# 2024 INTERIM MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE June 30, 2024

Julie 30, 2024

Offered by Educators Financial Group Portfolio Adviser: RBC Indigo Asset Management Inc., Vancouver, BC

**Educators Mortgage & Income Fund** 





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 1.800.263.9541, by writing to us at Educators Financial Group, 2225 Sheppard Ave. East, Suite 1105, Toronto, Ontario, M2J 5C2, or by visiting our website at www.educatorsfinancialgroup.ca or SEDAR at www.sedar.com.

Securityholders 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.

# **Caution Regarding Forward-looking Statements**

This report may contain forward-looking statements about the Fund, including its strategy, risks, expected performance and condition. 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 negative versions thereof and similar forward-looking expressions.

In addition, any statement that may be made concerning future performance, strategies or prospects, and possible future Fund action, is also a forward-looking statement. Forward-looking statements are based on current expectations and projections about future general economic, political and relevant market factors, such as interest rates, foreign exchange rates, equity and capital markets, and the general business environment, in each case assuming no changes to applicable tax or other laws or government regulation. Expectations and projections about future events are inherently subject to, among other things, risks, and uncertainties, some of which may be unforeseeable. Accordingly, assumptions concerning future economic and other factors may prove to be incorrect at a future date.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance, and actual events and results could differ materially from those expressed or implied in any forward-looking statements made by the Fund. Any number of important factors could contribute to these digressions, including, but not limited to, general economic, political and market factors in North America and internationally, including international conflicts, interest and foreign exchange rates, global equity and capital markets, business competition, technological change, changes in government regulations, unexpected judicial or regulatory proceedings, and catastrophic events, including any potential lingering impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Fund and/or its operations.

It should be stressed that the above-mentioned list of factors is not exhaustive. You are encouraged to consider these and other factors carefully before making any investment decisions and you are urged to avoid placing undue reliance on forward-looking statements. Further, you should be aware of the fact that the Fund has no specific intention of updating any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, prior to the release of the next Management Report of Fund Performance, unless required by applicable law.



## MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION OF FUND PERFORMANCE

#### **Results of Operations**

The Fund's net assets decreased by 4.8% to \$75.7 million at the end of June 2024, down from \$79.5 million at the end of December 2023.

#### Investment Performance

For the year/period ending June 30, 2024 (*the period*), the Educators Mortgage & Income Fund – Class A Series provided a return of 2.77%, versus the FTSE Canada Short Term Bond Index (*the Benchmark*) return of 1.57%.

The Fund outperformed its Benchmark over the period. Unlike the Benchmark, the Fund's return is net of fees and expenses paid by the Fund. Detailed performance is provided under the heading "Past Performance" in this report. Investors cannot invest in the Benchmark without incurring fees, expenses and commissions which are not reflected in Benchmark returns.

The Fund benefitted from its allocation to residential mortgages and term positioning in that space. Mortgage spreads (the difference in yields between mortgages and equivalent maturity government bonds) narrowed over the first six months of 2024, offsetting the widening over the latter half of 2023.

Within the Canadian Fixed Income market, yields continued to be volatile, as participants sought to anticipate the timing of initial interest rate cuts by the Bank of Canada (*BoC*). Following substantial optimism for cuts at the end of 2023, yields moved higher in early 2024, as those expectations began to be revised. Towards the end of the second quarter, as yields and inflation began to decrease, supported the BoC 0.25% rate cut in early June. The move was likely also influenced by the impact of upcoming mortgage renewals. Within corporate bonds, credit spreads tightened and enhanced performance, as corporate balance sheets remained strong. Primary issuance was easily absorbed, as market participants sought additional yield.

The domestic short-term bond market (*FTSE Canada Short Term Bond Index*) rose modestly from a total return perspective in the first half of 2024. Aggressive rate cut expectations priced in at the start of the year have moderated significantly, but the BoC has indicated that "monetary policy no longer needs to be as restrictive", opening the door to additional cuts in the coming months. Additional Tier 1 (*AT1*) securities have staged a very impressive recovery over the past nine months, many providing double-digit total returns since the end of the third quarter of 2023. Canadian corporate bond spreads (*the difference in yields between corporate bonds and equivalent maturity government bonds*) ended the quarter roughly unchanged and are trading relatively low-cost to U.S. markets. Provincial bond spreads were also generally unchanged in the quarter, trading in a narrow range—despite increased issuance from the provinces.

### **Recent Developments**

The ebb and flow of rate cut expectations in both the U.S. and Canada continues to dominate market sentiment in 2024, as it did in 2023. Slow, but definitive progress on inflation eventually produced the first Canadian cut of the cycle in June, while U.S. central bank officials have yet to act. Inflation in both countries is still above the two central banks' common target of 2.00%, but the achievement of that level in both markets now appears to be likely in 2025. Despite the reluctance of policy makers to lower rates, economic growth has proved resilient, and the prospect of a recession has diminished. Slow growth and continued improvement on inflation should provide an environment conducive to less restrictive policy, with a consensus view of cuts by 50-basis points in both markets for the remainder of 2024.

Growth has indeed moderated, as evidenced by the sharp rise in the unemployment rate over the last few quarters in both Canada and the U.S. Aside from slow growth and continued improvement on inflation, the much-publicized election in the fourth quarter is expected to bring increased volatility across financial markets.

The Fund's considerable overweight to mortgages paid off in the first half of 2024, as the Fund outperformed its benchmark, the FTSE Canada Short Term Bond Index, by 120 basis points (*net of MER*). The Fund is constructed on high-grade credit and fixed income in general, given historically attractive all-in valuations and a relatively stable macro environment of reasonable growth and strong corporate fundamentals. The Fund added a modest exposure to preferred shares over the second quarter, as opportunities arose ahead of Canadian capital gains tax changes.

## **Related Party Transactions**

Pursuant to the Fund's investment strategies included in the Fund's Simplified Prospectus, the Fund may invest in other mutual funds and for the period has invested in the RBC Indigo Mortgage Fund, Institutional Series which is a fund managed by the Fund's Portfolio Adviser.

In the first six months of 2024 Educators Financial Group did not refer any conflict of interest matters to the Fund's Independent Review Committee (*the IRC*) and accordingly did not rely upon any recommendation of the IRC in respect of any related party transactions.

Educators Financial Group is the Manager and Trustee of the Fund. Educators Financial Group is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (*OSSTF*). OSSTF may from time to time invest in units of the Fund.



# **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 six-month period and for the past five years. Currently Class I units of the Fund are not being offered to purchase.

# Educators Mortgage & Income Fund – Class A Series – Net Assets per Unit (1)

Six-months ended June 30			Year ended December 31				
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	
Net Assets, beginning of year/period	\$10.89	\$10.69	\$11.34	\$11.58	\$11.25	\$11.09	
Increase (decrease) from operations:							
Total revenue	\$0.22	\$0.38	\$0.28	\$0.26	\$0.30	\$0.32	
Total expenses, including transaction costs [excluding distributions]	(\$0.07)	(\$0.13)	(\$0.14)	(\$0.14)	(\$0.14)	(\$0.14)	
Realized gains (losses) for the period	(\$0.08)	(\$0.27)	(\$0.26)	\$0.04	\$0.09	\$0.01	
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	\$0.23	\$0.46	(\$0.43)	(\$0.27)	\$0.23	\$0.17	
Total increase (decrease) from operations (2)	\$0.30	\$0.44	(\$0.55)	(\$0.11)	\$0.48	\$0.36	
Distributions:							
From net investment income (excluding dividends)	\$0.16	\$0.26	\$0.14	\$0.12	\$0.15	\$0.19	
From dividends	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
From capital gains	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Return of capital	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Total Annual Distributions <sup>(3)</sup>	\$0.16	\$0.26	\$0.14	\$0.12	\$0.15	\$0.19	
Net Assets, end of year/period	\$11.04	\$10.89	\$10.69	\$11.34	\$11.58	\$11.25	

## Ratios and Supplemental Data (based on Net Asset Value)

Six-months	ended June 30	Year ended December 31					
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	
Total Net Asset Value (000's) (4)	\$74,181	\$77,846	\$94,184	\$130,448	\$144,701	\$129,221	
Number of units outstanding (4)	6,722,345	7,145,689	8,808,376	11,499,952	12,499,441	11,485,494	
Management expense ratio (5)	1.26%	1.25%	1.25%	1.25%	1.25%	1.24%	
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions (6)	1.26%	1.25%	1.25%	1.25%	1.25%	1.25%	
Trading expense ratio (7)	0.01%	%	%	0.01%	%	%	
Portfolio turnover rate (8)	38.11%	71.73%	52.98%	32.19%	40.79%	24.71%	
Net Asset Value per unit	\$11.04	\$10.89	\$10.69	\$11.34	\$11.58	\$11.25	



#### Educators Mortgage & Income Fund – Class F Series – Net Assets per Unit (1)

Six-months ended	d June 30	Year ending December 31			1
	2024	2023	2022	2021	
Net Assets, beginning of year/period	\$9.49	\$9.32	\$9.89	\$10.00	
Increase (decrease) from operations:					
Total revenue	\$0.19	\$0.34	\$0.25	\$0.10	
Total expenses, including transaction costs [excluding distributions]	(\$0.02)	(\$0.04)	(\$0.04)	(\$0.02)	
Realized gains (losses) for the period	(\$0.07)	(\$0.23)	(\$0.23)	\$0.03	
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	\$0.20	\$0.39	(\$0.31)	(\$0.15)	
Total increase (decrease) from operations (2)	\$0.30	\$0.46	(\$0.33)	(\$0.04)	
Distributions:					
From net investment income (excluding dividends)	\$0.18	\$0.30	\$0.19	\$0.10	
From dividends	\$	\$	\$	\$	
From capital gains	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Return of capital	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Total Annual Distributions <sup>(3)</sup>	\$0.18	\$0.30	\$0.19	\$0.10	
Net Assets, end of year/period	\$9.61	\$9.49	\$9.32	\$9.89	

#### Ratios and Supplemental Data (based on Net Asset Value)

Six-months	Six-months ended June 30		Year ending December 31			
	2024	2023	2022	2021		
Total Net Asset Value (000's) (4)	\$1,553	\$1,671	\$1,780	\$1,508		
Number of units outstanding (4)	161,602	176,083	191,002	152,425		
Management expense ratio (5)	0.47%	0.46%	0.46%	0.45%		
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions (6)	0.47%	0.46%	0.46%	0.45%		
Trading expense ratio (7)	0.01%	%	%	0.01%		
Portfolio turnover rate (8)	38.11%	71.73%	52.98%	32.19%		
Net Asset Value per unit	\$9.61	\$9.49	\$9.32	\$9.89		

(1) This information is derived from the Fund's interim financial report and audited annual financial statements. For financial years beginning after January 1, 2014, the financial highlights were derived from the Fund's financial statements prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). All references to "Net Assets" or "Net Assets per Unit" in these financial highlights are references to net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units determined in accordance with IFRS as presented in the financial statements of the Fund.

(2) Net assets and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase/decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial period. This table is not intended to be a reconciliation of beginning to ending net assets per unit.

<sup>(3)</sup> Distributions were either paid in cash or reinvested in additional units of the Fund.

<sup>(4)</sup> This information is provided as at June 30 or December 31 of the year shown.

<sup>(6)</sup> Management expense ratio is based on total expenses (excluding [distributions], commissions, and other portfolio transaction costs) for the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period.

<sup>(6)</sup> The management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions shows what the management expense ratio of the Fund would have been if Educators Financial Group had not charged a lesser amount for its management fee.

(7) 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 period.

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



#### Management Fees

Educators Financial Group is the Manager-Trustee, promoter, and principal distributor of the Fund, and is responsible for the day-to-day management and administration of the Fund.

The Manager-Trustee monitors and evaluates the performance of the Fund and pays for the investment management services of the portfolio adviser, as well as all administrative services required by the Fund. As compensation for these services, Educators Financial Group is entitled to receive a fee, payable monthly and calculated daily, based on the Net Asset Value of the Fund, at the annual rate of 1.10% for the Class A Series and 0.40% for the Class F Series.

The Fund is responsible for paying any applicable tax owing on its management fee.

Approximately 12.5% of the total management fees collected from all Series were used to pay for portfolio management services, with the remainder of the fees allocated to custodial services, marketing, technology, and Manager-Trustee operating expenses.

## PAST PERFORMANCE

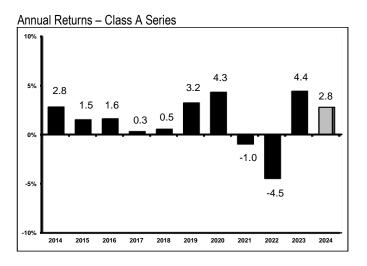
#### General

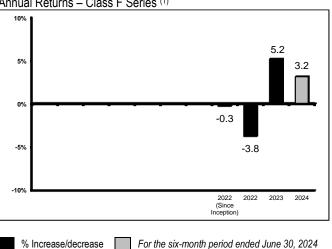
The Fund's performance information shown assumes that all distributions made by the Fund in the periods shown were reinvested in additional units of the Fund.

The performance information does not take into account sales, redemption, distribution, or other optional charges that would have reduced returns or performance. The performance of different fund series may vary for a number of reasons, including differences in management fees and expenses. Please remember that how the Fund has performed in the past does not necessarily indicate how it will perform in the future.

#### Year-by-Year Returns

The bar chart shows the Fund's annual performance for each of the vears shown and for the six-month period and illustrates how the Fund's performance has changed from year to year. The bar chart shows, in percentage terms, how much an investment made on the first day of each financial period would have grown or decreased by the last day of each financial period.





Annual Returns - Class F Series (1)

The Class F Series commenced operation May 14, 2021

Annual Returns – Class I Series

Currently Class I units of the Fund are not being offered to purchase.



# SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO (Based on Net Asset Value)

As at June 30, 2024

Sector Mix	Percentage of Net Asset
	Value
Canadian Mutual Funds	53.14 %
Corporate Bonds	35.27 %
Government Bonds	5.10 %
Preferred Shares	2.73 %
Short-term investments	2.48 %
Asset-Backed Securities	0.67 %
Net Other Assets (Liabilities)	0.48 %
Cash and Cash Equivalents	0.13 %

## **Top 25 Holdings**

Security Name	Percentage of Net Asset Value
RBC Indigo Mortgage Fund, Institutional Series	53.15 %
Canada Housing Trust No. 1, 1.10%, March 15, 2031	5.10 %
OMERS Realty Corp., 4.96%, February 10, 2031	4.32 %
Toronto-Dominion Bank, 3.60%, October 31, 2081	4.09 %
Aviva PLC., 4.00%, October 2, 2030	2.84 %
AIMCo Realty Investors LP, 4.97%, May 23, 2034	2.52 %
Canadian Treasury Bill, 4.69%, August 1, 2024	2.48 %
Bank of Nova Scotia, 5.50%, May 8, 2026	2.48 %
Bank of Montreal, 1.55%, May 28, 2026	1.88 %
MCAP Commercial LP, 3.74%, August 25, 2025	1.73 %
Toronto-Dominion Bank	1.61 %
First West Credit Union, 9.19%, August 9, 2033	1.54 %
Royal Bank of Canada, 5.01%, February 1, 2033	1.33 %
Royal Bank of Canada, 5.10%, April 3, 2034	1.09 %
Rogers Communications Inc., 5.80%, September 21, 203	30 1.06 %
Royal Bank of Canada, 5.23%, June 24, 2030	1.06 %
First National Financial Corp., 2.96%, November 17, 202	5 1.01 %
Choice Properties Real Estate Investment Trust, 5.40%, March 1, 2033	0.97 %
TELUS Corp., 4.95%, February 18, 2031	0.96 %
Dream Summit Industrial LP, 5.11%, February 12, 2029	0.80 %
First National Financial Corp., 3.58%, November 25, 202	4 0.76 %
CARDS II Trust, 3.13%, November 15, 2024	0.75 %
CARDS II Trust, 2.81%, January 15, 2025	0.74 %
MCAP Commercial LP, 3.38%, November 26, 2027	0.61 %
Toronto-Dominion Bank, 2.67%, September 9, 2025	0.50 %
Total Net Assets (000's)	\$75,735

# Total Net Assets (000's)

The top 25 holdings represent approximately 95.38% of the total net assets of the Fund.

The summary of investment portfolio of the Fund is as at June 30, 2024 and may change due to the Fund's ongoing portfolio transactions. Updates are available quarterly. Information about the holdings of the RBC Indigo Funds owned by the Fund is contained in their simplified prospectus, annual information form and fund facts documents available on SEDAR at www.sedar.com.