

Steadyhand Independent Review Committee 2023 Annual Report

January 19, 2024

Dear Investor,

The members of the Independent Review Committee (IRC) for the investment funds¹ managed by Steadyhand Investment Management Ltd. ("Steadyhand" - Manager of the Funds) are pleased to submit the Annual Report to investors. The report provides a description of the IRC and its activities for the year starting January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2023.

The IRC has an important role in reviewing mutual fund conflict-of-interest matters identified and referred by the Manager and providing an approval or recommendation, as applicable. As a committee, we assess whether the Manager's proposed action in the case of a conflict will achieve a fair and reasonable result for the Funds and its investors.

A copy of the report is available online at www.steadyhand.com. A hard copy of the report can be requested by contacting the Manager via phone at 888.888.3147 or via email at info@steadyhand.com.

The members of the IRC are appreciative of the continued open and cooperative working relationship with the Manager and their commitment to serving investors' interests which is evident during all interactions.

The IRC is proud to serve the interests of the Funds and investors. We look forward to continuing to ensure that their best interests are served in the event of a conflict of interest.

"Lothar Fabian"

Lothar Fabian
Chair, Steadyhand Independent Review Committee

¹ A list of the Steadyhand funds is located in Appendix A.

Introduction and Background

In accordance with National Instrument 81-107 *Independent Review Committee for Investment Funds* (NI 81-107), Canadian provincial securities regulators require all mutual funds to maintain an Independent Review Committee (IRC). The IRC is to consist of a minimum of three people who are independent of the Manager and the Funds. Its mandate is to consider and respond to the existence of, or the potential appearance of, a conflict-of-interest matter identified and referred to the committee by the Manager of the Funds.

A conflict-of-interest matter is a situation in which a reasonable person would consider the Manager, or any entity related to the Manager, to have an interest that may conflict with the Manager's ability to act in the best interest of the Fund and its shareholders. The Manager is required to identify any conflict of interest matters that arise and request input from the IRC on how to manage those situations.

Representing the interests of the Funds, and therefore of its shareholders, the IRC considers whether the Manager's proposed action in a conflict-of-interest matter achieves a fair and reasonable outcome for the Funds. If, after consideration, the IRC finds the proposed action acceptable, approval is given. If the proposal is not considered acceptable, the IRC makes a recommendation to the Manager, outlining its concerns and providing an alternative course of action. Ultimately, the Manager makes the final decision on how to proceed.

The Steadyhand IRC

The Steadyhand IRC became operational in 2007 in accordance with National Instrument 81-107 with the mandate to consider and respond to the existence of, or the potential appearance of, a conflict-of-interest matter identified and referred by the Manager.

The responsibilities of the Steadyhand IRC are those mandated by NI 81-107 and its Charter. The IRC meets on a regular basis with representatives of Steadyhand at the request of either the Manager or the IRC Chair. In addition to the regular meetings with the Manager, the IRC holds an annual *in camera* session to assess the IRC's charter and policies, performance and compensation as well as independence and effectiveness. During the session, the IRC reviews the Manager's policies and procedures, compliance and standing instructions with respect to conflict-of-interest matters.

The Steadyhand IRC members for 2023 were:

Name	Date of Appointment
Lothar Fabian (Chair)	January 1, 2017
Sylvia Gelissen	January 1, 2015
Richard Sielski	January 1, 2022

Each member is independent of the Manager and any of its affiliates. No member, individually or collectively, holds in excess of 10% of any of the Steadyhand Funds, nor does anyone have other duties or relationships that compromise the IRC's independence. The IRC ensures its members' independence at every meeting and annually during the *in-camera* session.

Collectively, the committee members possess the educational and professional experience and skills to address all known and anticipated conflict of interest matters that come before the IRC adequately.

Expenses, Compensation and Indemnities

It is stipulated in the securities regulations that the Fund, not the Manager, pays all expenses incurred by an IRC. While this protects the independence of the Committee, it creates an expense to the Funds, which ultimately is borne by the unitholders.

All Steadyhand IRC expenses are allocated to the individual Funds. The Manager subsequently reimburses each Fund in order to maintain its policy of minimizing fees that impact unitholders. The aggregate compensation and any indemnities paid by the Funds for the calendar year 2023 was \$24,643.37, consisting of \$24,500 for compensation to the IRC members and \$143.37 for meeting costs.

While initial compensation of the IRC was set by the Manager, the IRC reviews its compensation annually in a manner consistent with good governance practices, considering the following factors:

- (a) The best interest of the Funds;
- (b) The number, nature and complexity of the Funds;
- (c) The nature and extent of the workload of each member, including the commitment of time and energy expected from each member in providing guidance to the Funds;
- (d) Industry best practices, including industry averages and surveys on IRC compensation;
- (e) The IRC's most recent annual self-assessment, as well as any recommendations about IRC compensation and expenses made by the Manager.

Compensation for the current period was set by the IRC members, with input from the Manager, and remains unchanged from the previous year.

Each member of the IRC is indemnified through a letter agreement with Steadyhand Funds. To date, no claims have been made under this agreement.

Standing Instructions

The IRC has the authority to grant a Standing Instruction (SI). Each SI constitutes a written approval or recommendation that permits the Manager to proceed with the specific actions set out in the SI on an ongoing basis, without having to refer the conflict-of-Interest matter or its proposed action repeatedly to the IRC, provided that the Manager complies with the terms and conditions of the SI.

The Steadyhand IRC has approved Standing Instructions for the following matters:

1. Expenses charged to the Funds;
2. Expense allocations;
3. Trade allocations;
4. Employee personal trading and accepting gifts;
5. Soft dollar arrangements;
6. Best execution;
7. Net asset value and other error corrections;
8. Voting proxies;
9. Short-term trading and market timing;
10. Appointments and changes in sub-advisors;
11. Cross trading.

Each SI is given effect through reference to the Manager's written policies and procedures.

Conflict-of-Interest Matters and Conclusions

The IRC's central mandate is to consider and respond to conflicts of interests identified and referred by the Manager.

Having completed its independent annual review for 2023, the Steadyhand IRC concludes that:

- The Manager did not bring any potential conflicts to the IRC's attention in 2023. The Steadyhand IRC is therefore not aware of any instance in which the Manager acted in a conflict-of-interest matter without either bringing it to the attention and approval of the IRC or without acting consistently with the written policy or Standing Instructions;
- No substantial changes were required to the charter or policies of the Steadyhand IRC;
- The policies and procedures, including the Standing Instructions, of the Manager are reasonable and sufficient to serve the interests of the Funds and their unitholders;
- The Steadyhand IRC functioned effectively, operating efficiently as mandated by NI 81-107 on behalf of the Funds;
- No committee member has any relationship or interest that would cause a reasonable person to question the independence of any of its members.

Appendix A

List of Steadyhand Funds

Steadyhand Savings Fund

Steadyhand Income Fund

Steadyhand Founders Fund

Steadyhand Equity Fund

Steadyhand Global Equity Fund

Steadyhand Small-Cap Equity Fund

Steadyhand Global Small-Cap Equity Fund

Steadyhand Builders Fund