

# ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE

For the period ended December 31, 2024

## Short Term and Income Fund **NBI High Yield Bond Fund**

### Notes on forward-looking statements

This report may contain forward-looking statements concerning the Fund, its future performance, its strategies or prospects or about future events or circumstances. Such forward-looking statements include, among others, statements with respect to our beliefs, plans, expectations, estimates and intentions. The use of the expressions "foresee", "intend", "anticipate", "estimate", "assume", "believe" and "expect" and other similar terms and expressions indicate forward-looking statements.

By their very nature, forward-looking statements imply the use of assumptions and necessarily involve inherent risks and uncertainties. Consequently, there is a significant risk that the explicit or implicit forecasts contained in these forward-looking statements might not materialize or that they may not prove to be accurate in the future. A number of factors could cause future results, conditions or events to differ materially from the objectives, expectations, estimates or intentions expressed in such forward-looking statements. Such differences might be caused by several factors, including changes in Canadian and worldwide economic and financial conditions (in particular interest and exchange rates and the prices of other financial instruments), market trends, new regulatory provisions, competition, changes in technology and the potential impact of conflicts and other international events.

The foregoing list of factors is not exhaustive. Before making any investment decision, investors and others relying on our forward-looking statements should carefully consider the foregoing factors and other factors. We caution readers not to rely unduly on these forward-looking statements. We assume no obligation to update forward-looking statements in the light of new information, future events or other circumstances unless applicable legislation so provides.

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This annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights, but does not contain the complete annual financial statements of the investment fund. You can get a copy of the annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling 1-888-270-3941 or 514-871-2082, by writing to us at National Bank Investments Advisory Service, 800 Saint-Jacques Street, Transit 44331, Montreal, Quebec, H3C 1A3, by visiting our website at [www.nbinvestments.ca](http://www.nbinvestments.ca), by visiting SEDAR+'s website at [www.sedarplus.ca](http://www.sedarplus.ca), or by contacting your advisor. You 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 NBI High Yield Bond Fund's investment objective is to achieve high total income return. The Fund invests primarily in high yield debt securities of foreign (U.S.A. and Western Europe) and Canadian companies such as corporate bonds with medium to long terms. The Fund may also invest in convertible debentures, preferred shares and mortgage-backed securities.

The portfolio sub-advisor will apply a fundamental bottom-up investment process to achieve strong risk-adjusted returns based around a good diversification by sector, in-depth analysis of the company's strength, competitive position in the sector, management team, market trends and the return offered compared to risk and market conditions. The portfolio sub-advisor therefore looks for well-managed companies with a well-defined business vision and significant competitive advantages. The portfolio sub-advisor also integrates financially material environmental, social and governance factors as part of its investment process ("ESG Integration"). The fund may use a responsible investment approach, as described in the fund prospectus, this approach being one of many components of the investment strategies used to help achieve the fund's investment objective.

### Risks

The global investment risk of the Fund remains as described in the simplified prospectus or any amendments thereto and Fund Facts.

### Results of Operations

For the twelve-month period ended December 31, 2024, the NBI High Yield Bond Fund's Investor Series units returned 5.35% compared to 7.25% for the Fund's benchmark, the ICE BofA U.S. High Yield Constrained Index (CAD Hedged). Unlike the benchmark, the Fund's performance is calculated after fees and expenses. Please see the *Past Performance* section for the returns of all of the Fund's series, which may vary mainly because of fees and expenses.

Certain series of the Fund, as applicable, may make distributions at a rate determined by the manager. This rate may change from time to time. If the aggregate amount of distributions in such series exceeds the portion of net income and net realized capital gains allocated to such series, the excess will constitute a return of capital. The manager does not believe that the return of capital distributions made by such series of the Fund have a meaningful impact on the Fund's ability to implement its investment strategy or to fulfill its investment objective.

The Fund's net asset value rose by 5.13% over the period, from \$1.032 billion as at December 31, 2023 to \$1.085 billion as at December 31, 2024.

The high yield market in 2024 resembled a duck swimming on a serene lake. Calm on the surface but a lot going on underneath. A total return greater than starting yields driven by spread compression and minimal default loss above the water while volatile rate moves up and down, liability management exercises, distressed exchanges and the return of new issuance after a two-year lull were the little legs churning away. The year began on the heels of a double-digit return year in 2023 and the Fed pivot in December. For the first half of the year, spreads were slightly tighter while yields rose modestly as the asset class absorbed roughly half the move higher in US Treasuries, generating just under-carry returns. For the second half, however, returns accelerated driven by the lower quality part of the market as stressed issuers addressed capital structures, and experienced some improvement in fundamentals, driving demand for these bonds as appetites for risk increased.

New issuance for the year was slightly greater than 2022 and 2023 combined and high yield mutual fund inflows were strong. Defaults were well below 1%. Despite spreads at tight levels on a historical basis driven by continued solid fundamentals and a favourable market technical, demand continued to outstrip supply for most of the year.

In this context, the Fund underperformed its benchmark for the period. Security selection in Pharmaceuticals, Cable Satellite, and Wirelines added to relative performance during the period. Offsetting relative performance was security selection in Retailers, Chemicals and Midstream.

### Recent Developments

Relative to the benchmark, the portfolio manager remained slightly more defensive in duration. Specifically, the Fund ended the period with a duration of 2.82 compared to the index's duration of 3.37. As of December 31, the Fund is overweight Automotive, Cable Satellite, Consumer Products and Pharmaceuticals due to our view of relative value opportunities within those sectors. Conversely, the Fund remains underweight in Finance Companies, P&C, Retailers and Electric sectors as we do not find these sectors attractive due to challenging fundamental outlooks.

Above average yields, solid fundamentals, a supportive market technical and low levels of distressed debt indicate a continued solid outlook for high yield credit. A soft landing remains priced into risk assets and our base case. Growth is expected to slow as inflation continues to lower with the Federal Reserve gradually cutting rates. While the uncertainty of the US elections is behind us, upcoming policy changes from the incoming administration and the potential impacts on growth and inflation remain. While there has been some moderation in earnings growth, the outlook and conditions for most of our investment universe have experienced only modest changes.

### Related Party Transactions

National Bank of Canada ("the Bank") and its affiliated companies' roles and responsibilities related to the Fund are as follows:

#### Trustee, Custodian, and Registrar

Natcan Trust Company ("NTC"), an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of the Bank, is the Fund's trustee. In this capacity, it is the legal owner of the Fund's investments.

NTC acts as registrar for the Fund's securities and the names of securityholders. NTC also acts as the Fund's custodian. The fees for NTC's custodial services are based on the standard rates in effect at NTC.

#### Agent for securities lending transactions

NTC acts as the agent for securities lending transactions acts on behalf of the Fund in administering securities lending transactions entered into by the Fund. NTC is an affiliate of the Manager.

#### Fund Manager

The Fund is managed by National Bank Investments Inc. ("NBI"), which is an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of the Bank. Therefore, NBI provides or ensures the provision of all general management and administrative services required by the Fund's current operations, including investment consulting, the arrangement of brokerage contracts for the purchase and sale of the investment portfolio, bookkeeping and other administrative services required by the Fund.

The Manager pays the operating expenses of the Fund other than its "Fund costs" (defined below) (the "variable operating expenses"), in exchange for the Fund's payment to the Manager of annual fixed-rate administration fees with respect to each series of the Fund.

The administration fees are equal to a specified percentage of the net asset value of each series of the Fund, calculated and paid in the same manner as the Fund's management fees. The variable operating expenses payable by the Manager include, but are not limited to: transfer agency and recordkeeping costs; custodial costs; accounting and valuation fees; audit fees and legal fees; costs of preparing and distributing financial reports, simplified prospectuses, annual information forms, Fund Facts, continuous disclosure material and other securityholder communications; and costs of trustee services relating to registered tax plans, as applicable.

In addition to administration fees, the Fund shall also pay certain Fund costs, namely: taxes (including, but not limited to, GST/HST and income taxes); costs of compliance with any changes to existing governmental or regulatory requirements introduced after August 1, 2013; costs of compliance with any new governmental or regulatory requirements, including any new fees introduced after August 1, 2013; interest and borrowing costs; costs related to external services that were not commonly charged in the Canadian mutual fund industry as at August 1, 2013; Independent Review Committee costs, including compensation paid to IRC members, travel expenses, insurance premiums and costs associated with their continuing education; and variable operating expenses incurred outside of the normal course of business of the Fund.

The Manager may, from time to time and at its sole discretion, decide to absorb a portion of a series' management fees, administration fees or Fund costs.

As described under the heading *Management Fees*, the Fund pays annual management fees to NBI as consideration for its services.

### Portfolio Manager

The Manager has appointed National Bank Trust Inc. ("NBT"), a direct and indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of the Bank, as the portfolio manager for the Fund. A flat fee is payable annually to NBT for its management services.

### Distribution and Dealer Compensation

National Bank Savings and Investments Inc. ("NBSI") acts as principal distributor for the Fund. In this capacity, NBSI buys, sells and swaps securities through Bank branches and the National Bank Investments Advisory Service in Canadian provinces and territories, and through external registered representatives. Fund securities are also offered by National Bank Financial Inc. (including its division National Bank Direct Brokerage) and other affiliated entities. Brokers may receive, depending on the distributed series, a monthly commission representing a percentage of the average daily value of the securities held by their clients.

### Brokerage Fees

The Fund may pay broker's commissions at market rates to a corporation affiliated with NBI. The brokerage fees paid by the Fund for the period are as follows:

|   | Period ended<br>December 31, 2024 |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Total brokerage fees</b>                           | \$53,821.56                       |
| <b>Brokerage fees paid to National Bank Financial</b> | \$53,821.56                       |

### Holdings

As at December 31, 2024, National Bank Investments Inc. held 766.11 Fund securities for a value of \$6,207.79, which represented close to 0.0006% of the net asset value of the Fund at that date. Transactions between National Bank Investments Inc. and the Fund were carried out in the normal course of business and at the Fund's net asset value as at the transaction date.

### Registered Plan Trust Services

NTC receives a fixed amount per registered account for services provided as trustee for registered plans.

### Administrative and Operating Services

The provision of certain services was delegated by the Fund Manager, NBI, to National Bank Trust Inc. ("NBT"), a direct and indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of the Bank. These include accounting, reporting and portfolio valuation services. The fees incurred for these services are paid to NBT by the Fund manager.

## Management Fees

The Fund pays annual management fees to the Fund manager for its management services. As the Fund invests in underlying funds, the fees and expenses payable in connection with the management of the underlying funds are in addition to those payable by the Fund. However, the Fund manager makes sure that the Fund does not pay any management (or operating) fees that, to a reasonable person, would duplicate a fee payable by the underlying fund for the same service.

The fees are calculated based on a percentage of the Fund's daily net asset value before applicable taxes and are paid on a monthly basis. Under the *Distribution* heading, expenses include the broker's compensation consisting of the maximum annual trailer fees and sales commissions paid to brokers. Under the *Other* heading, the fees relate mainly to investment management, investment advisory services, general administration and profit. The breakdown of major services provided in consideration of the management fees, expressed as an approximate percentage of the management fees is as follows:

| Series                        | Management Fees | Distribution | Others <sup>†</sup> |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Investor Series               | 1.50%           | 33.33%       | 66.67%              |
| Advisor Series and Series T5* |                 |              |                     |
| Front-end load**              | 1.50%           | 33.33%       | 66.67%              |
| Series F and Series F5        | 0.80%           | —            | 100.00%             |
| Series O                      | N/A***          | —            | 100.00%             |

<sup>(†)</sup> Includes all costs related to management, investment advisory services, general administration and profit.

<sup>(\*)</sup> Excluding sales commissions paid on the Advisor Series and Series T5 with low sales charges option and deferred sales charge option, which are not paid for out of the management fees.

<sup>(\*\*)</sup> Rate applicable for all investments, including Advisor Series existing before May 14, 2015, systematic investment programs, reinvested distributions and switches.

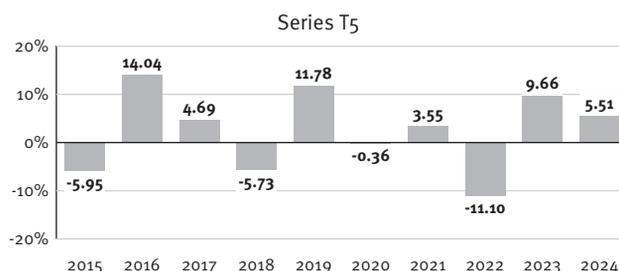
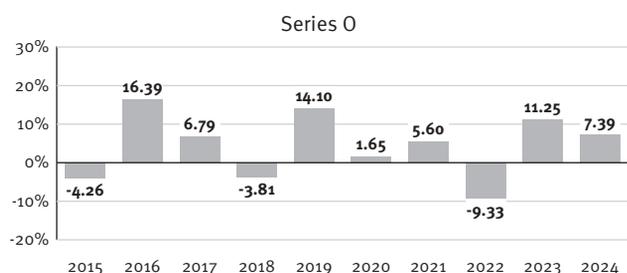
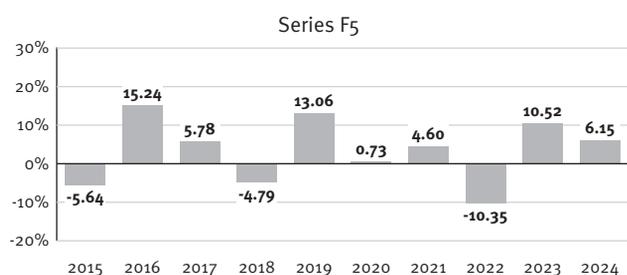
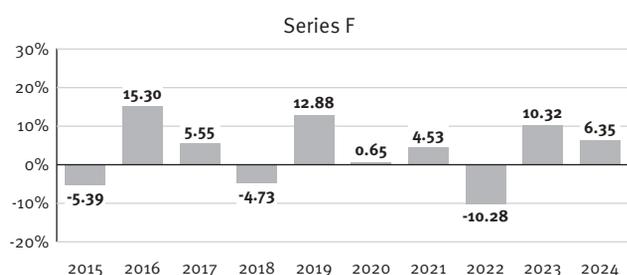
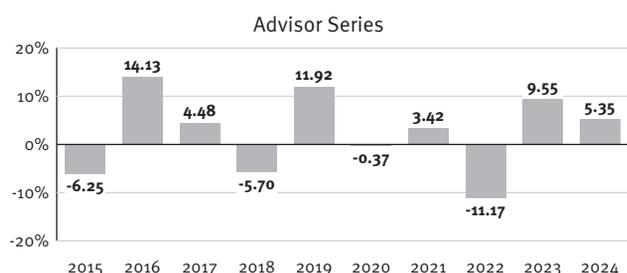
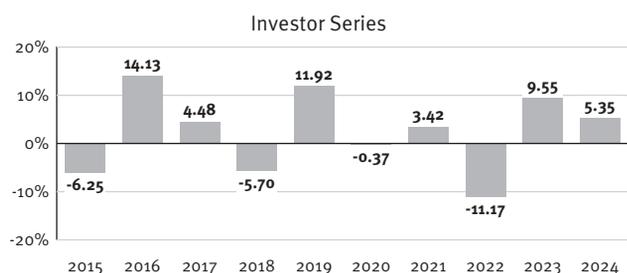
<sup>(\*\*\*)</sup> The Series O is only available to selected investors that have been approved and have entered into an O Series units account agreement with National Bank Investments Inc. The criteria for approval may include the size of the investment, the expected level of account activity and the investor's total investments with NBI. No management fees are charged to the Fund with respect to the O Series units. Management fees are negotiated with and paid directly by investors and are in addition to the fixed-rate administration fee. NBI does not pay any commissions or service fees to dealers who sell O Series units. There are no sales charges payable by investors who purchase O Series units.

## Past Performance

The performance of each series of the Fund is presented below and calculated as at December 31 of each year. It assumes that all distributions made in the periods shown were reinvested in additional securities and does not take into account sales, redemption charges, distributions, or optional charges that would have reduced returns. Past performance of a series of a Fund does not necessarily indicate how it will perform in the future.

## Annual Returns

The bar charts indicate the performance for each the Fund's series in existence greater than one year during the years shown, and illustrate how the performance has changed from year to year. They show, in percentage terms, how much an investment made on January 1 (or made commencing from the start of the series) would have grown or decreased by December 31 of that year, in the case of the Annual management report of fund performance, or by June 30, in the case of the Interim management report of fund performance.



<sup>(1)</sup> Returns for the period from May 21, 2014 (commencement of operations) to December 31, 2014.

## Annual Compounded Performance

The following table shows the Fund's annual compound returns for each series in existence greater than one year and for each of the periods ended on December 31, 2024, compared with the following benchmark:

- ICE BofA US High Yield Constrained Index (CAD Hedged)

### NBI High Yield Bond Fund

|                                    | 1 year | 3 years | 5 years | 10 years | Since inception |
|------------------------------------|--------|---------|---------|----------|-----------------|
| <b>Investor Series<sup>1</sup></b> | 5.35%  | 0.83%   | 1.10%   | 2.23%    | –               |
| Benchmark                          | 7.25%  | 2.11%   | 3.22%   | 4.38%    | –               |
| <b>Advisor Series<sup>2</sup></b>  | 5.35%  | 0.83%   | 1.10%   | 2.23%    | –               |
| Benchmark                          | 7.25%  | 2.11%   | 3.22%   | 4.38%    | –               |
| <b>Series F<sup>3</sup></b>        | 6.35%  | 1.72%   | 2.06%   | 3.21%    | –               |
| Benchmark                          | 7.25%  | 2.11%   | 3.22%   | 4.38%    | –               |
| <b>Series F5<sup>4</sup></b>       | 6.15%  | 1.70%   | 2.08%   | 3.21%    | –               |
| Benchmark                          | 7.25%  | 2.11%   | 3.22%   | 4.38%    | –               |
| <b>Series O<sup>5</sup></b>        | 7.39%  | 2.70%   | 3.06%   | 4.27%    | –               |
| Benchmark                          | 7.25%  | 2.11%   | 3.22%   | 4.38%    | –               |
| <b>Series T5<sup>4</sup></b>       | 5.51%  | 0.95%   | 1.20%   | 2.30%    | –               |
| Benchmark                          | 7.25%  | 2.11%   | 3.22%   | 4.38%    | –               |

<sup>1</sup>Commencement of operations: December 19, 2001

<sup>2</sup>Commencement of operations: February 8, 2002

<sup>3</sup>Commencement of operations: April 16, 2008

<sup>4</sup>Commencement of operations: May 21, 2014

<sup>5</sup>Commencement of operations: May 4, 2006

A discussion of the Fund's relative performance in comparison to the index (or indices) can be found in the *Results of Operations* Section of this report.

### Index Description

The **ICE BofA US High Yield Constrained Index**, hedged in CAD, is composed of U.S. dollar-denominated, high yield corporate bonds that have at least \$250 million of outstanding face value, have an original maturity date of at least 18 months; and have at least one year to maturity. The Index contains all securities in the ICE BofA US High Yield Index but caps issuer exposure at 2%. Index constituents are capitalization-weighted, based on their current amount outstanding, provided the total allocation to an individual issuer does not exceed 2%.

## 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 for the accounting periods shown.

### Investor / Advisor\* Series

<sup>(1)</sup> The Advisor Series was created on February 8, 2002.

| Net Assets per Unit <sup>(1)</sup>                                     |                     | Commencement of operations: December 19, 2001 |                     |                     |                     |  |
|--|---------------------|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| Accounting Period Ended  | 2024<br>December 31 | 2023<br>December 31                           | 2022<br>December 31 | 2021<br>December 31 | 2020<br>December 31 |  |
| <b>Net Assets, Beginning of Accounting Period Shown</b> <sup>(4)</sup> | 6.08                | 5.84  | 6.92                | 6.98                | 7.32                |  |
| <b>Increase (Decrease) from Operations (\$)</b>                        |                     |   |                     |                     |                     |  |
| Total revenue  | 0.35                | 0.36  | 0.37                | 0.35                | 0.37                |  |
| Total expenses   | (0.07)              | (0.06)  | (0.08)              | (0.09)              | (0.10)              |  |
| Realized gains (losses)  | (0.03)              | (0.15)  | 0.10                | 1.68                | (1.20)              |  |
| Unrealized gains (losses)  | 0.09                | 0.37  | (1.25)              | (1.75)              | 0.87                |  |
| <b>Total Increase (Decrease) from Operations (\$)</b> <sup>(2)</sup>   | 0.34                | 0.52  | (0.86)              | 0.19                | (0.06)              |  |
| <b>Distributions (\$)</b>  |                     |   |                     |                     |                     |  |
| From net investment income (excluding dividends)                       | 0.28                | 0.30  | 0.31                | 0.30                | 0.30                |  |
| From dividends   | —                   | —   | —                   | —                   | —                   |  |
| From capital gains   | —                   | —   | —                   | —                   | —                   |  |
| Return of capital  | —                   | —   | —                   | —                   | —                   |  |
| <b>Total Annual Distributions (\$)</b> <sup>(3)</sup>                  | 0.28                | 0.30  | 0.31                | 0.30                | 0.30                |  |
| <b>Net Assets, End of Accounting Period Shown (\$)</b> <sup>(4)</sup>  | 6.12                | 6.08  | 5.84                | 6.92                | 6.98                |  |

### Ratios and Supplemental Data

| Accounting Period Ended                                    | 2024<br>December 31 | 2023<br>December 31 | 2022<br>December 31 | 2021<br>December 31 | 2020<br>December 31 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Total net asset value (000's of \$) <sup>(5)</sup>         | 19,336              | 15,532              | 18,222              | 43,185              | 173,677             |
| Number of units outstanding <sup>(5)</sup>                 | 3,158,461           | 2,555,502           | 3,119,809           | 6,240,444           | 24,898,517          |
| Management expense ratio (%) <sup>(6)</sup>                | 1.76                | 1.76                | 1.99                | 1.98                | 2.01                |
| Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions (%) | 2.44                | 2.35                | 2.69                | 2.54                | 2.58                |
| Trading expense ratio (%) <sup>(7)</sup>                   | 0.01                | 0.02                | 0.01                | 0.01                | 0.02                |
| Portfolio turnover rate (%) <sup>(8)</sup>                 | 4.87                | 19.88               | 6.23                | 21.68               | 165.46              |
| Net asset value per unit (\$)                              | 6.12                | 6.08                | 5.84                | 6.92                | 6.98                |

## Series F

| Net Assets per Unit <sup>(1)</sup>                                     |                     | Commencement of operations: April 16, 2008 |                     |                     |                     |  |
|--|---------------------|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| Accounting Period Ended  | 2024<br>December 31 | 2023<br>December 31                        | 2022<br>December 31 | 2021<br>December 31 | 2020<br>December 31 |  |
| <b>Net Assets, Beginning of Accounting Period Shown</b> <sup>(4)</sup> | 7.47                | 7.18                                       | 8.42                | 8.58                | 8.99                |  |
| <b>Increase (Decrease) from Operations (\$)</b>                        |                     |  |                     |                     |                     |  |
| Total revenue  | 0.42                | 0.44                                       | 0.43                | 0.46                | 0.46                |  |
| Total expenses   | (0.02)              | (0.02)                                     | (0.02)              | (0.02)              | (0.02)              |  |
| Realized gains (losses)  | (0.04)              | (0.18)                                     | 0.19                | 2.79                | (0.05)              |  |
| Unrealized gains (losses)  | 0.09                | 0.47                                       | (1.35)              | (2.70)              | 0.99                |  |
| <b>Total Increase (Decrease) from Operations (\$)</b> <sup>(2)</sup>   | 0.45                | 0.71                                       | (0.75)              | 0.53                | 1.38                |  |
| <b>Distributions (\$)</b>  |                     |  |                     |                     |                     |  |
| From net investment income (excluding dividends)                       | 0.41                | 0.43                                       | 0.38                | 0.54                | 0.44                |  |
| From dividends   | —                   | —  | —                   | —                   | —                   |  |
| From capital gains   | —                   | —  | —                   | —                   | —                   |  |
| Return of capital  | —                   | —  | —                   | —                   | —                   |  |
| <b>Total Annual Distributions (\$)</b> <sup>(3)</sup>                  | 0.41                | 0.43                                       | 0.38                | 0.54                | 0.44                |  |
| <b>Net Assets, End of Accounting Period Shown (\$)</b> <sup>(4)</sup>  | 7.52                | 7.47                                       | 7.18                | 8.42                | 8.58                |  |

### Ratios and Supplemental Data

| Accounting Period Ended                                    | 2024<br>December 31 | 2023<br>December 31 | 2022<br>December 31 | 2021<br>December 31 | 2020<br>December 31 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Total net asset value (000's of \$) <sup>(5)</sup>         | 9,957               | 11,757              | 13,068              | 6,715               | 44,975              |
| Number of units outstanding <sup>(5)</sup>                 | 1,324,677           | 1,572,857           | 1,819,588           | 797,453             | 5,243,963           |
| Management expense ratio (%) <sup>(6)</sup>                | 0.98                | 0.97                | 0.97                | 0.92                | 0.92                |
| Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions (%) | 1.68                | 1.58                | 1.68                | 1.50                | 1.51                |
| Trading expense ratio (%) <sup>(7)</sup>                   | 0.01                | 0.02                | 0.01                | 0.01                | 0.02                |
| Portfolio turnover rate (%) <sup>(8)</sup>                 | 4.87                | 19.88               | 6.23                | 21.68               | 165.46              |
| Net asset value per unit (\$)                              | 7.52                | 7.47                | 7.18                | 8.42                | 8.58                |

## Series F5

Net Assets per Unit<sup>(1)</sup>

Commencement of operations: May 21, 2014

| Accounting Period Ended   | 2024<br>December 31 | 2023<br>December 31 | 2022<br>December 31 | 2021<br>December 31 | 2020<br>December 31 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Net Assets, Beginning of Accounting Period Shown<sup>(4)</sup></b> | 6.90                | 6.56                | 7.78                | 7.90                | 8.29                |
| <b>Increase (Decrease) from Operations (\$)</b>                       |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| Total revenue   | 0.41                | 0.30                | 0.41                | 0.45                | 0.35                |
| Total expenses  | (0.02)              | (0.02)              | (0.02)              | (0.02)              | (0.02)              |
| Realized gains (losses)   | (0.03)              | (0.10)              | 0.14                | 0.80                | (0.30)              |
| Unrealized gains (losses)   | 0.16                | 0.14                | (1.31)              | (0.88)              | 0.81                |
| <b>Total Increase (Decrease) from Operations (\$)<sup>(2)</sup></b>   | 0.52                | 0.32                | (0.78)              | 0.35                | 0.84                |
| <b>Distributions (\$)</b>   |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| From net investment income (excluding dividends)                      | 0.34                | 0.28                | 0.39                | 0.42                | 0.32                |
| From dividends  | —                   | —                   | —                   | —                   | —                   |
| From capital gains  | —                   | —                   | —                   | —                   | —                   |
| Return of capital   | 0.05                | 0.04                | 0.04                | 0.06                | 0.10                |
| <b>Total Annual Distributions (\$)<sup>(3)</sup></b>                  | 0.39                | 0.32                | 0.43                | 0.48                | 0.42                |
| <b>Net Assets, End of Accounting Period Shown (\$)<sup>(4)</sup></b>  | 6.92                | 6.90                | 6.56                | 7.78                | 7.90                |

### Ratios and Supplemental Data

| Accounting Period Ended                                    | 2024<br>December 31 | 2023<br>December 31 | 2022<br>December 31 | 2021<br>December 31 | 2020<br>December 31 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Total net asset value (000's of \$) <sup>(5)</sup>         | 1,234               | 2                   | 11                  | 12                  | 12                  |
| Number of units outstanding <sup>(5)</sup>                 | 178,172             | 348                 | 1,648               | 1,550               | 1,460               |
| Management expense ratio (%) <sup>(6)</sup>                | 0.98                | 0.95                | 0.94                | 0.93                | 0.90                |
| Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions (%) | 1.67                | 1.56                | 1.63                | 1.48                | 1.79                |
| Trading expense ratio (%) <sup>(7)</sup>                   | 0.01                | 0.02                | 0.01                | 0.01                | 0.02                |
| Portfolio turnover rate (%) <sup>(8)</sup>                 | 4.87                | 19.88               | 6.23                | 21.68               | 165.46              |
| Net asset value per unit (\$)                              | 6.92                | 6.90                | 6.56                | 7.78                | 7.90                |

## Series O

Net Assets per Unit<sup>(1)</sup>

Commencement of operations: May 4, 2006

| Accounting Period Ended   | 2024<br>December 31 | 2023<br>December 31 | 2022<br>December 31 | 2021<br>December 31 | 2020<br>December 31 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Net Assets, Beginning of Accounting Period Shown<sup>(4)</sup></b> | 6.55                | 6.30                | 7.41                | 7.46                | 7.85                |
| <b>Increase (Decrease) from Operations (\$)</b>                       |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| Total revenue   | 0.37                | 0.38                | 0.39                | 0.45                | 0.41                |
| Total expenses  | 0.04                | 0.04                | 0.04                | 0.05                | 0.04                |
| Realized gains (losses)   | (0.04)              | (0.18)              | 0.12                | 0.65                | (1.50)              |
| Unrealized gains (losses)   | 0.08                | 0.37                | (1.21)              | (0.73)              | 0.97                |
| <b>Total Increase (Decrease) from Operations (\$)<sup>(2)</sup></b>   | 0.45                | 0.61                | (0.66)              | 0.42                | (0.08)              |
| <b>Distributions (\$)</b>   |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| From net investment income (excluding dividends)                      | 0.42                | 0.43                | 0.42                | 0.46                | 0.49                |
| From dividends  | —                   | —                   | —                   | —                   | —                   |
| From capital gains  | —                   | —                   | —                   | —                   | —                   |
| Return of capital   | —                   | —                   | —                   | —                   | —                   |
| <b>Total Annual Distributions (\$)<sup>(3)</sup></b>                  | 0.42                | 0.43                | 0.42                | 0.46                | 0.49                |
| <b>Net Assets, End of Accounting Period Shown (\$)<sup>(4)</sup></b>  | 6.60                | 6.55                | 6.30                | 7.41                | 7.46                |

### Ratios and Supplemental Data

| Accounting Period Ended                                    | 2024<br>December 31 | 2023<br>December 31 | 2022<br>December 31 | 2021<br>December 31 | 2020<br>December 31 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Total net asset value (000's of \$) <sup>(5)</sup>         | 393,362             | 413,180             | 269,821             | 226,929             | 156,513             |
| Number of units outstanding <sup>(5)</sup>                 | 59,643,145          | 63,044,155          | 42,861,098          | 30,621,363          | 20,969,844          |
| Management expense ratio (%) <sup>(6)</sup>                | 0.03                | 0.02                | 0.03                | 0.02                | 0.01                |
| Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions (%) | 0.71                | 0.60                | 0.72                | 0.57                | 0.01                |
| Trading expense ratio (%) <sup>(7)</sup>                   | 0.01                | 0.02                | 0.01                | 0.01                | 0.57                |
| Portfolio turnover rate (%) <sup>(8)</sup>                 | 4.87                | 19.88               | 6.23                | 21.68               | 165.46              |
| Net asset value per unit (\$)                              | 6.60                | 6.55                | 6.30                | 7.41                | 7.46                |

## Series T5

Net Assets per Unit<sup>(1)</sup>

Commencement of operations: May 21, 2014

| Accounting Period Ended  | 2024        | 2023        | 2022        | 2021        | 2020        |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|  | December 31 |
| <b>Net Assets, Beginning of Accounting Period Shown</b> <sup>(4)</sup> | 6.95        | 6.73        | 8.01        | 8.21        | 8.72        |
| <b>Increase (Decrease) from Operations (\$)</b>                        |             |             |             |             |             |
| Total revenue  | 0.40        | 0.42        | 0.25        | 0.46        | 0.44        |
| Total expenses   | (0.08)      | (0.06)      | (0.10)      | (0.11)      | (0.12)      |
| Realized gains (losses)  | (0.04)      | (0.17)      | 0.01        | 0.95        | (1.43)      |
| Unrealized gains (losses)  | 0.16        | 0.44        | (1.82)      | (1.00)      | 1.05        |
| <b>Total Increase (Decrease) from Operations (\$)</b> <sup>(2)</sup>   | 0.44        | 0.63        | (1.66)      | 0.30        | (0.06)      |
| <b>Distributions (\$)</b>  |             |             |             |             |             |
| From net investment income (excluding dividends)                       | 0.30        | 0.36        | 0.25        | 0.35        | 0.34        |
| From dividends   | —           | —           | —           | —           | —           |
| From capital gains   | —           | —           | —           | —           | —           |
| Return of capital  | 0.09        | 0.05        | 0.15        | 0.14        | 0.11        |
| <b>Total Annual Distributions (\$)</b> <sup>(3)</sup>                  | 0.39        | 0.41        | 0.40        | 0.49        | 0.45        |
| <b>Net Assets, End of Accounting Period Shown (\$)</b> <sup>(4)</sup>  | 6.93        | 6.95        | 6.73        | 8.01        | 8.21        |

### Ratios and Supplemental Data

| Accounting Period Ended                                    | 2024        | 2023        | 2022        | 2021        | 2020        |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|  | December 31 |
| Total net asset value (ooo's of \$) <sup>(5)</sup>         | 1,498       | 1           | 1           | 60          | 75          |
| Number of units outstanding <sup>(5)</sup>                 | 216,333     | 167         | 157         | 7,433       | 9,138       |
| Management expense ratio (%) <sup>(6)</sup>                | 1.78        | 1.63        | 2.02        | 1.99        | 2.01        |
| Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions (%) | 2.46        | 2.37        | 2.71        | 2.54        | 2.59        |
| Trading expense ratio (%) <sup>(7)</sup>                   | 0.01        | 0.02        | 0.01        | 0.01        | 0.02        |
| Portfolio turnover rate (%) <sup>(8)</sup>                 | 4.87        | 19.88       | 6.23        | 21.68       | 165.46      |
| Net asset value per unit (\$)                              | 6.93        | 6.95        | 6.73        | 8.01        | 8.21        |

## Series PW\*

<sup>(1)</sup> Please note that this Series is offered by way of private placement.

Net Assets per Unit<sup>(1)</sup>

Commencement of operations: March 12, 2021

| Accounting Period Ended  | 2024        | 2023        | 2022        | 2021        |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|  | December 31 | December 31 | December 31 | December 31 |
| <b>Net Assets, Beginning of Accounting Period Shown</b> <sup>(4)</sup> | 8.81        | 8.45        | 9.97        | 10.00       |
| <b>Increase (Decrease) from Operations (\$)</b>                        |             |             |             |             |
| Total revenue  | 0.50        | 0.53        | 0.52        | 0.48        |
| Total expenses   | 0.03        | 0.03        | 0.03        | 0.01        |
| Realized gains (losses)  | (0.05)      | (0.23)      | 0.17        | 0.01        |
| Unrealized gains (losses)  | 0.12        | 0.54        | (1.65)      | (0.12)      |
| <b>Total Increase (Decrease) from Operations (\$)</b> <sup>(2)</sup>   | 0.60        | 0.87        | (0.93)      | 0.38        |
| <b>Distributions (\$)</b>  |             |             |             |             |
| From net investment income (excluding dividends)                       | 0.53        | 0.55        | 0.56        | 0.47        |
| From dividends   | —           | —           | —           | —           |
| From capital gains   | —           | —           | —           | —           |
| Return of capital  | —           | —           | —           | —           |
| <b>Total Annual Distributions (\$)</b> <sup>(3)</sup>                  | 0.53        | 0.55        | 0.56        | 0.47        |
| <b>Net Assets, End of Accounting Period Shown (\$)</b> <sup>(4)</sup>  | 8.87        | 8.81        | 8.45        | 9.97        |

### Ratios and Supplemental Data

| Accounting Period Ended                                    | 2024        | 2023        | 2022        | 2021        |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|  | December 31 | December 31 | December 31 | December 31 |
| Total net asset value (ooo's of \$) <sup>(5)</sup>         | 612,966     | 543,340     | 350,756     | 396,724     |
| Number of units outstanding <sup>(5)</sup>                 | 69,121,689  | 61,690,205  | 41,495,085  | 39,779,788  |
| Management expense ratio (%) <sup>(6)</sup>                | 0.33        | 0.33        | 0.32        | 0.54        |
| Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions (%) | 1.01        | 0.91        | 1.01        | 1.09        |
| Trading expense ratio (%) <sup>(7)</sup>                   | 0.01        | 0.02        | 0.01        | 0.01        |
| Portfolio turnover rate (%) <sup>(8)</sup>                 | 4.87        | 19.88       | 6.23        | 21.68       |
| Net asset value per unit (\$)                              | 8.87        | 8.81        | 8.45        | 9.97        |

## Series PWO\*

<sup>(1)</sup> Please note that this Series is offered by way of private placement.

| Net Assets per Unit <sup>(1)</sup>                                     |                     | Commencement of operations: March 12, 2021 |                     |                     |  |
|--|---------------------|--|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| Accounting Period Ended  | 2024<br>December 31 | 2023<br>December 31                        | 2022<br>December 31 | 2021<br>December 31 |  |
| <b>Net Assets, Beginning of Accounting Period Shown</b> <sup>(4)</sup> | 8.79                | 8.44                                       | 9.97                | 10.00               |  |
| <b>Increase (Decrease) from Operations (\$)</b>                        |                     |  |                     |                     |  |
| Total revenue  | 0.50                | 0.53                                       | 0.52                | 0.48                |  |
| Total expenses   | 0.05                | 0.05                                       | 0.05                | 0.03                |  |
| Realized gains (losses)  | (0.05)              | (0.22)                                     | 0.18                | 0.01                |  |
| Unrealized gains (losses)  | 0.13                | 0.50                                       | (1.67)              | (0.11)              |  |
| <b>Total Increase (Decrease) from Operations (\$)</b> <sup>(2)</sup>   | 0.63                | 0.86                                       | (0.92)              | 0.41                |  |
| <b>Distributions (\$)</b>  |                     |  |                     |                     |  |
| From net investment income (excluding dividends)                       | 0.57                | 0.57                                       | 0.59                | 0.49                |  |
| From dividends   | —                   | —  | —                   | —                   |  |
| From capital gains   | —                   | —  | —                   | —                   |  |
| Return of capital  | —                   | —  | —                   | —                   |  |
| <b>Total Annual Distributions (\$)</b> <sup>(3)</sup>                  | 0.57                | 0.57                                       | 0.59                | 0.49                |  |
| <b>Net Assets, End of Accounting Period Shown (\$)</b> <sup>(4)</sup>  | 8.84                | 8.79                                       | 8.44                | 9.97                |  |

### Ratios and Supplemental Data

| Accounting Period Ended                                    | 2024<br>December 31 | 2023<br>December 31 | 2022<br>December 31 | 2021<br>December 31 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Total net asset value (ooo's of \$) <sup>(5)</sup>         | 46,990              | 48,530              | 35,936              | 47,505              |
| Number of units outstanding <sup>(5)</sup>                 | 5,316,516           | 5,520,290           | 4,258,330           | 4,765,748           |
| Management expense ratio (%) <sup>(6)</sup>                | 0.07                | 0.07                | 0.07                | 0.30                |
| Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions (%) | 0.75                | 0.65                | 0.76                | 0.85                |
| Trading expense ratio (%) <sup>(7)</sup>                   | 0.01                | 0.02                | 0.01                | 0.01                |
| Portfolio turnover rate (%) <sup>(8)</sup>                 | 4.87                | 19.88               | 6.23                | 21.68               |
| Net asset value per unit (\$)                              | 8.84                | 8.79                | 8.44                | 9.97                |

## Private Series\*

<sup>(1)</sup> Please note that this Series is offered by way of private placement.

| Net Assets per Unit <sup>(1)</sup>                                     |                     | Commencement of operations: March 12, 2021 |                     |                     |  |
|--|---------------------|--|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| Accounting Period Ended  | 2024<br>December 31 | 2023<br>December 31                        | 2022<br>December 31 | 2021<br>December 31 |  |
| <b>Net Assets, Beginning of Accounting Period Shown</b> <sup>(4)</sup> | 8.92                | 8.44                                       | 9.96                | 10.00               |  |
| <b>Increase (Decrease) from Operations (\$)</b>                        |                     |  |                     |                     |  |
| Total revenue  | 0.51                | 0.42                                       | 0.52                | 0.48                |  |
| Total expenses   | 0.02                | 0.01                                       | 0.01                | (0.01)              |  |
| Realized gains (losses)  | (0.05)              | (0.22)                                     | 0.19                | 0.01                |  |
| Unrealized gains (losses)  | 0.11                | 0.42                                       | (1.76)              | (0.14)              |  |
| <b>Total Increase (Decrease) from Operations (\$)</b> <sup>(2)</sup>   | 0.59                | 0.63                                       | (1.04)              | 0.34                |  |
| <b>Distributions (\$)</b>  |                     |  |                     |                     |  |
| From net investment income (excluding dividends)                       | 0.53                | 0.41                                       | 0.54                | 0.46                |  |
| From dividends   | —                   | —  | —                   | —                   |  |
| From capital gains   | —                   | —  | —                   | —                   |  |
| Return of capital  | —                   | —  | —                   | —                   |  |
| <b>Total Annual Distributions (\$)</b> <sup>(3)</sup>                  | 0.53                | 0.41                                       | 0.54                | 0.46                |  |
| <b>Net Assets, End of Accounting Period Shown (\$)</b> <sup>(4)</sup>  | 8.97                | 8.92                                       | 8.44                | 9.96                |  |

### Ratios and Supplemental Data

| Accounting Period Ended                                    | 2024<br>December 31 | 2023<br>December 31 | 2022<br>December 31 | 2021<br>December 31 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Total net asset value (ooo's of \$) <sup>(5)</sup>         | 1                   | 1                   | 2,105               | 2,946               |
| Number of units outstanding <sup>(5)</sup>                 | 124                 | 117                 | 249,417             | 295,662             |
| Management expense ratio (%) <sup>(6)</sup>                | 0.50                | 0.58                | 0.57                | 0.79                |
| Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions (%) | 1.18                | 1.16                | 1.26                | 1.34                |
| Trading expense ratio (%) <sup>(7)</sup>                   | 0.01                | 0.02                | 0.01                | 0.01                |
| Portfolio turnover rate (%) <sup>(8)</sup>                 | 4.87                | 19.88               | 6.23                | 21.68               |
| Net asset value per unit (\$)                              | 8.97                | 8.92                | 8.44                | 9.96                |

- <sup>(1)</sup> This information is derived from the Fund's Annual Audited Financial Statements. The net assets per unit presented in the financial statements might differ from the net asset value calculated for fund pricing purposes. The differences are explained in the notes to the financial statements.
- <sup>(2)</sup> Net assets and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase or decrease from operations is based on the average number of units outstanding over the accounting period.
- <sup>(3)</sup> Distributions were paid in cash or reinvested in additional units of the Fund, or both.
- <sup>(4)</sup> The net assets are calculated in accordance with IFRS.
- <sup>(5)</sup> This information is provided as at the last day of the accounting period shown.
- <sup>(6)</sup> Management expense ratio is based on total expenses including sales taxes for the accounting period indicated (excluding commission, other portfolio transaction costs and withholding taxes) and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net value during the accounting period. The management expense ratio includes, if necessary, the management expenses from its underlying funds, as described in Article 15.2 of Regulation 81-106.
- <sup>(7)</sup> The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the accounting period. The trading expense ratio includes, if necessary, the trading expenses from its underlying funds, as described in Article 15.2 of Regulation 81-106.
- <sup>(8)</sup> The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund portfolio's manager 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 accounting period. The higher a Fund's portfolio turnover rate in an accounting period, the greater the trading costs payable by the Fund in the accounting period, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the accounting period. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a Fund.

## Summary of Investment Portfolio

As of December 31, 2024

### Portfolio Top Holdings

|   | % of Net<br>Asset Value |
|---|-------------------------|
| NBI High Yield Bond ETF .....                 | 99.3                    |
| Cash, Money Market and Other Net Assets ..... | 0.7                     |
|   | 100.0                   |

Net asset value ..... \$1,085,344,698

### Term Allocation

|                                | % of Net<br>Asset Value |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Under one year .....           | 3.2                     |
| From 1 year to 5 years .....   | 67.3                    |
| From 5 years to 10 years ..... | 29.2                    |
| More than 10 years .....       | 0.3                     |

### Credit Quality

|                     | % of Net<br>Asset Value |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| AAA .....           | 1.1                     |
| BBB .....           | 6.0                     |
| BB .....            | 50.9                    |
| B .....             | 27.7                    |
| CCC and below ..... | 13.5                    |
| Not rated .....     | 0.8                     |

The above table shows the top 25 positions held by the Fund. In the case of a Fund with fewer than 25 positions, all positions are indicated.

The Summary of Investment Portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the investment Fund. A quarterly update is available. Please consult our website at [www.nbinvestments.ca](http://www.nbinvestments.ca).

If this investment Fund invests in other investment funds, please consult the prospectus and other information about the underlying investment funds on the website indicated above or on SEDAR+'s website at [www.sedarplus.ca](http://www.sedarplus.ca).