

# **ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE**

For the period ended December 31, 2023

Money Market Fund

# **NBI Money Market 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 forwardlooking 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.

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, 500, Place d'Armes, 12th floor, Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 2W3, by visiting our website at www.nbinvestments.ca, by visiting SEDAR+'s website at 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 Money Market Fund's investment objective is to ensure maximum protection of capital while providing a competitive short-term rate of return. This Fund invests its net assets primarily in debt securities of corporations and of Canadian federal, provincial and municipal governments.

The portfolio manager's security selection is based on an analysis of economic conditions in Canada and their impact on yields. Shorter or longer term issues will be favored depending on whether interest rates are expected to rise or fall. It is expected that investments in securities of foreign issuers will not exceed approximately 15% of the Fund's assets; these investments are denominated in Canadian dollars.

#### 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, 2023, the NBI Money Market Fund's Investor Series units returned 4.02% compared to 4.71% for the Fund's benchmark, the FTSE Canada 91 Day T-Bill Index (CAD). 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.

The Fund's net asset value rose by 6.60% over the period, from \$42.30 million as at December 31, 2022 to \$45.10 million as at December 31, 2023.

At that moment even if the national economy was still overheating, it was widely recognized that the cumulative rate hikes had morphed into a restrictive enough policy to reduce consumer spending and curtail the real estate market. Growth and inflation levels were both expected to decelerate. The inversion of the yield curve and rate cut expectations priced in before year end were clues that the Central Bank had already reached the tipping point of its tightening cycle.

On the fixed-income side, while long-term bonds dominated at the end of the year, it was high-yield bonds that ended 2023 with the best performance in the category against a generally positive backdrop for risky securities. Among commodities, oil prices fell over the period, while gold rebounded amid heightened geopolitical tensions. Finally, widespread market optimism resulted in a weaker U.S. dollar against most currencies at year-end, including the Canadian dollar.

In this context, the fund underperformed the benchmark for the period. The flight to quality that we witnessed at the end of Q1 did hurt our performance at that time because investors bid up the price of government securities while our portfolios were mainly invested in high-quality credit names.

#### **Recent Developments**

During Q4 when it became clear that the next Bank of Canada move would be downward sometime in the future, the portfolio manager increased the average term close to the index.

Banker Acceptances will cease to exist in the Money Market at the end of June 2024. After a thorough analysis, the portfolio manager has started to include Asset Back Commercial Papers issued by the six major Canadian Banks in our list of eligible investments.

As usual, the portfolio is overweight with very high credit names, and the portfolio manager intends to keep its long-proven strategy.

The portfolio government exposure has increased because we used provincial securities to increase our average term toward the end of Q4.

The Next Bank of Canada move will be downward. The real question is now to determine when. It is well known that financial markets tend to overreact to new information. In early December future markets were pricing a first cut as early as the March meeting. The situation has since resorbed somewhat but the portfolio manager believes that rate cuts are too strongly priced in fixed income markets. We do not see those reductions materialize before the second part of 2024.

On May 1, 2023, the Fund's independent review committee (the "IRC") was increased to four members when Stéphanie Raymond-Bougie was appointed as IRC member.

# **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"), a direct or 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.

#### Fund Manager

The Fund is managed by National Bank Investments Inc. ("NBII"), which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Bank. Therefore, NBII 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 NBII as consideration for its services.

#### **Portfolio Manager**

The Manager has appointed National Bank Trust Inc. ("NBT"), an 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**

NBII acts as principal distributor for the Fund. In this capacity, NBII 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), CABN Investments (a division of NBII) 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.

#### **Independent Review Committee Approvals and Recommendations**

The Fund followed the standing instructions of its Independent Review Committee with respect to one or more of the following transactions:

- a) Purchasing or holding the securities of a related issuer, in particular, those of National Bank of Canada;
- Investing in the securities of an issuer when an entity related to the manager acts as an underwriter for the placement or at any time during the 6o-day period after the end of the placement;
- Purchasing or selling securities to another investment Fund managed by the manager or a company in the same group;
- d) Purchasing or selling debt securities on the secondary market, through related brokers that are main brokers in the Canadian debt securities market (in accordance with an exemption received from the Canadian Securities Administrators);
- e) Entering into foreign exchange transactions (including both spot transactions and forward transactions) with National Bank of Canada.

The Manager has implemented policies and procedures to make sure that the conditions applicable to each of the above transactions are met. The applicable standing instructions require that these transactions be carried out in accordance with NBII policies, which specify, in particular, that investment decisions pertaining to these related party transactions must be made free from any influence by an entity related to NBII and without taking into account any consideration relevant to an entity related to NBII. Furthermore, the investment decisions must represent the business judgment of the securities advisor, uninfluenced by considerations other than the best interest of the Fund and must achieve a fair and reasonable result for the Fund.

#### **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, NBII, to National Bank Trust Inc. ("NBT"), a wholly-owned indirect 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. 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	0.75%	33.33%	66.67%
Advisor Series*			
Front-end load**	0.75%	33.33%	66.67%
Back-end load - 1 to 6 years	0.75%	33.33%	66.67%
Low load - 1 to 3 years	0.75%	33.33%	66.67%
Low load - 4 years and more	0.75%	33.33%	66.67%
Series F	0.50%	_	100.00%
Series O	N/A***	_	100.00%

<sup>(7)</sup> Includes all costs related to management, investment advisory services, general administration and profit.

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

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

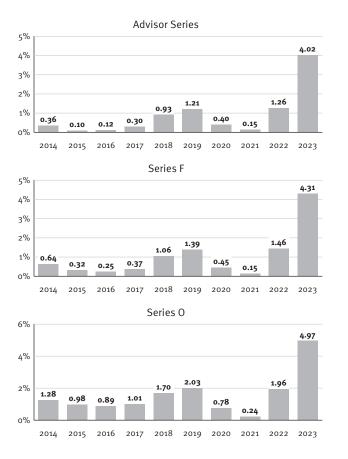
### **Past Performance**

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.





# 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

(\*) The Advisor Series was created on February 8, 2002.

Accounting Period Ended	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
	December 31				
Net Assets, Beginning of Accounting Period Shown (4)	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Increase (Decrease) from Operations (\$)					
Total revenue	0.49	0.17	0.03	0.08	0.20
Total expenses	(0.09)	(0.06)	(0.01)	(0.04)	(0.08)
Realized gains (losses)	-	_	_	_	_
Unrealized gains (losses)	-	_	_	_	_
Total Increase (Decrease) from Operations (\$) (2)	0.40	0.11	0.02	0.04	0.12
Distributions (\$)					
From net investment income (excluding dividends)	0.39	0.13	0.01	0.04	0.12
From dividends	-	-	_	_	_
From capital gains	-	_	_	_	_
Return of capital	-	_	_	_	-
Total Annual Distributions (\$) <sup>(3)</sup>	0.39	0.13	0.01	0.04	0.12
Net Assets, End of Accounting Period Shown (\$) (4)	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

#### Ratios and Supplemental Data

Accounting Period Ended	2023 December 31	2022 December 31	2021 December 31	2020 December 31	2019 December 31
Total net asset value (ooo's of \$) <sup>(5)</sup>	22,534	20,356	38,913	54,666	44,623
Number of units outstanding (5)	2,253,399	2,035,573	3,891,318	5,466,642	4,462,265
Management expense ratio (%) <sup>(6)</sup>	0.94	0.64	0.11	0.38	0.84
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions (%)	0.94	0.84	0.85	0.64	0.86
Trading expense ratio (%) <sup>(7)</sup>	_	_	_	_	_
Portfolio turnover rate (%) <sup>(8)</sup>	-	_	_	_	_
Net asset value per unit (\$)	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

## Series F

Accounting Period Ended	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
ů –	December 31				
Net Assets, Beginning of Accounting Period Shown (4)	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Increase (Decrease) from Operations (\$)					
Total revenue	0.49	0.25	0.03	0.08	0.20
Total expenses	(0.07)	(0.06)	(0.01)	(0.03)	(0.07)
Realized gains (losses)	-	_	_	_	_
Unrealized gains (losses)	-	_	_	(0.01)	0.01
Total Increase (Decrease) from Operations (\$) (2)	0.42	0.19	0.02	0.04	0.14
Distributions (\$)					
From net investment income (excluding dividends)	0.42	0.15	0.01	0.05	0.14
From dividends	-	_	_	_	_
From capital gains	-	_	_	_	_
Return of capital	-	_	_	_	_
Total Annual Distributions (\$) <sup>(3)</sup>	0.42	0.15	0.01	0.05	0.14
Net Assets, End of Accounting Period Shown (\$) (4)	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

Ratios and Supplemental Data

Accounting Period Ended	2023 December 31	2022 December 31	2021 December 31	2020 December 31	2019 December 31
Total net asset value (ooo's of \$) <sup>(5)</sup>	18,122	16,315	2,605	1,889	1,702
Number of units outstanding <sup>(5)</sup>	1,812,234	1,631,509	260,509	188,898	170,160
Management expense ratio (%) (6)	0.65	0.62	0.10	0.33	0.66
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions (%)	0.65	0.82	0.85	0.59	0.68
Trading expense ratio (%) <sup>(7)</sup>	_	_	_	_	_
Portfolio turnover rate (%) <sup>(8)</sup>	-	_	_	_	_
Net asset value per unit (\$)	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

## Series O

Net Assets per Unit<sup>(1)</sup> Commencement of operations: December 14, 2012 Accounting Period Ended 2023 2022 2021 2020 2019 December 31 December 31 December 31 December 31 December 31 Net Assets, Beginning of Accounting Period Shown (4) 10.00 10.00 10.00 10.00 10.00 Increase (Decrease) from Operations (\$) Total revenue 0.21 0.49 0.03 0.17 0.20

Total expenses	-	-	_	_	_
Realized gains (losses)	_	_	_	_	_
Unrealized gains (losses)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	_	_
Total Increase (Decrease) from Operations (\$) (2)	0.48	0.20	0.02	0.17	0.20
Distributions (\$)					
From net investment income (excluding dividends)	0.49	0.19	0.02	0.08	0.20
From dividends	-	-	_	_	-
From capital gains	-	-	_	_	-
Return of capital	_	_	_	_	_
Total Annual Distributions (\$) <sup>(3)</sup>	0.49	0.19	0.02	0.08	0.20
Net Assets, End of Accounting Period Shown (\$) <sup>(4)</sup>	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

Ratios and Supplemental Data

Accounting Period Ended	2023 December 31	2022 December 31	2021 December 31	2020 December 31	2019 December 31
Total net asset value (ooo's of \$) <sup>(5)</sup>	4,440	5,631	4,244	3,648	251,721
Number of units outstanding <sup>(5)</sup>	443,980	563,147	424,406	364,836	25,172,093
Management expense ratio (%) <sup>(6)</sup>	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions (%)	0.02	0.22	0.76	0.28	0.04
Trading expense ratio (%) <sup>(7)</sup>	_	_	_	_	_
Portfolio turnover rate (%) <sup>(8)</sup>	_	_	_	_	_
Net asset value per unit (\$)	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

(1) 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.

(2) 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.

 $^{\scriptscriptstyle (3)} \textit{Distributions}$  were paid in cash or reinvested in additional units of the Fund, or both.

(4) The net assets are calculated in accordance with IFRS

<sup>(s)</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.

(?) 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, 2023

#### **Portfolio Top Holdings**

% of Net
Asset Value
Fédération des caisses Desjardins, 5.22%,
due February 20, 2024
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, 5.36%,
due January 24, 2024
Financière CDP Inc., 5.09%, due June 10, 2024 3.9
Fédération des caisses Desjardins, 5.22%,
due January 3, 2024
Bank of Montreal, 5.19%, due February 20, 2024
Royal Bank of Canada, 5.35%, due January 12, 20242.8
Royal Bank of Canada, Floating, due February 15, 2024 2.8
Bay Street, 5.42%, due February 5, 2024 2.7
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, 5.24%,
due February 16, 2024
Toronto-Dominion Bank, 5.35%, due January 31, 20242.5
Province of Ontario, 5.05%, due June 12, 20242.5
City of Montreal, 5.17%, due February 29, 2024
Province of Ontario, 5.06%, due May 22, 2024
Toronto-Dominion Bank, 5.19%, due March 4, 2024
Financière CDP Inc., 5.10%, due June 3, 2024
Province of Prince Edward Island, 5.15%, due January 30, 20242.2
Manulife Financial Corp., 5.17%, due January 5, 2024 2.2
City of Calgary, 5.34%, due February 1, 2024
due February 14, 2024
Bank of Montreal, 4.85%, due May 2, 2024
Royal Bank of Canada, 4.86%, due May 2, 2024
Central 1 Credit Union, 5.28%, due May 21, 2024
Toronto-Dominion Bank/The, Floating, due October 18, 2024 1.6
Cash and Other Net Assets
63.0
63.0

Net asset value	\$45,096,135
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Asset Mix

	% of Net Asset Value
Banker's Acceptance	45.3
Commercial Papers	
Provincial T-Bills	
Corporate Bonds	
Municipal Bonds	1.3
Canadian T-Bills	0.2
Cash and Other Net Assets	0.1

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.

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.