(0.14)	1.68
Distributions to unitholders per unit:					
From net investment income (excluding dividends)	-	-	-	-	-
From dividends	0.18	0.15	0.11	0.11	0.12
From capital gains	0.16	0.91	1.07	-	0.02
From return of capital	-	-	-	-	-
Total annual distributions <sup>(2)</sup>	0.34	1.06	1.18	0.11	0.14
Net assets, end of year <sup>(3)</sup>	17.44	16.50	18.18	15.68	15.65

#### **Ratios and Supplemental Data**

**Class B Units** 

(for the years ended December 31)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Total net asset value (\$) (000's) <sup>(4)</sup>	32,608	30,535	30,999	25,339	29,231
Number of outstanding units (000's) <sup>(4)</sup>	1,869	1,850	1,705	1,616	1,867
Management expense ratio (5)	2.16%	2.16%	2.16%	2.15%	2.16%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions <sup>(6)</sup>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Portfolio turnover rate (7)	10%	20%	28%	23%	11%
Trading expense ratio (%) <sup>(8)</sup>	0.01%	0.02%	0.04%	0.04%	0.02%
Net asset value per unit, end of year	17.44	16.50	18.18	15.68	15.65

#### Financial Highlights per unit

#### **Class D Units**

(for the years ended December 31)

2 <b>022</b> 4.56	2021	2020	2019
1 56			
ч.JU	38.40	38.32	34.39
1.22	1.19	1.10	1.09
0.60)	(0.61)	(0.48)	(0.52)
4.53	5.80	(0.08)	1.37
3.84)	3.15	(0.94)	2.73
1.31	9.53	(0.40)	4.67
-	-	-	-
0.34	0.56	0.57	0.54
2.25	2.64	-	0.05
-	-	-	-
2.59	3.20	0.57	0.59
0.80	44.56	38.40	38.32
	1.22 0.60) 4.53 3.84) 1.31  0.34 2.25  2.59	1.22       1.19         0.60)       (0.61)         4.53       5.80         3.84)       3.15         1.31       9.53         -       -         0.34       0.56         2.25       2.64         -       -         2.59       3.20	1.22 $1.19$ $1.10$ $0.60$ ) $(0.61)$ $(0.48)$ $4.53$ $5.80$ $(0.08)$ $3.84$ ) $3.15$ $(0.94)$ $1.31$ $9.53$ $(0.40)$ -       -       - $0.34$ $0.56$ $0.57$ $2.25$ $2.64$ -         -       -       - $2.59$ $3.20$ $0.57$

#### **Ratios and Supplemental Data**

**Class D Units** 

(for the years ended December 31)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Total net asset value (\$) (000's) <sup>(4)</sup>	21,044	22,159	63,959	60,416	75,275
Number of outstanding units (000's) <sup>(4)</sup>	488	543	1,435	1,573	1,965
Management expense ratio (5)	1.39%	1.39%	1.38%	1.39%	1.39%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions <sup>(6)</sup>	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%
Portfolio turnover rate (7)	10%	20%	28%	23%	11%
Trading expense ratio (%) <sup>(8)</sup>	0.01%	0.02%	0.04%	0.04%	0.02%
Net asset value per unit, end of year	43.14	40.80	44.56	38.40	38.32

### **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 5 years ended December 31. This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements and is provided for each class of units.

#### Financial Highlights per unit

#### **Class F Units**

(for the years ended December 31)

\$	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Net assets, beginning of year	40.24	44.38	38.34	38.32	34.47
Increase (decrease) from operations					
Total revenue	1.34	1.25	1.20	1.10	1.10
Total expenses	(0.47)	(0.49)	(0.51)	(0.39)	(0.43)
Realized gains (losses) for the year	1.40	3.58	5.70	0.08	1.35
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year	1.27	(5.63)	2.77	0.14	2.52
Total increase (decrease) from operations (1)	3.54	(1.29)	9.16	0.93	4.54
Distributions to unitholders per unit:					
From net investment income (excluding dividends)	-	-	-	-	-
From dividends	0.91	0.86	0.79	0.74	0.74
From capital gains	0.40	2.25	2.65	-	0.05
From return of capital	-	-	-	-	-
Total annual distributions <sup>(2)</sup>	1.30	3.11	3.44	0.74	0.79
Net assets, end of year <sup>(3)</sup>	42.49	40.24	44.38	38.34	38.32

#### **Ratios and Supplemental Data**

**Class F Units** 

(for the years ended December 31)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Total net asset value (\$) (000's) <sup>(4)</sup>	305,420	257,043	224,273	140,235	133,496
Number of outstanding units (000's) <sup>(4)</sup>	7,188	6,388	5,054	3,658	3,484
Management expense ratio (5)	1.11%	1.10%	1.12%	1.11%	1.10%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions (6)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Portfolio turnover rate (7)	10%	20%	28%	23%	11%
Trading expense ratio (%) <sup>(8)</sup>	0.01%	0.02%	0.04%	0.04%	0.02%
Net asset value per unit, end of year	42.49	40.24	44.38	38.34	38.32

#### Financial Highlights per unit

#### **Class I Units**

(for the years ended December 31)

\$	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Net assets, beginning of year	43.22	47.67	41.13	41.07	36.90
Increase (decrease) from operations					
Total revenue	1.45	1.34	1.28	1.18	1.18
Total expenses	(0.04)	(0.04)	(0.05)	(0.04)	(0.04)
Realized gains (losses) for the year	1.49	4.05	6.26	0.09	1.47
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year	1.43	(6.00)	3.57	(0.01)	2.96
Total increase (decrease) from operations $^{\scriptscriptstyle (1)}$	4.33	(0.65)	11.06	1.22	5.57
Distributions to unitholders per unit:					
From net investment income (excluding dividends)	-	-	-	-	-
From dividends	1.44	1.39	1.29	1.18	1.17
From capital gains	0.43	2.44	2.87	-	0.05
From return of capital	-	-	-	-	-
Total annual distributions (2)	1.87	3.83	4.16	1.18	1.22
Net assets, end of year <sup>(3)</sup>	45.64	43.22	47.67	41.13	41.07

#### **Ratios and Supplemental Data**

**Class I Units** 

(for the years ended December 31)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Total net asset value (\$) (000's) <sup>(4)</sup>	6,200,963	5,976,187	6,776,730	6,417,644	6,482,255
Number of outstanding units (000's) <sup>(4)</sup>	135,854	138,278	142,158	156,024	157,840
Management expense ratio (5)	0.07%	0.07%	0.07%	0.07%	0.07%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions (6)	0.11%	0.11%	0.11%	0.11%	0.11%
Portfolio turnover rate (7)	10%	20%	28%	23%	11%
Trading expense ratio (%) <sup>(8)</sup>	0.01%	0.02%	0.04%	0.04%	0.02%
Net asset value per unit, end of year	45.64	43.22	47.67	41.13	41.07

- (1) Net asset value per unit and distributions to unitholders per unit are based on the actual number of units outstanding for the relevant class at the relevant time. The increase (decrease) from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding for the relevant class over the fiscal year.
- (2) Distributions were paid in cash or automatically reinvested in additional units of the Fund.
- (3) This is not a reconciliation of the beginning and ending net assets per unit.
- (4) This information is provided as at year end of the year shown.
- (5) Management expense ratio is based on total expenses (excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs) for the stated year and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the year.
- (6) The Manager may have waived or absorbed some of the fund expenses. If this had occurred, the management fee ratio before any such waiver or absorption is listed. The Manager may terminate the waiver or absorption at any time, at its discretion. It is not known when such waivers or absorptions will be terminated.
- (7) The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio advisor manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the fiscal 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 higher turnover rate and the performance of a Fund. Portfolio turnover rate equals the lesser of the costs of purchases and proceeds of sales of portfolio securities for the year divided by the average value of the portfolio securities.
- (8) The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs disclosed in the Statements of Comprehensive Income expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value of the Fund during the year.

#### Past Performance

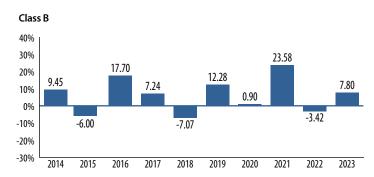
The performance returns below:

- are calculated as of December 31 in each year;
- assume all distributions made by the Fund are reinvested to purchase
   additional units; and
- show the returns of the particular class of the Fund after any applicable management fees and operating expenses have been deducted, but are not reduced by any redemption charges, optional charges or income taxes payable by you that would have reduced returns on performance.

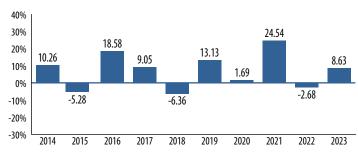
Please remember that the past performance of the Fund is not an accurate prediction of future returns.

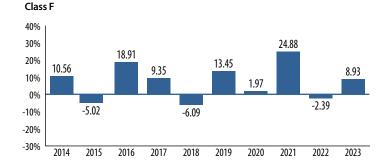
#### Year-by-Year Returns

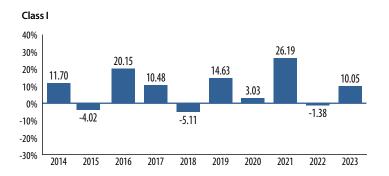
The bar chart indicates the Fund's annual performance for each of the year's shown and illustrates how the Fund's performance has changed from year to year. The bar chart shows in percentage terms how much an investment made on the first day of each financial year would have grown or decreased by the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



Class D







#### **Annual Compound Returns**

The following table shows the Fund's historical annual compound total returns for each of the periods indicated ended on December 31, 2023, as compared to the performance of the S&P/TSX Composite Index.\*

Class B				
	10 Years (%)	5 Years (%)	3 Years (%)	Past Year (%)
Beutel Goodman Canadian Equity Fund	5.91	7.83	8.76	7.80
S&P/TSX Composite Index	7.62	11.30	9.59	11.75
Class D				
	10 Years (%)	5 Years (%)	3 Years (%)	Past Year (%)
Beutel Goodman Canadian Equity Fund	6.72	8.66	9.60	8.63
S&P/TSX Composite Index	7.62	11.30	9.59	11.75
Class F				
	10 Years (%)	5 Years (%)	3 Years (%)	Past Year (%)
Beutel Goodman Canadian Equity Fund	7.01	8.96	9.91	8.93
S&P/TSX Composite Index	7.62	11.30	9.59	11.75
Class I				
	10 Years (%)	5 Years (%)	3 Years (%)	Past Year (%)
Beutel Goodman Canadian Equity Fund	8.13	10.09	11.05	10.05
S&P/TSX Composite Index	7.62	11.30	9.59	11.75

\* The S&P/TSX Composite Index is designed to represent the Canadian mid-large cap equity market.

A discussion of the relative performance of the Fund is under the Results of Operations section of this report.

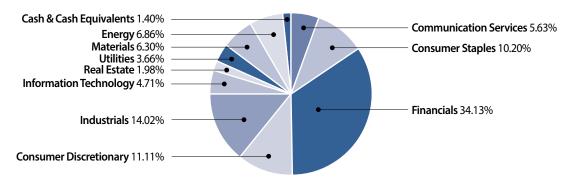
### Summary of Investment Portfolio

The following information may change due to the ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund. More current information regarding the holdings of the Fund may be obtained on our website at www.beutelgoodman.com.

#### Summary of Top 25 Holdings

Issuer Name	% of Net Assets	Issuer Name	% of Net Assets
1. Royal Bank of Canada	7.66	14. Canadian Pacific Kansas City Ltd.	2.80
2. The Toronto-Dominion Bank	6.49	15. Brookfield Corp.	2.71
3. Canadian National Railway Co.	4.09	16. Fortis Inc.	2.70
4. Bank of Montreal	3.93	17. Open Text Corp.	2.53
5. Manulife Financial Corp.	3.78	18. CCL Industries Inc., Class B	2.50
6. Rogers Communications Inc., Class B	3.67	19. Metro Inc.	2.31
7. TC Energy Corp.	3.66	20. Brookfield Asset Management Ltd.	2.01
8. Sun Life Financial Inc.	3.44	21. CGI Inc.	1.99
9. Restaurant Brands International Inc.	3.30	22. BRP Inc.	1.96
10. Magna International Inc.	3.30	23. Saputo Inc.	1.95
11. RB Global Inc.	3.27	24. Quebecor Inc., Class B	1.95
12. Suncor Energy Inc.	3.02	25. CAE Inc.	1.86
13. Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc.	2.82		







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