# General Synod Pension Plan of the Anglican Church of Canada Financial Statements For the year ended December 31, 2023

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# Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Trustees of the General Synod Pension Plan of the Anglican Church of Canada

## Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of General Synod Pension Plan of the Anglican Church of Canada (the "Plan"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2023, and the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Plan as at December 31, 2023, and its changes in net assets available for benefits for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for pension plans.

## Basis for Qualified Opinion

As agreed to by the Trustees of the Plan and in common with many benefit fund audits, the scope of our audit was limited to the records of the Plan and therefore, did not extend to an examination of the payroll records of the contributing employers. Accordingly, our verification of contribution revenue was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Plan and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to contribution revenue and increase (decrease) in net assets for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, assets as at December 31, 2023 and 2022 and net assets available for benefits as at January 1 and December 31 for both the 2023 and 2022 years. Our audit opinion on the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2022 was modified accordingly because of the possible effects of this limitation in scope.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Plan in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis of our qualified audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for pension plans, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Plan or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Plan's financial reporting process.



# Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Plan to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

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Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants Oakville, Ontario May 24, 2024

# General Synod Pension Plan of the Anglican Church of Canada Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits

December 31	2023	2022
Assets		
Investments (Note 3)	\$ 1,067,100,287	\$ 1,006,365,313
Contributions receivable	100 F 30-ASOLON F 30 Has designed account	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Employers	576,071	590,145
Members	284,865	373,626
Accrued interest, dividends and other income	2,761,774	2,679,975
Due from related parties (Note 7)	108,175	-
Prepaid expense	12,701	346,000
Other receivables	68,793	55,797
	4 070 040 000	4 040 440 050
Liabilities	1,070,912,666	1,010,410,856
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	004 125	1 001 020
Due to related parties (Note 7)	994,125	1,081,930
bue to related parties (Note 1)		5,847_
Total net assets	\$ 1,069,918,541	\$ 1,009,323,079
N. 4		
Net assets available for benefits		* * *
Funds available for obligations of the General Synod Pension Plan		\$ 1,009,294,568
Additional voluntary contributions on deposit	28,511	28,511
Total net assets available for benefits	\$ 1,069,918,541	\$ 1,009,323,079

On behalf of the Board:

Chairperson
Thur Segal

Trustee

# General Synod Pension Plan of the Anglican Church of Canada Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

For the year ended December 31	2023	2022
Increase in net assets		
Contributions		
Current service		
Employers	\$ 14,817,353	\$ 14,343,092
Members	7,542,472	7,155,549
Prior service	97,990	481,046
	22,457,815	21,979,687
Investment income (loss) (Note 4)	107,591,845	(70,928,439)
		(***,*****)
Total increase in net assets	130,049,660	(48,948,752)
Decrease in net assets		
Benefit costs		
Pension payments	58,563,154	54,808,775
Lumpsum termination payments	1,948,971	756,261
Death benefits	982,025	1,151,614
Family law benefits	183,127	50,241
	61,677,277	56,766,891
Administrative expenses (Notes 6 and 7)	9,686,467	7,679,121
Total decrease in net assets	71,363,744	64,446,012
Net increase (decrease) in net assets	58,685,916	(113,394,764)
Net assets available for benefits, beginning of year	1,009,323,079	1,105,167,432
	.,000,020,010	.,,
Transfer in of assets (Note 11)	1,909,546	17,550,411
Net assets available for benefits, end of year	\$ 1,069,918,541	\$ 1,009,323,079

## 1. Significant Accounting Policies

### a. Nature and Purpose of the Plan

General Synod Pension Plan of the Anglican Church of Canada (the "Plan") is a contributory target benefit specified multi-employer pension plan providing benefits to members of the General Synod Pension Plan and is registered with the Financial Services Commission of Ontario - Pension Plans Branch under the Pension Benefits Act, 1990.

In accordance with Canon VIII of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada, and under the terms of a written trust agreement dated January 1, 2015, a fund has been established in conjunction with the General Synod Pension Plan for the purpose of providing benefits. This fund is designated as the "Pension Fund of The Anglican Church of Canada".

#### b. Basis of Presentation

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for pension plans and present the aggregate financial position of the Plan as a separate financial reporting entity independent of the participating employers and Plan members. They are prepared to assist Plan members and others in reviewing the activities of the Plan for the fiscal period but they do not portray the funding requirements of the Plan or the benefit security of individual Plan members.

For accounting policies that do not relate to the Plan's investment portfolio, the Plan has elected to apply Canadian accounting standards for private enterprises.

The Plan is a contributory target benefit specified multiemployer pension plan that specifies the expected benefits to be paid to members upon pension eligibility. For accounting purposes, the Plan is considered to be a defined contribution pension plan since contributions are limited to amounts determined by the Pension Committee and employers are not required to fund actuarially determined funding deficiencies that may occur from time to time. Rather, such actuarially determined funding deficiencies are addressed by options such as making changes to the contribution levels, making changes to the Plan's investment strategies and/or making adjustments to benefits paid by the Plan.

## **December 31, 2023**

## 1. Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

# c. Investments

Investments of the Plan are stated at fair market value, where available.

Investments in pooled funds are stated at fair value in a trade date basis. Pooled fund investments are valued at the unit values supplied by the pooled fund administrator, which represent the Plan's proportionate share of underlying net assets at fair values determined using closing market prices.

The Plan holds units in various real estate, infrastructure and private debt investment funds which hold the underlying investments. The units are not publicly traded. Investment values are calculated from financial statements which include fair values based on periodic, independent appraisals of the underlying assets. The Plan's calculation of the fair value of these funds are based on the units it holds multiplied by the value per unit as reported in the audited financial statements of the funds.

### d. Financial Instruments

Financial instruments, excluding investments, are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued and subsequently measured at cost or amortized cost less impairment, if applicable. Financial assets are tested for impairment when changes in circumstances indicate the asset could be impaired. Transaction costs on the acquisition, sale or issue of financial instruments are charged to the financial instrument for those measured at amortized cost.

## e. Accruals

Investment income, pension payments and expenses are accrued in the year to which they relate.

## f. Pension Benefits

The present value of accrued pension benefits is determined using the projected benefit method prorated on service and the administrator's best estimate assumptions. An actuarial valuation was prepared as of December 31, 2022 by Eckler Ltd.and was then extrapolated to December 31, 2023.

# g. Foreign Currency Translation

Foreign currency amounts have been translated into Canadian dollars on the following basis:

Purchases and sales of marketable securities, income and expenses at exchange rates in effect on the date of the transaction.

Market value of securities at the year-end rate of exchange.

## h. Funding Policy

The Plan funds its benefits through contributions and investment returns. In accordance with the Plan Regulations, members of the Plan and their employers are required to contribute a percentage of the members' salaries based on the employer's participation agreement.

### **December 31, 2023**

## 1. Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

### i. Contributions

Contributions from members and employers are recorded on an accrual basis. As a multi-employer pension plan, the Plan cannot certify that no contribution remains past due at the end of the year. Contributions received are reconciled annually to ensure the appropriate amounts have been remitted. To perform this reconciliation, the Plan requires each employer to verify and update the Plan's records for each of their member's salaries and contributions for the year. With this information, the Plan performs a reconciliation for each employer to determine if the member contributions, based on salaries, has been remitted to the Plan. Once this reconciliation is complete, the Plan is able to calculate the amount of any differences related to contributions. Any shortfalls are recovered from the employer and overpayments are credited against future contributions.

## j. Revenue Recognition

Members and employer contributions are recorded on an accrual basis in the financial statements to the extent that these contributions are reported by the date of the auditor's report. Contributions reported after this date are included in the next fiscal period.

Pooled fund distributions and dividend income are recognized as of the record date. Interest income is recognized on a time proportion basis. The purchase and sale of securities are recorded on settlement date basis. Realized gains and losses from security transactions are based on the average cost of the security.

## k. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for pension plans requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of increases and decreases in net assets during the reported period. Actual amounts could differ from those estimates.

## I. Income Tax Status

The Plan is registered pursuant to the Pension Benefit Act and exempt from tax under section 149(1)(o) of the Income Tax Act.

## **December 31, 2023**

## 2. Description of the Plan

The following description of the General Synod Pension Plan of the Anglican Church of Canada (the "Plan") is a summary only. For more complete information, reference should be made to the Plan Document.

### General

The Plan is a contributory target benefit specified multi-employer pension plan covering the clergy and lay employees of the Participating Employers affiliated with the Anglican Church of Canada. Under the Plan, contributions are made by the Plan members and their participating employers. If the assets held by the Plan do not meet its liabilities, benefits may be reduced. The Plan is registered under the Pension Benefits Act, 1990, registration number 0345777.

## Service pensions

Service pensions are available based on the career average earnings as determined by a specific formula.

## Survivors' pensions

On the death of an Active Member, the Member's Partner, or beneficiary if there is no Partner, is entitled to receive a lump sum payment equal to the commuted value of the benefit accrued by the Member to the date of death. A Partner may elect an alternate option in lieu of a lump sum payment (please see Regulation 7.1 for details).

### Withdrawal refunds

If the pension is not vested or locked-in, the member's contributions, together with interest, will be refunded on cessation of employment. If the pension is vested or locked-in, a number of other options are available.

# December 31

## 3. Investments

(a) Investments

. ,		2023			2022			
		Marke	t		Market			
	Cost	Value	e %	Cost	Value	%		
Cash and short-term investments	\$ 44,362,770	\$ 43,984,649	4.12%	\$ 27,109,742	\$ 27,611,566	2.74%		
Fixed income								
Canadian	88,915,655	86,352,341	8.09%	55,832,044	50,646,742	5.03%		
Foreign	23,192,620	22,110,563	2.07%	22,630,170	20,465,889	2.03%		
Canadian pooled fixed								
income investments	232,265,574	210,772,883	19.76%	180,361,886	143,176,742	14.23%		
Total Fixed Income	344,373,849	319,235,787	29.92%	258,824,100	214,289,373	21.29%		
Equities								
Common shares								
Canadian	40,066,895	57,583,188	5.40%	70,670,620	99,602,903	9.90%		
Foreign	148,264,269	171,909,429		200,169,305	231,685,689	23.02%		
Foreign pooled equity investments	201,365,005	216,506,883	20.29%	165,145,443	156,778,199	15.60%		
Total Equities	389,696,169	445,999,500	41.80%	435,985,368	488,066,791	48.52%		
Canadian Real Estate	48,311,593	71,847,056	6.73%	71,486,759	104,888,148	10.42%		
Foreign Pooled Infrastructure	57,127,678	84,646,072	7.93%	56,221,369	85,458,928	8.49%		
Foreign Pooled Private Debt	96,722,635	95,555,643	8.95%	86,352,694	90,218,418	8.96%		
	980,594,694	1,061,268,707	99.45%	935,980,032	1,010,533,224	100.42%		
Investment Related Assets Unrealized gains on currency forwards		6,703,477	0.63%	-	346,169	0.03%		
	980,594,694	1,067,972,184	100.08%	935,980,032	1,010,879,393	100.45%		
Investment related liabilities Unrealized losses on currency forwards		(871,897)	-0.08%	-	(4,514,080)	-0.45%		
	\$ 980,594,694	\$ 1,067,100,287	100.00%	\$ 935,980,032	\$ 1,006,365,313	100.00%		

# **December 31, 2023**

# 3. Investments (Continued)

# (b) Individually significant investments

The cost or market value of the following investments exceeds 1% of the cost or market value of the Plan's net assets as at December 31:

	2023			2022			
	Cos	Market Value		Cost		Market Value	
Fixed income							
Canadian							
Government of Canada 0.250%							
01-Mar-2026 Ser L518	\$ 17,503,349	\$ 17,810,493	\$	-	\$	-	
Pooled Funds							
Baillie Gifford Global							
Alpha Fund	\$ 121,686,734	\$ 133,267,175	\$	93,225,031	\$	90,196,305	
Baillie Gifford Positive Change							
Equity Fund	66,883,792	67,080,279		59,639,140		52,732,976	
Canso Corporate and Infrastructure							
Debt Fund	12,718,184	12,044,107		9,070,006		7,918,768	
Letko Brosseau Emerging Markets Equity Fund	12,794,480	16,159,429		12,281,271		13,848,918	
Macquarie Infrastructure Partners III, LP	24,116,592	41,787,762		24,116,592		45,399,130	
MIRA Infrastructure Global Solution II, LP	33,011,086	42,858,310		32,104,778		40,059,798	
NB Private Debt Fund II LP	17,504,188	10,695,821		20,451,970		17,158,794	
NB Private Debt Fund III Cayman LP	48,563,188	51,881,636		47,477,354		52,172,642	
NB Private Debt Fund IV (Canada							
Feeder) LP	30,655,259	32,978,186		18,423,370		20,886,983	
Phillips, Hager & North							
Long Core Plus Bond Fund	219,547,390	198,728,776		171,291,880		135,257,974	
Real Estate							
Canadian							
BentallGreenOak Prime Canadian							
Property Fund	\$ 25,419,804	\$ 31,438,335	\$	48,594,970	\$	64,441,511	
TD Greystone Real Estate Fund Inc.	22,891,789	40,408,721		22,891,789		40,446,638	

### December 31, 2023

## 4. Investment Income (Loss)

Investment income consists of the following:

	 2023	2022
Bond, note and deposit interest	\$ 3,989,827	\$ 3,828,296
Dividends	8,943,570	9,580,307
Pooled fund distributions	33,148,688	15,992,668
Canadian private real estate	2,041,489	2,091,788
Net gain on disposal on investments	44,624,862	12,687,309
Net foreign exchange loss on disposal on investments	(1,337,362)	(10,043,435)
Net unrealized gain (loss) in the value of investments	18,359,128	(126,232,460)
Net unrealized foreign exchange gain (loss)	(2,224,785)	21,121,775
Securities lending	 46,428	45,313
	\$ 107,591,845	\$ (70,928,439)

### 5. Accrued Pension Benefits

The estimated actuarial present value of accrued pension benefits as at December 31 and the principal components of changes in this value during the year are as follows:

	2023	2022
Estimated actuarial present value of accrued		
pension benefits, beginning of year	\$ 809,510,000	\$ 729,491,000
Accrued interest on benefits	47,249,000	42,924,000
Benefits accrued <sup>1</sup>	17,676,000	28,640,000
Expenditures	(61,677,000)	(56,767,000)
Experience loss	4,025,000	-
Amendments to the plans <sup>2</sup>	 18,500,000	65,222,000
Estimated actuarial present value of accrued		
pension benefit, end of year	\$ 835,283,000	\$ 809,510,000

The estimated actuarial present value of accrued pension benefits as at December 31, 2023 is based on an actuarial valuation prepared as at December 31, 2022, which was extrapolated to December 31, 2023 by Eckler Ltd. The valuation was determined using the accrued benefit actuarial cost method and reflects best estimate assumptions and the expectation that the Plan will continue on an ongoing basis. Significant assumptions are summarized below.

### **Discount Rate**

A discount rate of 6.0% (2022 - 6.0%) per annum has been assumed in calculating the actuarial present value of accrued pension benefits.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Benefits accrued includes estimated liabilities resulting from past service transfer amounts.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Amendments to the plan for the year ended December 31, 2023 refers to the plan amendments effective July 1, 2023 granting benefit improvements to all members (in respect of pensions earned by December 31, 2023), and changing the normal form of pension for members without a partner at retirement from a lifetime pension to a lifetime pension with a 10-year guarantee. The impact shown is the loss due to benefit improvements effective July 1, 2023 as disclosed in the valuation report (\$17,453,000) as of December 31, 2022, plus interest to the end of 2023.

### 5. Accrued Pension Benefits (Continued)

### Retirement

It has been assumed that deferred vested members or members in receipt of LTD benefits would retire 100% at age 65. It has also been assumed for active members, a 5% probability of retirement at each age between 60-64, 50% probability of retirement at 35 years of service if before age 65, and the remainder at age 65. The assumption is based on an experience study conducted in 2023 as part of the December 31, 2022 valuation filed with the regulators. For December 31, 2022, it was assumed that 20% of active members will retire at age 60 (or their current age, if greater) and the remainder at age 65.

#### **Termination**

It has been assumed that prior to retirement, members would terminate membership from the plan in accordance with a standard table. The assumption was selected after an experience study conducted in 2023 as part of the December 31, 2022 valuation filed with the regulators. For December 31,2022, it was assumed that no terminations would occur prior to retirement.

## Mortality

It has been assumed that the mortality of members will follow the Canadian Pensioners' Mortality 2014 Private Sector Mortality Table (CPM Private) projected generationally with Scale B, with no size adjustment.

### **Investment Values**

The actuarial value of net assets is determined as the average of the market value of assets at December 31, 2023 and the adjusted market values at the December 31 of the prior 4 years. The adjusted market values were developed by applying the discount rate of 6% to the fund cash-flows, net of investment expenses. The actuarial value of net assets differs from net assets available for benefits reflected in the financial statements as follows:

	2023	2022
Net assets available for benefits  Market changes not reflected in the actuarial	\$ 1,069,918,541	\$ 1,009,323,079
value of net assets	18,788,459	32,160,921
Actuarial value of net assets	\$ 1,088,707,000	\$ 1,041,484,000

The next required filing with the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario ("FSRA") is due September 30, 2026 based on December 31, 2025 amounts.

# 6. Administrative Expenses

In 2023 a portion of the administrative expenses, except investment management and custodial fees, of the Plan were paid from a separate fund established for this purpose, outside the Pension Fund.

Administrative expenses consist of the following:

•	 2023		2022	
Actuarial - Eckler Ltd.	\$ 489,108	\$	346,483	
Administrative costs (Note 7)	1,225,825		1,139,946	
Audit - BDO Canada LLP	84,758		90,382	
Accounting consulting fees - BDO Canada LLP	-		3,486	
Bank charges	8,860		8,194	
Expansion Marketing	42,130		-	
Insurance	63,853		51,133	
Interest and penalties	-		307	
Investment consulting -Mercer Investment Consulting	245,945		121,723	
Investment management and custodial fees	7,535,142		6,678,848	
Legal - Koskie Minsky LLP	44,198		63,523	
Legal - Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP	-		2,034	
Provincial registration fees	51,218		52,988	
Sales tax rebate	(81,210)		13,754	
Interest on late contributions	 (571)		<u> </u>	
	 9,709,256		8,572,801	
Less: Paid by the Plan Administration Expense Fund	 (22,789)		(893,680)	
	\$ 9,686,467	\$	7,679,121	

Pursuant to the Pension Benefits Act, 1990, the following information is disclosed:

	 2023	2022
Investment management		
Baillie Gifford and Co.	\$ 792,956	\$ 799,006
BentallGreenOak (Canada) Limited Partnership	352,114	303,660
Canso Investment Counsel Ltd.	264,544	283,128
CIBC Asset Management Inc.	314,236	294,579
Fiera Capital Corporation	294,996	317,835
Letko Brosseau and Associates Inc.	407,915	386,841
Macquarie Infrastructure Partners Inc.	398,000	404,000
MIRA Americas Inc.	568,000	526,000
Neuberger Berman Alternative Advisers LLC	2,734,000	1,963,000
RBC Global Asset Management Inc.	447,158	425,243
Robeco Institutional Asset Management B.V.	303,899	303,459
TD Asset Management Inc.	493,997	481,024
CIBC Mellon - Custodial Services	 163,327	191,073
	\$ 7,535,142	\$ 6,678,848

## 7. Related Party Transactions

The Pension Office Corporation of the Anglican Church of Canada (the "Corporation") administers the Plan. Under the terms of a Cost Sharing and Agency Agreement with the various pension and benefit plans of the Anglican Church of Canada (the "Plans"), the Corporation pays the shared expenses of the Plan and is reimbursed. In the current year, an amount of \$1,225,825 (2022 - \$1,139,946) was allocated to the Plan by the Corporation and is included in administrative expenses, at its exchange value (the amount of consideration established and agreed to by the parties).

The following amounts are due from/(to) related parties at December 31:

	 2023		2022
Endowment Fund of the Anglican Church of Canada Pension Office Corporation of the Anglican Church of Canada	\$ - 108,175	\$	10,458 (16,305)
	\$ 108,175	\$	(5,847)

The General Synod Pension Plan of the Anglican Church of Canada has a common Board of Directors/Trustees with the above related parties.

## 8. Financial Risk Management

The Plan may be exposed to a variety of financial risks including market risk (interest rate risk, foreign currency risk, and price risk), credit risk and liquidity risk. Volatility in interest rates, currency exchange rates and equity prices can significantly impact the value of the Plan's investments and the funded status of the Plan. The management of these investment risks is addressed through the Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures which defines investment and risk philosophy, asset mix and diversification policy, and guidelines for the management of investments. These risks have not changed from the prior year.

## a) Market Risk

Market risk is the risk that the value of an investment changes as a result of market conditions. Market risk encompasses a variety of risks such as interest rate risk, currency risk and price risk. The Plan uses a variety of strategies such as diversification and hedging to mitigate the various forms of risk. Investments in various asset classes are monitored on a monthly basis. The Plan employs professional managers to make investment decisions and execute trades and monitors these managers closely.

## 8. Financial Risk Management (Continued)

## b) Interest Rate Risk

Interest Rate Risk is the risk that the value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Plan manages interest rate risk by establishing a diversified target asset mix. A portion of the fixed income portfolio is actively managed, allowing managers to anticipate and attempt to mitigate interest rate movements. An increase/decrease of one percent in nominal interest rates, with all other variables held constant would result in an approximate decrease/increase of \$22.8 million (2022 - \$16.3 million) in the value of the Plan's fixed income investments.

### c) Currency Risk

Currency risk is the risk that the value of investment assets denominated in foreign currencies will fluctuate with changes in foreign currency exchange rates while the Plan liabilities are denominated in Canadian dollars.

The investment manager for the corporate bond portfolio hedges its exposure to foreign currencies as it deems appropriate. At December 31, 2023 the investment manager is currently hedging 100% (2022 - 100%) of the exposure to US dollar bonds in the portfolio. There were no bonds held in currencies other than the Canadian and US dollar at that time. The policy is monitored by them based on the value of the Canadian dollar. The Plan uses a professional investment manager to hedge the foreign currency exposure in its global asset portfolio. The investment manager uses foreign exchange forward contracts to modify currency exposure comprised of both an active component and a passive component with a 37.5% overall target hedge ratio. Hedging policy is reviewed regularly by the Board of Trustees.

In Canadian dollars, the net underlying currency exposures are as follows:

	2023		20				
	Net		Impact of +/-		Net		Impact of +/-
	Exposure		5% change		Exposure		5% change
Investments subject to currency risk							
United States	\$ 255,433,667	\$	12,771,683	\$	248,581,622	\$	12,429,081
Eurozone	32,868,367		1,643,418		21,635,881		1,081,929
United Kingdom	5,540,900		277,045		1,597,077		79,870
Asia Pacific	18,527,018		926,351		24,135,725		1,300,767
Europe - Other	14,738,853		736,943		26,534,721		1,390,466
Emerging markets	60,581,957		3,029,098		44,482,766		2,259,495
	\$ 387,690,762	\$	19,384,538	\$	366,967,792	\$	18,541,608
As % of Net Assets	36.24%				36.36%		

## 8. Financial Risk Management (Continued)

### d) Price Risk

Other *price risk* is the risk that the value of an investment will fluctuate with changes in market prices. The Plan is subject to price risk primarily on its investments in equities. An increase/decrease in the market prices for equities of 10%, with all other variables held constant, would result in an approximate increase/decrease in the Funds' investments of \$45 million (2022 - \$49 million). The Plan manages that risk by diversifying its investments in accordance with the Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures prepared by the Trustees of the Plan.

### e) Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk of loss arising when a counterparty fails to fully honour its financial obligations with the Plan. Credit risk can also cause losses when an issuer is downgraded by credit rating agencies leading to a reduction in the market value of the issuers' obligations. The Plan has a prudently diversified fixed income portfolio comprising investment in a long bond fund and an actively managed portfolio of corporate bonds. Investment restrictions within the plan limit investments with a single issuer. Additional restrictions are placed on the issuer, currency and rating of fixed income securities to reduce risk.

Other debt instruments, such as foreign pooled private debt, are unrated debt securities and are subject to credit risk.

As at December 31, 2023

	Corporate	Pooled			
	Bonds	Funds*	Short-term	Total	% of Total
Rating					
AAA/R-1 High	\$ 2,103,467	\$ 23,140,116	\$ 9,873,748	\$ 35,117,331	10%
AA/R-1 Middle	39,777,319	62,948,831	12,252,662	114,978,812	34%
Α	16,531,978	47,708,575	-	64,240,553	19%
BBB	31,312,732	50,546,382	-	81,859,114	24%
Below BBB/Unrated	18,737,408	23,399,100	4,669,591	46,806,099	13%
	\$ 108,462,904	\$ 207,743,004	\$ 26,796,001	\$ 343,001,909	100%

<sup>\*</sup>Numbers are extrapolated based on percentages in each category for the Phillip Hager & North Long Core Plus Bond Fund and the Canso Corporate and Infrastructure Debt Fund as per the December 31, 2023 audited financial statements of RBC Global Asset Management Inc. and Canso Fund Management Inc.

## 8. Financial Risk Management (Continued)

## e) Credit Risk (continued)

As at December 31, 2022

	Corporate Bonds	Pooled Funds*	Short-term	Total	% of Total
Rating					
AAA/R-1 High	\$ 5,011,228	\$ 18,335,363	\$ 8,139,384	\$ 31,485,975	14%
AA/R-1 Middle	18,364,072	37,819,078	1,402,758	57,585,908	26%
Α	3,995,331	33,827,346	-	37,822,677	17%
BBB	25,119,892	27,794,337	-	52,914,229	24%
Below BBB/Unrated	 18,622,108	22,398,193	540,143	41,560,444	19%
	\$ 71,112,631	\$ 140,174,317	\$ 10,082,285	\$ 221,369,233	100%

<sup>\*</sup>Numbers are extrapolated based on percentages in each category for the Phillip Hager & North Long Core Plus Bond Fund and the Canso Corporate and Infrastructure Debt Fund as per the December 31, 2022 audited financial statements of RBC Global Asset Management Inc. and Canso Fund Management Inc.

Credit risk for investments in derivatives is measured by the positive fair value of the contractual obligations with the counterparties less any collateral or margin received as at the reporting date. The Plan has exposure to derivatives as follows:

As at December 31, 2023

, 10 at 2 000 0 . , 2020									
			Fair Value						
	Number	Notional							
	of Contracts	amount	Assets		Liabilities				
Currency Forwards	73	\$ 339,686,689	\$ 6,703,477	\$	(871,897)				

As at December 31, 2022

•			Fair Value							
	Number	Notional								
	of Contracts	amount		Assets		Liabilities				
Currency Forwards	36	\$ 284,233,617	\$	346,169	\$	(4,514,080)				

The Plan participates in a securities lending agreement through CIBC Mellon. The Plan manages the credit risk associated with the borrower by requiring the borrower to provide collateral in the form of readily marketable securities of a minimum of 105% of the market value of the securities lent. CIBC Mellon provides indemnification against borrower default. At December 31, 2023 the Plan had \$37.9 million (2022 - \$18.1 million) of securities on loan and held collateral of \$40.5 million (2022 - \$19.7 million).

## 8. Financial Risk Management (Continued)

# f) Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Plan has insufficient cash flows to meet its obligations as they come due. Cash inflows are derived from employer and member contributions and investment income. The majority of the Plan's assets are invested in readily marketable securities and can be sold relatively quickly. The Plan also invests in real estate, infrastructure and private debt which are typically less liquid and therefore may be exposed to higher degree of liquidity risk.

The term to maturity classifications of interest bearing investments, based upon the contractual maturity of the securities, are as follows:

#### As at December 31, 2023

	 Within		1 to 5		5 to 10		Over 10		
	1 Year		Years	Years Years		s Years			Total
Short-term notes	\$ 26,796,001	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	26,796,001
Corporate bonds	661,202		48,353,614		23,150,481		36,297,607		108,462,904
Pooled bond funds*	5,069,919		21,585,336		38,939,641		142,148,108		207,743,004
Total	\$ 32.527.122	\$	69.938.950	\$	62.090.122	\$	178.445.715	\$	343,001,909

## As at December 31, 2022

		_						
		Within		1 to 5	5 to 10		Over 10	
		1 Year		Years	Years	Years		Total
Short-term notes	\$	10,082,285	\$	-	\$ -	\$	-	\$ 10,082,285
Corporate bonds		5,451,910		12,660,612	26,332,994		26,667,115	71,112,631
Pooled bond funds*		5,938,346		12,173,735	18,816,697		103,245,539	140,174,317
Total	\$	21,472,541	\$	24,834,347	\$ 45,149,691	\$	129,912,654	\$ 221,369,233

## g) Financial Instruments Fair Value Hierarchy

Disclosure of a three-level hierarchy for fair value measurements is based upon transparency of inputs to the valuation of an asset or liability as of the measurement date. The three levels are defined as follows:

### Level1:

For securities valued based on unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets.

### Level2:

For securities valued based on inputs, other than quoted prices included in Level 1, that are observable for the asset, either directly or indirectly.

### Level 3:

For securities valued based on inputs that are based on unobservable market data.

# **December 31, 2023**

# 8. Financial Risk Management (Continued)

g) Financial Instruments Fair Value Hierarchy (continued)

As at December 31, 2023	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Cash and short-term investments	\$ 43,984,649	\$ - \$	-	\$ 43,984,649
Fixed Income				
Canadian	-	86,352,341	-	86,352,341
Foreign	-	22,110,563	-	22,110,563
Canadian pooled				
fixed income investments	210,772,883	-	-	210,772,883
Total Fixed Income	210,772,883	108,462,904	-	319,235,787
Equities				
Common shares				
Canadian	57,583,188	-	-	57,583,188
Foreign	171,909,429	-	-	171,909,429
Foreign pooled				
equity investments	216,506,883	-	-	216,506,883
Total Equities	445,999,500	-	-	445,999,500
Canadian Real Estate		-	71,847,056	71,847,056
Infrastructure		-	84,646,072	84,646,072
Private Debt		-	95,555,643	95,555,643
Investment related assets		6,703,477		6,703,477
Investment related liabilities		(871,897)	-	(871,897)
	\$ 700,757,032	\$ 114,294,484 \$	252,048,771	\$ 1,067,100,287

# **December 31, 2023**

# 8. Financial Risk Management (Continued)

g) Financial Instruments Fair Value Hierarchy (continued)

As at December 31, 2022	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Cash and short-term investments	\$ 27,611,566	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,611,566
Fixed Income				
Canadian	-	50,646,742	-	50,646,742
Foreign	-	20,465,889	-	20,465,889
Canadian pooled				
fixed income investments	143,176,742	-	-	143,176,742
Total Fixed Income	143,176,742	71,112,631	-	214,289,373
Equities				
Common shares				
Canadian	99,602,903	-	-	99,602,903
Foreign	231,685,689	-	-	231,685,689
Foreign pooled				-
equity investments	156,778,199	-	-	156,778,199
Total Equities	488,066,791	-	-	488,066,791
Canadian Real Estate		-	104,888,148	104,888,148
Infrastructure		-	85,458,928	85,458,928
Private Debt		-	90,218,418	90,218,418
Investment related assets		346,169	-	346,169
Investment related liabilities		(4,514,080)	-	(4,514,080)
	\$ 658,855,099	\$ 66,944,720	\$ 280,565,494	\$ 1,006,365,313

There were no significant transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 for the years ended December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2023.

## 8. Financial Risk Management (Continued)

g) Financial Instruments Fair Value Hierarchy (continued)

The following is a reconciliation of Level 3 fair value measurements for the year ended December 31, 2023:

	Real Estate	Infrastructure	Private Debt	Total	
Balance, beginning of the year	\$ 104,888,148	\$ 85,458,928 \$	90,218,418 \$	280,565,494	
Capital contributions	-	906,308	13,473,082	14,379,390	
Returned capital	(23,175,166)	-	(3,103,140)	(26,278,306)	
Unrealized gains (losses)	(9,865,926)	(1,719,164)	(5,032,717)	(16,617,807)	
Balance, end of the year	\$ 71,847,056	\$ 84,646,072 \$	95,555,643 \$	252,048,771	

The following is a reconciliation of Level 3 fair value measurements for the year ended December 31, 2022:

	Real Estate Infrastructure					Private Debt	Total	
Balance, beginning of the year Capital contributions	\$	98,013,576	\$	60,789,292 5,513,103	\$	82,847,170 \$ 13,071,292	241,650,0 18,584,3	395
Returned capital Unrealized gains (losses)		6,874,572		19,156,533		(14,777,306) 9,077,262	(14,777,3 35,108,3	,
Balance, end of the year	\$	104,888,148	\$	85,458,928	\$	90,218,418 \$	280,565,4	194

## 9. Capital Management

The Plan considers its capital to consist of net assets available for benefits as presented in the Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits. The Plan's objective when managing its capital is to accumulate funds for the provision of defined retirement benefits to pension plan members. The Plan's ability to meet this goal is affected by the level of benefits provided and contributions required under the Plan, and by the prudent and effective management of the Plan's assets, which are invested in accordance with the Plan's Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures (the "SIP&P") and within the applicable regulatory limits.

Investments are based on asset mix and risk management policies that are designed to enable the Plan to meet or exceed its long-term funding requirement with an acceptable level of risk, consistent with the SIP&P as approved by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees has adopted a SIP&P for the Plan which sets investment objectives, guidelines and benchmarks used in investing the Plan's assets, permitted categories of investments, asset mix diversification and rate of return expectations. The SIP&P was originally established in 1988 and was last amended on March 5, 2021.

### December 31, 2023

## 9. Capital Management (Continued)

There were no changes from the previously approved SIP&P.

The Plan's annualized four-year nominal average rate of investment return net of investment management fees as of December 31, 2023 was 6.30% (2022 - 7.48%), exceeding the rate of return achieved by the Benchmark Portfolio of 5.12% (2022 - 5.89%).

The SIP&P target asset mix is comprised of three broad categories of assets. A set of benchmarks has been identified to measure against each category's annual rate of investment return. The total investment annual rate of return is measured against a composite index made up of the weighted average of each category's benchmark return using the target allocation of the SIP&P to weight the various categories. The Plan's relative annual rate of investment return expectation is to exceed the composite index. The Plan's investment was allocated within the allowed asset categories range, as of the date of the financial statements. The following table presents the asset allocation and the annual rate of investment return for each asset category, and total investments, along with appropriate benchmarks.

There have been no changes in what the Plan considers to be its capital and there have been no significant changes to the Plan's capital management objectives, policies and processes in the year.

# 9. Capital Management (Continued)

			Asset allo	ocation %		Current Year Annual rate of investment return (%)				
Asset categories	Benchmark	SIP&P	Target	As Decemb	of per 31st	Bencl	hmark	Actual		
		2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	
Cash & Equivalents*	FTSE 91 Day T-Bill Index	0	0	4	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Fixed Income	33% FTSE Corporate Bond Index and 67% FTSE Long Bond Index	30	30	30	21	9.3	-17.9	9.8	-17.5	
Equities										
Canadian Equities	S&P/TSX Composite Index	11	11	5	10	11.8	-5.8	7.0	0.6	
Global Equities	69% MSCI World (\$Cdn) and 31% MSCI ACWI (\$Cdn)	39	39	36	39	18.9	-12.0	15.9	-17.8	
Total Equities		50	50	41	49					
Alternatives										
Real Estate	FTSE TMX Canada Universe + 2.5%	10	10	7	10	9.3	-9.4	-2.0	9.4	
Infrastructure	FTSE TMX Canada Universe + 3.5%	5	5	8	8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Private Debt	BoA Merrill Lynch US High Yield Master II USD + 2.5%	5	5	9	9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Total Alternatives		20	20	24	27					
Currency Overlay		0	0	1	0	-1.3	-5.6	2.1	-4.3	
Total Investments	Composite Index	100	100	100	100	14.1	-12.7	10.9	-7.8	

<sup>\*</sup>Performance information is not calculated for the cash portfolio

## **December 31, 2023**

### 10. Commitments

The Plan enters into commitments related to the funding of investments. The Plan has made a commitment to an investment in Macquarie Infrastructure Partners III, L.P. of \$30,000,000 US dollars, of which \$3,251,101 is outstanding at year end. The future commitments will be payable on demand based on the capital needs of the investment.

The Plan has made a commitment to an investment in Neuberger Berman Private Debt Fund II LP of \$30,000,000 US dollars, of which \$5,466,423 remains outstanding at year end. The future commitments are payable upon demand over a period of no more than ten months.

The Plan has made a commitment to an investment in Neuberger Berman Private Debt Fund III Cayman LP of \$40,000,000 US dollars, of which \$2,560,167 remains outstanding at year end. The future commitments are payable upon demand over a period of no more than one year.

The Plan has made a commitment to an investment in Neuberger Berman Private Debt Fund IV Lux Associates S.à r.l. of \$30,000,000 US dollars, of which \$6,242,465 future commitments are payable upon demand over a period of no more than one year.

The Plan has made a commitment to an investment in MIRA Infrastructure Global Solutions II,LP of \$30,000,000 US dollars, of which \$2,443,242 remains outstanding at year end. The future commitments will be payable on demand based on the capital needs of the investment.

## 11. Lay Retirement Plan Wind-up

On November 5, 2021, the Council of General Synod approved the wind-up of The Lay Retirement Plan (LRP) effective December 31, 2021. Application to Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) to wind up the LRP was made on March 3, 2022, and was approved in April 2022. All the members actively employed with participating employers of the former LRP were enrolled in the General Synod Pension Plan (GSPP), effective January 1, 2022. These members were given the option to purchase a pension in the GSPP with their balances from the Lay Retirement Plan, as well as other legally available options available to all members of the LRP. Regulations 3 and 5 of Canon VIII (General Synod Regulations) were amended on November 7, 2020. The amendment to Regulation 3 allows for variable contribution levels (The expectation is that the LRP employers will continue to contribute 5% unless overridden by a new participation agreement). The amendment to Regulation 5 defines the benefit accrual as a percent of contributions rather than as a percent of Salary so the benefit is scalable based on total contributions on behalf of a member. The accrual is calculated as 1.8% of Salary (accrual) / 17.5% of Salary (contributions) = accrual of 10.2857% of contributions, rounded to 10.3%.