

# MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE

## ADVANCED EDUCATION SAVINGS PLAN

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For the year ended March 31, 2023

This annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete annual audited financial statements of the Advanced Education Savings Plan (“Plan”). You can get a copy of the audited financial statements at your request and at no cost by calling Global Client Services at 1-877-460-7377, by writing to us at 100 Mural St, Suite 102, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4B 1J3, or by visiting our Website at [www.globalfinancial.ca](http://www.globalfinancial.ca) or SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

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

Global Growth Assets Inc. (the Manager) views corporate governance and compliance as important contributors to overall corporate performance and long-term investment returns. Currently, the investments of the Plan are limited to government bonds, guaranteed investment certificates, corporate debt securities with an investment grade credit rating, and Canadian equity securities, and U.S. equities via an exchange-traded fund (ETF), both of which must be traded on a stock exchange in Canada. Any decision on security voting matters has been delegated to each of our portfolio managers as described in their respective Investment Management Agreements.

## MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION OF FUND PERFORMANCE

Global Growth assets Inc. (“GGAI” or the “Manager”) has retained the services of Jarislowsky Fraser Ltd (“Jarislowsky Fraser”) to act as the portfolio advisor for the Plan.

The views of the portfolio advisor contained in this report are as of March 31, 2023, the Plan’s latest Fiscal year end, and this report is not intended to provide legal, accounting, tax or specific investment advice. Views, portfolio holdings and allocations may have changed subsequent to this date.

### Investment Objective and Strategies

GGAI invests in a prudent manner, with the objective to preserve capital while providing long-term growth through capital appreciation on your Advanced Education Savings Plan investment. GGAJ invests Principal assets in a combination of government fixed income securities and Canadian corporate bonds with a minimum debt rating of BBB and above. Income assets (money earned on either contributions or government grants, such as interest and capital gains) are invested in Canadian exchange-traded funds (ETF).

All of the Plan’s assets are managed by Jarislowsky Fraser. The assets are allocated among different market sectors and different maturity segments at the portfolio advisors’ discretion, but subject to the guidelines defined in GGAJ’s investment policies and mandates.

### Independent Review Committee

As of March 31, 2023, the following changes to the composition of the Independent Review Committee (“IRC”) occurred:

- Mr. Harry Mohabir has been re-appointed as a Chair of the IRC. Mr. Mohabir's term will mature on July 25, 2025.
- Mr. Reg Taccone's term matured on March 3, 2023. Mr. Taccone's term was extended for another 3 years to March 3, 2026
- Mr. John Lombard has been retained as an IRC member. Mr. Lombard’s term will mature on December 15, 2023.

### Risk

For the year ended March 31, 2023, there was no change to the investment strategy of the Plan. As the portfolio is primarily invested in fixed income instruments, the key risks associated with fixed income investing are interest rate risk, liquidity risk, pricing risk and credit risk.

### Results of Operations

The net assets of the Plan as of March 31, 2023 were \$5.65 million (2022 - \$5.87 million) of which approximately \$ 5.58 million (2022 - \$5.69 million) represents the Plan’s investment portfolio. The Plan’s net rate of return during fiscal year was -1.53% compared to the FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index return of -2.01%, -0.03% return for the S&P 500 Index (Cad-hedged) and -5.17% return for the S&P TSX composite Index. In addition the Plan’s return was net of administration, investment counsel, custodial and independent review committee fees. Fees are not deducted from Benchmark returns.

Within the bond allocation, the portfolio’s structure was generally maintained for the

balance of 2022. Given the historic tightening by central banks around the globe, duration was positioned shorter than the benchmark index (FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index) to reduce the portfolio's sensitivity to interest rate moves. The portfolio's exposure to corporate bonds was generally neutral to the benchmark index but with usually higher credit quality, and this proved beneficial as credit spreads widened during 2022.

Within the equity allocation of the total portfolio, there have not been any significant changes that affected the overall risk level as the plan's portfolio advisors continue to invest in high-quality Canadian stocks and U.S. equities via exchange-traded funds (ETFs) that are listed on the Canadian exchange.

## Economic Review

It was a historically difficult 2022 across the fixed-income landscape as most investors did not anticipate the surprisingly strong global inflation and rapidly rising policy-set interest rates. With the sharp rise in global bond yields, bond markets posted significant negative returns for 2022. In Canada, the FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index finished down 11.7% for 2022 and down 2% for the one year ending March 31, 2023.

The Bank of Canada and the Federal Reserve ended 2022 with one final December rate hike, bringing seven rate hikes this year for the BOC and a whopping 400bp increase since January. While the BoC has signalled that they are at least "considering whether the policy interest rate needs to rise further, the Fed appears committed to fighting inflation. A central bank's December meeting comment advised against moving away from their current strategy: Given the persistent and unacceptably high level of inflation, several participants commented that historical experience cautioned against prematurely loosening monetary policy.

Fixed income markets began 2023 a little brighter, as the Bank of Canada paused its rate-hiking cycle in the first quarter, and yields declined. As a result, fixed-income holdings generally rose quite strongly in early 2023 as investors are now seemingly looking towards an economic slowdown in the year's second half.

## Recent Developments

After marginally contracting in December, the Canadian economy rebounded by 0.5% (MoM) in January. The growth was broad-based as wholesale trade, transportation and warehousing, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction sectors rebounded.

March saw employment gains 34,700 while the unemployment rate remained steady at 5.0%. Hours worked increased by 5% (QoQ, SAAR), and wage growth

was 5.2% (YoY). February headline inflation for Canada moderated to 5.2% (YoY), down from 5.9% in January. Food inflation remains sticky as grocery prices increased 10.6% from a year ago. After raising interest rates by 425 basis points in a year, the Bank of Canada held rates steady in March. They are projecting inflation to moderate to 3% by mid-2023.

The US Federal Reserve increased its Fed Funds rate by 25 basis points on March 22 and signalled that one more possible hike could be needed soon. This warning came against the backdrop of the collapse of two FDIC banks and concern over the regional banking sector and potential contagion. Central banks must walk a fine line to combat inflation, recession, and financial stability concerns.

## FINANCIAL AND OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

The following table shows key financial data for the Plan and is intended to help you understand the financial results for the past five fiscal years.

(Dollar amounts in \$'000)

Statement of financial Position	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
<b>Total Assets</b>	\$5,652	\$5,868	\$5,844	\$5,461	\$3,974
<b>Net Assets</b>	\$5,647	\$5,864	\$5,841	\$5,302	\$3,974
<b>% change in Net Assets</b>	-3.7%	0.4%	10%	33%	56%
<b>Statement of comprehensive income</b>					
<b>Net Investment Income</b>	-\$92.0	-\$145.9	\$36.7	\$200.8	\$182.9
<b>Statement of Changes in Net Assets</b>					
<b>Educational Assistance Payments ("EAP")</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Government Grants</b>	\$154.7	\$50.8	\$53.2	\$27.4	\$10.7
<b>Other</b>					
<b>Total Number of Contracts</b>	453	505	597	766	718
<b>% change in Number of Contracts</b>	-10%	-15%	-22%	7%	19%

### Management Fees

Total administration fee expenses for the year ended March 31, 2023 was \$131,662 (2022 - \$139,821) was waived by GGAI.

The administration functions of the Plan include processing and call center services related to existing agreements, fund payments, government grant collection, plan modifications, terminations, maturities and EAP.

### Related Party Transactions

Under the terms of an administrative services agreement, the Foundation has delegated administrative functions to GGAI.

In exchange for its administrative services, GGAI is entitled to receive administration fees of 2.35% per annum of the assets of the Plan. In addition, special service fees charged to subscribers principally in respect of dishonored and returned cheques, are remitted by GGAI to GRESP.

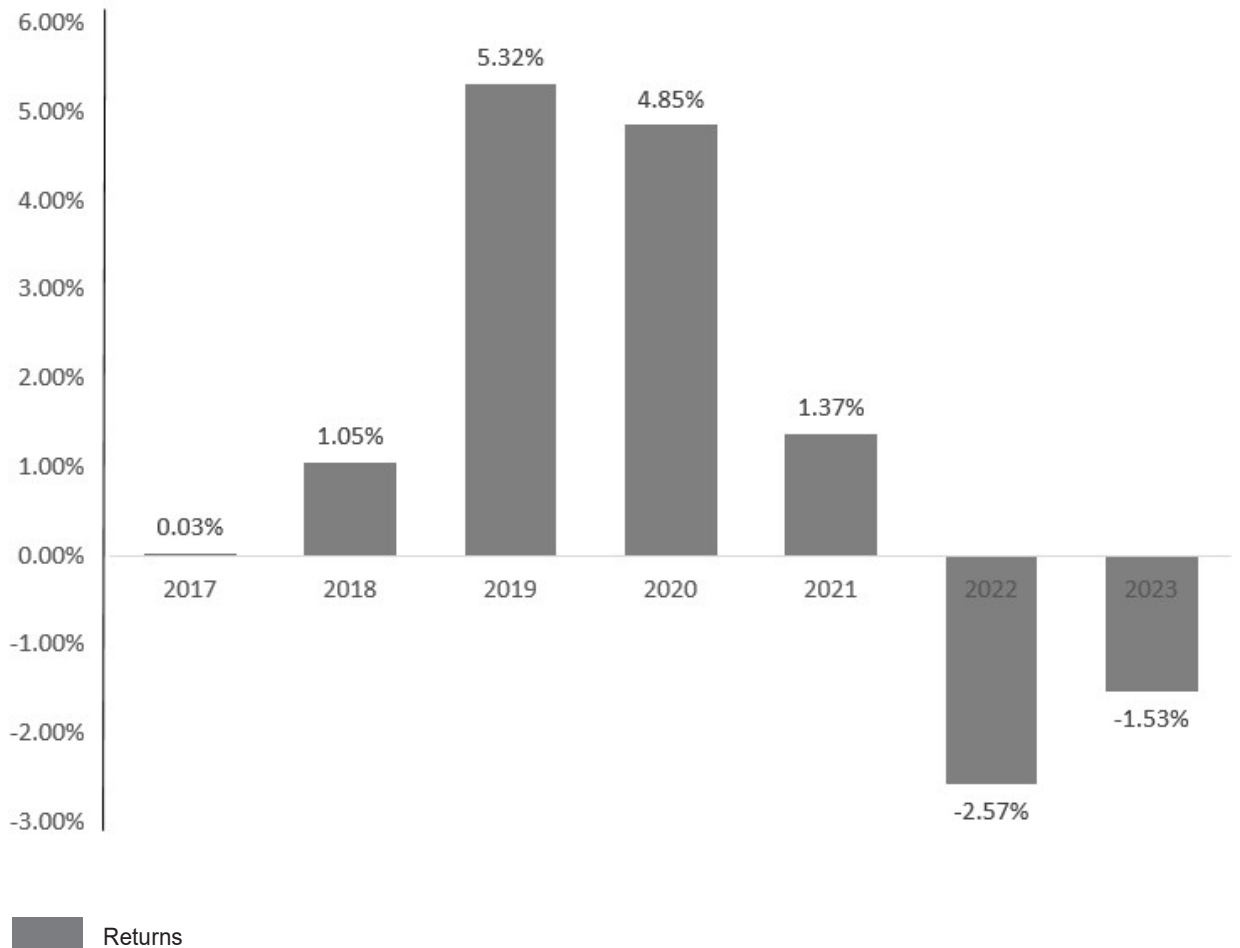
At March 31, 2023 the Plan's assets include \$23,691 (2022 - \$111,028) receivable from Legacy Education Savings Plan for subscriber contributions and grants not yet allocated to the Plan and \$645 (2022 - \$18,682) receivable from GGAI for bank charges.

## PAST PERFORMANCE

The performance information shown assumes that all of the income, interest earned and capital gains distributions are reinvested in the Plan and would be lower if distributions were not reinvested. Past performance is not indicative of how the Fund may perform in the future.

### Year-by-Year Returns

The bar chart indicates the Plan's performance for the financial year shown. Annual return is the percentage change in the value of an investment over a Fiscal year from April to March 31, unless otherwise noted. The chart show, in percentage terms, how much an investment made on the first day of each financial year would have grown or decreased by the last day of each financial year.



## Annual Compound Returns

The following table illustrates the Plan's annual compound returns for the periods shown ended March 31, 2023.

	Past year	Past 3 years	Past 5 years	Since Inception
<b>Plan</b>	<b>-1.53%</b>	<b>-0.92%</b>	<b>1.44%</b>	<b>1.15%</b>
<b>The FTSE TMX Canada Universe Bond Index</b>	<b>-2.01%</b>	<b>-1.67%</b>	<b>0.89%</b>	<b>1.88%</b>
<b>The S&amp;P/TSX Composite index</b>	<b>-5.17%</b>	<b>18.02%</b>	<b>8.79%</b>	<b>7.85%</b>
<b>The S&amp;P 500 index (Cad-Hedged)</b>	<b>-0.03%</b>	<b>16.73%</b>	<b>12.22%</b>	<b>15.47%</b>

The Benchmark index returns do not include any costs of investing. See **Results of Operation** for a discussion of performance relative to the Benchmark index. Unlike the Index, the Plan's returns are after the deduction of its fees and expenses.

The FTSE TMX Canada Universe Bond Index is a market capitalization-weighted index designed to be a broad measure of the Canadian investment-grade, fixed income market, including Government of Canada, provincial and corporate bonds with maturities of more than one year and a credit rating of BBB or higher.

The S&P/TSX Composite Index is the headline index for the Canadian equity market and measures the performance of the largest by market capitalization stocks listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

The S&P 500 Index (Cad-hedged) is a market-capitalization-weighted index that is designed to represent the returns of large-capitalization U.S. stocks, with the U.S. dollar exposure of the securities included in the S&P 500 Index hedged to the Canadian dollar.

## SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

The table below details the largest 25 holdings of the Plan at March 31, 2023.

Issuer	% of Plan's Portfolio
Government of Canada 2.750% December 1,2048	11.38%
CPPIB Capital Inc. 1.950% September 30,2029	10.75%
Province of Ontario 3.750% June 2,2032	10.74%
Province of Ontario 2.800% June 2,2048	10.20%
Canada Housing Trust 1.25% June 15,2026	8.92%
Canada Housing Trust 1.8% December 15,2024	8.55%
Province of Ontario 5.600% June 2,2035	6.47%
Province of Ontario 2.70% June 2,2029	5.89%
iShares Core S&P/TSX Capped Composite Index ETF	2.87%
Province of Quebec 2.3% September 1,2029	2.87%
BMO S&P 500 Index ETF	2.68%
Toronto-Dominion Bank 3.226% July 24,2024	1.51%
Canadian Imperial Bank 3.300% May 26,2025	1.38%
Honda Canada Finance Inc 2.500% June 4,2024	1.26%
Royal Bank of Canada 3.369% September 29,2025	0.80%
Bank of Montreal 3.190% March 1,2028	0.79%
Bank of Nova Scotia 3.100% February 2,2028	0.78%
Altalink LP 3.399% June 6,2024	0.70%
Bell Canada 3.800% August 21,2028	0.68%
Toyota Credit Canada Inc. 2.11% February 26,2025 56.670%	0.68%
Great-West Lifeco Inc. March 21,2033	0.67%
Toronto Hydro Corporation 2.52% 25 August, 2026	0.67%
Greater Toronto Airports 2.750% October 17,2039	0.64%
Manulife Bank of Canada 1.536% September 14, 2026	0.64%
Nestle Holdings Inc. 2.192% January 26,2029	0.63%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>93.15%</b>

All holdings in the Plan are long positions as at March 31, 2023.

The Summary of Investment Portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the Plan.



**Head office**

Global Growth Assets Inc.  
100 Mural Street, Suite 201  
Richmond hill, Ontario, L4B 1J3

416-741-7377  
Toll Free: 1-877-460-7377  
clientservices@globalresp.com  
www.globalgrowth.ca