# Interim Management Report of Fund Performance

# for the period ended February 28, 2025

All figures are reported in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted.

This interim management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain either the interim financial report or annual financial statements of the investment fund. You can get a copy of the interim financial report or annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling toll-free at <u>1-888-888-3863</u>, by emailing us at <u>info@cibcassetmanagement.com</u>, by writing to us at 1000, rue De La Gauchetière Ouest, bureau 3200, Montréal, (Québec), H3B 4W5, or by visiting <u>www.woodgundy.cibc.com/en/investing/private-wealth-pools.html</u> or SEDAR+ at <u>www.sedarplus.ca</u>.

Unitholders may also contact us using one of these methods to request a copy of the investment fund's interim financial report, proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosure.

## Management Discussion of Fund Performance

# **Results of Operations**

CIBC Private Wealth Canadian Core Pool's (the *Pool*) portfolio subadvisor is CIBC Wood Gundy, a division of CIBC World Markets Inc. (the *Sub-Advisor*). The commentary that follows provides a summary of the results of operations for the six-month period ended February 28, 2025. All dollar figures are expressed in thousands, unless otherwise indicated.

Since the Pool's inception on March 25, 2024 the net asset value increased to \$7,769 as at February 28, 2025.

The Bank of Canada (*BoC*) continued to cut its policy rate by a total of 1.50% over the period. Inflation moderated back toward the BoC's target rate and Canada's unemployment rate remained elevated. Government of Canada 10-year bond yields were volatile but ended the period roughly unchanged at around 3.0%.

The threat of trade tariffs led to heightened uncertainty in Canada-U.S. trade relations. Political uncertainty was also elevated after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced his intention to resign as party leader, as soon as his successor was elected.

Commodity price performance was mixed. Gold was strong, ending the period at near-record levels. Oil prices declined amid concerns around slowing demand and increased supply, while natural gas prices increased on improving fundamentals.

An underweight exposure to the outperforming information technology sector detracted from the Pool's performance. Stock selection in the financials and real estate sectors detracted from performance as well. The largest individual detractors from the Pool's performance were holdings in Teck Resources Ltd., TFI International Inc. and Canadian Apartment Properties REIT.

Teck Resources Ltd., a base metals-focused mining company, underperformed relative to its precious metals-focused peers. TFI International Inc.'s stock sold off after the company reported disappointing fourth-quarter financial results amid ongoing industry challenges and uncertainties from potential U.S. tariffs. Canadian Apartment Properties REIT reported solid financial results, but its stock was pressured by concerns about slowing immigration and falling market rents.

Security selection within the communication services and energy sectors contributed to the Pool's performance. An overweight allocation to equities over fixed income also contributed to performance. The largest individual contributors to the Pool's performance were holdings in TELUS Corp., Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. and Wheaton Precious Metals Corp.

TELUS Corp.'s stock outperformed relative to its peers, which sold off sharply. The company is well positioned within a tough telecommunications environment and benefited from a declining capital expenditure profile. Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. and Wheaton Precious Metals Corp. produced strong gains, benefiting from rising gold and silver prices.

The Sub-Advisor added a new holding in ARC Resources Ltd. to the Pool on the belief that the company is well positioned to capitalize on improving natural gas fundamentals. Following a period of heavy growth to develop its Attachie project in British Columbia, the company should see a significant bump in free cash flow per share, in the Sub-Advisor's view.

A holding in Brookfield Corp. was increased following a decline in interest rates and based on the company's positive growth trajectory. An existing holding in The Bank of Nova Scotia was increased based on the Sub-Advisor's improving view of Canadian banks. The Pool's exposure to BMO Mid Federal Bond Index ETF was increased as part of a shift from cash into fixed income. The holding offered an attractive running yield and the potential for capital appreciation should bond yields move lower.

A holding in BCE Inc. was eliminated from the Pool given ongoing industry challenges and concerns about the company's growth strategy. Intense competition in the Canadian wireless market, continued regulatory pressures and reductions in immigration targets from the Canadian federal government poses multiple challenges. The Sub-Advisor believes these factors will likely constrain the company's growth in the near term. A small holding in South Bow Corp. was eliminated from the Pool after the company was spun out from TC Energy Corp.

Holdings in Loblaw Cos. Ltd., Intact Financial Corp. and Enbridge Inc. were trimmed following strong share price performance. A holding in Canadian Natural Resources Ltd. was trimmed as the Sub-Advisor had a less positive outlook for oil in the near term due to increasing supply and weakening growth in 2025.

# **Recent Developments**

The level of geopolitical risk disrupted the global economy and financial markets in unprecedented and unpredictable ways. Threatened and actual impositions of tariffs and other trade-related actions by the U.S., China and other global actors, and any counter-tariff and non-tariff retaliatory measures by Canada, Europe and others, may have further negative impacts on the Canadian and global economy, and on financial markets. These events could exacerbate other preexisting political, social and economic risks and cause substantial market volatility and uncertainty in financial markets. It is unclear what further actions may be taken by governments and the resulting impact on global economies, businesses and financial markets. These factors may adversely affect the Pool's performance. The Manager continues to monitor ongoing developments and the impact to investment strategies.

# **Related Party Transactions**

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (*CIBC*) and its affiliates have the following roles and responsibilities with respect to the Pool, and receive the fees described below in connection with their roles and responsibilities.

# Manager, Trustee, and Portfolio Advisor of the Pool

CAMI, a wholly-owned subsidiary of CIBC, is the Pool's Manager, Trustee, and Portfolio Advisor. As Manager, CAMI receives management fees with respect to the Pool's day-to-day business and operations, calculated based on the net asset value of units of the Pool as described in *Management Fees*.

As Trustee, CAMI holds title to the Pool's property (cash and securities) on behalf of its unitholders. As Portfolio Advisor, CAMI provides, or arranges to provide investment advice and portfolio management services to the Pool. CAMI also compensates dealers in connection with their marketing activities regarding the Pool. From time to time, CAMI may invest in units of the Pool.

# Portfolio Sub-Advisor

CAMI, in its capacity as Portfolio Advisor, has retained CIBC Wood Gundy, a division of CIBC World Markets Inc., to provide investment advice and portfolio management services to the Pool. As compensation for their services, CIBC Wood Gundy receives a fee from CAMI. CIBC World Markets Inc. is wholly-owned subsidiary of CIBC.

# Distributor

Units of the Pool may be purchased only through CIBC Wood Gundy, a division of CIBC World Markets Inc. CAMI does not pay sales commissions and trailing commissions to CIBC Wood Gundy in connection with the sale of units of the Pool. At its discretion, CAMI may make units of the Pool available through other dealers.

Brokerage Arrangements and Soft Dollars

The Portfolio Advisor or any portfolio sub-advisors make decisions, including the selection of markets and dealers and the negotiation of commissions, with respect to the purchase and sale of portfolio securities, certain derivative products and the execution of portfolio transactions. Brokerage business may be allocated by the Portfolio Advisor or any portfolio sub-advisor(s) to CIBC WM and CIBC World Markets Corp., each a subsidiary of CIBC. CIBC WM and CIBC World Markets Corp. may also earn spreads on the sale of fixed income securities, other securities, and certain derivative products to the Pool. A spread is the difference between the bid and ask prices for a security in the applicable marketplace, with respect to the execution of portfolio transactions. The spread will differ based upon various factors such as the nature and liquidity of the security.

Dealers, including CIBC WM and CIBC World Markets Corp., may furnish goods and services, other than order execution, to the Portfolio Advisor or any portfolio sub-advisor(s) when they process trades through them. These types of goods and services for which the Portfolio Advisor or a portfolio sub-advisor may direct brokerage commissions are research goods and services and order execution goods and services, and are referred to in the industry as "soft-dollar" arrangements. These goods and services received through soft dollar arrangements assist the Portfolio Advisor or any portfolio sub-advisor(s) with investment decision-making services for the Pool, or relate directly to the execution of portfolio transactions on behalf of the Pool. As per the terms of the portfolio advisory agreement and portfolio sub-advisory agreements, such soft dollar arrangements are in compliance with applicable laws.

During the period, the Pool paid brokerage commissions and other fees of \$240 to CIBC WM; the Pool did not pay any brokerage commissions or other fees to CIBC World Markets Corp. Spreads associated with fixed income and other securities are not ascertainable and, for that reason, cannot be included when determining these amounts.

# Pool Transactions

The Pool may enter into one or more of the following transactions (the *Related Party Transactions*) in reliance on the standing instructions issued by the Independent Review Committee (the *IRC*):

- invest in or hold equity securities of CIBC or issuers related to the Portfolio Advisor;
- invest in or hold non-exchange-traded debt securities of CIBC or an issuer related to CIBC, with terms-to-maturity of 365 days or more, issued in a primary offering and in the secondary market;
- make an investment in the securities of an issuer for which CIBC WM, CIBC World Markets Corp., or any affiliate of CIBC (a *Related Dealer* or the *Related Dealers*) acts as an underwriter during the offering of the securities or at any time during the 60-day period following the completion of the offering of such securities (in the case of a "private placement" offering, in accordance with the Private Placement Relief Order and the policies and procedures relating to such investment);
- purchase equity or debt securities from, or sell them to, a Related Dealer, where it is acting as principal;
- undertake currency and currency derivative transactions where a related party is the counterparty;

- purchase securities from or sell securities to another investment fund or a managed account managed by the Manager or an affiliate (*inter-fund trades* or *cross-trades*); and
- engage in in-specie transfers by receiving portfolio securities from, or delivering portfolio securities to, a managed account or another investment fund managed by the Manager or an affiliate, in respect of a purchase or redemption of units of the Pool, subject to certain conditions.

At least annually, the IRC reviews the Related Party Transactions for which they have issued standing instructions. The IRC is required to advise the Canadian securities regulatory authorities, after a matter has been referred to or reported to it by the Manager, if it determines that an investment decision was not made in accordance with conditions imposed by securities legislation or the IRC in any Related Party Transactions requiring its approval.

# Custodian

CIBC Mellon Trust Company is the custodian of the Pool (the *Custodian*). The Custodian holds cash and securities for the Pool and ensures that those assets are kept separate from any other cash or securities that the Custodian might be holding. The Custodian also provides other services to the Pool including record-keeping and processing foreign exchange transactions. The fees and spreads for the services of the Custodian are paid by the Manager in exchange for the Pool charging a Fixed Administration Fee. CIBC owns a 50% interest in the Custodian.

# Service Provider

The Custodian also provides certain services to the Pool, including securities lending, fund accounting and reporting, and portfolio valuation. The Manager receives fixed administration fee from the Pool, in return, the Manager pays certain operating expenses which includes custodial fees (including all applicable taxes) and the fees for fund accounting, reporting, and fund valuation (including all applicable taxes) to the Custodian. Where applicable, securities lending fees are applied against the revenue received by the Pool.

# **Financial Highlights**

The following tables show selected key financial information about the Pool and are intended to help you understand the Pool's financial performance for the period ended February 28, 2025 and August 31 of any other period(s) shown.

# The Pool's Net Assets per Unit<sup>1</sup> (\$) - Series F Units

The Pool's Net Assets per Unit <sup>1</sup> (\$) - Set	ries F Units		Inception date: March 25, 2024
	2025	2024 <sup>a</sup>	
Net Assets, beginning of period	10.55	10.01 <sup>b</sup>	
Increase (decrease) from operations:			
Total revenue	0.14	0.13	
Total expenses	(0.02)	(0.02)	
Realized gains (losses) for the period	0.05	0.01	
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	0.50	0.48	
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>2</sup>	0.67	0.60	
Distributions:			
From income (excluding dividends)	0.04	0.04	
From dividends	0.09	-	
From capital gains	0.03	-	
Return of capital	-	-	
Total Distributions <sup>3</sup>	0.16	0.04	
Net Assets, end of period	11.08	10.55	

#### **Ratios and Supplemental Data - Series F Units**

	2025	2024 <sup>a</sup>	
Total Net Asset Value (\$000s) <sup>4</sup>	4,504	3,457	
Number of Units Outstanding <sup>4</sup>	406,392	327,632	
Management Expense Ratio <sup>5</sup> (%)	0.35*	0.35*	
Management Expense Ratio before waivers or			
absorptions <sup>6</sup> (%)	0.35*	0.35*	
Trading Expense Ratio <sup>7</sup> (%)	0.03*	0.10*	
Portfolio Turnover Rate <sup>8</sup> (%)	10.34	5.98	
Net Asset Value per Unit (\$)	11.08	10.55	

### The Pool's Net Assets per Unit<sup>1</sup> (\$) - Series FT4 Units

Inception date: March 25, 2024

	2025	2024 <sup>a</sup>	
Net Assets, beginning of period	10.35	10.00 <sup>b</sup>	
Increase (decrease) from operations:			
Total revenue	0.08	0.08	
Total expenses	-	(0.01)	
Realized gains (losses) for the period	0.04	0.01	
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	0.50	0.46	
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>2</sup>	0.62	0.54	
Distributions:			
From income (excluding dividends)	0.07	0.20	
From dividends	-	-	
From capital gains	0.13	-	
Return of capital	-	-	
Total Distributions <sup>3</sup>	0.20	0.20	
Net Assets, end of period	10.76	10.35	

#### **Ratios and Supplemental Data - Series FT4 Units**

2025	2024 <sup>a</sup>	
-	_	
1	1	
0.35*	0.36*	
0.35*	0.36*	
0.03*	0.10*	
10.34	5.98	
10.76	10.35	
	- 0.35 <sup>*</sup> 0.03 <sup>*</sup> 10.34	- -   1 1   0.35* 0.36*   0.35* 0.36*   0.03* 0.10*   10.34 5.98

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### The Pool's Net Assets per Unit<sup>1</sup> (\$) - Series O Units

#### Inception date: March 25, 2024

	2025	2024 <sup>a</sup>	
Net Assets, beginning of period	10.59	10.00 <sup>b</sup>	
Increase (decrease) from operations:			
Total revenue	0.14	0.11	
Total expenses	-	-	
Realized gains (losses) for the period	0.05	0.01	
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	0.49	0.52	
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>2</sup>	0.68	0.64	
Distributions:			
From income (excluding dividends)	0.04	0.02	
From dividends	0.09	-	
From capital gains	0.02	-	
Return of capital	-	-	
Total Distributions <sup>3</sup>	0.15	0.02	
Net Assets, end of period	11.15	10.59	

#### **Ratios and Supplemental Data - Series O Units**

	2025	2024 <sup>a</sup>	
Total Net Asset Value (\$000s) <sup>4</sup>	3,170	2,319	
Number of Units Outstanding <sup>4</sup>	284,298	218,918	
Management Expense Ratio <sup>5</sup> (%)	0.07*	0.07*	
Management Expense Ratio before waivers or absorptions <sup>6</sup> (%)	0.07*	0.07*	
	0.07	0.07	
Trading Expense Ratio <sup>7</sup> (%)	0.03*	0.10*	
Portfolio Turnover Rate <sup>8</sup> (%)	10.34	5.98	
Net Asset Value per Unit (\$)	11.15	10.59	

## The Pool's Net Assets per Unit<sup>1</sup> (\$) - Series OT4 Units

The Pool's Net Assets per Unit <sup>1</sup> (\$) - Series OT4 Units			Inception date: March 25, 2024
	2025	2024 <sup>a</sup>	
Net Assets, beginning of period	10.36	10.00 <sup>b</sup>	
Increase (decrease) from operations:			
Total revenue	0.09	0.08	
Total expenses	-	-	
Realized gains (losses) for the period	0.04	0.01	
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	0.14	0.46	
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>2</sup>	0.27	0.55	
Distributions:			
From income (excluding dividends)	0.09	0.20	
From dividends	0.05	-	
From capital gains	0.07	-	
Return of capital	-	-	
Total Distributions <sup>3</sup>	0.21	0.20	
Net Assets, end of period	10.82	10.36	

#### **Ratios and Supplemental Data - Series OT4 Units**

2025	2024 <sup>a</sup>	
95	-	
8,806	1	
0.07*	0.07*	
0.07*	0.07*	
0.03*	0.10*	
10.34	5.98	
10.82	10.36	
	95 8,806 0.07* 0.03* 10.34	95 -   8,806 1   0.07* 0.07*   0.03* 0.10*   10.34 5.98

а Information presented is for the period from the inception date to August 31.

b Initial offering price.

Ratio has been annualized.

<sup>3</sup> Distributions were paid in cash, reinvested in additional units of the Pool, or both.

4 This information is presented as at February 28, 2025 and August 31 of the period(s) shown.

<sup>1</sup> This information is derived from the Pool's audited annual and unaudited interim financial statements.

<sup>2</sup> Net assets and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The total increase (decrease) from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding during the period.

- <sup>5</sup> Management expense ratio is based on the total expenses of the Pool (excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs), incurred by or allocated to a series of units for the period shown, expressed as an annualized percentage of the daily average net asset value of that series during the period. The management expense ratio includes the fees attributable to exchange traded funds.
- <sup>6</sup> The decision to waive management fees and/or Fixed Administration Fees is at the discretion of the Manager, as applicable. The practice of waiving management fees and/or Fixed Administration Fees may continue indefinitely or may be terminated at any time without notice to unitholders. The management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions includes the fees attributable to exchange traded funds.
- <sup>7</sup> The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs before income taxes expressed as an annualized percentage of the daily average net asset value during the period. Spreads associated with fixed income securities trading are not ascertainable and, for that reason, are not included in the trading expense ratio calculation.
- <sup>8</sup> The portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the portfolio advisor manages the portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to a pool buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the period. The higher a portfolio turnover rate in a period, the greater the trading costs payable by a pool 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 pool.

#### **Management Fees**

The Pool, either directly or indirectly, pays CAMI an annual management fee to cover the costs of managing the Pool. Management fees are based on the Pool's net asset value and are calculated daily and paid monthly. Management fees are paid to CAMI in consideration for providing, or arranging for the provision of, management, distribution, and portfolio advisory services. Advertising and promotional expenses, office overhead expenses and trailing commissions are paid by CAMI out of the management fees received from the Pool. The Pool is required to pay applicable taxes on the management fees paid to CAMI. Refer to the Simplified Prospectus for the annual management fee rate for each series of units. For Series O and Series OT4 units, the management fee is negotiated with and paid by, or as directed by, unitholders or dealers and discretionary managers on behalf of unitholders. Such management fee for Series O and Series OT4 units will not exceed the annual management fee rate for Series F and Series FT4 units respectively.

For the period ended February 28, 2025, 100% of the management fees collected from the Pool was attributable to general administration and investment advice.

### **Past Performance**

Past performance is not presented because, as at February 28, 2025, the Pool had not yet completed its first full financial year.

#### Summary of Investment Portfolio (as at February 28, 2025)

The summary of investment portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the investment fund. A quarterly update is available by visiting <u>www.woodgundy.cibc.com/en/investing/private-wealth-pools.html</u>. The Top Positions table shows a fund's 25 largest positions. For funds with fewer than 25 positions in total, all positions are shown.

	% of Net Asset
Portfolio Breakdown	Value
Canadian Bond Investment Funds	33.8
Financials	20.7
Energy	12.3
Industrials	8.8
Materials	6.5
Information Technology	4.6
Consumer Staples	3.6
Utilities	2.4
Communication Services	2.0
Real Estate	1.9
Cash	1.8
Consumer Discretionary	1.6

	% of Net Asset
Top Positions	Value
BMO Mid Federal Bond Index ETF	11.3
BMO Short Federal Bond Index ETF	8.0
BMO Long Federal Bond Index ETF	5.6
BMO Short Corporate Bond Index ETF	5.3
Royal Bank of Canada	5.2
Waste Connections Inc.	3.0
Bank of Montreal	2.9
Brookfield Corp., Class 'A'	2.8
Wheaton Precious Metals Corp.	2.7
Shopify Inc., Class 'A'	2.6
Enbridge Inc.	2.6
Toronto-Dominion Bank (The)	2.4
Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.	2.4
Suncor Energy Inc.	2.3
Canadian Pacific Kansas City Ltd.	2.2
Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.	2.1
Bank of Nova Scotia (The)	2.1
TELUS Corp.	2.0
Constellation Software Inc.	2.0
Manulife Financial Corp.	2.0
TC Energy Corp.	1.9
BMO Long Corporate Bond Index ETF	1.9
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1.9
Cash	1.8
Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc.	1.8

#### A note on forward-looking statements

The management report of fund performance may contain forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements include statements that are predictive in nature, that depend upon or refer to future events or conditions, or that include words such as "expects", "anticipates", "intends", "plans", "believes", "estimates", or other similar wording. In addition, any statements that may be made concerning future performance, strategies, or prospects and possible future actions taken by the pool, are also forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance. These statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties, and other factors that may cause the actual results and achievements of the pool to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such statements. Such factors include, but are not limited to: general economic, market, and business conditions; fluctuations in securities prices, interest rates, and foreign currency exchange rates; changes in government regulations; and catastrophic events.

The above list of important factors that may affect future results is not exhaustive. Before making any investment decisions, we encourage you to consider these and other factors carefully. CIBC Asset Management Inc. does not undertake, and specifically disclaims, any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future developments, or otherwise prior to the release of the next management report of fund performance.



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