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## COMPANION POLICY TO NATIONAL INSTRUMENT 81-106 INVESTMENT FUND CONTINUOUS DISCLOSURE

### PART 1 PURPOSE AND APPLICATION

#### 1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this Policy Statement (the Policy) is to help you understand how the Canadian securities regulatory authorities (CSA or we) interpret or apply certain provisions of *National Instrument 81-106 respecting Investment Fund Continuous Disclosure* (the National Instrument).

#### 1.2 Application

- (1) The National Instrument applies to investment funds. The general nature of an investment fund is that the money invested in it is professionally managed on the basis of a stated investment policy, usually expressed in terms of investment objectives and strategies, and is invested in a portfolio of securities. The fund has the discretion to buy and sell investments within the constraints of its investment policy. Investment decisions are made by a manager or portfolio adviser acting on behalf of the fund. An investment fund provides a means whereby investors can have their money professionally managed rather than making their own decisions about investing in individual securities.
- (2) An investment fund generally does not seek to obtain control of or become involved in the management of companies in which it invests. Exceptions to this include labour sponsored or venture capital funds, where some degree of involvement in the management of the investees is an integral part of the investment strategy.

Investment funds can be distinguished from holding companies, which generally exert a significant degree of control over the companies in which they invest. They can also be distinguished from the issuers known

as “Income Trusts” which generally issue securities that entitle the holder to net cash flows generated by (i) an underlying business owned by the trust or other entity, or (ii) the income-producing property owned by the trust or other entity. Examples of entities that are not investment funds are business income trusts, real estate investment trusts and royalty trusts.

- (3) Investment funds that meet the definition of “mutual fund” in securities legislation – generally because their securities are redeemable on demand or within a specified period after demand at net asset value per security – are referred to as mutual funds. Other investment funds are generally referred to as non-redeemable investment funds. The definition of “non-redeemable investment fund” included in this National Instrument summarises the concepts discussed above. Because of their similarity to mutual funds, they are subject to similar reporting requirements. Examples include closed-end funds, funds traded on exchanges with limited redeemability, certain limited partnerships investing in portfolios of securities such as flow-through shares, and scholarship plans (other than self-directed RESPs as defined in OSC Rule 46-501, *Self-Directed Registered Education Savings Plans*).
- (4) Labour sponsored and venture capital funds may or may not be considered to be mutual funds depending on the requirements of the provincial legislation under which they are established (for example, shares of Ontario labour sponsored funds are generally redeemable on demand, while shares of British Columbia employee venture capital corporations are not). Nevertheless, these issuers are investment funds and must comply with the general disclosure rules for investment funds as well as specific requirements for labour sponsored and venture capital funds included in Part 8 of this National Instrument.

### **1.3 Definitions**

- (1) A term used in the National Instrument and defined in the securities statute of a local jurisdiction has the meaning given to it in that statute unless
  - (a) the definition in that statute is restricted to a specific portion of the statute that does not govern continuous disclosure, or
  - (b) the context otherwise requires.
- (2) For instance, the term “material change” is defined in local securities legislation of most jurisdictions. The CSA consider the meaning given to this term in securities legislation to be substantially similar to the definition set out in the National Instrument.

### **1.4 Plain Language Principles**

The CSA believe that plain language will help investors understand an investment fund's disclosure documents so that they can make informed investment decisions. You can achieve this by

- using short sentences
- using definite, everyday language
- using the active voice
- avoiding unnecessary words
- organizing the document into clear, concise sections, paragraphs and sentences
- avoiding jargon
- using personal pronouns to speak directly to the reader
- avoiding reliance on glossaries and defined terms unless it helps to understand the disclosure
- using technical terms only where necessary and explaining those terms clearly
- avoiding boilerplate wording
- using concrete terms and examples
- using charts and tables where it makes the disclosure easier to understand.

## **1.5 Signature and Certificates**

The directors, trustee or manager of an investment fund are not required to file signed or certified continuous disclosure documents. They are responsible for the information in the investment fund's disclosure documents whether or not a document is signed or certified, and it is an offence under securities legislation to make a false or misleading statement in any required document.

## **1.6 Filings on SEDAR**

All documents required to be filed under the National Instrument must be filed in accordance with National Instrument entitled National Instrument 13-101, *System for Electronic Document Analysis and Retrieval (SEDAR)*.

## **1.7 Corporate Law Requirements**

Some investment funds may be subject to requirements of corporate law that address matters similar to those addressed by the National Instrument, and which may impose additional or more onerous requirements. For example, applicable corporate law may require investment funds to deliver annual financial statements to securityholders. This National Instrument cannot provide exemptions from these requirements.

# **PART 2 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

## **2.1 Interrelationship of Financial Statements with Canadian GAAP**

(1) **REPEALED**

- (2) Canadian GAAP provides some general requirements for the preparation of financial statements that apply to investment fund financial statements. Canadian GAAP does not contain detailed requirements for the contents of investment fund financial statements. The CSA believe that an investment fund's financial statements must include certain information, at a minimum, in order to provide full disclosure. The National Instrument sets out these minimum requirements. When preparing these documents, include any additional information necessary to ensure that all material information concerning the financial position and results of the investment fund is disclosed.
- (3) Handbook Section 1100 *Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* has changed the definition of what was considered to be Canadian GAAP. Prior to the introduction of Section 1100, the investment funds industry relied on paragraph 1000.60(a), which permitted accounting policies that "are generally accepted by virtue of their use in similar circumstances by a significant number of entities in Canada." This is no longer the case as Section 1100 requires the application of all relevant primary sources of Canadian GAAP. Accounting Guideline 18 *Investment Companies* provides specific guidance on certain topics. When no relevant primary source of Canadian GAAP is available, professional judgement and the concepts described in Section 1000 should be used to set accounting policies consistent with Canadian GAAP.

## **2.2 Filing Deadline for Annual Financial Statements and Auditor's Report**

Section 2.2 of the National Instrument sets out the filing deadline for annual financial statements. While section 2.2 of the National Instrument does not address the auditor's report date, investment funds are encouraged to file their annual financial statements as soon as possible after the date of the auditor's report.

## **2.3 Timing and Content of Interim Financial Statements**

Handbook Section 1751 *Interim Financial Statements* requires that interim financial statements include each of the headings and subtotals included in the most recent annual financial statements. In addition, the principles of paragraph 14 of Section 1751 should be applied to the requirements in section 3.6 of the National Instrument regarding the notes to the financial statements.

## **2.4 Length of Financial Year**

For the purposes of the National Instrument, unless otherwise expressly provided, references to a financial year apply regardless of the length of that year. The first financial year of an investment fund commences on the date of its incorporation or organization and ends at the close of that year.

## **2.5 Contents of Statement of Operations**

The amount of fund expenses waived or paid by the manager or portfolio adviser of the investment fund disclosed in the statement of operations excludes amounts waived or paid due to an expense cap that would require securityholder approval to change.

### **2.5.1 Disclosure of Investment Portfolio**

If an investment fund invests substantially all of its assets directly, or indirectly through the use of derivatives, in securities of one other investment fund, the investment fund should provide in the statement of investment portfolio, or the notes to that statement, additional disclosure concerning the holdings of the other investment fund, as available, in order to assist investors in understanding the actual portfolio to which the investment fund is exposed. The CSA is of the view that such disclosure is consistent with the requirements in the Handbook relating to financial instrument disclosure.

### **2.6 Disclosure of Soft Dollars**

The notes to the financial statements of an investment fund must contain disclosure of soft dollar amounts when such amounts are ascertainable. When calculating these amounts, investment funds should include the quantifiable value of goods and services, beyond the amount attributed to order execution, received directly from the dealer executing the fund's portfolio transactions, or from a third party.

### **2.7 Accounting for Securities Lending Transactions**

- (1) Section 3.8 of the National Instrument imposes certain reporting requirements on investment funds in connection with any securities lending transactions entered into by the investment fund. These requirements were included to ensure that all securities lending transactions are accounted for on the same basis.

The general accounting principle concerning whether a given transaction is a recordable transaction is based on determining whether risk and rewards have transferred in the transaction. The substance of a securities lending transaction is that the manager treats the original securities as if they had not been lent. The investment fund must be able to call the original securities back at any time, and the securities returned must be the same or substantially the same as the original securities. These conditions reduce the risk of the investment fund not being able to transact the original securities. The original securities remain on the books of the investment fund.

- (2) The accounting treatment of the collateral in a securities lending transaction depends on the ability of the lender to control what happens with the collateral. If non-cash collateral is received by the investment

fund, the collateral is not reflected on the statement of net assets of the investment fund if the non-cash collateral cannot be sold or repledged. If the investment fund lender receives cash collateral, the investment fund has the ability to either hold or reinvest the cash. The lender has effective control over the cash, even though it uses an agent to effect the reinvestment on its behalf. The cash collateral, subsequent reinvestment, and obligation to repay the collateral are recorded on the books of the investment fund.

## **2.8 Change in Year End**

- (1) The change in yearend reporting requirements are adopted from National Instrument 51-102, with appropriate modifications to reflect that investment funds report on a six month interim period.
- (2) The definition of "interim period" in the National Instrument differs from the definition of this term in National Instrument 51-102. An investment fund cannot have more than one interim period in a transition year.
- (3) Interim financial statements for the new financial year will have comparatives from the corresponding months in the preceding year, whether or not they are from the transition year or from the old financial year, they were previously prepared or not, or they straddle a year-end.
- (4) If an investment fund voluntarily reports on a quarterly basis, it should follow the requirements set out in National Instrument 51-102 for a change in year end, with appropriate modifications.
- (5) Appendix A to this Policy outlines the financial statement filing requirements under section 2.9 of the National Instrument for an investment fund that changes its year end.

## **2.9 REPEALED**

## **2.10 Mutual Funds that are Non-Reporting Issuers**

The requirement in subsection 2.11(c) to advise the applicable regulator or securities regulatory authority of a mutual fund's reliance on the financial statement filing exemption provided in section 2.11 of the National Instrument can be satisfied by a one-time notice.

## **PART 3 AUDITORS AND THEIR REPORTS**

### **3.1 Acceptable Auditor**

Securities legislation in most jurisdictions prohibits a regulator or securities regulatory authority from issuing a receipt for a prospectus if it appears that a person or company

who has prepared any part of the prospectus, or is named as having prepared or certified a report used in connection with a prospectus, is not acceptable.

Investment funds that are reporting issuers, and their auditors, should refer to *National Instrument 52-108 respecting Auditor Oversight* for requirements relating to auditor oversight by the Canadian Public Accountability Board.

### **3.2 Reservations in an Auditor's Report**

- (1) The National Instrument generally prohibits an auditor's report from containing a reservation, qualification of opinion, or other similar communication that would constitute a reservation under Canadian GAAS.
- (2) Part 17 of the National Instrument permits the regulator or securities regulatory authority to grant exemptive relief from the National Instrument, including the requirement that an auditor's report not contain a reservation, qualification of opinion or other similar communication that would constitute a reservation under Canadian GAAS. However, we believe that such exemptive relief should not be granted if the reservation, qualification of opinion or other similar communication is
  - (a) due to a departure from accounting principles permitted by the National Instrument, or
  - (b) due to a limitation in the scope of the auditor's examination that
    - (i) results in the auditor being unable to form an opinion on the financial statements as a whole,
    - (ii) is imposed or could reasonably be eliminated by management, or
    - (iii) could reasonably be expected to be recurring.

### **3.3 Auditor's Involvement with Management Reports of Fund Performance**

Investment funds' auditors are expected to comply with Handbook Section 7500 *Auditor Association with Annual Reports, Interim Reports and Other Public Documents*, when preparing the annual and interim management reports of fund performance required by the National Instrument.

### **3.4 Auditor Involvement with Interim Financial Statements**

- (1) The board of directors of an investment fund that is a corporation or the trustees of an investment fund that is a trust, in discharging their responsibilities for ensuring reliable interim financial statements, should

consider engaging an external auditor to carry out a review of the interim financial statements.

- (2) Section 2.12 of the National Instrument requires an investment fund to disclose if an auditor has not performed a review of the interim financial statements, to disclose if an auditor was unable to complete a review and why, and to file a written report from the auditor if the auditor performed a review and expressed a reservation in the auditor's interim review report. No positive statement is required when an auditor performed a review and provided an unqualified communication. If an auditor was engaged to perform a review on interim financial statements applying review standards set out in the Handbook, and the auditor was unable to complete the review, the investment fund's disclosure of the reasons why the auditor was unable to complete the review should normally include a discussion of
  - (a) inadequate internal control,
  - (b) a limitation on the scope of the auditor's work, or
  - (c) a failure of management to provide the auditor with written representations the auditor believes are necessary.
- (3) The terms "review" and "written review report" used in section 2.12 of the National Instrument refer to the auditor's review of and report on interim financial statements using standards for a review of interim financial statements by the auditor as set out in Handbook Section 7050 *Auditor Review of Interim Financial Statements*.
- (4) The National Instrument does not specify the form of notice that should accompany interim financial statements that have not been reviewed by the auditor. The notice accompanies, but does not form part of, the interim financial statements. We expect that the notice will normally be provided on a separate page appearing immediately before the interim financial statements, in a manner similar to an audit report that accompanies annual financial statements.

## **PART 4 DELIVERY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS OF FUND PERFORMANCE**

### **4.1 Delivery Instructions**

- (1) The National Instrument gives investment funds the following choices for the delivery of financial statements and management reports of fund performance:
  - (a) send these documents to all securityholders;



- (b) obtain standing instructions from securityholders with respect to the documents they wish to receive; or
- (c) obtain annual instructions from securityholders by sending them an annual request form they can use to indicate which documents they wish to receive.

The choices are intended to provide some flexibility concerning the delivery of continuous disclosure documents to securityholders. An investment fund can use any combination of the delivery options for its securityholders. However, the Instrument specifies that once an investment fund chooses option (b) for a securityholder, it cannot switch back to option (c) for that securityholder at a later date. The purpose of this requirement is to encourage investment funds to obtain standing instructions and to ensure that if a securityholder provides standing instructions, the investment fund will abide by those instructions unless the securityholder specifically changes them.

- (2) When soliciting delivery instructions from a securityholder, an investment fund can deem no response from the securityholder to be a request by the securityholder to receive all, some or none of the documents listed in subsection 5.1(2) of the National Instrument. When soliciting delivery instructions, an investment fund should make clear what the consequence of no response will be to its securityholders.
- (3) Investment funds should solicit delivery instructions sufficiently ahead of time so that securityholders can receive the requested documents by the relevant filing deadline. Securityholders should also be given a reasonable amount of time to respond to a request for instructions. Investment funds should provide securityholders with complete contact information for the investment fund, including a toll-free telephone number or a number for collect calls.
- (4) Investment funds under common management can solicit one set of delivery instructions from a securityholder that will apply to all of the funds in the same fund family that the securityholder owns. If a securityholder has given an investment fund standing delivery instructions and then later acquires the securities of another investment fund managed by the same manager, the newly acquired fund can rely on those standing instructions.
- (5) The National Instrument requires investment funds to deliver the quarterly portfolio disclosure and the proxy voting record to securityholders upon request, but does not require investment funds to solicit delivery instructions from securityholders with respect to this disclosure. Investment funds are obligated to state on the first page of their management reports of fund performance that this disclosure is available.

## **4.2 Communication with Beneficial Owners**

Generally, investment funds must apply the procedures set out in *National Instrument 54-101 respecting Communication with Beneficial Owners of Securities of a Reporting Issuer* (National Instrument 54-101) for the purposes of Part 5 of the National Instrument, but an exemption from National Instrument 54-101 is available to investment funds that have beneficial owner information.

We recognize that different types of investment funds have different access to beneficial owner information (for example, mutual funds are more likely to have beneficial owner information than exchange-traded funds) and that the procedures in National Instrument 54-101 may not be efficient for every investment fund. We intend the provisions in Part 5 of the Instrument to provide investment funds with flexibility to communicate directly with the beneficial owners of their securities. If an investment fund has the necessary information to communicate directly with one or more beneficial owners of its securities, it can do so, even though it may need to rely on National Instrument 54-101 to communicate with other beneficial owners of its securities.

#### **4.3 Binding**

For the purposes of delivery to a securityholder, the National Instrument permits more than one management report of fund performance to be bound together if the securityholder owns all of the funds to which the management reports relate. There is no prohibition in the National Instrument against binding the management report of fund performance with the financial statements for one investment fund for the purposes of delivering these documents to a securityholder who has requested them.

#### **4.4 Electronic Delivery**

Any documents required to be sent under the National Instrument may be sent by electronic delivery, as long as such delivery is made in compliance with *Notice 11-201 relating to the delivery of documents by electronic means*, in Québec, and National Policy 11-201, *Delivery of Documents by Electronic Means*, in the rest of Canada.. In particular, the annual reminder required by section 5.2 and the request form required by section 5.3 of the National Instrument may be given in electronic form and may be combined with other notices. Request forms and notices may alternatively be sent with account statements or other materials sent to securityholders by an investment fund.

#### **4.5 Website Disclosure**

The Instrument does not specify the length of time that continuous disclosure documents must remain on an investment fund's website. In the CSA's view, the documents should stay on the website for a reasonable length of time, and at least until they are replaced by more current versions.

### **PART 5 INDEPENDENT VALUATIONS**

#### **5.1 Independent Valuations**

- (1) Part 8 of the National Instrument is designed to address the concerns raised by labour sponsored or venture capital funds that disclosing a fair value for their venture investments may disadvantage the private companies in which they invest. Section 8.2 permits alternative disclosure by a labour sponsored or venture capital fund of its statement of investment portfolio. Labour sponsored or venture capital funds must disclose the individual securities in which they invest, but may aggregate all changes from costs of the venture investments, thereby only showing an aggregate adjustment from cost to fair value for these securities. This alternative disclosure is only permitted if the labour sponsored or venture capital fund has obtained an independent valuation in accordance with Part 8 of the National Instrument.
- (2) The CSA expect the independent valuator's report to provide either a number or a range of values which the independent valuator considers to be a fair and reasonable expression of the value of the venture investments or of the net asset value of the labour sponsored or venture capital fund. The independent valuation should include a critical review of the valuation methodology and an assessment of whether it was properly applied. A report on compliance with stated valuation policies and practices cannot take the place of an independent valuation.
- (3) The valuation report should disclose the scope of the review, including any limitations on the scope, and the implications of these limitations on the independent valuator's conclusion.
- (4) The independent valuator should refer to the reporting standards of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Business Valuators for guidance.
- (5) A labour sponsored or venture capital fund obtaining an independent valuation should furnish the independent valuator with access to its manager, advisers and all material information in its possession relevant to the independent valuation.

## **5.2 Independent Valuators**

- (1) It is a question of fact as to whether a valuator is independent of the labour sponsored or venture capital fund. In determining the independence of the valuator, a number of factors may be relevant, including whether
  - (a) the valuator or an affiliated entity has a material financial interest in future business in respect of which an agreement, commitment or understanding exists involving the fund or a person or company listed in paragraph (2)(a); or

- (b) the valuator or its affiliated entity is a lender of a material amount of indebtedness to any of the issuers of the fund's illiquid investments.
- (2) The CSA would generally consider a valuator not to be independent of a labour sponsored or venture capital fund where
  - (a) the valuator or an affiliated entity of the valuator is
    - (i) the manager of the fund,
    - (ii) a portfolio adviser of the fund,
    - (iii) an insider of the fund,
    - (iv) an associate of the fund,
    - (v) an affiliated entity of the fund, or
    - (vi) an affiliated entity of any of the persons or companies named in this paragraph (a);
  - (b) the compensation of the valuator or an affiliated entity of the valuator depends in whole or in part upon an agreement, arrangement or understanding that gives the valuator, or its affiliated entity, a financial incentive in respect of the conclusions reached in the valuation; or
  - (c) the valuator or an affiliated entity of the valuator has a material investment in the labour sponsored or venture capital fund or in a portfolio asset of the fund.

## **PART 6 PROXY VOTING DISCLOSURE FOR PORTFOLIO SECURITIES HELD**

### **6.1 Proxy Voting Disclosure**

- (1) An investment fund's manager, acting on the investment fund's behalf, has the right and obligation to vote proxies relating to the investment fund's portfolio securities. As a practical matter, the manager may delegate this function to the investment fund's portfolio adviser as part of the adviser's general management of investment fund assets. In either case, the manager or portfolio adviser voting proxies on behalf of an investment fund must do so in a manner consistent with the best interests of the fund and its securityholders.

- (2) Because of the substantial institutional voting power held by investment funds, the increasing importance of the exercise of that power to securityholders, and the potential for conflicts of interest with respect to the exercise of proxy voting, we believe that investment funds should disclose their proxy voting policies and procedures, and should make their actual proxy voting records available to securityholders.
- (3) The National Instrument requires that the investment fund establish policies and procedures for determining whether, and how, to vote on any matter for which the investment fund receives proxy materials for a meeting of securityholders of an issuer. The CSA consider an investment fund to “receive” a document when it is delivered to any service provider or to the investment fund in respect of securities held beneficially by the investment fund. Proxy materials may be delivered to a manager, a portfolio adviser or sub-adviser, or a custodian. All of these deliveries are considered delivered “to” the investment fund.
- (4) The National Instrument requires an investment fund to maintain an annual proxy voting record as of June 30 and to post this to the fund’s website if it has one. However, investment funds may choose to disclose their proxy votes throughout the course of the year, and may also choose to disclose how they intend to vote prior to the shareholder meeting.

## **6.2 Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures**

- (1) Section 10.2 of the National Instrument sets out, in general terms, what the securities regulatory authorities consider to be minimum policies and procedures for the proxy voting process. Investment funds are responsible for adopting any additional policies relevant to their particular situation. For example, investment funds should consider whether they require any specific policies dealing with shareholder meetings of issuers resident in other countries.
- (2) An investment fund sometimes needs to vote securities held by it in order to protect its interests in connection with corporate transactions or developments relating to the issuers of its portfolio securities. The manager and portfolio adviser, or the agent of the investment fund administering a securities lending program on behalf of the investment fund, should monitor corporate developments relating to portfolio securities that are loaned by the investment fund in securities lending transactions, and take all necessary steps to ensure that the investment fund can exercise a right to vote the securities when necessary.

## **PART 7 MATERIAL CHANGE**

### **7.1 Material Changes**

Determining whether a change is a material change will depend on the specific facts and circumstances surrounding the change. However, the CSA is of the view that

- (a) the change of portfolio adviser of an investment fund will generally constitute a material change for the investment fund, and
- (b) the departure of a high-profile individual from the employ of a portfolio adviser of an investment fund may constitute a material change for the investment fund, depending on how prominently the investment fund featured that individual in its marketing. An investment fund that emphasized the ability of a particular individual to encourage investors to purchase the fund could not later take the position that the departure of that individual was immaterial to investors and therefore not a material change.

## **7.2 Confidential Material Change Report**

The CSA are of the view that in order for an investment fund to file a confidential material change report under Section 11.2 of the National Instrument, the investment fund or its manager should advise insiders of the prohibition against trading during the filing period of a confidential material change report and must also take steps to monitor trading activity.

## **PART 8 INFORMATION CIRCULARS**

### **8.1 Sending of Proxies and Information Circulars**

Investment funds are reminded that National Instrument 54-101 prescribes certain procedures relating to the delivery of proxy-related materials sent to beneficial owners of securities.

## **PART 9 NET ASSET VALUE 9.1 Publication of Net Asset Value Per Security**

An investment fund that arranges for the publication of its net asset value per security should calculate its net asset value per security and make the results of that calculation available to the financial press as quickly as is commercially practicable. An investment fund should attempt to meet the deadlines of the financial press for publication in order to ensure that its net asset values per security are publicly available as quickly as possible.

### **9.2 Fair Value Guidance**

Section 14.2 of the Instrument requires an investment fund to calculate its net asset value based on the fair value of the investment fund's assets and liabilities. While investment funds are required to comply with the definition of "fair value" in the Instrument when calculating net asset value, they may also look to the Handbook for guidance on the measurement of fair value. The fair value principles articulated in the Handbook can be applied by investment funds when valuing assets and liabilities.

### 9.3 Meaning of Fair Value

The Handbook defines fair value as being the amount of the consideration that would be agreed upon in an arm's length transaction between knowledgeable, willing parties who are under no compulsion to act. Accordingly, fair value should not reflect the amount that would be received or paid in a forced transaction, involuntary liquidation or distress sale.

### 9.4 Determination of Fair Value

- (1) A market is generally considered active when quoted prices are readily and regularly available from an exchange, dealer, broker, industry group, pricing service or regulatory agency, and those prices reflect actual and regularly occurring market transactions on an arm's length basis.
- (2) A market is not considered to be active, and prices derived from it may be unreliable for valuation purposes, if, at the time the investment fund begins to calculate its net asset value, any of the following circumstances are present:
  - markets on which portfolio securities are principally traded closed several hours earlier (e.g. some foreign markets may close as much as 15 hours before the time the investment fund begins to calculate its net asset value)
  - trading is halted
  - events occur that unexpectedly close entire markets (e.g. natural disasters, power blackouts, public disturbances, or similar major events)
  - markets are closed due to scheduled holidays
  - the security is illiquid and trades infrequently.

If an investment fund manager determines that an active market does not exist for a security, the manager should consider whether the last available quoted market price is representative of fair value. If a significant event (i.e. one that may impact the value of the portfolio security) has occurred between the time the last quoted market price was established and the time the investment fund begins to calculate its net asset value, the last quoted market price may not be representative of fair value.

- (3) Whether a particular event is a significant event for a security depends on whether the event may affect the value of the security. Generally, significant events fall into one of three categories: (i) issuer specific events

– e.g. the resignation of the CEO or an after-hours earnings announcement, (ii) market events – e.g. a natural disaster, a political event, or a significant governmental action like raising interest rates, and (iii) volatility events – e.g. a significant movement in North American equity markets that may directly impact the market prices of securities traded on overseas exchanges.

Whether a market movement is significant is a matter to be determined by the manager through the establishment of tolerance levels which it may choose to base on, for example, a specified intraday and/or interday percentage movement of a specific index, security or basket of securities. In all cases, the appropriate triggers should be determined based on the manager's own due diligence and understanding of the correlations relevant to each investment fund's portfolio.

## **9.5 Fair Value Techniques**

The CSA do not endorse any particular fair value technique as we recognize that this is a constantly evolving process. However, whichever technique is used, it should be applied consistently for a portfolio security throughout the fund complex and reviewed for reasonableness on a regular basis.

## **9.6 Valuation Policies and Procedures**

An investment fund's valuation policy should be approved by the manager's board of directors. The policies and procedures should describe the process for monitoring significant events or other situations that could call into question whether a quoted market price is representative of fair value. They should also describe the methods by which the manager will review and test valuations to evaluate the quality of the prices obtained as well as the general functioning of the valuation process. The manager should also consider whether its valuation process is a conflict of interest matter as defined in NI 81-107.

# **PART 10 CALCULATION OF MANAGEMENT EXPENSE RATIO**

## **10.1 Calculation of Management Expense Ratio**

- (1) Part 15 of the Instrument sets out the method to be used by an investment fund to calculate its management expense ratio (MER). The requirements apply in all circumstances in which an investment fund circulates and discloses an MER. This includes disclosure in a sales communication, a prospectus, a fund facts document, an annual information form, financial statements, a management report of fund performance or a report to securityholders.
- (2) Paragraph 15.1(1)(a) requires the investment fund to use its "total expenses" before income taxes for the relevant period as the basis for the calculation of MER. Total expenses, before income taxes, include interest



charges and taxes, including sales taxes, GST and capital taxes payable by the investment fund. Canadian GAAP currently permits an investment fund to deduct withholding taxes from the income to which they apply. Accordingly, withholding taxes are not recorded as "total expenses" on the investment fund's income statement and need not be included in its MER calculation.

Non-optional fees paid directly by investors in connection with the holding of an investment fund's securities do not have to be included in the MER calculation, which differs from the previous requirement in National Instrument 81-102.

- (3) The CSA recognize that an investment fund may incur fees and charges that are not included in total expenses, but that reduce the net asset value and the amount of investable assets of the investment fund. Sales commissions paid by an investment fund in connection with the sale of the investment fund's securities are an example of such fees and charges. We believe that these fees and charges should be reflected in the MER of the investment fund.
- (4) While brokerage commissions and other portfolio transaction costs are expenses of an investment fund for accounting purposes, they are not included in the MER. These costs are reflected in the trading expense ratio.
- (5) In its management report of fund performance, an investment fund must disclose historical MERs for five years calculated in accordance with Part 15. If the investment fund has not calculated the historical MERs in the manner required by the National Instrument, we are of the view that the change in the method of calculating the MER should be treated in a manner similar to a change in accounting policy under Handbook Section 1506 *Accounting Changes*. Under Canadian GAAP, a change in accounting policy requires a retroactive restatement of the financial information for all periods shown. However, the Handbook acknowledges that there may be circumstances where the data needed to restate the financial information is not reasonably determinable.

If an investment fund retroactively restates its MER for any of the five years it is required to show, the investment fund should describe this restatement in the first document released and in the first management report of fund performance in which the restated MERs are reported.

If an investment fund does not restate its MER for prior periods because, based on specific facts and circumstances, the information required to do so is not reasonably determinable, the MER for all financial periods ending after the effective date of the National Instrument must be calculated in accordance with Part 15. In this case, the investment fund must also disclose

- (i) that the method of calculating MER has changed, specifying for which periods the MER has been calculated in accordance with the change;
- (ii) that the investment fund has not restated the MER for specified prior periods;
- (iii) the impact that the change would have had if the investment fund had restated the MER for the specified prior periods (for example, would the MER have increased or decreased and an estimate of the increase or decrease); and
- (iv) a description of the main differences between an MER calculated in accordance with the National Instrument and the previous calculations.

The disclosure outlined above should be provided for all periods presented until such time as all MERs presented are calculated in accordance with the National Instrument.

**APPENDIX A**  
**EXAMPLES OF FILING REQUIREMENTS FOR CHANGES IN YEAR END**

The following examples assume the old financial year ended on December 31, 20X0

Transition Year	Comparative Annual Financial Statements to Transition Year	New Financial Year	Comparative Annual Financial Statements to New Financial Year	Interim Periods for Transition Year	Comparative Interim Periods to Transition Year	Interim Periods for New Financial Year	Comparative Interim Periods to New Financial Year
Up to 3 months							
3 months ended 3/31/X1	12 months ended 12/31/X0	3/31/X2	3 months ended 3/31/X1 and 12 months ended 12/31/X0	Not applicable	Not applicable	6 months ended 9/30/X1	6 months ended 9/30/X0
4 to 6 months							
6 months ended 6/30/X1	12 months ended 12/31/X0	6/30/X2	6 months ended 6/30/X1 and 12 months ended 12/31/X0	Not applicable	Not applicable	6 months ended 12/31/X1	6 months ended 12/31/X0
7 or 8 months							
8 months	12	8/31/	8	Not	Not	6	6 months

ended 8/31/X1	months ended 12/31/X 0	X2	months ended 8/31/X1 and 12 months ended 12/31/X 0	applic able	applica ble	months ended 2/28/X2	ended 2/28/X1
9 to 11 months							
11 months ended 11/30/X1	12 months ended 12/31/X 0	11/30 /X2	11 months ended 11/30/X 1	6 month s ended 6/30/X 1	6 months ended 6/30/X0	6 months ended 5/31/X2	6 months ended 5/31/X1
11 to 15 months							
15 months ended 3/31/X2	12 months ended 12/31/X 0	3/31/ X3	15 months ended 3/31/X2	6 month s ended 6/30/X 1	6 months ended 6/30/X0	6 months ended 9/30/X2	6 months ended 9/30/X1

**APPENDIX B  
CONTACT ADDRESSES**

**Autorité des marchés financiers**

800 Square Victoria, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
P.O. Box 246, Tour de la Bourse  
Montréal, Québec  
H4Z 1G3  
Attention: Direction des marchés des capitaux

**Alberta Securities Commission**

4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
300 – 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2P 3C4  
Attention: Corporate Finance

**British Columbia Securities Commission**

P.O. Box 10142, Pacific Centre  
701 West Georgia Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
V7Y 1L2  
Attention: Financial Reporting

**Manitoba Securities Commission**

500-400 St, Mary Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3C 4K5  
Attention: Corporate Finance

**New Brunswick Securities Commission**

85 Charlotte Street, Suite 300  
Saint John, New Brunswick  
E2L 2J2  
Attention: Director Corporate Finance and Chief Financial Officer  
Telephone: (506) 658-3060  
Toll Free: (Within NB) 1-866-933-2222

**Newfoundland and Labrador Securities Commission**

P.O. Box 8700  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, West Block  
Confederation Building  
75 O'Leary Avenue  
St. John's, NFLD  
A1B 4J6  
Attention: Director of Securities

**Department of Justice, Northwest Territories**

Legal Registries  
P.O. Box 1320  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 5009-49<sup>th</sup> Street  
Yellowknife, NWT X1A 2L9  
Attention: Director, Legal Registries

**Nova Scotia Securities Commission**

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Joseph Howe Building  
1690 Hollis Street  
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3J9  
Attention: Corporate Finance

**Department of Justice, Nunavut**

Legal Registries Division  
P.O. Box 1000 – Station 570  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Brown Building  
Iqaluit, NT X0A 0H0  
Attention: Director, Legal Registries Division

**Ontario Securities Commission**

Suite 1903, Box 55  
20 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 3S8  
Attention: Continuous Disclosure, Investment Funds

**Registrar of Securities, Prince Edward Island**

P.O. Box 2000  
95 Rochford Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
Charlottetown, PEI  
C1A 7N8  
Attention: Registrar of Securities

**Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission – Securities Division**

6<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
1919 Saskatchewan Drive  
Regina, SK S4P 3V7  
Attention: Deputy Director, Corporate Finance

**Registrar of Securities, Government of Yukon**

Corporate Affairs J-9  
P.O. Box 2703  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Y1A 5H3  
Attention: Registrar of Securities