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**Steadyhand**

# Management Report of Fund Performance

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**Steadyhand Savings Fund**

December 31, 2023



# Steadyhand Savings Fund

## Annual Management Report of Fund Performance (December 31, 2023)

This annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete audited annual financial statements of the investment fund. You can get a copy of the audited annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling 1-888-888-3147, by writing to us at Steadyhand Investment Management Ltd., 1747 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6J 1K7 or by visiting our website at [www.steadyhand.com](http://www.steadyhand.com) or SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

Unitholders 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.

## Management Discussion of Fund Performance

### Investment Objective and Strategies

The fundamental investment objective of the Steadyhand Savings Fund (the "Fund") is to provide a stable level of current income and capital preservation through investing in a portfolio of Treasury Bills and short-term debt instruments issued by Canadian corporations and the federal and provincial governments.

Given the Fund's emphasis on capital preservation, it is managed conservatively. The portfolio's average term to maturity will not exceed 90 days, and the portfolio adviser only invests in debt instruments with high credit ratings.

### Risks

The primary risks associated with an investment in the Fund are interest rate risk and credit risk. The other risks are outlined in the simplified prospectus. There were no changes to the Fund over the reporting period that affected its overall level of risk.

### Results of Operations

Over the year, the Fund's net assets increased to \$106.9 million as of December 31, 2023, from \$72.2 million at the end of 2022. This increase was attributable to net sales of \$34.7 million.

The Fund produced a return of 4.6% in 2023. Over the same period, Morningstar Canadian Dollar Overnight Cash index gained 4.8%. The Fund's return is net of fees, whereas the return of the index does not include any costs or fees.

Contributing to performance was the portfolio adviser's (Connor, Clark & Lunn) security selection and investments in corporate paper. In addition, the Fund's investments in short-dated bonds helped the Fund's return. At year-end, 49% of the Fund was invested in corporate paper (including bank paper, commercial paper and bonds) while 51% was invested in government notes.

The Bank of Canada raised its key short-term lending rate three times in 2023, from 4.25% to 5.0%. The rate is currently the highest it's been in over 20 years. The higher rates offered on money market

securities enabled CC&L to invest in securities that offer a higher rate of interest, and the Fund in turn produced its best annual return in its 16-year history.

The Bank of Canada and the U.S. Federal Reserve held their policy rates steady over the last five months of the year. However, the tone from both central banks was notably more dovish, leading bond markets to anticipate meaningful interest rate cuts in 2024. In the fourth quarter, two-year yields fell 103 basis points (bps) in Canada and 86 bps in the U.S.

With the Bank of Canada's policy rate at 5.0%, money market securities have more attractive yields than at this time last year, let alone over past several years. The Fund's yield (5.2%, pre-fee, at the end of December) is likewise more compelling. Because the interest rate hikes were spread over the first seven months of the year, the Fund's yield rose gradually, and stronger returns came later in the reporting period. Further, it takes time to incorporate higher-yielding securities into the portfolio, as existing investments need to mature before the proceeds can be reinvested at higher rates.

As noted, 49% of the Fund was invested in corporate paper at the end of the year. These investments included bankers' acceptances (BA) issued by the big six Canadian banks, as well as commercial paper (CP) issued by companies including Enbridge, Hydro One, Suncor, Honda Canada, and Toyota Credit Canada.

The remaining 51% of the Fund was invested in government notes. These investments were focused on provincial securities rather than sovereign notes. The yield pick-up of provincial T-Bills (over sovereigns) was attractive throughout the year and was a source of added value for the portfolio.

Given the short-term nature of the Fund's investments, there were several changes to the portfolio's specific assets as a number of securities matured over the reporting period.

The Fund's pre-fee yield at the end of 2023 was 5.2%, which was up from its yield of 4.5% at the end of 2022.

There were no unusual trends in revenues or expenses over the reporting period.

### **Recent Developments**

As noted, the Bank of Canada increased its key lending rate by 0.75% in 2023, and it now sits at 5.0%. Money market investments returned 4.8% in the year, as measured by the Morningstar Canadian Dollar Overnight Cash Index. This rate is higher than the current level of inflation, meaning money market investors are earning a positive "real return" on their cash, which was not the case last year when inflation was much higher.

The central bank has been raising rates to slow down the economy and reduce inflationary pressures. The latest economic data suggests it's working. Inflation (CPI) has fallen to just over 3%, consumer spending has been restrained, and the economy is no longer in excess demand.

The Bank held its policy rate steady after its July increase, however, and has hinted that the rate hiking cycle is over. Yet, this is not a given and will depend on whether inflation and the economy continue to slow.

That said, bond markets began to anticipate meaningful interest rate cuts in 2024. The “soft landing” theme was rejuvenated in the U.S. late in the year, where inflation and economic growth slow but avoid a recession, which would allow monetary policymakers to shift away from their tightening measures. Bond yields fell steeply in response to the developments late in the fourth quarter — U.S. two-year yields decreased by 30 basis points (bps) in a single day, which was the fourth-largest daily move (in absolute terms) since the pandemic. By quarter-end, two-year yields dropped 103 bps in Canada and 86 bps in the U.S., while 10-year yields fell 94 bps in Canada and 71 bps in the U.S.

Yield curves moved closer toward normalization, but remained heavily inverted (i.e. short-term rates are higher than long-term rates). Reflecting an optimistic outlook, corporate and provincial credit spreads narrowed significantly, reaching their tightest levels since the period of central bank tightening began.

The Fund’s mix of corporate notes and government T-Bills, 49% and 51% of its assets at year-end, respectively, did not change materially in 2023. As for the individual investments held, a number of new securities were added to the Fund as notes matured over the course of the year.

After 14 years of charging a reduced fee on the Fund, we increased it effective July 1. The ‘One Simple Fee’ (what other firms refer to as a Management Expense Ratio, or MER) was increased from 0.20% to 0.45%.

The reduced fee of 0.20% was instated as a temporary measure back in 2009 in response to record low short-term interest rates. We reduced the fee from 0.65% (its original figure) to 0.20% to ensure that unitholders would receive a positive return, even if it meant that we had to subsidize the Fund internally. Our intention was always to reinstate the initial fee when rates returned to more normal levels. This, however, took much longer than expected.

We decided that it’s an appropriate time to partially restore the fee, given today’s higher interest rate environment. Note that the new fee of 0.45% is still lower than the original fee of 0.65%.

There were no changes over the reporting period to the manager, portfolio advisor, accounting policies or investment review committee of the Fund.

## **Related Party Transactions**

### ***Management Fees***

Steadyhand Investment Management Ltd. is the Manager of the Fund. The Manager provides the Fund with investment management services, including fund accounting and unitholder record keeping. In return, the Manager receives a management fee based on the net assets of the Fund, calculated on a daily basis. The Fund relies on the positive recommendation or approval of the independent review committee to proceed with the transactions. The annualized net management fee for the units of the Fund is 0.65%. The ‘One Simple Fee’ was temporarily reduced from 0.65% to 0.20%. The temporary fee was increased to 0.45% on July 1, 2023. The amount of this waiver is determined by us, in our discretion, and the full fees may be restored by us at any time. This fee is calculated daily and paid monthly based on the net asset value of units of the Fund. For the period ended December 31, 2023, the Fund paid gross fees of \$190,029 to the Manager and distributed \$62,946 in management fee reductions. The Fund does not reimburse the Manager for operating costs incurred in administering the Fund which include:

- fees payable to provincial securities commissions in connection with the operation of the funds;

- audit and legal fees;
- costs for preparation, production and distribution of financial and other reports, including semi-annual and annual reports, statements,
- communications to unitholders and other regularly required documents;
- costs for the preparation, production and distribution of this simplified prospectus document and other regulatory documents, including Fund Facts;
- expenditures related to technology required to operate the funds;
- custody, investor servicing, record keeping, accounting, trustee fees and bank charges;
- costs of compliance with applicable securities legislation in connection with the operation of the funds; and
- applicable taxes including GST/HST.

The Fund does not directly or indirectly pay fees, sales commissions or trailing commissions, nor does it provide any non-monetary benefits to registered dealers for distributions of units of the Fund. If a broker charges you a commission or fee, that is a matter between you and the dealer.

As at December 31, 2023 Steadyhand Investment Management Ltd. and its affiliates, subsidiaries, officers and directors owned 404,879 Series A units, or 5.7% of the total Series A Fund units. The Steadyhand Founders Fund holds 100% of the total Fund Series O units and pays no management fees.

## 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 since the date of inception. This information is derived from the Fund's annual audited financial statements.

<i>Series A – Net Assets Per Unit</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2023</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2022</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2021</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2020</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2019</i>
<b>Net Assets, beginning of period <sup>1,3</sup></b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>Increase from operations:</b>					
Total revenue	0.49	0.20	0.02	0.10	0.20
Total expenses (excluding distributions)	(0.03)	(0.02)	(0.01)	(0.02)	(0.02)
Realized gains for the period	-	-	-	-	-
Unrealized gains for the period	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total increase from operations <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>0.46</b>	<b>0.18</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>0.08</b>	<b>0.18</b>
<b>Distributions :</b>					
From investment income (excluding dividends)	(0.45)	(0.18)	-	(0.08)	(0.18)
From dividends	-	-	-	-	-
From capital gains	-	-	-	-	-
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total distributions for the period <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>(0.45)</b>	<b>(0.18)</b>	<b>(0.01)</b>	<b>(0.08)</b>	<b>(0.18)</b>
<b>Net Assets, end of period</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>

<i>Series A - Ratios and Supplemental Data</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2023</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2022</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2021</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2020</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2019</i>
Net asset value (000's) <sup>4</sup>	\$70,707	\$46,893	\$43,844	\$46,488	\$33,260
Number of units outstanding <sup>4</sup>	7,070,697	4,689,326	4,384,455	4,648,810	3,235,969
Management expense ratio <sup>5</sup>	0.34%	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions	0.34%	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>6</sup>	-	-	-	76.45	-
Trading expense ratio <sup>7</sup>	-	-	-	-	-
Net asset value per unit	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00

<b>Series O – Net Assets Per Unit</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2023</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2022</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2021</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2020</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2019</b>
<b>Net Assets, beginning of period <sup>1,3</sup></b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>Increase from operations:</b>					
Total revenue	0.48	0.24	0.03	0.19	0.19
Total expenses (excluding distributions)	-	-	-	-	-
Realized gains for the period	-	-	-	-	-
Unrealized gains for the period	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total increase from operations <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>0.48</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>0.03</b>	<b>0.19</b>	<b>0.19</b>
<b>Distributions :</b>					
From investment income (excluding dividends)	(0.47)	(0.19)	(0.03)	(0.09)	(0.19)
From dividends	-	-	-	-	-
From capital gains	-	-	-	-	-
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total distributions for the period <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>(0.47)</b>	<b>(0.19)</b>	<b>(0.03)</b>	<b>(0.09)</b>	<b>(0.19)</b>
<b>Net Assets, end of period</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>

<b>Series O - Ratios and Supplemental Data</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2023</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2022</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2021</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2020</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2019</b>
Net asset value (000's) <sup>4</sup>	\$36,196	\$25,348	\$591	\$590	\$54,947
Number of units outstanding <sup>4</sup>	3,619,559	2,534,841	59,123	58,973	5,494,685
Management expense ratio <sup>5</sup>	-	-	-	-	-
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions	-	0.01%	0.52%	0.01%	0.01%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>6</sup>	-	-	-	76.45	-
Trading expense ratio <sup>7</sup>	-	-	-	-	-
Net asset value per unit	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00

<sup>1</sup>Net asset value and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase/decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial period.

<sup>2</sup>Distributions were paid in cash/reinvested in additional units of the Fund, or both.

<sup>3</sup>This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements as at December 31 for the periods stated.

<sup>4</sup>The information is provided as at December 31 of the period shown.

<sup>5</sup>Management expense ratio is based on total expenses for the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net assets during the period.

<sup>6</sup>The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio advisor manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher a fund's portfolio turnover 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.

<sup>7</sup>The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net assets during the period.

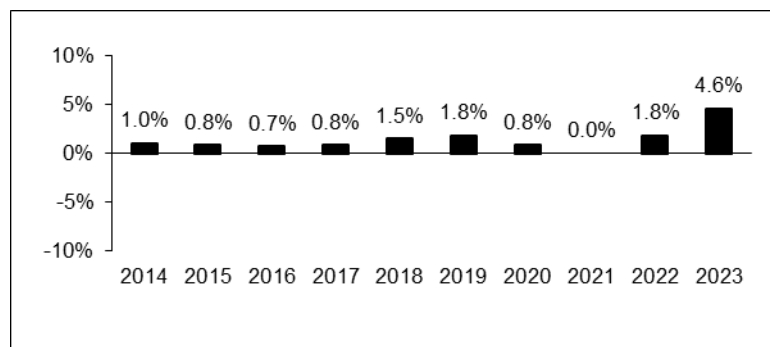
## Past Performance

The performance information shown assumes that all distributions made by the Fund in the periods shown were reinvested in additional units of the Fund. The performance information does not take into account sales, redemptions, distributions or other optional charges that would have reduced returns or performance. Past performance does not necessarily indicate how the Fund will perform in the future.

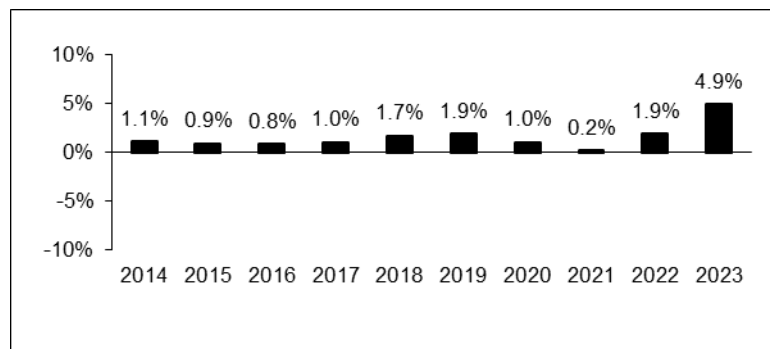
### Year-by-Year Returns

The bar charts below show the Fund's annual performance for each of the 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 each financial year.

#### Series A



#### Series O



Series O units of the Fund were first offered for sale in February 2012.



The following table shows the Fund's annual compound total return for the past one-year, three-year, five-year, and ten-year periods ended on December 31, 2023, and since the inception of the Fund, compared with the Morningstar Canadian Dollar Overnight Cash Index.

	<b>1 YR</b>	<b>3 YR</b>	<b>5 YR</b>	<b>10 YR</b>	<b>Since Inception*</b>
Steadyhand Savings Fund – A	4.6%	2.1%	1.8%	1.4%	1.4%
Steadyhand Savings Fund – O	4.9%	2.3%	2.0%	1.5%	N/A
Morningstar Canadian Dollar Overnight Cash Index	4.8%	2.2%	1.8%	1.3%	1.4%

\* Series O units have a different inception date (February 17, 2012) and are not available for purchase.

The Morningstar Canadian Dollar Overnight Cash Index measures the performance of a synthetic asset carrying the average of the overnight bank lending bid/offer rates in the Canadian market. The rate changes daily and interest accrues based on the daily rate. It is market value weighted.

A discussion of the relative performance of the Fund as compared to the indices can be found in the Results of Operations section.

## Summary of Investment Portfolio as at December 31, 2023

### Portfolio Allocation

	% of Net Assets
Government Treasury Bills	40.2%
Bankers Acceptances	30.8%
Corporate Notes	12.0%
Provincial Promissory Notes	10.1%
	93.1%
Corporate Bonds	6.0%
Total Investments	99.1%
Cash, Short-term Notes & Other Assets	0.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Top 25 Holdings**

	<b>% of Net Assets</b>
Province of Alberta P/N 5.204% 26 Jan 2024	6.2%
Province of Manitoba TBill 5.114% 07 Feb 2024	5.4%
Government of Canada TBill 5.004% 06 Jun 2024	4.8%
Province of Ontario TBill 5.044% 26 Jun 2024	4.8%
Bank of Nova Scotia B/A 5.213% 01 Mar 2024	4.7%
Province of Ontario TBill 5.315% 03 Apr 2024	4.0%
Province of Ontario TBill 5.195% 14 Feb 2024	3.9%
Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc. C/P 5.265% 12 Jan 2024	3.7%
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce B/A 5.235% 28 Feb 2024	3.6%
Government of Canada TBill 5.360% 12 Sep 2024	3.5%
Toronto-Dominion Bank B/A 5.223% 27 Mar 2024	3.1%
Royal Bank of Canada B/A 5.264% 21 Feb 2024	3.1%
Province of Newfoundland & Labrador TBill 5.123% 04 Mar 2024	3.0%
National Bank of Canada B/A 5.223% 26 Feb 2024	2.9%
Royal Bank of Canada B/A 5.235% 20 Mar 2024	2.8%
Province of Quebec TBill 5.205% 26 Jan 2024	2.8%
Province of Quebec TBill 5.213% 12 Apr 2024	2.7%
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce B/A 5.206% 25 Mar 2024	2.7%
Government of Canada TBill 4.582% 28 Mar 2024	2.4%
Honda Canada Finance Inc. C/P 5.374% 29 Jan 2024	2.3%
Bank of Nova Scotia B/A 5.217% 09 Jan 2024	2.1%
Royal Bank of Canada B/A 5.204% 05 Feb 2024	2.1%
Province of British Columbia P/N 5.123% 23 May 2024	2.0%
Province of Newfoundland & Labrador TBill 5.124% 15 Feb 2024	2.0%
Province of Prince Edward Island P/N 5.124% 20 Feb 2024	1.9%

The summary of investment portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund. Quarterly updates are available (60 days after each quarter end) upon request.

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**Steadyhand**

# Management Report of Fund Performance

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**Steadyhand Income Fund**

December 31, 2023



# Steadyhand Income Fund

## Annual Management Report of Fund Performance (December 31, 2023)

This annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete audited annual financial statements of the investment fund. You can get a copy of the audited annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling 1-888-888-3147, by writing to us at Steadyhand Investment Management Ltd., 1747 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6J 1K7 or by visiting our website at [www.steadyhand.com](http://www.steadyhand.com) or SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

Unitholders 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.

## Management Discussion of Fund Performance

### Investment Objective and Strategies

The fundamental investment objective of the Steadyhand Income Fund (the "Fund") is to provide a reasonably stable level of income, modest capital growth, and some long-term preservation of capital.

The Fund invests primarily in bonds, but also holds a significant portion of its assets in Real Estate Investment Trusts ("REITs"), income trusts and other income-producing securities for added yield and diversification. The bond portion of the Fund is primarily invested in medium to high quality corporate and government bonds of Canadian and foreign issuers. The Fund may also invest in derivatives for hedging purposes to protect against losses or for non-hedging purposes as a substitute for direct investment or to generate income.

### Risks

The primary risks associated with an investment in the Fund are credit risk, interest rate risk, price risk and high turnover risk. The portfolio may experience high turnover related to the ongoing reinvesting of short-term money market securities. The other risks are outlined in the simplified prospectus. There were no significant changes to the Fund over the reporting period that affected its overall level of risk.

### Results of Operations

Over the year, the Fund's net assets increased to \$349.9 million as of December 31, 2023, from \$300.6 million at the end of 2022. This increase of \$49.3 million was attributable to net subscriptions of \$38.4 million, an increase in net assets from operations of \$22.1 million less \$11.2 million in distributions to unitholders.

The Fund rose 6.0% in 2023. Over the same period, the Morningstar Canada Core Bond Index gained 6.3% while the Morningstar Canada Index rose 11.3%. The bond component of the Fund (77% of the portfolio) rose 7.4% (pre-fee), while our stock holdings (23%) lagged, gaining 5.9%.

It was a highly uneven year for returns, with bonds in negative territory over the first three quarters before rallying strongly in the fourth quarter as central banks indicated that the interest rate hiking cycle is likely over.

Bond markets began to anticipate meaningful interest rate cuts in 2024, and yields fell steeply in response to the developments late in the fourth quarter. Yield curves moved closer toward normalization, but remained heavily inverted (short-term rates are higher than long-term rates). Reflecting an optimistic outlook, corporate and provincial credit spreads narrowed significantly, reaching their tightest levels since the period of central bank tightening began.

Central bank language pointing to interest rate reductions, economic resilience, attractive yields and reduced market volatility spurred strong demand for credit (corporate bonds), with new supply being well absorbed.

Our bond holdings performed well in this environment. Both our government and corporate investments benefited from the broad decline in yields late in the year (when yields fall, prices rise). On the government side, our focus on provincial over federal bonds contributed to performance, and we took advantage of opportunities in the yield curve, which remains deeply inverted as mentioned.

Our corporate investments were our top performers. Our focus is on high-quality issuers such as banks, utilities, REITs, and telecoms. Security selection remains defensive, with a focus on senior debt from banks with strong capital ratios, as well as industrial REITs, where e-commerce is likely to remain a strong driver.

At the beginning of the year, bonds comprised 75% of the portfolio. Our portfolio adviser, Connor, Clark & Lunn (CC&L), slightly increased their weighting through the year. At the end of the reporting period, they comprised 77% of the portfolio, which is modestly higher than our long-term target of 75%.

Turning to the Fund's stock holdings, this portion of the portfolio (23%) trailed the broader market. Steady dividend-paying stocks in the utilities, REITs and telecom sectors lagged more growth-oriented industries, technology in particular. Our focus continues to be on companies with strong balance sheets, resilient earnings, and a history of consistent dividend growth. Our top performers in the year included Russel Metals, Thomson Reuters and Open Text, while Enbridge, BCE, and Telus were detractors.

As noted, stocks made up 23% of the Fund at year-end, which is slightly below our long-term target (25%). After the strong fourth-quarter rally, CC&L feels equity markets appear fully valued going into 2024. Ostensibly, market expectations include aggressive interest rate cuts that are already priced into bond markets, alongside above-trend economic growth and easing inflation. While data trends in the fourth quarter appeared favourable, CC&L believes all of these factors coming together on a sustained basis will be challenging to meet.

While the asset mix of the portfolio was not significantly altered during the reporting period, there were some changes to the Fund's bond holdings. More specifically, the weighting in federal bonds decreased from 28% of the portfolio's fixed income investments at the beginning of the year to 12% at the end of December, while the weighting in provincial bonds increased from 34% to 45%. Corporate bonds also increased, from 38% to 43% of its fixed income holdings.

The Fund's pre-fee yield at the end of 2023 was 4.0%, as compared to 4.1% at the end of 2022.

There were no unusual trends in redemptions, sales, revenues or expenses over the reporting period.

## Recent Developments

The Canadian bond market rose 6.3% in 2023 (interest and capital appreciation). Bond yields did a round trip. The 10-year Government of Canada yield started the year at 3.3%, rose steadily through the late spring and summer to a peak of 4.3%, and then declined sharply in the fall to finish the year at 3.1%. Corporate bonds gained more than 8%, outpacing the government sector.

The Bank of Canada raised its key short-term lending rate three times in 2023, from 4.25% to 5.0%. The rate is currently the highest it's been in over 20 years.

Late in the year, financial markets returned to the "soft landing" narrative, where inflation and economic growth slow but a recession does not occur. This narrative was largely driven by ongoing economic resilience in the U.S. and a shift to a more accommodative tone from many central banks. Canadian economic releases, however, suggested that a more pronounced downturn could be on the horizon. Even though a recession in Canada remains probable, it appears the U.S. might actually avoid one, at least over the next six to nine months.

That said, CC&L believes the economy typically gives the appearance of a soft landing on the path to recession. Nonetheless, softening financial conditions could provide renewed support for economic activity and reignite inflation, particularly in the U.S. As such, CC&L will continue to monitor incoming data and will look for any weakness in labour markets, in particular, for guidance.

The Fund's positioning remains broadly defensive, with volatile bond markets continuing to provide opportunities. The portfolio's duration remains shorter than that of the benchmark. Financial markets have already priced in a sizeable central bank policy rate easing cycle, which CC&L believes could be over-extended. The portfolio's yield curve steepening bias, which should benefit from a move toward normalization in the yield curve, increased during the fourth quarter, as we expect this trend to persist.

The portfolio continues to hold a modest exposure to real return bonds. This positioning generates positive carry, and should also contribute to performance if inflation remains a challenge.

The Fund's weighting in corporate bonds remains lower than average. CC&L believes credit spreads (the difference in yield between corporate and government bonds) are currently priced to perfection and are likely to widen from their current levels in the event of an economic slowdown. Security selection in the sector remains defensively positioned.

As for the outlook for stocks, CC&L feels that events like inflation starting to drift higher or economic growth slowing more than expected could trigger heightened equity market volatility. In both Canada and the U.S., they expect corporate earnings to grow, but for that growth to be lower than what many investors are currently projecting.

In CC&L's view, effective stock picking is going to be even more important in 2024, as we will likely see nominal gross domestic product (GDP) growth, which is real GDP growth plus inflation, move materially lower as inflation eases and economic growth slows. This will create a revenue headwind for many companies. Being able to identify quality companies that can overcome this challenge and drive incremental earnings growth through recession-proof business activities, secular opportunities, accretive acquisitions, operational efficiencies and/or share buybacks will be an important differentiator. Near the

end of 2023, we increased the portfolio's positions in those types of companies, while reducing its weighting in more defensive holdings.

There were some changes to the structure of the portfolio in 2023, as described in the previous section.

The Fund paid distributions totaling \$0.34/unit in 2023.

There were no material changes over the reporting period to the portfolio advisor, accounting policies or investment review committee of the Fund.

## **Related Party Transactions**

### ***Management Fees***

Steadyhand Investment Management Ltd. is the Manager of the Fund. The Manager provides the Fund with investment management services, including fund accounting and unitholder record keeping. In return, the Manager receives a management fee based on the net assets of the Fund, calculated on a daily basis. The Fund relies on the positive recommendation or approval of the independent review committee to proceed with the transactions. The annualized net management fee for the units of the Fund is 1.04%. The Fund paid the Manager \$783,416 of its net assets as management fees and distributed \$257,265 in management fee reductions for the year ended December 31, 2023. The Fund does not reimburse the Manager for operating costs incurred in administering the Fund which include:

- fees payable to provincial securities commissions in connection with the operation of the funds;
- audit and legal fees;
- costs for preparation, production and distribution of financial and other reports, including semi-annual and annual reports, statements,
- communications to unitholders and other regularly required documents;
- costs for the preparation, production and distribution of this simplified prospectus document and other regulatory documents, including Fund Facts;
- expenditures related to technology required to operate the funds;
- custody, investor servicing, record keeping, accounting, trustee fees and bank charges;
- costs of compliance with applicable securities legislation in connection with the operation of the funds; and
- applicable taxes including GST/HST.

The Manager paid all operating expenses except brokerage charges and withholding taxes.

The Fund does not directly or indirectly pay fees, sales commissions or trailing commissions, nor does it provide any non-monetary benefits to registered dealers for distributions of units of the Fund. If a broker charges you a commission or fee, that is a matter between you and the dealer.

As at December 31, 2023, Steadyhand Investment Management Ltd. and its affiliates, subsidiaries, officers and directors owned 226,713 Series A units, or 3.1% of the total Fund Series A units. The Steadyhand Founders Fund holds 100% of the total Fund Series O units and pays no management fees.

## 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 since the date of inception. This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements.

<b>Series A – Net Assets Per Unit</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2023</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2022</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2021</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2020</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2019</b>
<b>Net Assets, beginning of period <sup>1,3</sup></b>	<b>\$10.03</b>	<b>\$11.44</b>	<b>\$11.26</b>	<b>\$10.94</b>	<b>\$10.44</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>					
Total revenue	0.38	0.31	0.29	0.31	0.31
Total expenses (excluding distributions)	(0.12)	(0.11)	(0.12)	(0.15)	(0.15)
Realized gains (losses) for the period	(0.01)	(0.53)	0.11	0.20	0.35
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	0.37	(0.78)	0.20	0.39	0.47
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>0.62</b>	<b>(1.11)</b>	<b>0.48</b>	<b>0.75</b>	<b>0.98</b>
<b>Distributions :</b>					
From investment income (excluding dividends)	(0.31)	(0.25)	(0.21)	(0.23)	(0.20)
From dividends	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.02)	(0.05)	(0.03)
From capital gains	-	-	(0.04)	(0.18)	(0.21)
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total distributions for the period <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>(0.34)</b>	<b>(0.28)</b>	<b>(0.27)</b>	<b>(0.46)</b>	<b>(0.44)</b>
<b>Net Assets, end of period</b>	<b>\$10.29</b>	<b>\$10.03</b>	<b>\$11.44</b>	<b>\$11.26</b>	<b>\$10.94</b>

<b>Series A - Ratios and Supplemental Data</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2023</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2022</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2021</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2020</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2019</b>
Net asset value (000's) <sup>4</sup>	\$75,548	\$76,917	\$89,845	\$87,454	\$85,884
Number of units outstanding <sup>4</sup>	7,339,598	7,665,518	7,855,873	7,769,803	7,848,309
Management expense ratio <sup>5</sup>	1.04%	1.04%	1.04%	1.04%	1.04%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions	1.05%	1.05%	1.04%	1.05%	1.04%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>6</sup>	233.57%	247.25%	167.02%	151.66%	179.14%
Trading expense ratio <sup>7</sup>	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%
Net asset value per unit	\$10.29	\$10.03	\$11.44	\$11.26	\$10.94



<b>Series O – Net Assets Per Unit</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2023</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2022</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2021</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2020</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2019</b>
<b>Net Assets, beginning of period <sup>1,3</sup></b>	<b>\$11.06</b>	<b>\$12.48</b>	<b>\$12.20</b>	<b>\$11.75</b>	<b>\$11.11</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>					
Total revenue	0.41	0.34	0.31	0.35	0.34
Total expenses (excluding distributions)	-	-	-	-	-
Realized gains (losses) for the period	(0.01)	(0.58)	0.11	0.23	0.38
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	0.38	(0.83)	0.24	0.31	0.40
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations</b>	<b>0.78</b>	<b>(1.07)</b>	<b>0.66</b>	<b>0.89</b>	<b>1.12</b>
<b>Distributions :</b>					
From investment income (excluding dividends)	(0.33)	(0.27)	(0.26)	(0.25)	(0.22)
From dividends	(0.04)	(0.04)	(0.04)	(0.06)	(0.04)
From capital gains	-	-	(0.04)	(0.20)	(0.23)
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total distributions for the period <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>(0.37)</b>	<b>(0.31)</b>	<b>(0.34)</b>	<b>(0.51)</b>	<b>(0.49)</b>
<b>Net Assets, end of period</b>	<b>\$11.48</b>	<b>\$11.06</b>	<b>\$12.48</b>	<b>\$12.20</b>	<b>\$11.75</b>

<b>Series O - Ratios and Supplemental Data</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2023</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2022</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2021</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2020</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2019</b>
Net asset value (000's) <sup>4</sup>	\$274,392	\$223,728	\$214,833	\$172,538	\$178,272
Number of units outstanding <sup>4</sup>	23,911,749	20,220,329	17,212,470	14,137,498	15,170,139
Management expense ratio <sup>5</sup>	-	-	-	-	-
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	-	0.01%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>6</sup>	233.57%	247.25%	167.02%	151.66%	179.14%
Trading expense ratio <sup>7</sup>	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%
Net asset value per unit	\$11.48	\$11.06	\$12.48	\$12.20	\$11.75

<sup>1</sup>Net asset value and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase/decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial period.

<sup>2</sup>Distributions were paid in cash/reinvested in additional units of the Fund, or both.

<sup>3</sup>This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements as at December 31 for the period.

<sup>4</sup>The information is provided as at December 31 of the period shown.

<sup>5</sup>Management expense ratio is based on total expenses for the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net assets during the period.

<sup>6</sup>The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio advisor manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher a fund's portfolio turnover 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.

<sup>7</sup>The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net assets during the period.

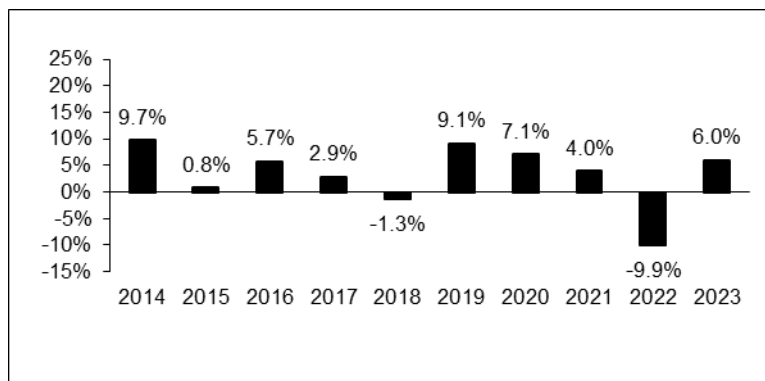
## Past Performance

The performance information shown assumes that all distributions made by the Fund in the periods shown were reinvested in additional units of the Fund. The performance information does not take into account sales, redemptions, distributions or other optional charges that would have reduced returns or performance. Past performance does not necessarily indicate how the Fund will perform in the future.

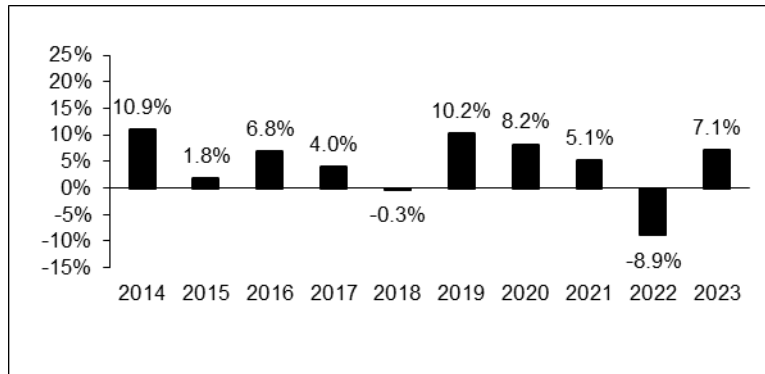
### Year-by-Year Returns

The bar charts below show the Fund's annual performance for each of the 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 each financial year.

#### Series A



#### Series O



Series O units of the Fund were first offered for sale in February 2012.

### **Annual Compound Returns**

The following table shows the Fund's annual compound total return for the past one-year, three-year, five-year, and ten-year periods ended on December 31, 2023, and since the inception of the Fund, compared with the Morningstar Canada Core Bond Index and the Morningstar Canada Index.

	<b>1 YR</b>	<b>3 YR</b>	<b>5 YR</b>	<b>10 YR</b>	<b>Since Inception*</b>
Steadyhand Income Fund - A	6.0%	-0.2%	3.0%	3.3%	4.5%
Steadyhand Income Fund - O	7.1%	0.9%	4.1%	4.3%	N/A
Morningstar Canada Core Bond Index	6.3%	-2.9%	1.2%	2.4%	3.4%
Morningstar Canada Index	11.3%	9.0%	10.6%	6.8%	5.2%

\* Series O units have a different inception date (February 17, 2012) and are not available for purchase.

The Morningstar Canada Core Bond Index measures the performance of fixed-rate, investment-grade securities with maturities greater than one year. It is market capitalization weighted. The Morningstar Canada Index measures the performance of Canada's equity markets targeting the top 97% of stocks by market capitalization.

A discussion of the relative performance of the Fund as compared to the indices can be found in the Results of Operations section.

## Summary of Investment Portfolio as at December 31, 2023

### Portfolio Allocation

	% of Net Assets
<b>Bonds</b>	
Provincial Bonds	27.2%
Corporate Bonds	26.5%
Federal Bonds	8.5%
Municipal Bonds	4.1%
	66.3%
<b>Equities</b>	
Financial Services	6.9%
Real Estate	4.5%
Oil & Gas	3.0%
Industrial Goods & Services	2.7%
Utilities & Pipelines	1.5%
Communication & Media	1.1%
Basic Materials	1.0%
Technology	0.8%
Retailing	0.7%
Consumer Staples	0.5%
Consumer Cyclical	0.5%
Consumer Products	0.1%
	23.3%
Pooled Investment Funds	4.9%
Cash, Short-Term Notes & Other Assets	5.5%
<b>Total</b>	100.0%

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**Top 25 Holdings**

	% of Net Assets
CC&L High Yield Bond Fund, Series I	4.9%
Province of Ontario Bond 2.150% 02 Jun 2031	4.1%
Government of Canada Bond 1.750% 01 Dec 2053	2.9%
Government of Canada Bond 3.500% 01 Dec 2045	2.8%
Province of Ontario Bond 2.700% 02 Jun 2029	2.7%
RBC Yield Curve Note Series 31 CP 5.267% 24 Jan 2024	1.9%
Toronto-Dominion Bank B/A 5.198% 12 Jan 2024	1.7%
Royal Bank of Canada	1.7%
Province of British Columbia Bond 2.200% 18 Jun 2030	1.6%
Province of Quebec Bond 1.500% 01 Sep 2031	1.4%
Hydro-Quebec Bond 3.400% 01 Sep 2029	1.3%
Toronto-Dominion Bank	1.2%
Bank of Montreal C/P 3.650% 01 Apr 2027	1.2%
Government of Canada Bond 2.000% 01 Dec 2051	1.2%
Province of Alberta Bond 3.900% 01 Dec 2033	1.2%
Province of British Columbia Bond 1.550% 18 Jun 2031	1.1%
Canadian Apartment Properties REIT	1.0%
Province of Ontario Bond 2.050% 02 Jun 2030	1.0%
Province of Alberta Bond 1.650% 01 Jun 2031	1.0%
Province of Ontario Bond 3.750% 02 Jun 2032	0.9%
Toronto-Dominion Bank C/P 3.105% 22 Apr 2030	0.9%
Royal Bank of Canada C/P 5.235% 02 Nov 2026	0.9%
Royal Bank of Canada B/A 5.214% 11 Mar 2024	0.8%
Bank of Montreal	0.8%
Toronto-Dominion Bank C/P 5.423% 10 Jul 2026	0.8%

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The summary of investment portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund. Quarterly updates are available (60 days after each quarter end) upon request.

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**Steadyhand**

# Management Report of Fund Performance

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**Steadyhand Founders Fund**

December 31, 2023



# Steadyhand Founders Fund

## Annual Management Report of Fund Performance (December 31, 2023)

This annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete audited annual financial statements of the investment fund. You can get a copy of the audited annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling 1-888-888-3147, by writing to us at Steadyhand Investment Management Ltd., 1747 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6J 1K7 or by visiting our website at [www.steadyhand.com](http://www.steadyhand.com) or SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

Unitholders 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.

## Management Discussion of Fund Performance

### Investment Objective and Strategies

The fundamental investment objective of the Steadyhand Founders Fund (the "Fund") is to provide a reasonably stable level of income, modest capital growth, and some long-term preservation of capital.

The Fund invests in Steadyhand's income and equity funds. The underlying fund mix will be a reflection of Tom Bradley's views on market valuations and asset mix. The portfolio has a long-term targeted mix of 60% equities and 40% fixed income, but the equity portion may range from 40% to 75% and fixed income from 25% to 60%. The manager will make tactical shifts in the Fund's asset mix when he feels that stock or bond valuations are at an extreme. The underlying funds may also invest in derivatives for hedging purposes to protect against losses or for non-hedging purposes as a substitute for direct investment or to generate income.

### Risks

The primary risks associated with an investment in the Fund are credit risk, interest rate risk, and price risk. The other risks are outlined in the simplified prospectus. There were no significant changes to the Fund over the reporting period that affected its overall level of risk.

### Results of Operations

The Fund's net assets stood at \$634.9 million as at December 31, 2023, an increase of \$48.9 million from \$586.0 million as of December 31, 2022. This increase was attributable to an increase in net assets from operations of \$53.1 million, net subscriptions of \$10.5 million less \$14.7 million in distributions to unitholders.

The Fund rose 8.6% in 2023, marking the 9<sup>th</sup> positive return in 11 years. Over the same period, the Morningstar Canada Core Bond Index gained 6.3% while the Morningstar Developed Markets Index rose 19.6% in Canadian dollar terms and the Morningstar Canada Index gained 11.3%.

The Fund is a balanced mix of our fixed income and equity funds (it's a 'fund-of-funds') and has a long-term asset mix target of 60% equities and 40% fixed income. It benefited from positive returns from both the stock and bond components of the portfolio in 2023. That said, the stock portion trailed the global and

Canadian markets, due in part to lower exposure to technology companies (the best performing sector of the market) and a challenging year for the Steadyhand Equity Fund.

At the end of the reporting period (December 31), the Founders Fund held five underlying Steadyhand funds and cash in the following composition:

- Steadyhand Income Fund (Series O): 43%
- Steadyhand Global Equity Fund (Series O): 20%
- Steadyhand Equity Fund (Series O): 20%
- Steadyhand Small-Cap Equity Fund (Series O): 5%
- Steadyhand Global Small-Cap Equity Fund (Series O): 5%
- Steadyhand Savings Fund (Series O): 6%

The Fund's return was the collective result of positive performance in each of the underlying funds. The Small-Cap Equity Fund was the strongest performer (+16.6%), followed by the Global Equity Fund (+15.3%), Global Small-Cap Equity Fund (+7.2%), Income Fund (+6.0%), and Savings Fund (+4.6%). The Fund's cash weighting, which ranged from 6% to 9%, held back performance as stocks and bonds performed better.

Currency movements had a modest impact on returns: the Euro and British Pound rose slightly against the Canadian dollar (boosting European and U.K. stock returns in \$Cdn terms); the U.S. dollar fell a little (dampening returns); and the Japanese Yen lost 10%.

On a look-through basis, 33% of the Fund is invested in foreign stocks, 27% in Canadian stocks, 33% in bonds, and 7% in cash (as of year-end).

We'll turn our focus below to each of the individual funds that make up the Founders Fund, based on their weighting in the portfolio.

### Steadyhand Income Fund

The Income Fund rose 6.0% in 2023. Over the same period, the Morningstar Canada Core Bond Index gained 6.3% while the Morningstar Canada Index rose 11.3%. The bond component of the Fund (77% of the portfolio) rose 7.4% (pre-fee), while our stock holdings (23%) lagged, gaining 5.9%.

It was a highly uneven year for returns, with bonds in negative territory over the first three quarters before rallying strongly in the fourth quarter as central banks indicated that the interest rate hiking cycle is likely over.

Bond markets began to anticipate meaningful interest rate cuts in 2024, and yields fell steeply in response to the developments late in the fourth quarter. Yield curves moved closer toward normalization, but remained heavily inverted (short-term rates are higher than long-term rates). Reflecting an optimistic outlook, corporate and provincial credit spreads narrowed significantly, reaching their tightest levels since the period of central bank tightening began. Central bank language pointing to interest rate reductions, economic resilience, attractive yields and reduced market volatility spurred strong demand for credit (corporate bonds), with new supply being well absorbed.

Our bond holdings performed well in this environment. Both our government and corporate investments benefited from the broad decline in yields late in the year (when yields fall, prices rise). On the



government side, our focus on provincial over federal bonds contributed to performance, and we took advantage of opportunities in the yield curve, which remains deeply inverted as mentioned. Our corporate investments were our top performers. Our focus is on high-quality issuers such as banks, utilities, REITs, and telecoms. Security selection remains defensive, with a focus on senior debt from banks with strong capital ratios, as well as industrial REITs, where e-commerce is likely to remain a strong driver.

#### Steadyhand Global Equity Fund

The Global Equity Fund rose 15.3% in 2023, while the Morningstar Developed Markets Index (\$Cdn) gained 19.6%. Stock markets had a strong year, rebounding nicely after a weak 2022. The gains, however, were uneven. Mega-cap tech stocks surged (the 'Magnificent 7' in specific) on enthusiasm around artificial intelligence, while more interest rate sensitive sectors like telecoms, utilities, and REITs lagged. Energy stocks also struggled.

The Fund trailed the global index in 2023, due largely to our lower exposure to technology stocks, and the 'Magnificent 7' in particular (more on this below). Our top performers comprised a diverse group of businesses including Adobe (software for creators), Lennar (homebuilder), Martin Marietta (heavy building materials), and Microsoft (technology). Canadian uranium leader Cameco was also a standout this year, gaining over 85%. The world is warming up to the notion that nuclear power will be an essential part of the energy transition. Uranium mining is heavily regulated and Cameco has the licensed capacity to produce over 30 million pounds of fuel concentrates annually.

We also owned a handful of stocks that had a disappointing year, including FMC (agriculture science), AIA Group (insurance), DSM-Firmenich (perfume and beauty), and Nidec (electric motors).

Artificial intelligence was the business story of the year. Investors rushed to stocks positioned to benefit from its growing adoption, specifically the Magnificent 7 which includes Apple, Alphabet, Amazon, Meta, Microsoft, Nvidia, and Tesla. Of the group, the only one we own is Microsoft. While this held back performance, our portfolio adviser (Aristotle Capital) is wary of the valuations the others are trading at. We have exposure to AI, however, through our semiconductor and software holdings (Qualcomm, Samsung, Microchip Technology, Adobe, Nemetschek). These haven't benefited to the same extent as the companies in the headlines, but stand to gain from improvements in productivity made possible by AI.

#### Steadyhand Equity Fund

The Equity Fund rose 5.9% in 2023. Over the same period, the Morningstar Canada Index gained 11.3%, while the Morningstar Developed Markets Index rose 19.6% in Canadian dollar terms. The Fund underperformed the market due in part to its lighter exposure to the technology sector (the best performing industry in 2023) and its non-benchmark oriented composition.

In addition, two of our larger holdings weighed on performance, Franco-Nevada and Metro. Franco, a gold-focused royalty company, fell 20%. It was impacted when one of its key assets, the Cobre Panama mine (operated by its partner First Quantum) halted production after a court ruling found the mine's contract unconstitutional. The appropriate legal avenues are now being pursued. Metro, the third largest grocer in Canada, lost 10%. The company generated solid earnings but softened its outlook for 2024 due to planned investments in its operations. While these expenditures will have a short-term impact on profits, they are likely to pay off longer term.

Two of our more interest rate sensitive holdings, Telus and Brookfield Renewable, also had a weak year as short-term rates rose to multi-decade highs and investors soured on telecoms and utilities, as their dividends are deemed less attractive.

Our U.S. holdings were a bright spot. Microsoft led the pack, gaining more than 50%. The company has excellent fundamentals and promising opportunities in AI. Financial intelligence provider S&P Global, digital payments leader Visa, and derivatives exchange operator CME Group also turned in great returns.

#### Steadyhand Small-Cap Equity Fund

The Fund rose 16.6% in 2023. Over the same period, the Morningstar Canada Small Cap Index gained 4.2%.

The fund had a strong year, outpacing the index by a wide margin. Performance was led by electrical transformers manufacturer Hammond Power Solutions (+300%). Our other industrial and energy investments also turned in strong results, notably SNC Lavalin, Parkland, Badger Infrastructure Solutions, Boyd Group Services, and MEG Energy.

Three holdings in specific detracted from performance, clothing retailer Aritzia, clean power producer Northland Power, and funeral & cemetery provider Park Lawn. Aritzia came under pressure after a decline in consumer spending, Northland struggled as new competitors have entered the industry, and Park Lawn suffered from lower volumes and weak sentiment. Our portfolio adviser, Galibier Capital, believes these are temporary setbacks and that all three companies maintain competitive positions in their respective industries.

Consumer discretionary stocks struggled as higher interest rates bit into consumers' budgets. Along with Aritzia, mattress specialist Sleep Country Canada felt the impact over the first three quarters of the year before rebounding late in the year.

#### Steadyhand Global Small-Cap Equity Fund

The Global Small-Cap Equity Fund rose 7.2% in 2023, while the Morningstar Developed Markets Small Cap Index gained 14.3% in Canadian dollar terms. Technology and industrial stocks were notable areas of strength while the utilities and healthcare sectors lagged.

While it was a solid year in absolute terms, the Fund lagged the small-cap market. Of note, we have a lower weighting in tech stocks relative to the index, and this held back our performance. Our U.S. investments were our strongest performers, with The AZEK Company (outdoor decking and trim products) nearly doubling in price following a weak 2022, and Clean Harbors (hazardous waste disposal) gaining more than 50%. Boat builder Brunswick also saw a nice rebound, while construction businesses EMCOR Group and ESAB were up more than 40%.

Our European and Japanese holdings were more mixed. German warehouse automation leader Kion Group saw a strong rebound and Tokyo-based internet provider Internet Initiative Japan turned in a solid return. On the other hand, Italian online bank FinecoBank, Danish pharmaceutical Alk-Abello, and Japanese logistics specialist AZ-COM Maruwa were key detractors to performance.

U.K. wealth manager St. James's Place also weighed on performance. The stock dropped by double-digits in the third quarter after the company announced it was cutting fees on a range of products (which is beneficial to its clients in the long run, but detrimental to profits in the short term). The slide continued in the fourth quarter, when our portfolio adviser, TimesSquare Capital Management, decided to exit the stock and focus on better opportunities.

The Founders Fund was fully invested in stocks throughout the year. It started with a weighting of 65% in January (as a percentage of total assets) and finished at 60%, which is right on its long-term target. As the year progressed, our projected 5-year return for stocks (our preferred time frame) came down slightly as prices rose more than company profits.

Higher interest rates improved the outlook for fixed income securities. Reflecting this, the bond component of the portfolio (via the Income Fund) was increased to 33% (from 29% at the beginning of the year).

There were no unusual trends in redemptions, sales, revenues or expenses over the reporting period.

### **Recent Developments**

The Canadian stock market experienced a solid rebound in 2023, rising 11.3%. It was a bumpy year, nonetheless, with most of the gains coming in the fourth quarter after central banks hinted that their interest rate hiking campaigns are likely over. Technology and healthcare stocks were areas of strength, while the materials, telecom, and utilities sectors were weak.

Global stocks rose nearly 20% in Canadian dollar terms in 2023, marking a strong rebound following a weak 2022. The U.S. market was among the best performing owing to its concentration of seven stocks coined the Magnificent 7 (see previous section) that accounted for nearly two-thirds of the market's return. European markets also performed well, with the consumer discretionary sector turning in a strong showing. Small-cap stocks trailed their larger counterparts, and emerging markets lagged developed markets, on balance.

The Canadian bond market rose 6.3% in 2023 (interest and capital appreciation). Bond yields did a round trip. The 10-year Government of Canada yield started the year at 3.3%, rose steadily through the late spring and summer to a peak of 4.3%, and then declined sharply in the fall to finish the year at 3.1%. Corporate bonds gained more than 8%, outpacing the government sector. The Bank of Canada raised its key short-term lending rate three times in 2023, from 4.25% to 5.0%. The rate is currently the highest it's been in over 20 years.

Currencies experienced muted moves in the year, generally speaking. The loonie appreciated 3% against the U.S. dollar, which dampened the returns of American stocks in Canadian dollar terms. Our dollar fell modestly against the Euro (-1%) and British Pound (-3%), boosting the returns of stocks in these currencies. The biggest move was seen in the Japanese Yen, which depreciated 10%. This had a more notable negative impact on the \$Cdn returns of Japanese stocks.

It was a solid year for investors overall, and we walk through each of the underlying fund holdings below.

### Income Fund

Late in the year, financial markets returned to the “soft landing” narrative, where inflation and economic growth slow but a recession does not occur. This narrative was largely driven by ongoing economic resilience in the U.S. and a shift to a more accommodative tone from many central banks. Canadian economic releases, however, suggested that a more pronounced downturn could be on the horizon. Even though a recession in Canada remains probable, it appears the U.S. might actually avoid one, at least over the next six to nine months.

That said, our portfolio adviser (CC&L) believes the economy typically gives the appearance of a soft landing on the path to recession. Nonetheless, softening financial conditions could provide renewed support for economic activity and reignite inflation, particularly in the U.S. As such, CC&L will continue to monitor incoming data and will look for any weakness in labour markets, in particular, for guidance.

The Income Fund's positioning remains broadly defensive, with volatile bond markets continuing to provide opportunities. The portfolio's duration remains shorter than that of the benchmark. Financial markets have already priced in a sizeable central bank policy rate easing cycle, which CC&L believes could be over-extended. The portfolio's yield curve steepening bias, which should benefit from a move toward normalization in the yield curve, increased during the fourth quarter, as we expect this trend to persist.

The Income Fund's weighting in corporate bonds remains lower than average. CC&L believes credit spreads (the difference in yield between corporate and government bonds) are currently priced to perfection and are likely to widen from their current levels in the event of an economic slowdown. Security selection in the sector remains defensively positioned.

As for the outlook for stocks, CC&L feels that events like inflation starting to drift higher or economic growth slowing more than expected could trigger heightened equity market volatility. In both Canada and the U.S., they expect corporate earnings to grow, but for that growth to be lower than what many investors are currently projecting. In CC&L's view, effective stock picking is going to be even more important in 2024, as we will likely see nominal gross domestic product (GDP) growth, which is real GDP growth plus inflation, move materially lower as inflation eases and economic growth slows. This will create a revenue headwind for many companies. Being able to identify quality companies that can overcome this challenge and drive incremental earnings growth through recession-proof business activities, secular opportunities, accretive acquisitions, operational efficiencies and/or share buybacks will be an important differentiator. Near the end of 2023, we increased the Income Fund's positions in those types of companies, while reducing its weighting in more defensive holdings.

### Steadyhand Global Equity Fund

Two new holdings were added to the Global Equity Fund in 2023, Jazz Pharmaceuticals (a leader in sleep treatments) and Monotaro (a Japanese B2B e-commerce firm). Veralto, which specializes in water quality, was also spun out of Danaher. Brookfield Asset Management, Magna International, and Kubota were sold.

With interest rates stabilizing and the Federal Reserve hinting late in the year that its hiking campaign is over (and cuts could come next year), markets saw a return of merger and acquisition activity. Concrete

manufacturer Martin Marietta sold its South Texas cement division while industrial juggernaut Honeywell purchased Carrier's building security business. Both transactions were cheered by investors.

Industrial goods and services companies comprise the largest part of the Global Fund (25%). Holdings are diverse and include RPM International (U.S. maker of specialty coatings, sealants, and building materials), Assa Abloy (maker of locks and related products for doors, gates, and other entrances), Rational (German manufacturer of commercial ovens), Honeywell (U.S. maker of control panels, and electrical & wiring solutions), and Oshkosh Corporation (manufacturer of specialty trucks).

Technology companies are also an important area of investment (20%). Our focus is on established industry leaders. Microsoft is the Fund's largest holding. Other investments include Samsung Electronics (batteries, semiconductors, image sensors), Dolby Laboratories (audio, visual, and voice technologies) Qualcomm (microchips), Adobe (software), and Nemetschek (software). Aristotle believes these stocks trade at more attractive valuations than some of their mega-cap peers, and as such have a more compelling risk/reward profile.

Energy companies continue to comprise only a small portion of the Fund (3%), with our only holding being TotalEnergies. Total is one on the seven "supermajors" that is also leading its peers in the renewables space. Likewise, other commodity-related stocks represent a small component (3%). Cameco represents our only holding in the basics materials industry.

#### Steadyhand Equity Fund

There was more turnover in the portfolio than usual (most of it taking place later in the year) as the Equity Fund's long-standing lead manager, Gord O'Reilly, prepared for retirement at the end of the year. Gord worked closely with our new manager who will take over the portfolio on January 1, 2024, Nessim Mansoor (both are senior managers at Fiera Capital, our portfolio adviser), in transitioning the portfolio to bring in some of Nessim's favoured companies. These include Intact Financial, Constellation Software, Dollarama, TMX Group, and CGI. Brookfield, CSL Limited, HDFC Bank, and CAE were sold to fund the new purchases.

The Fund held 25 stocks at the end of 2023, which is one more than it owned at the end of 2022.

Financial services companies make up the largest portion of the Fund, comprising 31% of investments. These investments span well beyond traditional banking. They include S&P Global (financial information and analytics), CME Group (Chicago Mercantile Exchange), TMX Group (stock exchange operator), and Visa (credit cards and payments), along with TD Bank (Canada's premier retail bank). Fiera likes the prospects for the sector and believes our holdings trade at attractive prices.

Industrial goods & services companies also represent a large component of the Fund (30%). This is a broad sector that includes a diverse range of businesses, ranging from railway operators CN Rail and Canadian Pacific Kansas City, to industrial auctioneer RB Global, to heavy equipment dealer Toromont Industries.

A notable feature of the Fund is that it currently has no direct investments in the energy sector. Fiera feels there are better opportunities in other industries. Energy stocks make up 17% of the Canadian market, meaning the Fund will likely lag in an environment where oil & gas stocks are running strong.

### Steadyhand Small-Cap Equity Fund

The Small-Cap Equity Fund does not have a lot of exposure to energy stocks due to their inherent cyclicality. This helped performance in 2023, as oil & gas stocks were generally weak. Our two holdings included MEG Energy and Parkland. Both had a solid year, bucking the trend in the sector, and Parkland was sold. If this sector, and commodity stocks overall, see big gains, the Fund will be challenged to keep pace with the resource-heavy index. Our portfolio adviser, Galiber Capital, believes there are more attractive long-term investment opportunities in industries that have more stable fundamentals.

Galibier likes the current prospects for the portfolio. Several holdings have seen muted gains or have fallen in price yet continue to have strong fundamentals and promising outlooks. Aritzia, Park Lawn, Sleep Country Canada, Savaria, and Interfor are examples.

Three new holdings were added to the Fund in the year: VF Corporation sells lifestyle apparel (its brands include The North Face, Vans, Icebreaker, and Supreme); Vail Resorts operates leading ski resorts in the U.S., Canada, and Europe; and Capstone Copper has a portfolio of long-life copper operations in the Americas.

Enghouse Systems and Interfor were repurchased as they had fallen materially since we last owned them and once again trade at compelling prices. Enghouse's acquisition strategy has been called into question in this higher interest rate environment but Galibier believes the market is underestimating the software company's discipline and ability to identify under-appreciated assets. We bought the stock in the summer for 35% less than what we sold it for earlier this year. We made a similar move with lumber producer Interfor in the first quarter.

Eight investments were sold in 2023. Hammond, SNC, and Parkland were all strong performers that are now expensive in Galibier's view. We moved on from NFI Group, Ag Growth International, and Maple Leaf Foods in pursuit of better opportunities, and Waterloo Brewing was purchased by Carlsberg.

Industrial goods & services companies continue to make up the largest part of the portfolio (40%). These are a diverse collection of businesses which include hydrovac and air cargo firms, heavy equipment manufacturers and distributors, and generator and home accessibility specialists, among others. The biggest holdings in the sector are Cargojet, Savaria, Finning International, and Generac Holdings.

### Steadyhand Global Small-Cap Equity Fund

Turnover in the Global Small-Cap Equity Fund was higher than average, as the ongoing volatility led to some compelling investment opportunities in TimesSquare's view, and prompted a re-evaluation of several investments.

Nineteen new stocks were added to the portfolio in 2023. Among the new purchases were faster-growing companies Integral Ad Science, Ascendis Pharma, and Synaptics. Integral Ad is a leader in digital ad verification and campaign placement, while Ascendis is a biotech focused on growth hormone and mineral deficiencies, and Synaptics is a technology company that makes touch displays used in tablets, laptops and phones.

Six new Japanese stocks were also purchased, and we increased our investments in the country from 7% of the Fund to 13%. The new companies are based in a number of different industries and include

Lawson (retailing), Rohto Pharmaceutical (skin care and eye drops), Nakanishi (motor spindles and micro grinders), AZ-COM Maruwa (logistics), and Rakuten Bank (financial services). TimesSquare believes there is a positive shift in Japanese corporate culture taking place and an overdue digitization of the economy underway.

Rounding out the purchases were ESAB, Ag Growth International, Weir Group, MatsukiyoCocokara, Arcos Dorados Holdings, Sopra Steria Group, Workiva, Webster Financial, Hexcel, Willscot Mobile Mini Holdings, and Spin Master.

To fund the above, 14 stocks were sold. We moved on from a few businesses where management hasn't executed well and/or their outlook has weakened, including Kennedy-Wilson, Future, Patria Investments, Alk-Abello, National Vision Holdings, and WNS Holdings. A handful of stocks were also sold following a run of strong performance, including Charles River Laboratories and RS Group.

The Global Small-Cap Fund does not have any direct investments in the oil & gas or mining sectors (although we do own Weir Group, a mining technology leader that makes processing equipment), as these companies tend to produce inconsistent earnings. If commodity stocks have a hot streak, the Fund could struggle to keep pace. That said, TimesSquare believes there are much more compelling opportunities available in businesses with better long-term outlooks.

The Founders Fund has a structural bias to foreign-based companies which provide better exposure to important industries like healthcare, technology, and consumer products and services. Foreign stocks make up 33% of the portfolio (with U.S. stocks comprising 19% and overseas stocks 14%). Canadian equities made up 27% of the Fund at year-end.

While the Founders Fund's asset mix is important, returns are primarily driven by the performance of the underlying funds. It bears repeating that through its fund holdings, Founders owns a diverse mix of stocks across industries and geographies.

With over half of the Fund's equity investments listed on foreign exchanges, the impact of currency fluctuations remains a risk of the Fund. Key currencies of exposure include the U.S. dollar, Euro, British Pound, and Japanese Yen.

There were no changes over the reporting period to the manager, portfolio adviser, accounting policies or investment review committee of the Fund.

## **Related Party Transactions**

### ***Management Fees***

Steadyhand Investment Management Ltd. is the manager of the Fund. The Manager provides the Fund with investment management services, including fund accounting and unitholder record keeping. In return, the Manager receives a management fee based on the net assets of the Fund, calculated on a daily basis. The Fund relies on the positive recommendation or approval of the independent review committee to proceed with the transactions. The annualized net management fee for the units of the Fund is 1.34%. The Fund paid the Manager \$8,191,962 of its net assets as management fees and distributed \$2,694,788 in management fee reductions for the year ending December 31, 2023. The Fund does not reimburse the Manager for operating costs incurred in administering the Fund which include:

- fees payable to provincial securities commissions in connection with the operation of the funds;
- audit and legal fees;
- costs for preparation, production and distribution of financial and other reports, including semi-annual and annual reports, statements,
- communications to unitholders and other regularly required documents;
- costs for the preparation, production and distribution of this simplified prospectus document and other regulatory documents, including Fund Facts;
- expenditures related to technology required to operate the funds;
- custody, investor servicing, record keeping, accounting, trustee fees and bank charges;
- costs of compliance with applicable securities legislation in connection with the operation of the funds; and
- applicable taxes including GST/HST.

The Manager paid all operating expenses except brokerage charges and withholding taxes.

The Fund does not directly or indirectly pay fees, sales commissions or trailing commissions, nor does it provide any non-monetary benefits to registered dealers for distributions of units of the Fund. If a broker charges you a commission or fee, that is a matter between you and the dealer.

As at December 31, 2023, Steadyhand Investment Management Ltd. and its affiliates, subsidiaries, officers and directors owned 373,035 units, or 0.8% of the total fund units. The Fund and Steadyhand Builders Fund hold 100% of the O series units of the Steadyhand Savings, Income, Equity, Global Equity, Small-Cap Equity Fund and Global Small-Cap Equity Funds and do not pay any management fees to the underlying funds.



## 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 since the date of inception. This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements.

<i>Series A – Net Assets Per Unit</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2023</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2022</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2021</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2020</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2019</i>
<b>Net Assets, beginning of period</b> <sup>1,3</sup>	\$13.39	\$15.09	\$14.21	\$13.26	\$12.19
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>					
Total revenue	0.43	0.43	0.65	0.31	0.44
Total expenses (excluding distributions)	(0.12)	(0.12)	(0.14)	(0.12)	(0.12)
Realized gains for the period	0.12	0.01	0.13	0.09	0.19
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	0.77	(1.74)	0.72	0.86	0.94
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations</b> <sup>1</sup>	<b>1.20</b>	<b>(1.42)</b>	<b>1.36</b>	<b>1.14</b>	<b>1.45</b>
<b>Distributions :</b>					
From investment income (excluding dividends)	(0.17)	(0.14)	(0.14)	(0.14)	(0.14)
From dividends	(0.01)	-	-	-	-
From capital gains	(0.09)	(0.06)	(0.28)	(0.02)	(0.22)
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total distributions for the period</b> <sup>2</sup>	<b>(0.27)</b>	<b>(0.20)</b>	<b>(0.42)</b>	<b>(0.16)</b>	<b>(0.36)</b>
<b>Net Assets, end of period</b>	<b>\$14.26</b>	<b>\$13.39</b>	<b>\$15.09</b>	<b>\$14.21</b>	<b>\$13.26</b>

<i>Series A - Ratios and Supplemental Data</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2023</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2022</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2021</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2020</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2019</i>
Net asset value (000's) <sup>4</sup>	\$634,921	\$585,994	\$635,579	\$537,471	\$496,034
Number of units outstanding <sup>4</sup>	44,510,298	43,771,763	42,123,982	37,827,583	37,410,726
Management expense ratio <sup>5</sup>	1.34%	1.34%	1.34%	1.34%	1.34%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions	1.34%	1.34%	1.34%	1.34%	1.34%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>6</sup>	10.38%	5.20%	6.46%	18.87%	17.61%
Trading expense ratio <sup>7</sup>	0.03%	0.03%	0.08%	0.05%	0.02%
Net asset value per unit	\$14.26	\$13.39	\$15.09	\$14.21	\$13.26

<sup>1</sup>Net asset value and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase/decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial period.

<sup>2</sup>Distributions were paid in cash/reinvested in additional units of the Fund, or both.

<sup>3</sup>This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements as at December 31.

<sup>4</sup>The information is provided as at December 31 of the period shown.

<sup>5</sup>Management expense ratio is based on total expenses for the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net assets during the period.

<sup>6</sup>The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio advisor manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher a fund's portfolio turnover 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.

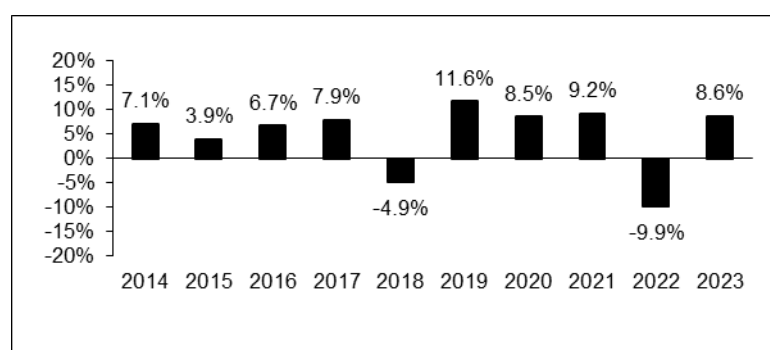
<sup>7</sup>The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net assets during the period.

## Past Performance

The performance information shown assumes that all distributions made by the Fund in the periods shown were reinvested in additional units of the Fund. The performance information does not take into account sales, redemptions, distributions or other optional charges that would have reduced returns or performance. Past performance does not necessarily indicate how the Fund will perform in the future.

### Year-by-Year Returns

The bar chart below shows the Fund's annual performance for each of the 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 each financial year.



The Fund first offered units for sale in February 2012.

### Annual Compound Returns

The following table shows the Fund's annual compound total return for the past one-year, three-year, and five-year periods ended on December 31, 2023, and since the inception of the Fund, compared with the Morningstar Canada Core Bond Index, Morningstar Canada Index and the Morningstar Developed Markets Index.

	1 YR	3 YR	5 YR	10 YR	Since Inception
Steadyhand Founders Fund	8.6%	2.2%	5.3%	4.7%	5.8%
Morningstar Canada Core Bond Index	6.3%	-2.9%	1.2%	2.4%	2.2%
Morningstar Canada Index	11.3%	9.0%	10.6%	6.8%	6.9%
Morningstar Developed Markets Index	19.6%	7.8%	11.5%	10.7%	12.4%

The Morningstar Canada Core Bond Index measures the performance of fixed-rate, investment-grade securities with maturities greater than one year. It is market capitalization weighted. The Morningstar Canada Index measures the performance of Canada's equity markets targeting the top 97% of stocks by market capitalization. The Morningstar Developed Markets Index measures the performance of developed regional markets targeting 97% of stocks by market capitalization.

A discussion of the relative performance of the Fund as compared to the indices can be found in the Results of Operations section.

## Summary of Investment Portfolio as of December 31, 2023

### Portfolio Allocation

	% of Net Assets
Pooled Investment funds	99.7%
Cash, Short-Term Notes & Other Assets	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Top 7 Holdings

	% of Net Assets
Steadyhand Income Fund, Series O	43.2%
Steadyhand Global Equity Fund, Series O	20.2%
Steadyhand Equity Fund, Series O	19.8%
Steadyhand Savings Fund, Series O	5.7%
Steadyhand Small-Cap Equity Fund, Series O	5.4%
Steadyhand Global Small-Cap Equity Fund, Series O	5.4%
Cash & cash equivalents	0.4%

The summary of investment portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund. Quarterly updates are available (60 days after each quarter end) upon request.

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**Steadyhand**

# Management Report of Fund Performance

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**Steadyhand Builders Fund**

December 31, 2023



# Steadyhand Builders Fund

## Annual Management Report of Fund Performance (December 31, 2023)

This annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete audited annual financial statements of the investment fund. You can get a copy of the audited annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling 1-888-888-3147, by writing to us at Steadyhand Investment Management Ltd., 1747 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6J 1K7 or by visiting our website at [www.steadyhand.com](http://www.steadyhand.com) or SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

Unitholders 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.

## Management Discussion of Fund Performance

### Investment Objective and Strategies

The fundamental investment objective of the Steadyhand Builders Fund (the "Fund") is to provide long-term capital growth by investing in a diversified collection of companies of all sizes around the globe.

The Builders Fund is a fund-of-funds. It invests primarily in Steadyhand's four stand-alone equity funds — Steadyhand Equity Fund, Steadyhand Global Equity Fund, Steadyhand Small-Cap Equity Fund, and Steadyhand Global Small-Cap Equity Fund — in order to achieve its objective. It may also invest in Steadyhand Income Fund and Steadyhand Savings Fund to a lesser degree.

### Risks

The primary risks associated with an investment in the Fund are foreign market risk, price risk and currency risk. The other risks are outlined in the simplified prospectus. There were no changes to the Fund over the reporting period that affected its overall level of risk.

### Results of Operations

The Fund's net assets stood at \$189.2 million as at December 31, 2023, an increase of \$33.3 million from \$155.9 million as of December 31, 2022. This change was attributable to increases in net assets from operations of \$18.5 million plus net subscriptions of \$18.1 million less \$3.3 million in distributions to Unitholders.

The Fund rose 10.9% in 2023. Over the same period, the global stock market (Morningstar Developed Markets Index) rose 19.6% in Canadian dollar terms while the Canadian stock market (Morningstar Canada Index) rose 11.3%.

At the end of the reporting period (December 31), the Builders Fund held four underlying Steadyhand funds in the following composition:

- Steadyhand Global Equity Fund (Series O): 35%
- Steadyhand Equity Fund (Series O): 35%
- Steadyhand Small-Cap Equity Fund (Series O): 15%
- Steadyhand Global Small-Cap Equity Fund (Series O): 15%

The Fund's return was the collective result of positive performance in each of the underlying funds. The Small-Cap Equity Fund was the strongest performer (+16.6%), followed by the Global Equity Fund (+15.3%), Global Small-Cap Equity Fund (+7.2%), and Equity Fund (+5.9%).

On a look-through basis, 63% of the Fund is invested in foreign stocks, 33% in Canadian stocks, and 4% in cash. The Steadyhand Global Equity Fund and Steadyhand Global Small-Cap Equity Fund have the most latitude to invest outside our borders. The Steadyhand Equity Fund and Steadyhand Small-Cap Equity Fund are both Canadian-centric in nature, but the advisers have the flexibility to invest a portion of the funds' assets in foreign companies.

Currency movements had a modest impact on returns: the Euro and British Pound rose slightly against the Canadian dollar (boosting European and U.K. stock returns in \$Cdn terms); the U.S. dollar fell a little (dampening returns); and the Japanese Yen lost 10%.

We'll turn our focus below to each of the individual funds that make up the Builders Fund.

### Steadyhand Global Equity Fund

The Global Equity Fund rose 15.3% in 2023, while the Morningstar Developed Markets Index (\$Cdn) gained 19.6%. Stock markets had a strong year, rebounding nicely after a weak 2022. The gains, however, were uneven. Mega-cap tech stocks surged (the 'Magnificent 7' in specific) on enthusiasm around artificial intelligence, while more interest rate sensitive sectors like telecoms, utilities, and REITs lagged. Energy stocks also struggled.

The Fund trailed the global index in 2023, due largely to our lower exposure to technology stocks, and the 'Magnificent 7' in particular (more on this below). Our top performers comprised a diverse group of businesses including Adobe (software for creators), Lennar (homebuilder), Martin Marietta (heavy building materials), and Microsoft (technology). Canadian uranium leader Cameco was also a standout this year, gaining over 85%. The world is warming up to the notion that nuclear power will be an essential part of the energy transition. Uranium mining is heavily regulated and Cameco has the licensed capacity to produce over 30 million pounds of fuel concentrates annually.

We also owned a handful of stocks that had a disappointing year, including FMC (agriculture science), AIA Group (insurance), DSM-Firmenich (perfume and beauty), and Nidec (electric motors).

Artificial intelligence was the business story of the year. Investors rushed to stocks positioned to benefit from its growing adoption, specifically the Magnificent 7 which includes Apple, Alphabet, Amazon, Meta, Microsoft, Nvidia, and Tesla. Of the group, the only one we own is Microsoft. While this held back performance, our portfolio adviser (Aristotle Capital) is wary of the valuations the others are trading at. We have exposure to AI, however, through our semiconductor and software holdings (Qualcomm, Samsung, Microchip Technology, Adobe, Nemetschek). These haven't benefited to the same extent as the companies in the headlines, but stand to gain from improvements in productivity made possible by AI.

### Steadyhand Equity Fund

The Equity Fund rose 5.9% in 2023. Over the same period, the Morningstar Canada Index gained 11.3%, while the Morningstar Developed Markets Index rose 19.6% in Canadian dollar terms. The Fund

underperformed the market due in part to its lighter exposure to the technology sector (the best performing industry in 2023) and its non-benchmark oriented composition.

In addition, two of our larger holdings weighed on performance, Franco-Nevada and Metro. Franco, a gold-focused royalty company, fell 20%. It was impacted when one of its key assets, the Cobre Panama mine (operated by its partner First Quantum) halted production after a court ruling found the mine's contract unconstitutional. The appropriate legal avenues are now being pursued. Metro, the third largest grocer in Canada, lost 10%. The company generated solid earnings but softened its outlook for 2024 due to planned investments in its operations. While these expenditures will have a short-term impact on profits, they are likely to pay off longer term.

Two of our more interest rate sensitive holdings, Telus and Brookfield Renewable, also had a weak year as short-term rates rose to multi-decade highs and investors soured on telecoms and utilities, as their dividends are deemed less attractive.

Our U.S. holdings were a bright spot. Microsoft led the pack, gaining more than 50%. The company has excellent fundamentals and promising opportunities in AI. Financial intelligence provider S&P Global, digital payments leader Visa, and derivatives exchange operator CME Group also turned in great returns.

#### Steadyhand Small-Cap Equity Fund

The Fund rose 16.6% in 2023. Over the same period, the Morningstar Canada Small Cap Index gained 4.2%.

The fund had a strong year, outpacing the index by a wide margin. Performance was led by electrical transformers manufacturer Hammond Power Solutions (+300%). Our other industrial and energy investments also turned in strong results, notably SNC Lavalin, Parkland, Badger Infrastructure Solutions, Boyd Group Services, and MEG Energy.

Three holdings in specific detracted from performance, clothing retailer Aritzia, clean power producer Northland Power, and funeral & cemetery provider Park Lawn. Aritzia came under pressure after a decline in consumer spending, Northland struggled as new competitors have entered the industry, and Park Lawn suffered from lower volumes and weak sentiment. Our portfolio adviser, Galibier Capital, believes these are temporary setbacks and that all three companies maintain competitive positions in their respective industries.

Consumer discretionary stocks struggled as higher interest rates bit into consumers' budgets. Along with Aritzia, mattress specialist Sleep Country Canada felt the impact over the first three quarters of the year before rebounding late in the year.

#### Steadyhand Global Small-Cap Equity Fund

The Global Small-Cap Equity Fund rose 7.2% in 2023, while the Morningstar Developed Markets Small Cap Index gained 14.3% in Canadian dollar terms. Technology and industrial stocks were notable areas of strength while the utilities and healthcare sectors lagged.

While it was a solid year in absolute terms, the Fund lagged the small-cap market. Of note, we have a lower weighting in tech stocks relative to the index, and this held back our performance. Our U.S. investments

were our strongest performers, with The AZEK Company (outdoor decking and trim products) nearly doubling in price following a weak 2022, and Clean Harbors (hazardous waste disposal) gaining more than 50%. Boat builder Brunswick also saw a nice rebound, while construction businesses EMCOR Group and ESAB were up more than 40%.

Our European and Japanese holdings were more mixed. German warehouse automation leader Kion Group saw a strong rebound and Tokyo-based internet provider Internet Initiative Japan turned in a solid return. On the other hand, Italian online bank FinecoBank, Danish pharmaceutical Alk-Abello, and Japanese logistics specialist AZ-COM Maruwa were key detractors to performance.

U.K. wealth manager St. James's Place also weighed on performance. The stock dropped by double-digits in the third quarter after the company announced it was cutting fees on a range of products (which is beneficial to its clients in the long run, but detrimental to profits in the short term). The slide continued in the fourth quarter, when our portfolio adviser, TimesSquare Capital Management, decided to exit the stock and focus on better opportunities.

The Founders Fund was fully invested in stocks throughout the year. It started with a weighting of 65% in January (as a percentage of total assets) and finished at 60%, which is right on its long-term target. As the year progressed, our projected 5-year return for stocks (our preferred time frame) came down slightly as prices rose more than company profits.

Higher interest rates improved the outlook for fixed income securities. Reflecting this, the bond component of the portfolio (via the Income Fund) was increased to 33% (from 29% at the beginning of the year).

There were no unusual trends in redemptions, sales, revenues or expenses over the reporting period.

### **Recent Developments**

The Canadian stock market experienced a solid rebound in 2023, rising 11.3%. It was a bumpy year, nonetheless, with most of the gains coming in the fourth quarter after central banks hinted that their interest rate hiking campaigns are likely over. Technology and healthcare stocks were areas of strength, while the materials, telecom, and utilities sectors were weak.

Global stocks rose nearly 20% in Canadian dollar terms in 2023, marking a strong rebound following a weak 2022. The U.S. market was among the best performing owing to its concentration of seven stocks coined the Magnificent 7 (see previous section) that accounted for nearly two-thirds of the market's return. European markets also performed well, with the consumer discretionary sector turning in a strong showing. Small-cap stocks trailed their larger counterparts, and emerging markets lagged developed markets, on balance.

Currencies experienced muted moves in the year, generally speaking. As previously noted, the loonie appreciated 3% against the U.S. dollar, which dampened the returns of American stocks in Canadian dollar terms. Our dollar fell modestly against the Euro (-1%) and British Pound (-3%), boosting the returns of stocks in these currencies. The biggest move was seen in the Japanese Yen, which depreciated 10%. This had a more notable negative impact on the \$Cdn returns of Japanese stocks.

It was a solid year for investors overall, and we walk through each of the underlying fund holdings below.



### Steadyhand Global Equity Fund

Two new holdings were added to the Global Equity Fund in 2023, Jazz Pharmaceuticals (a leader in sleep treatments) and Monotaro (a Japanese B2B e-commerce firm). Veralto, which specializes in water quality, was also spun out of Danaher. Brookfield Asset Management, Magna International, and Kubota were sold.

With interest rates stabilizing and the Federal Reserve hinting late in the year that its hiking campaign is over (and cuts could come next year), markets saw a return of merger and acquisition activity. Concrete manufacturer Martin Marietta sold its South Texas cement division while industrial juggernaut Honeywell purchased Carrier's building security business. Both transactions were cheered by investors.

Industrial goods and services companies comprise the largest part of the Global Fund (25%). Holdings are diverse and include RPM International (U.S. maker of specialty coatings, sealants, and building materials), Assa Abloy (maker of locks and related products for doors, gates, and other entrances), Rational (German manufacturer of commercial ovens), Honeywell (U.S. maker of control panels, and electrical & wiring solutions), and Oshkosh Corporation (manufacturer of specialty trucks).

Technology companies are also an important area of investment (20%). Our focus is on established industry leaders. Microsoft is the Fund's largest holding. Other investments include Samsung Electronics (batteries, semiconductors, image sensors), Dolby Laboratories (audio, visual, and voice technologies) Qualcomm (microchips), Adobe (software), and Nemetschek (software). Aristotle believes these stocks trade at more attractive valuations than some of their mega-cap peers, and as such have a more compelling risk/reward profile.

Energy companies continue to comprise only a small portion of the Fund (3%), with our only holding being TotalEnergies. Total is one on the seven "supermajors" that is also leading its peers in the renewables space. Likewise, other commodity-related stocks represent a small component (3%). Cameco represents our only holding in the basics materials industry.

### Steadyhand Equity Fund

There was more turnover in the portfolio than usual (most of it taking place later in the year) as the Equity Fund's long-standing lead manager, Gord O'Reilly, prepared for retirement at the end of the year. Gord worked closely with our new manager who will take over the portfolio on January 1, 2024, Nessim Mansoor (both are senior managers at Fiera Capital, our portfolio adviser), in transitioning the portfolio to bring in some of Nessim's favoured companies. These include Intact Financial, Constellation Software, Dollarama, TMX Group, and CGI. Brookfield, CSL Limited, HDFC Bank, and CAE were sold to fund the new purchases.

The Fund held 25 stocks at the end of 2023, which is one more than it owned at the end of 2022.

Financial services companies make up the largest portion of the Fund, comprising 31% of investments. These investments span well beyond traditional banking. They include S&P Global (financial information and analytics), CME Group (Chicago Mercantile Exchange), TMX Group (stock exchange operator), and Visa (credit cards and payments), along with TD Bank (Canada's premier retail bank). Fiera likes the prospects for the sector and believes our holdings trade at attractive prices.

Industrial goods & services companies also represent a large component of the Fund (30%). This is a broad sector that includes a diverse range of businesses, ranging from railway operators CN Rail and Canadian Pacific Kansas City, to industrial auctioneer RB Global, to heavy equipment dealer Toromont Industries.

A notable feature of the Fund is that it currently has no direct investments in the energy sector. Fiera feels there are better opportunities in other industries. Energy stocks make up 17% of the Canadian market, meaning the Fund will likely lag in an environment where oil & gas stocks are running strong.

#### Steadyhand Small-Cap Equity Fund

The Small-Cap Equity Fund does not have a lot of exposure to energy stocks due to their inherent cyclicality. This helped performance in 2023, as oil & gas stocks were generally weak. Our two holdings included MEG Energy and Parkland. Both had a solid year, bucking the trend in the sector, and Parkland was sold. If this sector, and commodity stocks overall, see big gains, the Fund will be challenged to keep pace with the resource-heavy index. Our portfolio adviser, Galiber Capital, believes there are more attractive long-term investment opportunities in industries that have more stable fundamentals.

Galibier likes the current prospects for the portfolio. Several holdings have seen muted gains or have fallen in price yet continue to have strong fundamentals and promising outlooks. Aritzia, Park Lawn, Sleep Country Canada, Savaria, and Interfor are examples.

Three new holdings were added to the Fund in the year: VF Corporation sells lifestyle apparel (its brands include The North Face, Vans, Icebreaker, and Supreme); Vail Resorts operates leading ski resorts in the U.S., Canada, and Europe; and Capstone Copper has a portfolio of long-life copper operations in the Americas.

Enghouse Systems and Interfor were repurchased as they had fallen materially since we last owned them and once again trade at compelling prices. Enghouse's acquisition strategy has been called into question in this higher interest rate environment but Galibier believes the market is underestimating the software company's discipline and ability to identify under-appreciated assets. We bought the stock in the summer for 35% less than what we sold it for earlier this year. We made a similar move with lumber producer Interfor in the first quarter.

Eight investments were sold in 2023. Hammond, SNC, and Parkland were all strong performers that are now expensive in Galibier's view. We moved on from NFI Group, Ag Growth International, and Maple Leaf Foods in pursuit of better opportunities, and Waterloo Brewing was purchased by Carlsberg.

Industrial goods & services companies continue to make up the largest part of the portfolio (40%). These are a diverse collection of businesses which include hydrovac and air cargo firms, heavy equipment manufacturers and distributors, and generator and home accessibility specialists, among others. The biggest holdings in the sector are Cargojet, Savaria, Finning International, and Generac Holdings.

#### Steadyhand Global Small-Cap Equity Fund

Turnover in the Global Small-Cap Equity Fund was higher than average, as the ongoing volatility led to some compelling investment opportunities in TimesSquare's view, and prompted a re-evaluation of several investments.

Nineteen new stocks were added to the portfolio in 2023. Among the new purchases were faster-growing companies Integral Ad Science, Ascendis Pharma, and Synaptics. Integral Ad is a leader in digital ad verification and campaign placement, while Ascendis is a biotech focused on growth hormone and mineral deficiencies, and Synaptics is a technology company that makes touch displays used in tablets, laptops and phones.

Six new Japanese stocks were also purchased, and we increased our investments in the country from 7% of the Fund to 13%. The new companies are based in a number of different industries and include Lawson (retailing), Rohto Pharmaceutical (skin care and eye drops), Nakanishi (motor spindles and micro grinders), AZ-COM Maruwa (logistics), and Rakuten Bank (financial services). TimesSquare believes there is a positive shift in Japanese corporate culture taking place and an overdue digitization of the economy underway.

Rounding out the purchases were ESAB, Ag Growth International, Weir Group, MatsukiyoCocokara, Arcos Dorados Holdings, Sopra Steria Group, Workiva, Webster Financial, Hexcel, Willscot Mobile Mini Holdings, and Spin Master.

To fund the above, 14 stocks were sold. We moved on from a few businesses where management hasn't executed well and/or their outlook has weakened, including Kennedy-Wilson, Future, Patria Investments, Alk-Abello, National Vision Holdings, and WNS Holdings. A handful of stocks were also sold following a run of strong performance, including Charles River Laboratories and RS Group.

The Global Small-Cap Fund does not have any direct investments in the oil & gas or mining sectors (although we do own Weir Group, a mining technology leader that makes processing equipment), as these companies tend to produce inconsistent earnings. If commodity stocks have a hot streak, the Fund could struggle to keep pace. That said, TimesSquare believes there are much more compelling opportunities available in businesses with better long-term outlooks.

An ongoing risk for investors in the Builders Fund is the impact of currency fluctuations. Most of the Fund's holdings are denominated in foreign currencies. The greatest exposure lies in the U.S. dollar, Euro, British Pound and Japanese Yen. If the Canadian dollar strengthens against these currencies, the Fund's return will be dampened. Conversely, a depreciation of the loonie would boost returns.

There were no material changes over the reporting period to the portfolio advisor, accounting policies or investment review committee of the Fund.

## **Related Party Transactions**

### ***Management Fees***

Steadyhand Investment Management Ltd. is the Manager of the Fund. The Manager provides the Fund with investment management services, including fund accounting and unitholder record keeping. In return, the Manager receives a management fee based on the net assets of the Fund, calculated on a daily basis. The Fund relies on the positive recommendation or approval of the independent review committee to proceed with the transactions. The annualized net management fee for the units of the Fund is 1.63%. The Fund paid the Manager \$2,852,868 of its net assets as management fees for the year ended December 31, 2023 and distributed \$828,357 in management fee reductions. The Fund does not reimburse the Manager for operating costs incurred in administering the Fund which include:

- fees payable to provincial securities commissions in connection with the operation of the funds;
- audit and legal fees;
- costs for preparation, production and distribution of financial and other reports, including semi-annual and annual reports, statements,
- communications to unitholders and other regularly required documents;
- costs for the preparation, production and distribution of this simplified prospectus document and other regulatory documents, including Fund Facts;
- expenditures related to technology required to operate the funds;
- custody, investor servicing, record keeping, accounting, trustee fees and
- bank charges;
- costs of compliance with applicable securities legislation in connection with the operation of the funds; and
- applicable taxes including GST/HST.

The Manager paid all operating expenses except brokerage charges and withholding taxes.

The Fund does not directly or indirectly pay fees, sales commissions or trailing commissions, nor does it provide any non-monetary benefits to registered dealers for distributions of units of the Fund. If a broker charges you a commission or fee, that is a matter between you and the dealer.

As at December 31, 2023, Steadyhand Investment Management Ltd., and its affiliates, subsidiaries, officers and directors owned 237,047 Series A units, or 1.5% of the total Fund Series A units.

## 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 since the date of inception. This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements.

<i>Series A – Net Assets Per Unit</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2023</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2022</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2021</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2020</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2019</i>
<b>Net Assets, beginning of period <sup>1,3</sup></b>	<b>\$10.75</b>	<b>\$12.50</b>	<b>\$11.36</b>	<b>\$10.65</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>					
Total revenue	0.39	0.44	0.88	0.19	0.51
Total expenses (excluding distributions)	(0.13)	(0.13)	(0.14)	(0.12)	(0.11)
Realized gains (losses) for the period	0.02	-	0.05	(0.01)	-
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	0.93	(1.65)	0.90	1.08	0.65
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$1.21</b>	<b>(\$1.34)</b>	<b>\$1.69</b>	<b>\$1.14</b>	<b>\$1.05</b>
<b>Distributions :</b>					
From investment income (excluding dividends)	-	-	-	-	(0.05)
From dividends	(0.04)	(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.03)	(0.07)
From capital gains	(0.11)	(0.21)	(0.50)	-	(0.09)
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total distributions for the period <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>(0.15)</b>	<b>(0.23)</b>	<b>(0.52)</b>	<b>(0.03)</b>	<b>(0.21)</b>
<b>Net Assets, end of period</b>	<b>\$11.78</b>	<b>\$10.75</b>	<b>\$12.50</b>	<b>\$11.36</b>	<b>\$10.65</b>

<i>Series A - Ratios and Supplemental Data</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2023</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2022</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2021</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2020</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2019</i>
Net asset value (000's) <sup>4</sup>	\$189,196	\$155,873	\$149,035	\$98,603	\$64,837
Number of units outstanding <sup>4</sup>	16,067,260	14,494,938	11,921,894	8,678,942	6,087,472
Management expense ratio <sup>5</sup>	1.63%	1.63%	1.63%	1.63%	1.63%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions	1.63%	1.63%	1.63%	1.63%	1.64%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>6</sup>	2.61%	0.63%	2.43%	2.97%	0.03%
Trading expense ratio <sup>7</sup>	0.05%	0.07%	0.14%	0.08%	0.02%
Net asset value per unit	\$11.78	\$10.75	\$12.50	\$11.36	\$10.65

<sup>1</sup>Net asset value and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase/decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial period.

<sup>2</sup>Distributions were paid in cash/reinvested in additional units of the Fund, or both.

<sup>3</sup>This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements as at December 31.

<sup>4</sup>The information is provided as at December 31.

<sup>5</sup>Management expense ratio is based on total expenses for the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net assets during the period.

<sup>6</sup>The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio advisor manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher a fund's portfolio turnover in a period, the greater the trading costs payable by the fund in the period, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the period. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a fund.

<sup>7</sup>The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net assets during the period.

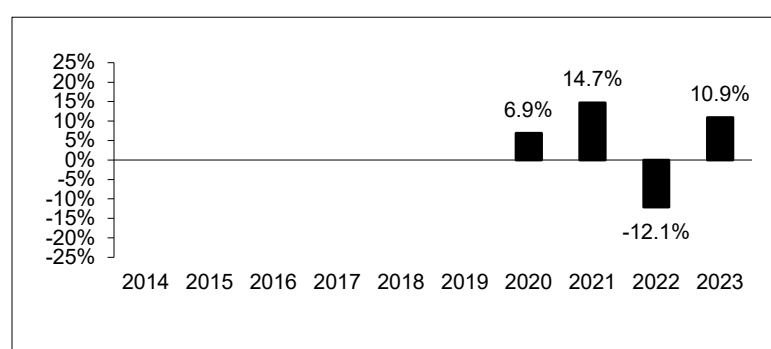
## Past Performance

The performance information shown assumes that all distributions made by the Fund in the periods shown were reinvested in additional units of the Fund. The performance information does not take into account sales, redemptions, distributions or other optional charges that would have reduced returns or performance. Past performance does not necessarily indicate how the Fund will perform in the future.

### Year-by-Year Returns

The bar charts below show the Fund's annual performance for each of the years shown and illustrates how the Fund's performance has changed from year to year. The charts show, 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.

#### Series A



### Annual Compound Returns

The following table shows the Fund's annual compound total return for the past one-year, three-year, and five-year periods ended on December 31, 2023, and since the inception of the Fund, compared with the Morningstar Developed Markets Index and the Morningstar Canada Index.

	1 YR	3 YR	5 YR	Since Inception
Steadyhand Builders Fund	10.9%	3.8%	N/A	5.5%
Morningstar Developed Markets Index (\$Cdn)	19.6%	7.8%	N/A	7.3%
Morningstar Canada Index	11.3%	9.0%	N/A	5.2%

The Morningstar Developed Markets Index measures the performance of developed regional markets targeting 97% of stocks by market capitalization. The Morningstar Canada Index measures the performance of Canada's equity markets targeting the top 97% of stocks by market capitalization.

A discussion of the relative performance of the Fund as compared to the indices can be found in the Results of Operations section.

## Summary of Investment Portfolio as at December 31, 2023

### Portfolio Allocation

	% of Net Assets
Pooled Investment Funds	99.5%
Cash & Other Assets	<u>0.5%</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>100.0%</u></u>

### Top 5 Holdings

	% of Net Assets
Steadyhand Global Equity Fund, Series O	34.9%
Steadyhand Equity Fund, Series O	34.9%
Steadyhand Small-Cap Equity Fund, Series O	14.9%
Steadyhand Global Small-Cap Equity Fund, Series O	14.8%
Cash & cash equivalents	0.6%

The summary of investment portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund. Quarterly updates are available (60 days after each quarter end) upon request.

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**Steadyhand**

Management  
Report of Fund  
Performance

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**Steadyhand Equity Fund**

December 31, 2023





# Steadyhand Equity Fund

## Annual Management Report of Fund Performance (December 31, 2023)

This annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete audited annual financial statements of the investment fund. You can get a copy of the audited annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling 1-888-888-3147, by writing to us at Steadyhand Investment Management Ltd., 1747 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6J 1K7 or by visiting our website at [www.steadyhand.com](http://www.steadyhand.com) or SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

Unitholders 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.

## Management Discussion of Fund Performance

### Investment Objective and Strategies

The fundamental investment objective of the Steadyhand Equity Fund (the "Fund") is to provide long-term capital growth by investing primarily in a concentrated, yet well-diversified portfolio of North American equities. The Fund also invests a small portion of its assets in overseas equities for added diversification.

The portfolio advisor looks for companies that have a history of profitability, a sustainable competitive advantage and are run by management teams that are committed to increasing shareholder value. As part of their investment process and discipline, the portfolio advisor invests in a maximum of 25 stocks.

### Risks

The primary risks associated with an investment in the Fund are market risks, including interest rate risk, foreign currency risk, price risk, and concentration risk. The other risks are outlined in the simplified prospectus. There were no material changes to the Fund over the reporting period that affected its overall level of risk.

### Results of Operations

Over the year, the Fund's net assets decreased to \$290.0 million as of December 31, 2023, from \$277.8 million at the end of 2022. This increase of \$12.2 million was attributable to an increase in net assets from operations of \$19.4 million over the reporting period less net redemptions of \$2.6 million and less distributions to unitholders of approximately \$4.6 million.

The Fund rose 5.9% in 2023. Over the same period, the Morningstar Canada Index gained 11.3%, while the Morningstar Developed Markets Index rose 19.6% in Canadian dollar terms. The Fund underperformed the market due in part to its lighter exposure to the technology sector (the best performing industry in 2023) and its non-benchmark oriented composition.

In addition, two of our larger holdings weighed on performance, Franco-Nevada and Metro. Franco, a gold-focused royalty company, fell 20%. It was impacted when one of its key assets, the Cobre Panama mine (operated by its partner First Quantum) halted production after a court ruling found the mine's contract unconstitutional. The appropriate legal avenues are now being pursued. Metro, the third largest grocer in Canada, lost 10%. The company generated solid earnings but softened its outlook for 2024 due to planned investments in its operations. While these expenditures will have a short-term impact on profits, they are likely to pay off longer term.

Two of our more interest rate sensitive holdings, Telus and Brookfield Renewable, also had a weak year as short-term rates rose to multi-decade highs and investors soured on telecoms and utilities, as their dividends are deemed less attractive.

Our U.S. holdings were a bright spot. Microsoft led the pack, gaining more than 50%. The company has excellent fundamentals and promising opportunities in AI. Financial intelligence provider S&P Global, digital payments leader Visa, and derivatives exchange operator CME Group also turned in great returns.

Not owning any oil stocks was also a positive in the year, as the energy sector turned in muted performance and lagged the broader market. Our portfolio adviser, Fiera Capital, feels oil companies are typically very cyclical, and there are better opportunities elsewhere.

Foreign stocks continued to make up a significant part of the Fund over the reporting period, comprising 42-48% of its assets. These stocks provide exposure to global businesses not available in Canada, notably in the healthcare, technology and consumer sectors. The Fund's largest foreign holdings in terms of their weight in the portfolio are Visa (U.S.), Sika (Switzerland), S&P Global (U.S.), and Microsoft (U.S.).

Currency movements had a modest impact on returns, with the British Pound rising slightly against the loonie (boosting returns), and the U.S. dollar falling (dampening returns). Notably, the Japanese Yen fell 10% (we own one Japanese stock, with a weighting of 4%).

Turnover in the portfolio was higher than in previous years, and is discussed in detail in the Recent Developments section.

There were a few changes to the Fund's overall sector composition in the year. Financial services companies increased from 26% to 30% of the Fund's equities, technology stocks increased from 8% to 15%, and retailing stocks from 5% to 11%. Basic materials stocks, on the other hand, decreased from 10% to 6%, healthcare from 9% to 5%, and utilities & pipelines from 5% to 0%.

The portfolio's geographic profile changed modestly over the reporting period. The weighting of Canadian stocks started the year at 52% of the portfolio's equities but ended the year at 58%. The weighting of U.S. stocks started at 30% and ended at 29%, while overseas stocks started at 18% but finished the year at 13%.

The Fund's cash position started the year at 3% of total assets and finished at 2%.

There were no unusual trends in redemptions, sales, revenues or expenses over the reporting period.

### **Recent Developments**

The Canadian stock market experienced a solid rebound in 2023, rising 11.3%. It was a bumpy year, nonetheless, with most of the gains coming in the fourth quarter after central banks hinted that their interest rate hiking campaigns are likely over. Technology and healthcare stocks were areas of strength, while the materials, telecom, and utilities sectors were weak.

Global stocks rose nearly 20% in Canadian dollar terms. The U.S. market was among the best performing owing to its concentration of seven technology-related stocks coined the *Magnificent 7* that accounted for nearly two-thirds of the market's return. European markets also performed well, with the consumer discretionary sector turning in a strong showing. Small-cap stocks trailed their larger counterparts, and emerging markets lagged developed markets, on balance.

Currencies experienced muted moves in the year, generally speaking, and their impact on performance is discussed in the previous section. At the end of the year, the Fund held six U.S. stocks, one British, one European, and one Japanese equity.

There was more turnover in the portfolio than usual (most of it taking place later in the year) as the Fund's long-standing lead manager, Gord O'Reilly, prepared for retirement at the end of the year. Gord worked closely with our new manager who will take over the portfolio on January 1, 2024, Nessim Mansoor (both are senior managers at Fiera Capital, our portfolio adviser), in transitioning the portfolio to bring in some of Nessim's favoured companies. These include Intact Financial, Constellation Software, Dollarama, TMX Group, and CGI. Brookfield, CSL Limited, HDFC Bank, and CAE were sold to fund the new purchases.

The Fund held 25 stocks at the end of 2023, which is one more than it owned at the end of 2022.

Financial services companies make up the largest portion of the Fund, comprising 31% of investments. These investments span well beyond traditional banking. They include S&P Global (financial information and analytics), CME Group (Chicago Mercantile Exchange), TMX Group (stock exchange operator), and Visa (credit cards and payments), along with TD Bank (Canada's premier retail bank). Fiera likes the prospects for the sector and believes our holdings trade at attractive prices.

Industrial goods & services companies also represent a large component of the Fund (30%). This is a broad sector that includes a diverse range of businesses, ranging from railway operators CN Rail and Canadian Pacific Kansas City, to industrial auctioneer RB Global, to heavy equipment dealer Toromont Industries.

A notable feature of the Fund is that it currently has no direct investments in the energy sector. Fiera feels there are better opportunities in other industries. Energy stocks make up 17% of the Canadian market, meaning the Fund will likely lag in an environment where oil & gas stocks are running strong.

With nearly half of the Fund's investments listed on foreign exchanges, the impact of currency fluctuations remains a risk of the Fund. More specifically, it has exposure to the U.S. dollar, British Pound, Japanese Yen, and Swiss Franc.

There were no other changes over the reporting period to the manager, portfolio advisor, accounting policies or investment review committee of the Fund.

## **Related Party Transactions**

### ***Management Fees***

Steadyhand Investment Management Ltd. is the Manager of the Fund. The Manager provides the Fund with investment management services, including fund accounting and unitholder record keeping. In return, the Manager receives a management fee based on the net assets of the Fund, calculated on a daily basis. The Fund relies on the positive recommendation or approval of the independent review committee to proceed with the transactions. The annualized net management fee for the units of the Fund is 1.42%. For the year ending December 31, 2023, the Fund paid gross fees of \$1,410,898 to the Manager and distributed \$505,467 in management fee reductions. The Fund does not reimburse the Manager for operating costs incurred in administering the Fund which include:

- fees payable to provincial securities commissions in connection with the operation of the funds;
- audit and legal fees;
- costs for preparation, production and distribution of financial and other reports, including semi-annual and annual reports, statements,
- communications to unitholders and other regularly required documents;
- costs for the preparation, production and distribution of this simplified prospectus document and other regulatory documents, including Fund Facts;
- expenditures related to technology required to operate the funds;
- custody, investor servicing, record keeping, accounting, trustee fees and bank charges;
- costs of compliance with applicable securities legislation in connection with the operation of the funds; and
- applicable taxes including GST/HST.

The Manager paid all operating expenses except brokerage charges and withholding taxes.

The Fund does not directly or indirectly pay fees, sales commissions or trailing commissions, nor does it provide any non-monetary benefits to registered dealers for distributions of units of the Fund. If a broker charges you a commission or fee, that is a matter between you and the dealer.

As at December 31, 2023, Steadyhand Investment Management Ltd. and its affiliates, subsidiaries, officers and directors owned 120,692 Series A units, or 2.8% of the total Fund Series A units. The Steadyhand Founders Fund and Steadyhand Builders Fund hold 100% of the total Fund Series O units and pay no management fees.

## 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 since the date of inception. This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements.

<b>Series A – Net Assets Per Unit</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2023</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2022</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2021</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2020</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2019</b>
<b>Net Assets, beginning of period <sup>1,3</sup></b>	<b>\$21.57</b>	<b>\$25.23</b>	<b>\$21.93</b>	<b>\$19.27</b>	<b>\$16.72</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>					
Total revenue	0.44	0.40	0.31	0.31	0.38
Total expenses (excluding distributions)	(0.20)	(0.21)	(0.22)	(0.19)	(0.18)
Realized gains for the period	0.26	0.78	1.16	0.69	1.22
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	0.89	(3.84)	2.68	1.93	1.61
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>1.39</b>	<b>(2.87)</b>	<b>3.93</b>	<b>2.74</b>	<b>3.03</b>
<b>Distributions :</b>					
From investment income (excluding dividends)	(0.03)	-	-	-	(0.10)
Dividends	(0.08)	(0.04)	-	(0.11)	(0.16)
From capital gains	-	(0.65)	(0.54)	-	(0.02)
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total distributions for the period <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>(0.11)</b>	<b>(0.69)</b>	<b>(0.54)</b>	<b>(0.11)</b>	<b>(0.28)</b>
<b>Net Assets, end of period</b>	<b>\$22.73</b>	<b>\$21.57</b>	<b>\$25.23</b>	<b>\$21.93</b>	<b>\$19.27</b>

<b>Series A - Ratios and Supplemental Data</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2023</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2022</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2021</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2020</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2019</b>
Net asset value (000's) <sup>4</sup>	\$98,061	\$96,831	\$114,282	\$100,297	\$99,181
Number of units outstanding <sup>4</sup>	4,314,029	4,488,282	4,529,828	4,572,919	5,147,441
Management expense ratio <sup>5</sup>	1.42%	1.42%	1.42%	1.42%	1.42%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions	1.42%	1.42%	1.42%	1.42%	1.42%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>6</sup>	24.37%	19.04%	15.46%	27.52%	29.37%
Trading expense ratio <sup>7</sup>	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.03%	0.05%
Net asset value per unit	\$22.73	\$21.57	\$25.23	\$21.93	\$19.27

<b>Series O – Net Assets Per Unit</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2023</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2022</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2021</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2020</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2019</b>
<b>Net Assets, beginning of period <sup>1,3</sup></b>	<b>\$22.49</b>	<b>\$26.34</b>	<b>\$22.83</b>	<b>\$19.95</b>	<b>\$17.24</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>					
Total revenue	0.47	0.42	0.32	0.32	0.40
Total expenses (excluding distributions)	-	-	-	-	-
Realized gains for the period	0.26	0.80	1.22	0.72	1.26
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	0.95	(3.76)	2.89	2.67	1.55
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>1.68</b>	<b>(2.54)</b>	<b>4.43</b>	<b>3.71</b>	<b>3.21</b>
<b>Distributions :</b>					
From investment income (excluding dividends)	(0.13)	(0.05)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.19)
From dividends	(0.33)	(0.35)	(0.27)	(0.32)	(0.29)
From capital gains	-	(0.68)	(0.57)	-	(0.02)
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total distributions for the period <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>(0.46)</b>	<b>(1.08)</b>	<b>(0.85)</b>	<b>(0.33)</b>	<b>(0.50)</b>
<b>Net Assets, end of period</b>	<b>\$23.69</b>	<b>\$22.49</b>	<b>\$26.34</b>	<b>\$22.83</b>	<b>\$19.95</b>

<b>Series O - Ratios and Supplemental Data</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2023</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2022</b>	<b>Dec 31 2021</b>	<b>Dec 31 2020</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2019</b>
Net asset value (000's) <sup>4</sup>	\$191,986	\$180,964	\$176,040	\$133,796	\$112,258
Number of units outstanding <sup>4</sup>	8,104,786	8,045,690	6,683,425	5,861,781	5,625,804
Management expense ratio <sup>5</sup>	-	-	-	-	-
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions	-	-	-	-	-
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>6</sup>	24.37%	19.04%	15.46%	27.52%	29.37%
Trading expense ratio <sup>7</sup>	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.03%	0.05%
Net asset value per unit	\$23.69	\$22.49	\$26.34	\$22.83	\$19.95

<sup>1</sup>Net asset value and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase/decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial period.

<sup>2</sup>Distributions were paid in cash/reinvested in additional units of the Fund, or both.

<sup>3</sup>This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements as at December 31 for the period stated.

<sup>4</sup>The information is provided as at December 31 of the period shown.

<sup>5</sup>Management expense ratio is based on total expenses for the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net assets during the period.

<sup>6</sup>The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio advisor manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the period. The higher a fund's portfolio turnover in a period, the greater the trading costs payable by the fund in the period, 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.

<sup>7</sup>The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net assets during the period.

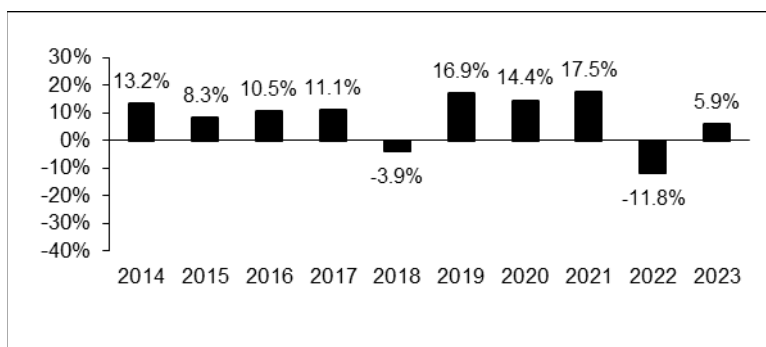
## Past Performance

The performance information shown assumes that all distributions made by the Fund in the periods shown were reinvested in additional units of the Fund. The performance information does not take into account sales, redemptions, distributions or other optional charges that would have reduced returns or performance. Past performance does not necessarily indicate how the Fund will perform in the future.

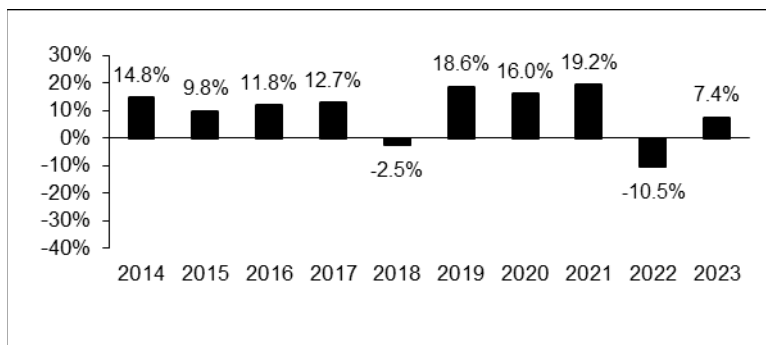
### Year-by-Year Returns

The bar charts below show the Fund's annual performance for each of the years shown, and illustrates how the Fund's performance has changed from year to year. The charts show, 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.

#### Series A



#### Series O



Series O units of the Fund were first offered for sale in February 2012.

### **Annual Compound Returns**

The following table shows the Fund's annual compound total return for the past one-year, three-year, five-year, and ten-year periods ended on December 31, 2023, and since the inception of the Fund, compared with the Morningstar Canada Index and the Morningstar Developed Markets Index.

	<b>1 YR</b>	<b>3 YR</b>	<b>5 YR</b>	<b>10 YR</b>	<b>Since Inception*</b>
Steadyhand Equity Fund – A	5.9%	3.1%	8.0%	7.8%	6.5%
Steadyhand Equity Fund – O	7.4%	4.6%	9.5%	9.4%	N/A
Morningstar Canada Index	11.3%	9.0%	10.6%	6.8%	5.2%
Morningstar Developed Markets Index	19.6%	7.8%	11.5%	10.7%	7.3%

\* Series O units have a different inception date (February 17, 2012) are not available for purchase.

The Morningstar Canada Index measures the performance of Canada's equity markets targeting the top 97% of stocks by market capitalization. The Morningstar Developed Markets Index measures the performance of developed regional markets targeting 97% of stocks by market capitalization.

A discussion of the relative performance of the Fund as compared to the indices can be found in the Results of Operations section.



**Summary of Investment Portfolio as of December 31, 2023****Portfolio Allocation**

<b>Equities</b>	<b>% of Net Assets</b>
Financial Services	30.5%
Industrial Goods & Services	29.4%
Technology	14.6%
Retailing	10.5%
Basic Materials	5.5%
Healthcare	4.5%
Communications & Media	3.0%
	<hr/>
	98.0%
Cash, Short-term Notes & Other Assets	2.0%
<b>Total</b>	<hr/> <hr/>
	100.0%

**Top 25 Holdings****% of Net Assets**

Visa Inc. Cl. A	6.3%
Canadian National Railway Co.	5.7%
Sika AG	5.3%
S&P Global Inc.	5.3%
Thomson Reuters Corp.	5.0%
Toronto-Dominion Bank	4.9%
Microsoft Corp.	4.5%
Danaher Corp.	4.5%
Metro Inc.	4.4%
Toromont Industries Ltd.	4.1%
CME Group	4.0%
Franco-Nevada Corp.	4.0%
Keyence Corp.	3.9%
CCL Industries Inc.	3.5%
Aon PLC	3.4%
Intact Financial Corp.	3.3%
TMX Group Ltd.	3.3%
Costco Wholesale Corp.	3.2%
Canadian Pacific Kansas City Ltd.	3.1%
Constellation Software Inc.	3.1%
CGI Inc.	3.1%
TELUS Corp.	3.0%
Dollarama Inc.	2.9%
RB Global Inc.	2.8%
Nutrien Ltd.	1.5%

The summary of investment portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund. Quarterly updates are available (60 days after each quarter end) upon request.

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**Steadyhand**

# Management Report of Fund Performance

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**Steadyhand Global Equity Fund**

December 31, 2023



# Steadyhand Global Equity Fund

## Annual Management Report of Fund Performance (December 31, 2023)

This annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete audited annual financial statements of the investment fund. You can get a copy of the audited annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling 1-888-888-3147, by writing to us at Steadyhand Investment Management Ltd., 1747 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6J 1K7 or by visiting our website at [www.steadyhand.com](http://www.steadyhand.com) or SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

Unitholders 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.

## Management Discussion of Fund Performance

### Investment Objective and Strategies

The fundamental investment objective of the Steadyhand Global Equity Fund (the "Fund") is to provide long-term capital growth by investing in a concentrated, yet well-diversified portfolio of equities around the globe, with a focus on the developed world.

The portfolio adviser looks for companies that have a proven ability to generate strong and stable cash flows, can be expected to gain market share over the long term, and trade at reasonable valuations. Stocks are not included in the Fund by reference to their weight in an index or by their market capitalization. The manager simply looks for the best risk-adjusted opportunities.

### Risks

The primary risks associated with an investment in the Fund are foreign market risk, concentration risk and currency risk. The other risks are outlined in the simplified prospectus. There were no changes to the Fund over the reporting period that affected its overall level of risk.

### Results of Operations

Over the reporting period, the Fund's net assets increased by \$14.7 million to \$248.9 million as of December 31, 2023, from \$234.2 million at the end of 2022. This increase was attributable to a \$38.2 million increase in net assets from operations less net redemptions of \$19.7 million and \$3.8 million in unitholder distributions.

The Fund rose 15.3% in 2023, while the Morningstar Developed Markets Index (\$Cdn) gained 19.6%. Stock markets had a strong year, rebounding nicely after a weak 2022. The gains, however, were uneven. Mega-cap tech stocks surged (the 'Magnificent 7' in specific) on enthusiasm around artificial intelligence, while more interest rate sensitive sectors like telecoms, utilities, and REITs lagged. Energy stocks also struggled.

Currency movements had a modest impact on returns: the Euro and British Pound rose slightly against the Canadian dollar (boosting European and U.K. stock returns in \$Cdn terms); the U.S. dollar fell a little (dampening returns); and the Japanese Yen lost 10%.

The Fund trailed the global index in 2023, due largely to our lower exposure to technology stocks, and the *Magnificent 7* in particular (more on this below). Our top performers comprised a diverse group of businesses including Adobe (software for creators), Lennar (homebuilder), Martin Marietta (heavy

building materials), and Microsoft (technology). Canadian uranium leader Cameco was also a standout this year, gaining over 85%. The world is warming up to the notion that nuclear power will be an essential part of the energy transition. Uranium mining is heavily regulated and Cameco has the licensed capacity to produce over 30 million pounds of fuel concentrates annually.

We also owned a handful of stocks that had a disappointing year, including FMC (agriculture science), AIA Group (insurance), DSM-Firmenich (perfume and beauty), and Nidec (electric motors).

Artificial intelligence was the business story of the year. Investors rushed to stocks positioned to benefit from its growing adoption, specifically the Magnificent 7 which includes Apple, Alphabet, Amazon, Meta, Microsoft, Nvidia, and Tesla. Of the group, the only one we own is Microsoft. While this held back performance, our portfolio adviser (Aristotle Capital) is wary of the valuations the others are trading at. We have exposure to AI, however, through our semiconductor and software holdings (Qualcomm, Samsung, Microchip Technology, Adobe, Nemetschek). These haven't benefited to the same extent as the companies in the headlines, but stand to gain from improvements in productivity made possible by AI.

Turnover was minimal in 2023. Two stocks were purchased, while two were sold.

At year-end, the Fund held 49 stocks (the same number as last year), of which 22 are domiciled in the U.S., 12 in Europe, 8 in Japan, 3 in Asia Pacific, 2 in the U.K., and 2 in Canada. Companies range in size from mega-cap Microsoft to small-cap FirstCash Holdings.

There were some minor changes to the Fund's overall sector composition in the year. Specifically, technology companies increased from 19% of the Fund's equities at the beginning of the year to 21% at December 31, while consumer-related stocks decreased from 20% to 18%.

From a geographic standpoint, there were also a few small changes. American stocks remain the greatest area of exposure, comprising 49% of the portfolio's equities, up from 47% at the end of 2022. The weighting of European stocks increased from 21% to 23%, while Japanese stocks decreased from 14% to 13% and Asia-Pacific equities from 8% to 7%.

The Fund's cash position finished the year where it started, at 2%.

There were no unusual trends in redemptions, sales, revenues or expenses over the reporting period.

### **Recent Developments**

Global stocks rose nearly 20% in Canadian dollar terms in 2023, marking a strong rebound following a weak 2022. The U.S. market was among the best performing owing to its concentration of seven stocks coined the *Magnificent 7* (see previous section) that accounted for nearly two-thirds of the market's return. European markets also performed well, with the consumer discretionary sector turning in a strong showing. Small-cap stocks trailed their larger counterparts, and emerging markets lagged developed markets, on balance.

Currencies experienced muted moves in the year, generally speaking. The loonie appreciated 3% against the U.S. dollar, which dampened the returns of American stocks in Canadian dollar terms. Our dollar fell modestly against the Euro (-1%) and British Pound (-3%), boosting the returns of stocks in these currencies. The biggest move was seen in the Japanese Yen, which depreciated 10%. This had a more notable negative impact on the \$Cdn returns of Japanese stocks.

As noted in the previous section, two new holdings were added to the Fund, Jazz Pharmaceuticals (a leader in sleep treatments) and Monotaro (a Japanese B2B e-commerce firm). Veralto, which specializes

in water quality, was also spun out of Danaher. Brookfield Asset Management, Magna International, and Kubota were sold.

With interest rates stabilizing and the Federal Reserve hinting late in the year that its hiking campaign is over (and cuts could come next year), markets saw a return of merger and acquisition activity. Concrete manufacturer Martin Marietta sold its South Texas cement division while industrial juggernaut Honeywell purchased Carrier's building security business. Both transactions were cheered by investors.

Industrial goods and services companies comprise the largest part of the Fund (25%). Holdings are diverse and include RPM International (U.S. maker of specialty coatings, sealants, and building materials), Assa Abloy (maker of locks and related products for doors, gates, and other entrances), Rational (German manufacturer of commercial ovens), Honeywell (U.S. maker of control panels, and electrical & wiring solutions), and Oshkosh Corporation (manufacturer of specialty trucks).

Technology companies are also an important area of investment (20%). Our focus is on established industry leaders. Microsoft is the Fund's largest holding. Other investments include Samsung Electronics (batteries, semiconductors, image sensors), Dolby Laboratories (audio, visual, and voice technologies) Qualcomm (microchips), Adobe (software), and Nemetschek (software). Aristotle believes these stocks trade at more attractive valuations than some of their mega-cap peers, and as such have a more compelling risk/reward profile.

Energy companies continue to comprise only a small portion of the portfolio (3%), with our only holding being TotalEnergies. Total is one on the seven "supermajors" that is also leading its peers in the renewables space. Likewise, other commodity-related stocks represent a small component (3%). Cameco, highlighted in the previous section, represents our only holding in the basics materials industry.

In total, the Fund held 49 stocks at the end of 2023. Microsoft and Lennar (U.S. homebuilder) are the two largest holdings, each making up 4.6%.

An ongoing risk for investors in the Fund is the impact of currency fluctuations. Most of the Fund's holdings are denominated in foreign currencies. The greatest exposure lies in the U.S. dollar, Euro, and Japanese Yen. The Fund also has exposure to the British Pound, Singapore dollar, South Korean Won, Swedish Krona, Hong Kong dollar, and Swiss Franc. If the Canadian dollar strengthens against these currencies, the Fund's return will be dampened. Conversely, a depreciation of the loonie would boost returns.

There were no changes over the reporting period to the manager, accounting policies or investment review committee of the Fund.

## **Related Party Transactions**

### ***Management Fees***

Steadyhand Investment Management Ltd. is the Manager of the Fund. The Manager provides the Fund with investment management services, including fund accounting and unitholder record keeping. In return, the Manager receives a management fee based on the net assets of the Fund, calculated on a daily basis. The Fund relies on the positive recommendation or approval of the independent review committee to proceed with the transactions. The annualized net management fee for the units of the Fund is 1.78%. For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Fund paid the Manager \$934,318 of its net assets as management fees and distributed \$364,423 in management fee reductions. The Fund does not reimburse the Manager for operating costs incurred in administering the Fund which include:

- fees payable to provincial securities commissions in connection with the operation of the funds;
- audit and legal fees;
- costs for preparation, production and distribution of financial and other reports, including semi-annual and annual reports, statements,
- communications to unitholders and other regularly required documents;
- costs for the preparation, production and distribution of this simplified prospectus document and other regulatory documents, including Fund Facts;
- expenditures related to technology required to operate the funds;
- custody, investor servicing, record keeping, accounting, trustee fees and
- bank charges;
- costs of compliance with applicable securities legislation in connection with the operation of the funds; and
- applicable taxes including GST/HST.

The Manager paid all operating expenses except brokerage charges and withholding taxes.

The Fund does not directly or indirectly pay fees, sales commissions or trailing commissions, nor does it provide any non-monetary benefits to registered dealers for distributions of units of the Fund. If a broker charges you a commission or fee, that is a matter between you and the dealer.

As at December 31, 2023, Steadyhand Investment Management Ltd., and its affiliates, subsidiaries, officers and directors owned 359,918 Series A units, or 5.9% of the total Fund Series A units. The Steadyhand Founders Fund and Steadyhand Builders Fund hold 100% of the total Fund Series O units and pay no management fees.

## 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 since the date of inception. This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements.

<b>Series A – Net Assets Per Unit</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2023</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2022</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2021</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2020</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2019</b>
<b>Net Assets, beginning of period <sup>1,3</sup></b>	<b>\$ 7.66</b>	<b>\$ 8.83</b>	<b>\$8.36</b>	<b>\$8.53</b>	<b>\$7.84</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>					
Total revenue	0.15	0.13	0.12	0.13	0.21
Total expenses (excluding distributions)	(0.20)	(0.19)	(0.22)	(0.17)	(0.20)
Realized gains (losses) for the period	(0.03)	(0.07)	1.22	(0.48)	0.11
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	1.30	(0.98)	0.04	0.32	0.84
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>1.22</b>	<b>(1.11)</b>	<b>1.16</b>	<b>(0.20)</b>	<b>0.96</b>
<b>Distributions :</b>					
From investment income (excluding dividends)	-	(0.01)	-	(0.07)	(0.07)
From dividends	-	-	-	-	-
From capital gains	-	-	(0.61)	-	(0.11)
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total distributions for the period <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(0.01)</b>	<b>(0.61)</b>	<b>(0.07)</b>	<b>(0.18)</b>
<b>Net Assets, end of period</b>	<b>\$ 8.82</b>	<b>\$ 7.66</b>	<b>\$8.83</b>	<b>\$8.36</b>	<b>\$8.53</b>

<b>Series A - Ratios and Supplemental Data</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2023</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2022</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2021</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2020</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2019</b>
Net asset value (000's) <sup>4</sup>	\$ 54,206	\$ 50,553	\$60,651	\$58,918	\$68,833
Number of units outstanding <sup>4</sup>	6,142,735	6,602,323	6,865,089	7,050,543	8,074,139
Management expense ratio <sup>5</sup>	1.78%	1.78%	1.78%	1.78%	1.78%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions	1.78%	1.78%	1.79%	1.78%	1.78%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>6</sup>	4.58%	17.33%	154.13%	39.90%	13.55%
Trading expense ratio <sup>7</sup>	0.01%	0.04%	0.28%	0.07%	0.01%
Net asset value per unit	\$ 8.82	\$ 7.66	\$8.83	\$8.36	\$8.53



<b>Series O – Net Assets Per Unit</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2023</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2022</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2021</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2020</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2019</b>
<b>Net Assets, beginning of period <sup>1,3</sup></b>	<b>\$ 8.06</b>	<b>\$ 9.31</b>	<b>\$8.76</b>	<b>\$8.88</b>	<b>\$8.13</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>					
Total revenue	0.15	0.14	0.13	0.14	0.22
Total expenses (excluding distributions)	-	-	-	-	-
Realized gains (losses) for the period	(0.04)	(0.08)	1.28	(0.49)	0.11
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	1.30	(0.98)	(0.07)	0.93	0.72
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>(0.92)</b>	<b>1.34</b>	<b>0.58</b>	<b>1.05</b>
<b>Distributions :</b>					
From investment income (excluding dividends)	(0.16)	(0.15)	(0.12)	(0.17)	(0.19)
From dividends	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	-	-
From capital gains	-	-	(0.65)	-	(0.12)
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total distributions for the period <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>(0.17)</b>	<b>(0.16)</b>	<b>(0.78)</b>	<b>(0.17)</b>	<b>(0.31)</b>
<b>Net Assets, end of period</b>	<b>\$ 9.30</b>	<b>\$ 8.06</b>	<b>\$9.31</b>	<b>\$8.76</b>	<b>\$8.88</b>

<b>Series O - Ratios and Supplemental Data</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2023</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2022</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2021</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2020</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2019</b>
Net asset value (000's) <sup>4</sup>	\$ 194,663	\$ 183,679	\$176,165	\$161,825	\$133,296
Number of units outstanding <sup>4</sup>	20,941,169	22,780,795	18,922,448	18,454,620	15,004,429
Management expense ratio <sup>5</sup>	-	-	-	-	-
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions	-	-	0.01%	-	-
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>6</sup>	4.58%	17.33%	154.13%	39.90%	13.55%
Trading expense ratio <sup>7</sup>	0.01%	0.04%	0.28%	0.07%	0.01%
Net asset value per unit	\$ 9.30	\$ 8.06	\$9.31	\$8.76	\$8.88

<sup>1</sup>Net asset value and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase/decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial period.

<sup>2</sup>Distributions were paid in cash/reinvested in additional units of the Fund, or both.

<sup>3</sup>This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements as at December 31 for the period stated.

<sup>4</sup>The information is provided as at December 31 of the period shown.

<sup>5</sup>Management expense ratio is based on total expenses for the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net assets during the period.

<sup>6</sup>The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio advisor manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher a fund's portfolio turnover in a period, the greater the trading costs payable by the fund in the period, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the period. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a fund.

<sup>7</sup>The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net assets during the period.

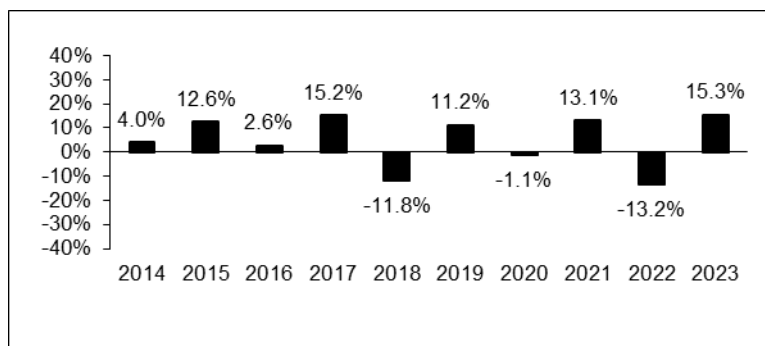
## Past Performance

The performance information shown assumes that all distributions made by the Fund in the periods shown were reinvested in additional units of the Fund. The performance information does not take into account sales, redemptions, distributions or other optional charges that would have reduced returns or performance. Past performance does not necessarily indicate how the Fund will perform in the future.

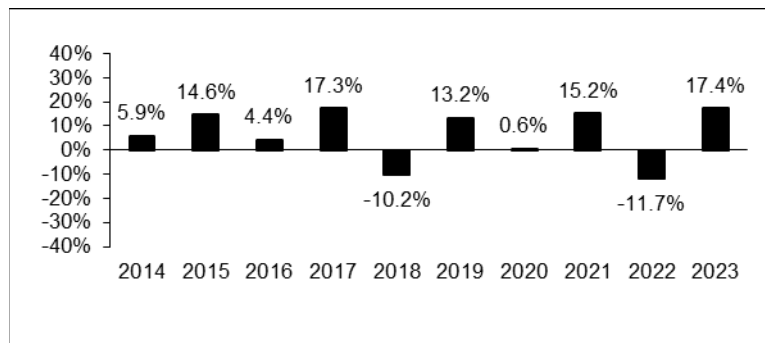
### Year-by-Year Returns

The bar charts below show the Fund's annual performance for each of the 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 each financial year.

#### Series A



#### Series O



Series O units of the Fund were first offered for sale in February 2012.

### Annual Compound Returns

The following table shows the Fund's annual compound total return for the past one-year, three-year, five-year, and ten-year periods ended on December 31, 2023, and since the inception of the Fund, compared with the Morningstar Developed Markets Index (\$Cdn).

	1 YR	3 YR	5 YR	10 YR	Since Inception*
Steadyhand Global Equity Fund – A	15.3%	4.2%	4.5%	4.3%	2.8%
Steadyhand Global Equity Fund – O	17.4%	6.1%	6.3%	6.1%	N/A
Morningstar Developed Markets Index	19.6%	7.8%	11.5%	10.7%	7.3%

\* Series O units have a different inception date (February 17, 2012) and are not available for purchase.

The Morningstar Developed Markets Index measures the performance of developed regional markets targeting 97% of stocks by market capitalization.

A discussion of the relative performance of the Fund as compared to the indices can be found in the Results of Operations section.

### Summary of Investment Portfolio as at December 31, 2023

#### Portfolio Allocation

Global Equities	% of Net Assets
Industrial Goods & Services	24.3%
Technology	20.3%
Financial Services	13.5%
Healthcare	13.1%
Consumer Cyclical	12.6%
Consumer Products	4.9%
Basic Materials	3.2%
Oil & Gas	2.9%
Communications & Media	1.7%
Retailing	1.4%
	<hr/>
	97.9%
	<hr/>
Cash, Short-term Notes & Other Assets	2.1%
	<hr/>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Top 25 Holdings

	% of Net Assets
Microsoft Corp.	4.6%
Lennar Corp.	4.5%
Martin Marietta Materials Inc.	3.2%
Cameco Corp.	3.2%
Adobe Inc.	3.1%
Microchip Technology Inc.	3.1%
TotalEnergies SE	2.9%
Muenchener Rueckversicherungs-Gesellschaft AG	2.8%
Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.	2.7%
FirstCash Holdings Inc.	2.7%
Sony Group Corp.	2.6%
Amgen Inc.	2.5%
Oshkosh Corp.	2.2%
DBS Group Holdings Ltd.	2.2%
RPM International Inc.	2.1%
Nemetschek SE	2.1%
Cie Generale des Etablissements Michelin SCA	2.1%
Cash & cash equivalents	2.1%
QUALCOMM Inc.	2.1%
LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE	2.0%
Danaher Corp.	2.0%
MonotaRO Co., Ltd.	2.0%
Brookfield Corp.	2.0%
Alcon Inc.	2.0%
Dolby Laboratories Inc.	2.0%

The summary of investment portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund. Quarterly updates are available (60 days after each quarter end) upon request.

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**Steadyhand**

# Management Report of Fund Performance

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**Steadyhand Small-Cap Equity Fund**

December 31, 2023



# Steadyhand Small-Cap Equity Fund

## Annual Management Report of Fund Performance (December 31, 2023)

This annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete audited annual financial statements of the investment fund. You can get a copy of the audited annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling 1-888-888-3147, by writing to us at Steadyhand Investment Management Ltd., 1747 West 3rd Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6J 1K7 or by visiting our website at [www.steadyhand.com](http://www.steadyhand.com) or SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

Unitholders 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.

## Management Discussion of Fund Performance

### Investment Objective and Strategies

The fundamental investment objective of the Steadyhand Small-Cap Equity Fund (the "Fund") is to provide long-term capital growth by investing primarily in a concentrated portfolio of small and medium sized companies in Canada and the U.S., with an emphasis on Canadian equities.

The portfolio adviser looks for companies that have products or services that are easy to understand, proven track records of growing revenues, and experienced management teams.

### Risks

The primary risks associated with an investment in the Fund are market risk, concentration risk and small capitalization risk. The other risks are outlined in the simplified prospectus. There were no material changes to the Fund over the reporting period that affected its overall level of risk.

### Results of Operations

For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Fund's net assets increased to \$108.7 million, from \$106.3 million at the end of 2022. This increase of \$2.4 million was attributable to an increase in net assets from operations of \$18.2 million less net redemptions of \$4.9 million and \$10.9 million paid in distributions to unitholders.

The Fund rose 16.6% in 2023. Over the same period, the Morningstar Canada Small Cap Index gained 4.2%.

The fund had a strong year, outpacing the index by a wide margin. Performance was led by electrical transformers manufacturer Hammond Power Solutions (+300%). Our other industrial and energy investments also turned in strong results, notably SNC Lavalin, Parkland, Badger Infrastructure Solutions, Boyd Group Services, and MEG Energy.

Three holdings in specific detracted from performance, clothing retailer Aritzia, clean power producer Northland Power, and funeral & cemetery provider Park Lawn. Aritzia came under pressure after a decline in consumer spending, Northland struggled as new competitors have entered the industry, and Park Lawn suffered from lower volumes and weak sentiment. Our portfolio adviser, Galibier Capital,

believes these are temporary setbacks and that all three companies maintain competitive positions in their respective industries.

Consumer discretionary stocks struggled as higher interest rates bit into consumers' budgets. Along with Aritzia, mattress specialist Sleep Country Canada felt the impact over the first three quarters of the year before rebounding late in the year.

The market was once again volatile in 2023. While the price swings have been unnerving for investors, they've also led to opportunities which Galibier took advantage of. Three new holdings were added to the fund, and two were repurchased (see Recent Developments section for further details). Eight stocks, on the other hand, were sold.

The Fund has a unique composition, with key areas of investment being capital goods, industrial services, consumer discretionary, and food & beverage companies. This is in contrast to the small-cap market's heavy focus on resource companies. Many mining companies do not meet Galibier's investment criteria, which is a notable differentiator of the Fund, as mining companies comprise a sizeable component of the index. Our two holdings in the sector are Torex Gold Resources and Capstone Copper. Torex was down modestly in 2023, while Capstone was purchased late in the year and rose 10% after we purchased it.

The Fund held five U.S. stocks during the course of the year: Oshkosh Corp., Henry Schein, Generac Holdings, VF Corp., and Vail Resorts. The Canadian dollar rose 3% against the U.S. dollar in 2023, which dampened the returns of these holdings in Canadian dollar terms.

There were some modest changes to the sector allocation of the portfolio in 2023. Most notably, basic materials stocks increased from 7% of the portfolio's equities at the beginning of the reporting period to 13% at year-end. Consumer cyclical stocks also increased, from 14% to 18%, and technology stocks from 2% to 5%. Conversely, industrial goods & services stocks decreased from 47% to 40%, and consumer products from 12% to 5%. The weighting of other sectors was only modestly changed.

The Fund's geographic profile saw an adjustment over the reporting period. The weighting of Canadian stocks decreased, from 86% of the Fund's equities at the beginning of the year to 79% at year-end, and U.S. stocks rose from 14% of the Fund to 21%. At the end of the year, the Fund's cash position was 6%, as compared to 3% at the end of 2022.

There were no unusual trends in redemptions, sales, revenues or expenses over the reporting period.

### **Recent Developments**

The Canadian small-cap market (as measured by the Morningstar Canada Small Cap Index) rose 4.2% in 2023. U.S. small-caps (Morningstar U.S. Small Cap Index \$Cdn) gained 16.8% in Canadian dollar terms. The technology and industrials sectors were strong performers, while real estate, utilities, communication services, and energy stocks were weak, on balance.

While the small-cap market advanced in 2023, it trailed its larger counterparts, and all the gains came in the fourth quarter (in the Canadian market, at least).

The Fund does not have a lot of exposure to energy stocks due to their inherent cyclicity. This helped performance in 2023, as oil & gas stocks were generally weak. Our two holdings included MEG Energy and Parkland. Both had a solid year, bucking the trend in the sector, and Parkland was sold. If this sector, and commodity stocks overall, see big gains, the Fund will be challenged to keep pace with the

resource-heavy index. Our portfolio adviser, Galiber Capital, believes there are more attractive long-term investment opportunities in industries that have more stable fundamentals.

Galibier likes the current prospects for the portfolio. Several holdings have seen muted gains or have fallen in price yet continue to have strong fundamentals and promising outlooks. Aritzia, Park Lawn, Sleep Country Canada, Savaria, and Interfor are examples.

Three new holdings were added to the Fund in the year: VF Corporation sells lifestyle apparel (its brands include The North Face, Vans, Icebreaker, and Supreme); Vail Resorts operates leading ski resorts in the U.S., Canada, and Europe; and Capstone Copper has a portfolio of long-life copper operations in the Americas.

Enghouse Systems and Interfor were repurchased as they had fallen materially since we last owned them and once again trade at compelling prices. Enghouse's acquisition strategy has been called into question in this higher interest rate environment but Galibier believes the market is underestimating the software company's discipline and ability to identify under-appreciated assets. We bought the stock in the summer for 35% less than what we sold it for earlier this year. We made a similar move with lumber producer Interfor in the first quarter.

Eight investments were sold in 2023. Hammond, SNC, and Parkland were all strong performers that are now expensive in Galibier's view. We moved on from NFI Group, Ag Growth International, and Maple Leaf Foods in pursuit of better opportunities, and Waterloo Brewing was purchased by Carlsberg. Industrial goods & services companies continue to make up the largest part of the portfolio (40%). These are a diverse collection of businesses which include hydrovac and air cargo firms, heavy equipment manufacturers and distributors, and generator and home accessibility specialists, among others. The biggest holdings in the sector are Cargojet, Savaria, Finning International, and Generac Holdings.

U.S. companies comprised 13-21% of the portfolio during the year. With the exposure to U.S. stocks, currency fluctuations between the Canadian and U.S. dollar remain a risk of the Fund. If the loonie appreciates against the U.S. dollar, it's detrimental for returns, and vice versa. In 2023, the loonie rose 3% against the U.S. dollar, which in turn dampened the performance of the Fund's American holdings in Canadian dollar terms, as previously mentioned.

At year-end, the Fund held 22 stocks (four less than at the end of 2022), with most holdings comprising 3-6% of the portfolio. MEG Energy was the largest position, at 6.7%. A notable feature of the Fund continues to be that there are no "filler" stocks and each holding has an important impact on performance.

There were no changes over the reporting period to the manager, accounting policies or investment review committee of the Fund.

## **Related Party Transactions**

### ***Management Fees***

Steadyhand Investment Management Ltd. is the manager of the Fund. The Manager provides the Fund with investment management services, including fund accounting and unitholder record keeping. In return, the Manager receives a management fee based on the net assets of the Fund, calculated on a daily basis. The Fund relies on the positive recommendation or approval of the independent review committee to proceed with the transactions. The annualized net management fee for the units of the Fund is 1.78%. For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Fund paid gross fees of \$819,129 to the



Manager and distributed \$307,279 in management fee reductions. The Fund does not reimburse the Manager for operating costs incurred in administering the Fund which include:

- fees payable to provincial securities commissions in connection with the operation of the funds;
- audit and legal fees;
- costs for preparation, production and distribution of financial and other reports, including semi-annual and annual reports, statements,
- communications to unitholders and other regularly required documents;
- costs for the preparation, production and distribution of this simplified prospectus document and other regulatory documents, including Fund Facts;
- expenditures related to technology required to operate the funds;
- custody, investor servicing, record keeping, accounting, trustee fees and bank charges;
- costs of compliance with applicable securities legislation in connection with the operation of the funds; and
- applicable taxes including GST/HST.

The Manager paid all operating expenses except brokerage charges and withholding taxes.

The Fund does not directly or indirectly pay fees, sales commissions or trailing commissions, nor does it provide any non-monetary benefits to registered dealers for distributions of units of the Fund. If a broker charges you a commission or fee, that is a matter between you and the dealer.

As at December 31, 2023, Steadyhand Investment Management Ltd. and its affiliates, subsidiaries, officers and directors owned 116,704 Series A units, or 4.2% of the total Fund Series A units. The Steadyhand Founders and Steadyhand Builders Fund hold 100% of the total Fund Series O units and pay no management fees.

## 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 since the date of inception. This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements.

<b>Series A – Net Assets Per Unit</b>	<b>Dec 31 2023</b>	<b>Dec 31 2022</b>	<b>Dec 31 2021</b>	<b>Dec 31 2020</b>	<b>Dec 31 2019</b>
<b>Net Assets, beginning of period <sup>1,3</sup></b>	<b>\$15.83</b>	<b>\$18.02</b>	<b>\$15.99</b>	<b>\$15.32</b>	<b>\$13.26</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>					
Total revenue	0.33	0.30	0.34	0.30	0.35
Total expenses (excluding distributions)	(0.43)	(0.41)	(0.43)	(0.32)	(0.33)
Realized gains (losses) for the period	1.82	1.07	1.27	(0.41)	0.38
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	1.06	(1.89)	1.31	1.05	2.26
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2.78</b>	<b>(0.93)</b>	<b>2.49</b>	<b>0.62</b>	<b>2.66</b>
<b>Distributions :</b>					
From investment income (excluding dividends)	-	-	-	-	-
From dividends	(0.01)	-	-	(0.08)	(0.11)
From capital gains	(1.60)	(1.13)	(0.29)	-	(0.37)
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total distributions for the period <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>(1.61)</b>	<b>(1.13)</b>	<b>(0.29)</b>	<b>(0.08)</b>	<b>(0.48)</b>
<b>Net Assets, end of period</b>	<b>\$16.85</b>	<b>\$15.83</b>	<b>\$18.02</b>	<b>\$15.99</b>	<b>\$15.32</b>

<b>Series A - Ratios and Supplemental Data</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2023</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2022</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2021</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2020</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2019</b>
Net asset value (000's) <sup>4</sup>	\$46,457	\$44,118	\$49,632	\$46,771	\$51,483
Number of units outstanding <sup>4</sup>	2,756,434	2,786,456	2,755,028	2,924,832	3,360,823
Management expense ratio <sup>5</sup>	1.78%	1.78%	1.78%	1.78%	1.78%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions	1.78%	1.78%	1.78%	1.78%	1.78%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>6</sup>	51.55%	28.02%	18.27%	32.20%	44.43%
Trading expense ratio <sup>7</sup>	0.14%	0.08%	0.05%	0.11%	0.11%
Net asset value per unit	\$16.85	\$15.83	\$18.02	\$15.99	\$15.32

<b>Series O – Net Assets Per Unit</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2023</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2022</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2021</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2020</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2019</b>
<b>Net Assets, beginning of period <sup>1,3</sup></b>	<b>\$16.75</b>	<b>\$19.04</b>	<b>\$16.90</b>	<b>\$16.07</b>	<b>\$13.85</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>					
Total revenue	0.39	0.32	0.36	0.32	0.53
Total expenses (excluding distributions)	-	-	-	-	-
Realized gains (losses) for the period	1.91	1.13	1.35	(0.50)	0.64
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	1.00	(2.17)	1.17	1.63	2.66
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>3.27</b>	<b>(0.72)</b>	<b>2.88</b>	<b>1.45</b>	<b>3.83</b>
<b>Distributions :</b>					
From investment income (excluding dividends)	-	-	-	-	-
From dividends	(0.37)	(0.27)	(0.33)	(0.27)	(0.33)
From capital gains	(1.72)	(1.21)	(0.31)	-	(0.39)
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total distributions for the period <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>(2.09)</b>	<b>(1.48)</b>	<b>(0.64)</b>	<b>(0.27)</b>	<b>(0.72)</b>
<b>Net Assets, end of period</b>	<b>\$17.81</b>	<b>\$16.75</b>	<b>\$19.04</b>	<b>\$16.90</b>	<b>\$16.07</b>

<b>Series O - Ratios and Supplemental Data</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2023</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2022</b>	<b>Dec 31 2021</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2020</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2019</b>
Net asset value (000's) <sup>4</sup>	\$62,249	\$62,222	\$64,101	\$55,345	\$52,493
Number of units outstanding <sup>4</sup>	3,496,073	3,713,650	3,366,799	3,275,173	3,265,552
Management expense ratio <sup>5</sup>	-	-	-	-	-
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions	-	-	0.01%	-	-
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>6</sup>	51.55%	28.02%	18.27%	32.20%	44.43%
Trading expense ratio <sup>7</sup>	0.14%	0.08%	0.05%	0.11%	0.11%
Net asset value per unit	\$17.81	\$16.75	\$19.04	\$16.90	\$16.07

<sup>1</sup>Net asset value and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase/decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial period.

<sup>2</sup>Distributions were paid in cash/reinvested in additional units of the Fund, or both.

<sup>3</sup>This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements as at December 31 for the year stated.

<sup>4</sup>The information is provided as at December 31 of the period shown.

<sup>5</sup>Management expense ratio is based on total expenses for the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net assets during the period.

<sup>6</sup>The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio advisor manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher a fund's portfolio turnover 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.

<sup>7</sup>The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net assets during the period.

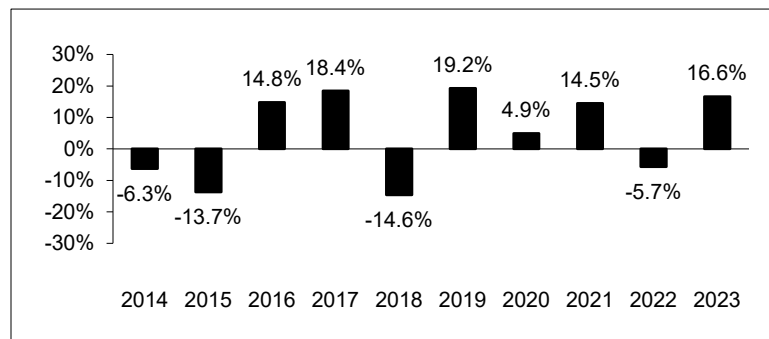
## Past Performance

The performance information shown assumes that all distributions made by the Fund in the periods shown were reinvested in additional units of the Fund. The performance information does not take into account sales, redemptions, distributions or other optional charges that would have reduced returns or performance. Past performance does not necessarily indicate how the Fund will perform in the future.

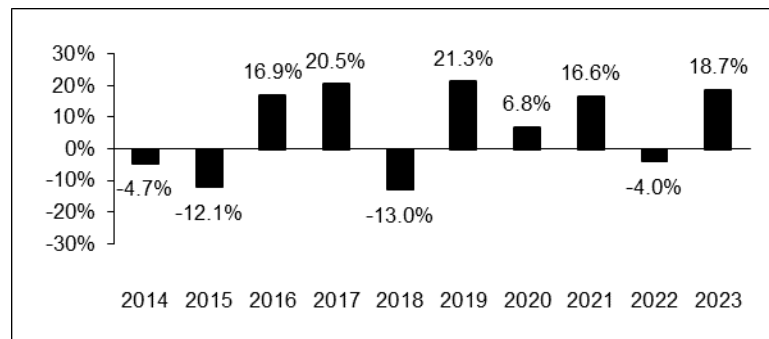
### Year-by-Year Returns

The bar charts below show the Fund's annual performance for each of the 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 each financial year.

#### Series A



#### Series O



Series O units of the Fund were first offered for sale in February 2012.

### Annual Compound Returns

The following table shows the Fund's annual compound total return for the past one-year, three-year, five-year, and ten-year periods ended on December 31, 2023, and since the inception of the Fund, compared with the Morningstar Canada Small Cap Index.

	1 YR	3 YR	5 YR	10 YR	Since-Inception*
Steadyhand Small-Cap Equity Fund – A	16.6%	8.0%	9.5%	4.0%	6.7%
Steadyhand Small-Cap Equity Fund – O	18.7%	9.9%	11.5%	5.9%	N/A
Morningstar Canada Small Cap Index	4.2%	4.3%	7.4%	2.8%	0.7%

\* Series O units have a different inception date (February 17, 2012) and are not available for purchase.

The Morningstar Canada Small Cap Index measures the performance of small-cap stocks in Canada. It targets securities that fall between the 90% and 97% market cap thresholds of the investable universe.

A discussion of the relative performance of the Fund as compared to the indices can be found in the Results of Operations section.

### Summary of Investment Portfolio as of December 31, 2023

#### Portfolio Allocation

	% of Net Assets
<b>Equities</b>	
Industrial Goods & Services	37.8%
Consumer Cyclical	16.7%
Basic Materials	12.2%
Oil & Gas	6.8%
Consumer Products	5.1%
Technology	4.8%
Healthcare	4.0%
Retailing	3.5%
Utilities & Pipelines	3.4%
	<hr/> 94.3%
Cash, Short-term Notes & Other Assets	<hr/> 5.7%
<b>Total</b>	<hr/> <b>100.0%</b> <hr/>

**Top 23 Holdings**

	<b>% of Net Assets</b>
MEG Energy Corp.	6.8%
Cash & cash equivalents	6.3%
Cargojet Inc.	5.9%
Savaria Corp.	5.5%
Premium Brands Holdings Corp.	5.1%
Finning International Inc.	5.0%
Generac Holdings Inc.	5.0%
Vail Resorts Inc.	5.0%
Capstone Copper Corp.	4.8%
Oshkosh Corp.	4.8%
Enghouse Systems Ltd.	4.8%
Boyd Group Services Inc.	4.7%
Sleep Country Canada Holdings Inc.	4.4%
Torex Gold Resources Inc.	4.2%
Henry Schein Inc.	4.0%
Spin Master Corp.	3.7%
Badger Infrastructure Solutions Ltd.	3.6%
Aritzia Inc.	3.5%
Northland Power Inc.	3.4%
Diversified Royalty Corp.	3.3%
Interfor Corp.	3.1%
Park Lawn Corp.	2.7%
VF Corp.	1.0%

The summary of investment portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund. Quarterly updates are available (60 days after each quarter end) upon request.

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**Steadyhand**

# Management Report of Fund Performance

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**Steadyhand Global Small-Cap Equity  
Fund**

December 31, 2023



# Steadyhand Global Small-Cap Equity Fund

## Annual Management Report of Fund Performance (December 31, 2023)

This annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete audited annual financial statements of the investment fund. You can get a copy of the audited annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling 1-888-888-3147, by writing to us at Steadyhand Investment Management Ltd., 1747 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6J 1K7 or by visiting our website at [www.steadyhand.com](http://www.steadyhand.com) or SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

Unitholders 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.

## Management Discussion of Fund Performance

### Investment Objective and Strategies

The fundamental investment objective of the Steadyhand Global Small-Cap Equity Fund (the "Fund") is to provide long-term capital growth by investing in a concentrated, yet well-diversified portfolio of small and medium sized companies around the globe.

The portfolio adviser focuses on identifying quality growth businesses, defined as those that have: (1) strong management with clear goals and a track record of success; (2) a distinct competitive edge achieved through high barriers to entry, proprietary products or services, distribution or manufacturing advantages, valuable patents, or brand name recognition; and (3) a record of consistent revenue and earnings growth.

### Risks

The primary risks associated with an investment in the Fund are foreign market risk, concentration risk, small capitalization risk and currency risk. The other risks are outlined in the simplified prospectus. There were no changes to the Fund over the reporting period that affected its overall level of risk.

### Results of Operations

The Fund's net assets decreased from \$72.6 million at December 31, 2022 to \$73.7 at December 31, 2023. This increase of \$1.1 million was attributable to a \$6.2 million increase in net assets from operations less net redemptions of \$3.9 million and \$1.2 million in distributions.

The Fund rose 7.2% in 2023, while the Morningstar Developed Markets Small Cap Index gained 14.3% in Canadian dollar terms. Technology and industrial stocks were notable areas of strength while the utilities and healthcare sectors lagged.

While it was a solid year in absolute terms, the Fund lagged the small-cap market. Of note, we have a lower weighting in tech stocks relative to the index, and this held back our performance. Our U.S. investments were our strongest performers, with The AZEK Company (outdoor decking and trim products) nearly doubling in price following a weak 2022, and Clean Harbors (hazardous waste disposal)



gaining more than 50%. Boat builder Brunswick also saw a nice rebound, while construction businesses EMCOR Group and ESAB were up more than 40%.

Our European and Japanese holdings were more mixed. German warehouse automation leader Kion Group saw a strong rebound and Tokyo-based internet provider Internet Initiative Japan turned in a solid return. On the other hand, Italian online bank FinecoBank, Danish pharmaceutical Alk-Abello, and Japanese logistics specialist AZ-COM Maruwa were key detractors to performance.

U.K. wealth manager St. James's Place also weighed on performance. The stock dropped by double-digits in the third quarter after the company announced it was cutting fees on a range of products (which is beneficial to its clients in the long run, but detrimental to profits in the short term). The slide continued in the fourth quarter, when our portfolio adviser, TimesSquare Capital Management, decided to exit the stock and focus on better opportunities.

Industrial goods & services companies comprise the largest portion of the portfolio (40%). The sector overall had a good year. TimesSquare focuses on businesses that offer a product or service that has strong demand and can't be easily replicated. Saab (aerospace and defence), Hexcel (carbon fiber and advanced composites), and Clean Harbors are examples.

It was an active year for transactions, with 19 stocks purchased and 14 sold. Further details are discussed in the Recent Developments section.

The Fund's overall sector composition did not change materially in the year, although there were a few changes of note. Industrial goods & services companies increased from 35% to 40% of the Fund's equities, technology stocks rose from 6% to 10%, and healthcare stocks from 8% to 11%. On the other hand, financial services stocks decreased from 26% to 14%, and consumer products from 12% to 8%.

At the end of the reporting period, the Fund held 50 companies around the globe (versus 45 at the end of 2022). Twenty are based in the U.S., 12 in Europe, 8 in Japan, 4 in the U.K., 2 in South America, 2 in Australia, and 2 in Canada.

The Fund's cash position at the end of the year was 4%, which was a decrease from its 5% position at the end of 2022.

There were no unusual trends in redemptions, sales, revenues or expenses over the reporting period.

### **Recent Developments**

The global small-cap market had a good year, with most sectors of the market advancing. The gains were uneven, however, with the technology, industrial, and consumer discretionary sectors leading the pack and healthcare, utilities, consumer staples, and energy lagging. Further, much of the strength came in the fourth quarter, after the U.S. Federal Reserve hinted that its interest rate hiking campaign is over and rate cuts could come next year.

Currencies experienced muted moves in the year, generally speaking. The loonie appreciated 3% against the U.S. dollar, which dampened the returns of American stocks in Canadian dollar terms. Our dollar fell modestly against the Euro (-1%) and British Pound (-3%), boosting the returns of stocks in these

currencies. The biggest move was seen in the Japanese Yen, which depreciated 10%. This had a more notable negative impact on the \$Cdn returns of Japanese stocks (which make up 13% of the Fund).

Turnover in the portfolio has higher than average, as the ongoing volatility led to some compelling investment opportunities in TimesSquare's view, and prompted a re-evaluation of several investments.

Nineteen new stocks were added to the portfolio in 2023. Among the new purchases were faster-growing companies Integral Ad Science, Ascendis Pharma, and Synaptics. Integral Ad is a leader in digital ad verification and campaign placement, while Ascendis is a biotech focused on growth hormone and mineral deficiencies, and Synaptics is a technology company that makes touch displays used in tablets, laptops and phones.

Six new Japanese stocks were also purchased, and we increased our investments in the country from 7% of the Fund to 13%. The new companies are based in a number of different industries and include Lawson (retailing), Rohto Pharmaceutical (skin care and eye drops), Nakanishi (motor spindles and micro grinders), AZ-COM Maruwa (logistics), and Rakuten Bank (financial services). TimesSquare believes there is a positive shift in Japanese corporate culture taking place and an overdue digitization of the economy underway.

Rounding out the purchases were ESAB, Ag Growth International, Weir Group, MatsukiyoCocokara, Arcos Dorados Holdings, Sopra Steria Group, Workiva, Webster Financial, Hexcel, Willscot Mobile Mini Holdings, and Spin Master.

To fund the above, 14 stocks were sold. We moved on from a few businesses where management hasn't executed well and/or their outlook has weakened, including Kennedy-Wilson, Future, Patria Investments, Alk-Abello, National Vision Holdings, and WNS Holdings. A handful of stocks were also sold following a run of strong performance, including Charles River Laboratories and RS Group.

The Fund does not have any direct investments in the oil & gas or mining sectors (although we do own Weir Group, a mining technology leader that makes processing equipment), as these companies tend to produce inconsistent earnings. If commodity stocks have a hot streak, the Fund could struggle to keep pace. That said, TimesSquare believes there are much more compelling opportunities available in businesses with better long-term outlooks.

An ongoing risk for investors in the Fund is the impact of currency fluctuations. All of the Fund's holdings are denominated in foreign currencies. The greatest exposures currently lie in the U.S. dollar, Euro, Japanese Yen, British Pound, Swedish Krona, and Australian dollar. The Fund also has investments denominated in Danish Krone, and Brazilian Real. If the Canadian dollar strengthens against these currencies, the Fund's returns will be dampened. Conversely, a depreciation of the loonie would boost returns.

There were no material changes over the reporting period to the portfolio adviser, accounting policies or investment review committee of the Fund.

## **Related Party Transactions**

### ***Management Fees***

Steadyhand Investment Management Ltd. is the Manager of the Fund. The Manager provides the Fund with investment management services, including fund accounting and unitholder record keeping. In return, the Manager receives a management fee based on the net assets of the Fund, calculated on a daily basis. The Fund relies on the positive recommendation or approval of the independent review committee to proceed with the transactions. The annualized net management fee for the units of the Fund is 1.78%. The Fund paid the Manager \$198,807 of its net assets as management fees for the year ended December 31, 2023 and distributed \$80,517 in management fee reductions. The Fund does not reimburse the Manager for operating costs incurred in administering the Fund which include:

- fees payable to provincial securities commissions in connection with the operation of the funds;
- audit and legal fees;
- costs for preparation, production and distribution of financial and other reports, including semi-annual and annual reports, statements,
- communications to unitholders and other regularly required documents;
- costs for the preparation, production and distribution of this simplified prospectus document and other regulatory documents, including Fund Facts;
- expenditures related to technology required to operate the funds;
- custody, investor servicing, record keeping, accounting, trustee fees and
- bank charges;
- costs of compliance with applicable securities legislation in connection with the operation of the funds; and
- applicable taxes including GST/HST.

The Manager paid all operating expenses except brokerage charges and withholding taxes.

The Fund does not directly or indirectly pay fees, sales commissions or trailing commissions, nor does it provide any non-monetary benefits to registered dealers for distributions of units of the Fund. If a broker charges you a commission or fee, that is a matter between you and the dealer.

As at December 31, 2023, Steadyhand Investment Management Ltd., and its affiliates, subsidiaries, officers and directors owned 163,244 Series A units, or 15.5% of the total Fund Series A units. The Steadyhand Founders Fund and Steadyhand Builders Fund hold 100% of the total Fund Series O units and pay no management fees.

## 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 since the date of inception. This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements.

<i>Series A – Net Assets Per Unit</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2023</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2022</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2021</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2020</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2019</i>
<b>Net Assets, beginning of period <sup>1,3,</sup></b>	<b>\$10.27</b>	<b>\$12.56</b>	<b>\$12.64</b>	<b>\$11.75</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>					
Total revenue	0.17	0.17	0.18	0.11	0.14
Total expenses (excluding distributions)	(0.34)	(0.34)	(0.49)	(0.34)	(0.43)
Realized gains (losses) for the period	(0.16)	(0.67)	1.46	0.12	0.30
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	1.11	(1.34)	0.45	1.39	2.04
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>0.78</b>	<b>(2.18)</b>	<b>1.60</b>	<b>1.28</b>	<b>2.05</b>
<b>Distributions :</b>					
From investment income (excluding dividends)	(0.01)	-	(0.23)	-	(0.03)
From dividends	-	-	-	-	-
From capital gains	-	-	(1.32)	-	(0.20)
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total distributions for the period <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>(0.01)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1.55)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(0.23)</b>
<b>Net Assets, end of period</b>	<b>\$11.00</b>	<b>\$10.27</b>	<b>\$12.56</b>	<b>\$12.64</b>	<b>\$11.75</b>

<i>Series A - Ratios and Supplemental Data</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2023</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2022</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2021</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2020</i>	<i>Dec. 31 2019</i>
Net asset value (000's) <sup>4</sup>	\$11,573	\$10,047	\$11,618	\$8,456	\$6,142
Number of units outstanding <sup>4</sup>	1,052,271	978,145	924,913	668,886	522,712
Management expense ratio <sup>5</sup>	1.78%	1.78%	1.78%	1.78%	1.78%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions	1.80%	1.80%	1.80%	1.80%	1.82%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>6</sup>	59.40%	42.20%	62.62%	33.27%	32.20%
Trading expense ratio <sup>7</sup>	0.15%	0.17%	0.20%	0.07%	0.20%
Net asset value per unit	\$11.00	\$10.27	\$12.56	\$12.64	\$11.75

<b>Series O – Net Assets Per Unit</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2023</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2022</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2021</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2020</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2019</b>
<b>Net Assets, beginning of period <sup>1,3</sup></b>	<b>\$10.49</b>	<b>\$12.83</b>	<b>\$12.92</b>	<b>\$11.87</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>					
Total revenue	0.19	0.18	0.18	0.11	0.14
Total expenses (excluding distributions)	-	-	-	-	-
Realized gains (losses) for the period	(0.17)	(0.70)	1.53	0.10	0.27
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	0.96	(1.38)	0.14	1.99	1.60
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>0.98</b>	<b>(1.90)</b>	<b>1.85</b>	<b>2.20</b>	<b>2.01</b>
<b>Distributions :</b>					
From investment income (excluding dividends)	(0.20)	(0.19)	(0.46)	(0.08)	(0.09)
From dividends	-	-	-	-	-
From capital gains	-	-	(1.37)	-	(0.20)
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total distributions for the period <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>(0.20)</b>	<b>(0.19)</b>	<b>(1.83)</b>	<b>(0.08)</b>	<b>(0.29)</b>
<b>Net Assets, end of period</b>	<b>\$11.24</b>	<b>\$10.49</b>	<b>\$12.83</b>	<b>\$12.92</b>	<b>\$11.87</b>

<b>Series O - Ratios and Supplemental Data</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2023</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2022</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2021</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2020</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2019</b>
Net asset value (000's) <sup>4</sup>	\$62,101	\$62,545	\$63,749	\$46,846	\$26,339
Number of units outstanding <sup>4</sup>	5,523,943	5,961,263	4,966,868	3,626,387	2,218,852
Management expense ratio <sup>5</sup>	-	-	-	-	-
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions	-	-	-	0.01%	0.01%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>6</sup>	59.40%	42.20%	62.62%	33.27%	32.20%
Trading expense ratio <sup>7</sup>	0.15%	0.17%	0.20%	0.07%	0.20%
Net asset value per unit	\$11.24	\$10.49	\$12.83	\$12.92	\$11.87

<sup>1</sup>Net asset value and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase/decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial period.

<sup>2</sup>Distributions were paid in cash/reinvested in additional units of the Fund, or both.

<sup>3</sup>This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements as at December 31.

<sup>4</sup>The information is provided as at December 31.

<sup>5</sup>Management expense ratio is based on total expenses for the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net assets during the period.

<sup>6</sup>The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio advisor manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher a fund's portfolio turnover in a period, the greater the trading costs payable by the fund in the period, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the period. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a fund.

<sup>7</sup>The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net assets during the period.

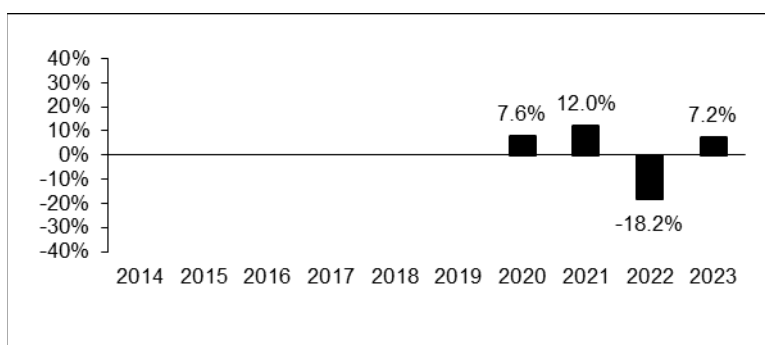
## Past Performance

The performance information shown assumes that all distributions made by the Fund in the periods shown were reinvested in additional units of the Fund. The performance information does not take into account sales, redemptions, distributions or other optional charges that would have reduced returns or performance. Past performance does not necessarily indicate how the Fund will perform in the future.

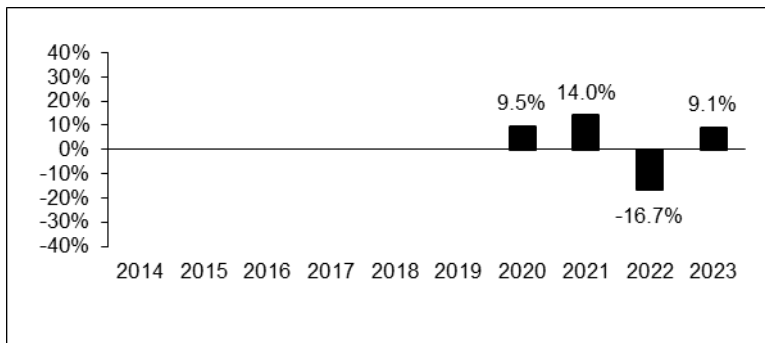
### Year-by-Year Returns

The bar charts below show the Fund's annual performance for each of the years shown, and illustrates how the Fund's performance has changed from year to year. The charts show, 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.

#### Series A



#### Series O



### Annual Compound Returns

The following table shows the Fund's annual compound total return for the past one-year, three-year, five-year, and ten-year periods ended on December 31, 2023, and since the inception of the Fund, compared with the Morningstar Developed Markets Small Cap Index (\$Cdn).

	1 YR	3 YR	5 YR	10 YR	Since-Inception*
Steadyhand Global Small-Cap Equity Fund – A	7.2%	-0.6%	N/A	N/A	4.9%
Steadyhand Global Small-Cap Equity Fund – O	9.1%	1.2%	N/A	N/A	6.8%
Morningstar Developed Markets Small Cap Index (\$Cdn)	14.3%	4.1%	N/A	N/A	6.3%

\* Series O units are not available for purchase.

The Morningstar Developed Markets Small Cap Index (\$Cdn) measures the performance of small-cap stocks in developed markets. It targets securities that fall between the 90% to 97% market cap thresholds of the investable universe.

A discussion of the relative performance of the Fund as compared to the indices can be found in the Results of Operations section.

### Summary of Investment Portfolio as at December 31, 2023

#### Portfolio Allocation

Global Equities	% of Net Assets
Industrial Goods & Services	38.5%
Financial Services	13.0%
Healthcare	10.7%
Consumer Cyclical	9.3%
Technology	9.2%
Consumer Products	7.8%
Communications and Media	5.0%
Retailing	2.2%
	<hr/> 95.7%
Cash, Short-term Notes & Other Assets	4.3%
<b>Total</b>	<hr/> <b>100.0%</b> <hr/>

### Top 25 Holdings

	% of Net Assets
Cash & cash equivalents	4.3 %
Synaptics Inc.	4.0%
Clean Harbors Inc.	3.5%
EMCOR Group Inc.	3.4%
Performance Food Group Co.	3.2%
Steadfast Group Ltd.	3.1%
Regal Rexnord Corp.	3.0%
Integral Ad Science Holding Corp.	2.9%
Casella Waste Systems Inc.	2.8%
Chemed Corp.	2.8%
Saab AB	2.7%
First Advantage Corp.	2.5%
Rakuten Bank Ltd.	2.4%
Hexcel Corp.	2.4%
Encompass Health Corp.	2.4%
Esab Corp.	2.3%
IPH Ltd.	2.3%
Internet Initiative Japan Inc.	2.1%
Workiva Inc.	2.1%
Webster Financial Corp.	2.0%
RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd.	2.0%
Viscofan SA	1.9%
Arcos Dorados Holdings Inc.	1.9%
Lawson Inc.	1.8%
Sopra Steria Group SACA	1.8%

The summary of investment portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund. Quarterly updates are available (60 days after each quarter end) upon request.