# Canadian Equity Growth Fund

October 2023





Marc Gagnon, MBA, CFA Vice-President, Portfolio Manager, North American Equities

## Can you describe the make-up of the Fund and what you seek to accomplish?

The fund aims to provide robust risk-adjusted returns to investors by investing primarily in the Canadian market. We achieve this goal by building a diversified portfolio of market leaders as well as emerging companies poised to capitalize on secular tailwinds. We put a great deal of emphasis on risk management, with a two-pronged approach: meticulous fundamental analysis to identify a company's key competitive advantages; and an ongoing review of our positioning in light of macroeconomic conditions. Our fund's added value comes primarily from strong stock selection supplemented by effective top-down management. The fund has a highly favourable risk-return profile and a very high Information ratio.

# Describe your investment strategy and explain your edge.

Our approach is driven by stock selection. We construct a diversified portfolio encompassing all sectors of the Canadian market, and we target companies capable of compounding earnings at a higher rate than expected by the market. We favour companies that have a strong, defensible business model and are led by a management team with a capital allocation plan aligned with shareholder returns. We monitor secular trends closely to identify the winners of tomorrow. All our investment decisions are based on rigorous fundamental research and backed by a discounted cash flow model that considers three scenarios: pessimistic, base case and optimistic. We think this approach helps us better determine our buy and sell levels, while setting aside the emotional bias of the stock market.

#### How is the strategy built?

Even though we're a Canadian equity fund, our investment policy also gives us the opportunity to invest in the United States. We employ top-down and bottom-up approaches simultaneously. On a top-down basis, we apply our macroeconomic view through our sector weightings without a material deviation from our benchmark. We create most of our added value through stock selection within these sectors and subsectors. We thoroughly analyze every company we invest in to ensure a deep understanding of its profitability drivers. Within our portfolio, every company has a proprietary model that helps us assess its intrinsic value according to macroeconomic cycles. Our approach ensures that we select the best companies to deliver strong, risk-adjusted returns for our investors.

#### Why invest in this Fund?

The fund is a building block of any well-diversified portfolio. It has consistently outperformed its peers and its index (on a gross-return basis) for almost every period over the past 20 years and has proven resilient across all economic cycles.

Our thorough risk-management process provides a safety net for investors and has helped us deliver strong returns that have exceeded the benchmark over different cycles.

Finally, the fund is managed by an industry veteran who has more than 20 years of experience as a portfolio manager and is supported by a talented team of analysts.



## **About iA Global Asset Management (iAGAM)**

### ROOTED IN HISTORY, INNOVATING FOR THE FUTURE.

A magnet for top investment talent, iA Global Asset Management is one of Canada's largest asset managers, with over \$100 billion under management across institutional and retail mandates. We help investors achieve their long-term wealth creation goals through innovative investment solutions designed for today's complex markets. We are building upon our historic success, supporting the growth of our core strengths, and exploring innovative ways to meet investor needs. We are rooted in history and innovating for the future. Our experienced portfolio managers use a proprietary investment methodology, rooted in iAGAM's unifying commitment to strong risk management, analytical rigor and a disciplined, process-driven approach to asset allocation and security selection.

#### **General Disclosures**

The information and opinions contained in this report were prepared by iA Global Asset Management ("iAGAM"). The opinions, estimates and projections contained in this report are those of iAGAM as of the date of this report and are subject to change without notice. iAGAM endeavours to ensure that the contents have been compiled or derived from sources that we believe to be reliable and contain information and opinions that are accurate and complete. However, iAGAM makes no representations or warranty, express or implied, in respect thereof, takes no responsibility for any errors and omissions contained herein and accepts no liability whatsoever for any loss arising from any use of, or reliance on, this report or its contents. There is no representation, warranty, or other assurance that any projections contained in this report will be realized. There is no representation, warranty, or other assurance that any projections contained in this report will be realized. The pro forma and estimated financial information contained in this report, if any, is based on certain assumptions and analysis of information available at the time that this information was prepared, which assumptions and analysis may or may not be correct. This report is not to be construed as an offer or solicitation to buy or sell any security. The reader should not rely solely on this report in evaluating whether or not to buy or sell securities of the subject company. The reader should consider whether it is suitable for your particular circumstances and talk to your financial advisor. iA Global Asset Management (iAGAM) is a tradename and trademark under which iA Global Asset Management Inc. and Industrial Alliance Investment Management Inc. operate. The iA Global Asset Management logo is a trademark of Industrial Alliance Insurance and Financial Services Inc.

