

ANAGEMENT REPORT

of Fund Performance for the year ended December 31, 2024

**INCOME FUNDS** 

FÉRIQUE Globally Diversified Income Fund

This Annual Management Report of Fund Performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete annual financial statements of the Funds that you hold. You can get a copy of the annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling Services d'investissement FÉRIQUE's client services at 514-788-6485 (toll-free 1-800-291-0337), by writing at Gestion FÉRIQUE, Place du Canada, 1010 de La Gauchetière Street West, Suite 1400, Montréal, Québec H3B 2N2, or by visiting our website at ferique.com or SEDAR+ at sedarplus.ca. You may also contact us using one of these methods to request a copy of the Fund's interim financial report, proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record and quarterly portfolio disclosure.

There may be management fees and expenses associated with an investment in a mutual fund. Management expense ratios vary from one year to another. Please read the Prospectus before investing. Mutual funds are not guaranteed or covered by the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation or another government deposit insurer. Their values fluctuate frequently and past performance may not be repeated.

A Note on Forward-looking Statements

This report may contain forward-looking statements about the Funds, their future performance, strategies or prospects, and possible future Fund actions. The words "may," "could", "should", "suspect", "outlook", "believe", "plan", "anticipate", "expect", "intend", "forecast", "objective" and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance. Forward-looking statements involve inherent risks and uncertainties, both about the Funds and general economic factors, so it is possible that predictions, forecasts, projections and other forward-looking statements will not be achieved. We caution you not to place undue reliance on these statements as a number of important factors could cause actual events or results to differ materially from those expressed or implied in any forward-looking statement made in relation to the Funds. These factors include, but are not limited to, general economic, political and market factors in Canada, the United States and internationally, interest and foreign exchange rates, global equity and capital markets, business competition, technological changes, changes

The above list of important factors that may affect future results is not exhaustive. Before making any investment decisions, we encourage you to consider these and other factors carefully. All opinions contained in forward-looking statements are subject to change without notice

in laws and regulations, judicial or regulatory judgments, legal proceedings and catastrophic events.

and are provided in good faith but without legal responsibility.

As at December 31, 2024

# Management Discussion of Fund Performance

#### **Investment Objectives and Strategies**

The FÉRIQUE Globally Diversified Income Fund seeks to provide income and, to a lesser extent, long-term capital appreciation. The Fund invests primarily in a globally diversified portfolio of fixed-income securities and equity securities. The Fund can also invest in exchange-traded funds (ETFs).

The Fund is managed by the portfolio manager Addenda Capital Inc. (Addenda) with the portfolio sub-manager Insight Investment International Limited. The FÉRIQUE Globally Diversified Income Fund aims to hold a well-diversified portfolio composed primarily of Canadian and foreign fixed income and, to a lesser extent, equity securities. The Fund's current investment policy specifies a long-term target portfolio broken down as follows (all percentages expressed in the investment strategy are presented as a percentage of the Fund's net asset):

 Canadian and foreign fixed-income and money market securities (or equivalent ETFs)

85% to 95%

 Canadian and foreign equity securities (or equivalent ETFs)

5% to 15%

Furthermore, the Fund can be invested in Canadian securities in an amount ranging from 0% to 70%. There is no limit to the Fund's foreign content.

These weightings may vary according to the market fluctuations, economic views of the portfolio manager and investors' transactions in the Fund. The strategy of Addenda Capital Inc. (Addenda) is based on the following key elements:

- A comprehensive top-down analysis of global macroeconomics and capital markets that serves to identify general investment themes and changes to critical market factors. The forecasts based on a horizon of 18 to 24 months reflect the expectations of risk and return as well as relative valuation;
- Changes to the asset allocation, when they are made, seek to take advantage of dynamic changes in market conditions and/or assessments while remaining aware of the risks;
- Fixed-income investment strategies take advantage of the extensive capabilities of fundamental research by the portfolio manager. The dynamic approach to fixed income management encompasses diversified sources of value added including interest rate forecasts and relative fundamental analysis of all issuers to detect best investment opportunities;
- Equity securities strategies focus on in-depth bottom-up analysis and on assessments of different industries, favouring stocks with steady growth of income and cash flows.

The Fund primarily invests and reinvests in the following asset classes (including emerging countries): government bonds, corporate bonds, asset-backed securities, mortgage-backed securities, high-yield bonds, and real return bonds, preferred shares, convertible bonds and equity securities including common shares and income trust units. The fund may also invest in money market securities.

#### Risk

The risks of investing in the Fund remain the same as those described in the Prospectus. The Fund is intended for investors with a low to medium risk tolerance who want to invest in the medium or long term. It can also be used as a basis for the fixed-income portion of a diversified investment portfolio. During the period, there were no changes to the Fund that materially affected the overall risk level associated with an investment in the Fund.

#### **Results of Operations**

The FÉRIQUE Globally Diversified Income Fund, managed by Addenda Capital Inc. (Addenda), posted a net return of 4.7% for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024. Its benchmark, composed of the FTSE Canada Short Term Overall Bond Index (30%), the Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Bond Index (CA\$ hedged) (60%) and the Dow Jones Canada Select Dividend Index (10%), posted a 5.3% return for the same period. Contrary to benchmark returns, which include no investment fees, returns are expressed net of management and operating expenses payable by the Fund.

On a relative basis, the Fund underperformed its industry median<sup>1</sup>, which posted 8.4% net of fees for the fiscal year.

The portfolio's Canadian equity portion underperformed mainly due to sector allocation to Communication Services and weak stock selection in Financials.

The portfolio's asset allocation, especially to Canadian and global bonds, drove up relative returns. The overweight to corporate bonds and modest allocation to high-yield bonds also added value as credit spreads, which is the additional rate over government bonds offered to investors to hold these securities, tightened throughout the year.

The Canadian bonds' underweight duration positioning contributed positively to relative returns. The allocation to Canadian bonds also added value but was partially offset by the allocation to global bonds, which underperformed the Canadian market.

During the year, the allocation to global bonds was increased but kept underweight, while the allocation to Canadian equities was increased to an overweight position. The portfolio sub-manager added a small allocation to preferred shares late in the year because of their attractive returns outlook.

The portfolio sub-manager had 38 engagements with companies held in the portfolio to address environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues, focusing on environmental matters.

The Fund's responsible approach to investing is described in the simplified prospectus. This approach is one of the multiple components of the investment strategies used to help reach the objective of the Fund and thus constitutes a limited consideration of ESG factors. The consideration of ESG factors and the engagements with companies are not part of the investment objective of the Fund and, therefore, ESG factors and shareholder engagements are not the primary strategy of the Fund.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Source: Median return of similar funds according to Fundata, as at December 31, 2024.

As at December 31, 2024

### **Recent Developments**

Global uncertainty increased in recent months, fuelled by intensifying armed conflicts (especially in the Middle East) and the election of a new U.S. president who threatens to impose major tariffs on Canada and Mexico. The global economy has yet to feel the full impact of these upheavals.

Economic growth is expected to be driven by strong domestic demand. Real disposable income and household savings are high and continue to support consumer spending in both Canada and the United States. Fiscal deficit projections remain high due to increased government spending.

Against this backdrop of positive but slowing economic growth and moderating inflation, central banks are now managing their monetary policy to bolster economic growth. Central banks are in no hurry to substantially cut rates in this current economic environment characterized by stable growth and inflation uncertainty.

In Canada, reflation risks are significant, especially if goods deflation were to reverse in the future. In the United States, productivity gains are easing inflationary pressures, while falling productivity in Canada is expected to contribute to rising inflation. Market volatility is fuelled by uncertainty over potential monetary policy shifts, geopolitical risks and the implementation of the new U.S. administration's policy. Risks to the outlook are that the U.S. Federal Reserve has waited too long to loosen its monetary policy, and that an overly tight monetary policy could drive inflation below the 2% target, or that Canadian inflation remains sticky and above target as economic growth and the labour market are still affected by inflation.

Looking forward, the portfolio sub-manager will hold a modest cash allocation and look for a tactical opportunity to redeploy it by adding positions in global fixed-income securities. The portfolio sub-manager will maintain an overweight position to Canadian bonds with short maturities and to corporate bonds, especially those with strong fundamentals in defensive sectors. Addenda will look to change duration based on market valuations. It will also maintain a modest allocation to high-yield bonds and preferred shares to capture additional yield.

The portfolio sub-manager is looking to add to the portfolio's global bond allocation to improve diversification and returns as global credit spreads are widening relative to those in Canada. As for equities, Canadian equity valuations are below their long-term averages and earnings forecasts appear achievable, while central banks are cutting rates. As a result, the portfolio sub-manager is maintaining an overweight position. Due to the current market uncertainty, the equity portion of the portfolio is invested in a mix of cyclical and defensive stocks with a focus on quality companies trading at attractive discounts relative to their intrinsic value.

IRC: Mr. Gérard Guilbault's mandate as a member of the IRC ended on March 31, 2024. Mr. Sylvain Piché replaced Mr. Gérard Guilbault as a member of the IRC under a three (3)-year mandate, starting April 1, 2024.

### **Related Party Transactions**

The Manager of the Fund is Gestion FÉRIQUE, a not-for-profit organization. Gestion FÉRIQUE receives management fees to cover its expenses with respect to the day-to-day business and operations of the Fund, as reported under the Management Fees section. These expenses include the portfolio manager's fees, the fees relating to the marketing and distribution of the Fund, as well as the administration fees of the Manager.

Services d'investissement FÉRIQUE (SIF) is a not-for-profit subsidiary of Gestion FÉRIQUE registered as a group savings plan brokerage and financial planning firm, and acts as distributor of units of the Fund. A percentage of the management fees paid by the Fund to Gestion FÉRIQUE is used to cover the expenses of SIF with respect to its day-to-day activities.

Gestion FÉRIQUE is responsible for the operating expenses of the Fund, excluding the expenses of the Independent Review Committee and the filing fees, in return for an administration fee, as reported under the Management Fees section.

Gestion FÉRIQUE has set up an Independent Review Committee for the Fund in accordance with the requirements of National Instrument 81-107 Independent Review Committee for Investment Funds to review conflicts of interest related to the management of

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024, Addenda did not enter into any Related Party Transactions as it pertains to the management of the FÉRIQUE Globally Diversified Income Fund.

As at December 31, 2024

### Financial Highlights

The following tables show selected key financial information about the Fund and are intended to help the reader understand the Fund's financial performance for the accounting periods shown.

			Years ended		
	Dec. 31				
Net Assets per Unit (1)(5)	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Net Assets per Official	(12 months)				
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Net assets, beginning of accounting period (4)	9.46	9.08	10.46	10.46	10.19
Increase (decrease) from operations					
Total revenues	0.38	0.30	0.29	0.27	0.30
Total expenses	(0.09)	(0.08)	(0.08)	(0.10)	(0.10)
Realized gains (losses)	0.01	(0.43)	(0.49)	0.16	0.13
Unrealized gains (losses)	0.14	0.80	(0.89)	(0.05)	0.13
Total increase (decrease) from operations (2)	0.44	0.59	(1.17)	0.28	0.46
Distributions					
From investment net income (excluding dividends)	0.22	0.18	0.15	0.09	0.12
From dividends	0.05	0.03	0.05	0.08	0.07
From capital gains	_	_	_	0.11	
Total annual distributions (3)	0.27	0.21	0.20	0.28	0.19
Net assets, end of accounting period (4)	9.62	9.46	9.08	10.46	10.46

<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 could differ from the net asset value calculated for fund pricing purposes. The differences are explained in the notes to the financial statements.

<sup>(5)</sup> In this document, the word "units" indicates Series A units.

	Years ended				
Ratios and Supplemental Data	Dec. 31 2024 (12 months)	Dec. 31 2023 (12 months)	Dec. 31 2022 (12 months)	Dec. 31 2021 (12 months)	Dec. 31 2020 (12 months)
Net asset value (in thousands of \$) <sup>(1)</sup>	187,755	162,622	151,254	176,670	163,667
Number of units outstanding (1)	19,516,849	17,194,922	16,655,230	16,898,855	15,643,613
Management expense ratio (%)(2)	0.94	0.90	0.88	0.97	0.97
Management expense ratio before waivers					
or absorptions by the Manager (%)	0.94	0.90	0.88	0.97	0.97
Portfolio turnover rate (%)(3)	126.94	113.51	99.99	112.01	102.16
Trading expense ratio (%)(4)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Net asset value per unit (\$)	9.62	9.46	9.08	10.46	10.46

<sup>(1)</sup> This information is provided as at December 31 for the comparative accounting periods.

#### **Management Fees**

Fees payable by the Fund include management fees and operating charges. Operating charges are made up of administration fees and Fund expenses. Management and administration fees are calculated and credited daily and paid monthly.

Management fees include, among others, the portfolio manager's and/or sub-manager's fees, the fees relating to the marketing and distribution of the Fund and the Manager's administration fees. Administration fees include, among others, registrar custodian fees and fiduciary fees, expenses relating to accounting and valuation of the Fund, auditors' and legal advisors' fees and reporting fees to unitholders. Fund expenses are made up of regulatory filing fees and expenses of the Independent Review Committee.

<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 weighted average number of units outstanding during the accounting period. This table is not intended to show a reconciliation between net assets per unit at the beginning and at the end of 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 International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

<sup>(2)</sup> Management expense ratio is based on total expenses for the stated accounting period (including applicable taxes and its proportionate share of the expenses from the underlying funds, where applicable, but excluding commissions, other portfolio transaction costs and withholding taxes on dividend income) and is expressed as an annualized percentage of the daily average net asset value during the accounting period.

<sup>(3)</sup> The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio 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 during the accounting period. The higher a Fund's portfolio turnover rate in the accounting period, the greater the trading costs payable by the Fund during the accounting period, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains during the accounting period. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a Fund.

<sup>(4)</sup> The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs, including its proportionate share of the trading expenses from the underlying funds, where applicable, expressed as an annualized percentage of the daily average net asset value during the accounting period. The trading expense ratio is not applicable to fixed-income transactions.

As at December 31, 2024

For the year, annualized management fees charged to the Fund before government taxes amounted to 0.82% and are detailed as follows:

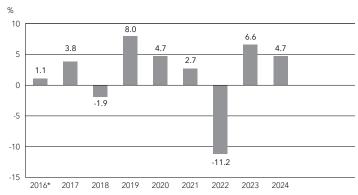
Management fees: 0.70%Administration fees: 0.12%

### Past Performance

The performance information assumes that all distributions made by the Fund in the periods shown were reinvested in additional securities of the Fund. The information does not take into account purchase, redemption, investment or other optional charges that would have reduced returns or performance. The Fund's past performance is not necessarily indicative of how it will perform in the future.

#### **Annual Returns**

The bar chart shows the Fund's annual performance for each of the years shown, 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 year would have grown or decreased by December 31 of each financial year or on the last day of the year.



\*From May 10 to December 31, 2016.

#### **Annual Compound Returns (%)**

	1 year	3 years	5 years	Since inception*
FÉRIQUE Globally Diversified Income	4.7	(0.3)	1.2	2.0
Benchmark Index	5.3	0.6	1.8	n/a
Median**	8.4	1.0	2.6	n/a

 <sup>\*</sup> The Fund was created on May 2, 2016, but assets were invested in the Fund as of May 10, 2016.

#### **Benchmark Index**

The Benchmark Index reflects the performance of a benchmark portfolio invested 30% in the FTSE Canada Short Term Overall Bond Index, 60% in the Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Bond Index (CA\$ hedged) and 10% in the Dow Jones Canada Select Dividend Index.

The FTSE Canada Short Term Overall Bond Index includes almost all tradable Canadian bonds with maturities of more than one year and less than five years. It aims to reflect developments in the short-term Canadian bond market.

The **Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Bond Index** (CA\$ hedged) is an investment-grade global debt index from a multitude of issuers across many countries.

The **Dow Jones Canada Select Dividend Index** measures the performance of Canadian companies paying high dividends.

#### Comparison with the Index

The Fund posted a net return of 4.7% for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024, compared to 5.3% for its benchmark index. Contrary to benchmark returns, which include no investment fees, Fund returns are expressed net of management and operating expenses payable by the Fund.

% of

### Portfolio Overview

The Top 25 Holdings in the Portfolio	net asset value
Government of the United States, 3.75%, due August 31, 2026	4.1
Government of Canada, 2.75%, due September 1, 2027	3.9
Cash, Money Market and Other Net Assets	2.8
Government of Canada, 0.25%, due March 1, 2026	2.7
Government of the United States, 3.63%, due August 31, 2029	2.1
Province of Ontario, 1.55%, due November 1, 2029	1.9
Government of Canada, 3.25%, due September 1, 2028	1.8
Province of Ontario, 1.85%, due February 1, 2027	1.8
Government of the United States, 4.88%, due April 30, 2026	1.6
Government of the United States, 4.13%, due October 31, 2031	1.5
Government of Canada, 3.50%, due March 1, 2028	1.2
Royal Bank of Canada	1.2
Government of the United States, 4.25%, due June 30, 2029	1.1
TC Energy Corp.	1.1
Government of the United States, 4.63%, due May 15, 2054	0.8
JPMorgan Chase & Co., Floating, due October 23, 2034	0.8
Bank of Montreal	0.8
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce	0.8
Canada Housing Trust, 2.90%, due December 15, 2029	0.8
Bank of America Corp., Floating, due October 22, 2030	0.8
Wells Fargo & Co., Floating, due July 25, 2032	0.7
WSP Global Group Inc.	0.7
Morgan Stanley, Floating, due January 18, 2035	0.7
Toronto-Dominion Bank	0.6
Emera Inc.	0.6
	36.9

<sup>\*\*</sup>Median return of all investment funds of the same category according to Fundata.

As at December 31, 2024

Asset Mix	% of net asset value	
Foreign Bonds	52.6	
Canadian Equities	13.4	
Canadian Corporate Bonds	11.9	
Canadian Federal Bonds	11.6	
Canadian Provincial Bonds	5.5	
Cash, Money Market and Other Net Assets	2.7	
Canadian Preferred Shares	2.0	
Canadian Municipal Bonds	0.3	
Net Asset Value	187,754,861	

The allocation of the portfolio may vary due to the transactions carried out by the Fund. A quarterly update is available.

### Other Material Information

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Gestion FÉRIQUE Place du Canada 1010 de La Gauchetière Street West Suite 1400 Montréal, Québec H3B 2N2

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Additional information about the Funds is available in the Funds' Prospectus, Annual Information Form, Fund Facts and Financial Statements.

You may obtain a copy of these documents, free of charge and on demand:

- by contacting the Manager, Gestion FÉRIQUE, at 514-840-9206 (toll-free at 1-888-259-7969);
- by contacting the Principal Distributor,
   Services d'investissement FÉRIQUE at 514-788-6485 (toll-free at 1-800-291-0337) or client@ferique.com;
- by visiting ferique.com or sedarplus.ca.