

# CWB Onyx North American Equity Fund

(formerly CWB Core Equity Fund)

## 2024 Annual Financial Statements

For the Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023



## Independent Auditor's Report

To the Unitholders of  
CWB Onyx North American Equity Fund (formerly CWB Core Equity Fund) (the "Fund")

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Fund, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2024, and the statements of comprehensive income, changes in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information (collectively referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Fund as at December 31, 2024, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board ("IASB").

### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards ("Canadian GAAS"). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Fund in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Other Matter

The financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023, were audited by another auditor who expressed an unmodified opinion on those statements on March 28, 2024.

### Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Annual Management Report of Fund Performance.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially

inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

We obtained the Annual Management Report of Fund Performance prior to the date of this auditor's report. If, based on the work we have performed on this other information, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact in this auditor's report. We have nothing to report in this regard.

## Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the IASB, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Fund or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Fund's financial reporting process.

## Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian GAAS, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty

exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Fund to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

/s/ Deloitte LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants  
Calgary, Alberta  
March 31, 2025

# CWB North American Equity Fund (formerly CWB Core Equity Fund)

## Statements of Financial Position

As at December 31

|   | 2024                 | 2023                 |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>   |                      |                      |
| Cash  | \$ 208,746           | \$ 130,135           |
| Subscriptions receivable  | 7,128                | 6,399                |
| Dividends receivable  | 55,850               | 59,235               |
| Investments at fair value through profit or loss                                | 41,155,144           | 37,438,578           |
| Due from CWB Wealth Management Ltd. (note 3)                                    | 2,379                | -                    |
|   | <u>41,429,247</u>    | <u>37,634,347</u>    |
| <b>Liabilities</b>  |                      |                      |
| Redemptions payable   | 41,173               | 33,376               |
| Accrued liabilities (note 3)  | 45,204               | 36,490               |
|   | <u>86,377</u>        | <u>69,866</u>        |
| <b>Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units</b>                   | <u>\$ 41,342,870</u> | <u>\$ 37,564,481</u> |
| <b>Represented by</b>   |                      |                      |
| Series A  | \$ 37,724,548        | \$ 37,564,481        |
| Series O  | 3,618,322            | -                    |
|   | <u>\$ 41,342,870</u> | <u>\$ 37,564,481</u> |
| <b>Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units per unit (note 5)</b> |                      |                      |
| Series A  | \$ 29.03             | \$ 23.39             |
| Series O  | 29.31                | -                    |

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial*

Approved by CWB Wealth Management Ltd. in its capacity as manager of CWB North American Equity Fund (formerly CWB Core Equity Fund)

(signed) "James Andrews"

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James Andrews  
President & Chief Executive Officer

(signed) "Mary Falconer"

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Mary Falconer  
Senior Vice President, Finance and Chief Accountant

# CWB North American Equity Fund (formerly CWB Core Equity Fund)

## Statements of Comprehensive Income

### For the Years Ended December 31

|  | 2024                | 2023                |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Revenue</b>   |                     |                     |
| Dividends  | \$ 755,712          | \$ 786,095          |
| Interest for distribution purposes   | 24,422              | 30,584              |
| Foreign exchange (loss) gain   | (3)                 | 248                 |
| Net realized gain on sale of investments   | 2,614,338           | 2,059,471           |
| Net change in unrealized appreciation in value of investments                                      | 5,960,073           | 3,663,737           |
| <b>Total revenue</b>   | <u>9,354,542</u>    | <u>6,540,135</u>    |
| <b>Expenses</b>  |                     |                     |
| Management fees (note 3)   | 426,023             | 388,400             |
| Legal fees   | 80,219              | 26,491              |
| Research fees  | 46,823              | 44,985              |
| Administration fees  | 31,607              | 31,106              |
| Audit fees   | 12,340              | 14,259              |
| Custodian fees   | 11,964              | 11,685              |
| Record keeping   | 10,045              | 9,823               |
| Trustee fees   | 3,527               | 3,571               |
| Independent Review Committee fees  | 2,680               | 1,714               |
| Transaction fees   | 2,342               | 2,496               |
| Activity fees  | 839                 | 903                 |
| Other  | 6,450               | 5,734               |
| <b>Total expenses before fee waiver and refund</b>   | <u>634,859</u>      | <u>541,167</u>      |
| Management fees waived (note 3)  | (82,263)            | (36,103)            |
| Management fees refunded (note 3)  | (82,289)            | -                   |
| <b>Total expenses</b>  | <u>470,307</u>      | <u>505,064</u>      |
| <b>Increase in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units before withholding taxes</b> | 8,884,235           | 6,035,071           |
| Withholding tax expense (note 4)   | 24,999              | 29,083              |
| <b>Increase in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units</b>                          | <u>\$ 8,859,236</u> | <u>\$ 6,005,988</u> |
| <b>Increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units</b>               |                     |                     |
| Series A   | 8,898,801           | 6,005,988           |
| Series O   | (39,565)            | -                   |
|  | <u>8,859,236</u>    | <u>6,005,988</u>    |
| <b>Increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units per unit</b>      |                     |                     |
| Series A   | \$ 5.83             | \$ 3.57             |
| Series O   | <u>(2.23)</u>       | <u>-</u>            |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**CWB North American Equity Fund (formerly CWB Core Equity Fund)**  
**Statements of Changes in Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Redeemable Units**  
**For the Years Ended December 31**

|   | 2024                 | 2023                 |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Series A</b>   |                      |                      |
| <b>Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units – Beginning of year</b> | \$ 37,564,481        | \$ 35,166,981        |
| Increase in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units                | 8,898,801            | 6,005,988            |
| <b>Distributions to unitholders of redeemable units</b>                           |                      |                      |
| From net investment income  | (123,453)            | (201,782)            |
| Net realized capital gains  | -                    | (745,922)            |
| From management fees refunded (note 3)  | (82,289)             | -                    |
|   | <u>(205,742)</u>     | <u>(947,704)</u>     |
| <b>Redeemable unit transactions (note 5)</b>                                      |                      |                      |
| Issuance of redeemable units  | 2,830,119            | 732,335              |
| Reinvested distributions from holders of redeemable units                         | 205,742              | 947,704              |
| Redemption of redeemable units  | (11,568,853)         | (4,340,823)          |
|   | <u>(8,532,992)</u>   | <u>(2,660,784)</u>   |
| <b>Net increase in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units</b>     | <u>160,067</u>       | <u>2,397,500</u>     |
| <b>Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units – End of year</b>       | <u>\$ 37,724,548</u> | <u>\$ 37,564,481</u> |
| <b>Series O</b>   |                      |                      |
| <b>Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units – Beginning of year</b> | \$ -                 | -                    |
| Decrease in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units                | (39,565)             | -                    |
| <b>Distributions to unitholders of redeemable units</b>                           |                      |                      |
| From net investment income  | (1,324)              | -                    |
| <b>Redeemable unit transactions (note 5)</b>                                      |                      |                      |
| Issuance of redeemable units  | 3,659,087            | -                    |
| Reinvested distributions from holders of redeemable units                         | 1,324                | -                    |
| Redemption of redeemable units  | (1,200)              | -                    |
|   | <u>3,659,211</u>     | <u>-</u>             |
| <b>Net increase in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units</b>     | <u>3,618,322</u>     | <u>-</u>             |
| <b>Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units – End of year</b>       | <u>\$ 3,618,322</u>  | <u>-</u>             |

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.*

# CWB North American Equity Fund (formerly CWB Core Equity Fund)

## Statements of Cash Flows

For the Years Ended December 31

|   | 2024               | 2023               |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>                   |                    |                    |
| Increase in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable  | \$ 8,859,236       | \$ 6,005,988       |
| Adjustments for:  |                    |                    |
| Net realized gain on sale of investments                      | (2,614,338)        | (2,059,471)        |
| Foreign exchange loss (gain)                                  | 3                  | (248)              |
| Net change in unrealized appreciation in value of investments | (5,960,073)        | (3,663,737)        |
| Purchase of investments                                       | (7,442,497)        | (7,394,609)        |
| Proceeds from sale of investments                             | 12,300,342         | 10,769,432         |
| Net change in dividends receivable                            | 3,385              | 1,961              |
| Net change in due from CWB Wealth Management Ltd.             | (2,379)            | 10,499             |
| Net change in accrued liabilities                             | 8,714              | (920)              |
|   | <u>5,152,393</u>   | <u>3,668,895</u>   |
| <b>Cash flows used in financing activities</b>                |                    |                    |
| Proceeds from issuances of redeemable units                   | 6,488,477          | 730,994            |
| Amounts paid on redemption of redeemable units                | (11,562,256)       | (4,338,876)        |
|   | <u>(5,073,779)</u> | <u>(3,607,882)</u> |
| Effect of foreign exchange fluctuations on cash               | (3)                | 248                |
| Net increase in cash  | 78,614             | 61,013             |
| Cash - Beginning of year                                      | 130,135            | 68,874             |
| <b>Cash - End of year</b>                                     | <u>\$ 208,746</u>  | <u>\$ 130,135</u>  |
| <b>Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information</b>       |                    |                    |
| Interest received   | \$ 24,422          | \$ 30,584          |
| Dividends received, net of withholding taxes                  | 734,098            | 758,973            |

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.*



# CWB North American Equity Fund (formerly CWB Core Equity Fund)

## Schedule of Investment Portfolio

As at December 31, 2024

|   | Maturity Date | Par Value (\$) | Average Cost (\$)       | Fair Value (\$) | % of Net Assets |
|---|---------------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Short-term notes</b>                   |               |                |                         |                 |                 |
| Government of Canada Treasury Bill        | 04/09/2025    | 634,000        | 627,778                 | 627,778         | 1.5             |
| <b>Total short-term notes</b>             |               |                | 627,778                 | 627,778         | 1.5             |
| <b>Equities</b>                           |               |                |                         |                 |                 |
|   |               |                | <b>Number of Shares</b> |                 |                 |
| <b>Domestic equities</b>                  |               |                |                         |                 |                 |
| <b>Communication services</b>             |               |                |                         |                 |                 |
| Telus Corp.                               |               | 24,299         | 353,633                 | 473,588         | 1.1             |
|   |               |                | 353,633                 | 473,588         | 1.1             |
| <b>Consumer discretionary</b>             |               |                |                         |                 |                 |
| Canadian Tire Corp., Class A              |               | 2,305          | 282,421                 | 348,562         | 0.8             |
| Magna International Inc.                  |               | 3,885          | 293,140                 | 233,411         | 0.6             |
| Restaurant Brands International Inc.      |               | 4,710          | 320,014                 | 441,280         | 1.1             |
|   |               |                | 895,575                 | 1,023,253       | 2.5             |
| <b>Consumer staples</b>                   |               |                |                         |                 |                 |
| Alimentation Couche-Tard, Class A         |               | 6,650          | 135,662                 | 530,138         | 1.3             |
| Shopify Inc.                              |               | 4,600          | 319,731                 | 703,754         | 1.7             |
|   |               |                | 455,393                 | 1,233,892       | 3.0             |
| <b>Energy</b>                             |               |                |                         |                 |                 |
| Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.           |               | 14,362         | 266,593                 | 637,386         | 1.6             |
| Pembina Pipeline Corp.                    |               | 6,810          | 263,306                 | 361,679         | 0.9             |
| Suncor Energy Corp.                       |               | 13,790         | 340,218                 | 707,565         | 1.7             |
| Precision Drilling Corp.                  |               | 2,000          | 196,424                 | 175,840         | 0.4             |
| South Bow Corp.                           |               | 2,619          | 66,006                  | 88,836          | 0.2             |
| TC Energy Corp.                           |               | 13,099         | 667,595                 | 877,502         | 2.1             |
|   |               |                | 1,800,142               | 2,848,808       | 6.9             |
| <b>Financials</b>                         |               |                |                         |                 |                 |
| Bank of Montreal                          |               | 5,730          | 675,968                 | 799,622         | 1.9             |
| Brookfield Asset Management Inc., Class A |               | 11,522         | 429,564                 | 951,948         | 2.3             |
| Element Fleet Management Corp.            |               | 15,085         | 152,876                 | 438,370         | 1.1             |
| Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce        |               | 8,800          | 543,034                 | 800,184         | 1.9             |
| EQB Inc.                                  |               | 2,300          | 202,069                 | 227,631         | 0.6             |
| Intact Financial Corp.                    |               | 1,960          | 327,460                 | 512,991         | 1.2             |
| Royal Bank of Canada                      |               | 7,348          | 574,763                 | 1,273,555       | 3.1             |
| Sun Life Financial Inc.                   |               | 7,830          | 418,930                 | 668,291         | 1.6             |
| Toronto Dominion Bank                     |               | 8,180          | 444,219                 | 626,015         | 1.5             |
|   |               |                | 3,768,883               | 6,298,607       | 15.2            |

# CWB North American Equity Fund (formerly CWB Core Equity Fund)

Schedule of Investment Portfolio ...continued

As at December 31

|                                | Number of<br>Shares | Average Cost<br>(\$) | Fair Value<br>(\$) | % of Net<br>Assets |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Industrials</b>             |                     |                      |                    |                    |
| Boyd Group Services Inc.       | 1,150               | 216,147              | 249,297            | 0.6                |
| Canadian Pacific Railway Ltd.  | 7,380               | 699,142              | 768,110            | 1.8                |
| Stantec Inc.                   | 3,005               | 129,544              | 338,904            | 0.8                |
| TFI International Inc.         | 2,485               | 339,440              | 482,686            | 1.2                |
| Toromont Industries Ltd.       | 3,166               | 145,327              | 359,784            | 0.9                |
| Waste Connections Inc.         | 3,230               | 529,776              | 796,518            | 1.9                |
|                                |                     | 2,059,376            | 2,995,299          | 7.2                |
| <b>Information technology</b>  |                     |                      |                    |                    |
| CGI Inc.                       | 2,730               | 179,137              | 429,374            | 1.0                |
| Constellation Software Inc.    | 258                 | 166,306              | 484,495            | 1.2                |
| Descartes Systems Group        | 1,600               | 173,872              | 261,440            | 0.7                |
| Open Text Corp.                | 7,250               | 335,805              | 294,930            | 0.7                |
|                                |                     | 855,120              | 1,470,239          | 3.6                |
| <b>Materials</b>               |                     |                      |                    |                    |
| Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.        | 5,175               | 316,086              | 581,981            | 1.4                |
| CCL Industries Inc., Class B   | 5,620               | 299,383              | 415,599            | 1.0                |
| Methanex Corp.                 | 6,230               | 313,455              | 447,501            | 1.1                |
| Nutrien Ltd.                   | 5,400               | 360,606              | 347,328            | 0.8                |
|                                |                     | 1,289,530            | 1,792,409          | 4.3                |
| <b>Utilities</b>               |                     |                      |                    |                    |
| Brookfield Infrastructure      | 7,117               | 376,835              | 410,509            | 1.0                |
| Brookfield Renewable Partner   | 7,830               | 386,772              | 311,477            | 0.8                |
| Fortis Inc.                    | 7,437               | 295,897              | 444,212            | 1.1                |
|                                |                     | 1,059,504            | 1,166,198          | 2.9                |
| <b>Total domestic equities</b> |                     |                      |                    |                    |
|                                |                     | 12,537,156           | 19,302,293         | 46.7               |
| <b>Foreign equities</b>        |                     |                      |                    |                    |
| <b>Communication services</b>  |                     |                      |                    |                    |
| Alphabet Inc., Class A         | 6,660               | 662,103              | 1,813,203          | 4.4                |
| Walt Disney Co. (The)          | 1,100               | 155,857              | 176,159            | 0.4                |
|                                |                     | 817,960              | 1,989,362          | 4.8                |

# CWB North American Equity Fund (formerly CWB Core Equity Fund)

Schedule of Investment Portfolio ...continued

As at December 31

|                                  | Number of<br>Shares | Average Cost<br>(\$) | Fair Value<br>(\$) | % of Net<br>Assets |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Consumer discretionary</b>    |                     |                      |                    |                    |
| Amazon.com Inc.                  | 4,700               | 789,964              | 1,482,983          | 3.6                |
| Aramark Holding                  | 7,200               | 296,739              | 386,349            | 0.9                |
| AutoZone Inc.                    | 183                 | 320,555              | 842,741            | 2.0                |
| Dollar General Corp.             | 1,023               | 175,326              | 111,553            | 0.3                |
| Dollar Tree Inc.                 | 1,652               | 217,374              | 178,051            | 0.4                |
| Home Depot Inc.                  | 1,039               | 288,687              | 581,267            | 1.4                |
| Nike Inc. Class B                | 800                 | 98,847               | 87,063             | 0.2                |
| Pool Corporation                 | 300                 | 140,441              | 147,103            | 0.4                |
| TJX Companies Inc.               | 3,486               | 264,654              | 605,692            | 1.5                |
|                                  |                     | 2,592,587            | 4,422,802          | 10.7               |
| <b>Consumer staples</b>          |                     |                      |                    |                    |
| Costco Wholesale Corp.           | 544                 | 234,832              | 716,876            | 1.7                |
|                                  |                     | 234,832              | 716,876            | 1.7                |
| <b>Energy</b>                    |                     |                      |                    |                    |
| Cheniere Energy                  | 600                 | 125,410              | 185,417            | 0.5                |
|                                  |                     | 125,410              | 185,417            | 0.5                |
| <b>Financials</b>                |                     |                      |                    |                    |
| Berkshire Hathaway Inc., Class B | 1,288               | 388,140              | 839,661            | 2.0                |
| JPMorgan Chase & Co.             | 2,700               | 430,388              | 930,832            | 2.3                |
| Moody's Corp.                    | 746                 | 335,641              | 507,880            | 1.2                |
| Wells Fargo & Co.                | 8,671               | 543,705              | 875,942            | 2.1                |
|                                  |                     | 1,697,874            | 3,154,315          | 7.6                |
| <b>Health care</b>               |                     |                      |                    |                    |
| Elevance Health                  | 200                 | 145,336              | 106,111            | 0.3                |
| McKesson Corp.                   | 669                 | 239,194              | 548,345            | 1.3                |
| UnitedHealth Group Inc.          | 1,104               | 652,421              | 803,195            | 1.9                |
| Waters Corp.                     | 866                 | 306,775              | 462,051            | 1.1                |
|                                  |                     | 1,343,726            | 1,919,702          | 4.6                |
| <b>Industrials</b>               |                     |                      |                    |                    |
| Fabrinet                         | 1,095               | 178,400              | 346,275            | 0.8                |
| Linde PLC                        | 564                 | 206,977              | 339,604            | 0.8                |
| Occidental Petroleum Corporation | 1,600               | 134,328              | 113,699            | 0.3                |
| Southern Copper Corp             | 2,250               | 211,154              | 294,894            | 0.7                |
| Union Pacific Corp.              | 1,867               | 457,431              | 612,318            | 1.5                |
|                                  |                     | 1,188,290            | 1,706,790          | 4.1                |

# CWB North American Equity Fund (formerly CWB Core Equity Fund)

Schedule of Investment Portfolio ...continued

As at December 31

|   | Number of<br>Shares | Average Cost<br>(\$) | Fair Value<br>(\$) | % of Net<br>Assets |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Information technology</b>                                 |                     |                      |                    |                    |
| Accenture PLC, Class A  | 929                 | 218,033              | 470,025            | 1.1                |
| Apple Inc.  | 4,476               | 347,811              | 1,612,058          | 3.9                |
| Intel Corp  | 6,694               | 320,804              | 193,029            | 0.5                |
| Mastercard Inc., Class A                                      | 1,263               | 586,801              | 956,491            | 2.3                |
| Microsoft Corp.   | 3,270               | 315,000              | 1,982,288          | 4.8                |
| NVIDIA CORP   | 9,920               | 261,623              | 1,915,918          | 4.7                |
|   |                     | 2,050,072            | 7,129,809          | 17.3               |
| <b>Total foreign equities</b>                                 |                     | 10,050,751           | 21,225,073         | 51.3               |
| <b>Total equities</b>   |                     | 22,587,907           | 40,527,366         | 98.0               |
| <b>Total investments at fair value through profit or loss</b> |                     | 23,215,685           | 41,155,144         | 99.5               |
| <b>Other assets less liabilities</b>                          |                     |                      | 187,726            | 0.5                |
| <b>Total net assets</b>                                       |                     |                      | 41,342,870         | 100.0              |

# **CWB Onyx North American Equity Fund (formerly CWB Core Equity Fund)**

## Notes to Financial Statements – Fund Specific Information

### For the Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

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The Fund Specific Information related to CWB Onyx North American Equity Fund (formerly CWB Core Equity Fund, “the Fund”) contained herein should be read in conjunction with the “Notes to the Financial Statements – General Information” related to all CWB Onyx Portfolio Series beginning on page 15.

#### **1 Investment objective**

The Fund’s investment objective is to achieve long-term capital appreciation by employing a “growth at a reasonable price” investment approach through investments in Canadian, United States (U.S.) and foreign equities. The Fund strives to maintain investments in U.S. and other foreign equities at no more than 50% of the value of the portfolio. Market fluctuations may cause this figure to be exceeded on occasion, however, foreign equities will never exceed 60% of portfolio value.

#### **2 Financial risk management**

Specific financial risks applicable to the Fund are discussed in detail below. For a comprehensive discussion of the risks applicable to the Fund, refer to Note C under the “Notes to the Financial Statements – General Information” related to all CWB Onyx Portfolio Series.

##### a) Currency risk

Currency risk is the risk that the value of investments denominated in currencies, other than the functional currency of the Fund, will fluctuate due to changes in foreign exchange rates. Foreign equities are exposed to currency risk as the prices denominated in foreign currencies are converted to the Fund’s functional currency in determining fair value. The Fund may enter into forward currency contracts for economic hedging purposes to reduce foreign currency exposure or to establish exposure to foreign currencies. The Fund did not enter into forward currency contracts during the year ended December 31, 2024 and 2023.

As at December 31, 2024, the Fund’s exposure to currency risk was primarily related to its holdings in U.S. dollar denominated foreign equities. The Canadian equivalent of the foreign equities as at December 31, 2024 was \$21,225,073 (December 31, 2023 – \$18,975,693) or 51.3% (December 31, 2023 – 50.5%) of net assets, of which 49.4% of the Fund’s net assets (December 31, 2023 – 47.9%) were investments in the U.S.

As at December 31, 2024, if the Canadian dollar had strengthened or weakened by 5% in relation to all foreign currencies represented in the portfolio, with all other factors remaining constant, net assets could possibly have decreased or increased by approximately \$1,061,000 (December 31, 2023 – \$949,000). In practice, actual results may differ from this sensitivity analysis and the difference could be material.

##### b) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk arises from the effects of fluctuations in the prevailing levels of market interest rates on the fair value of financial assets and liabilities. The Fund’s exposure to interest rate risk is concentrated in its short-term notes. Other assets and liabilities are short-term in nature and non-interest bearing.

As at December 31, 2024, 1.5% (December 31, 2023 – 1.0%) of the Fund’s net assets were invested in short-term notes with a term to maturity of less than one year. The Fund’s sensitivity to interest rate risk as determined based on portfolio weighted duration was not significant.

# CWB Onyx North American Equity Fund (formerly CWB Core Equity Fund)

## Notes to the Financial Statements – Fund Specific Information

### For the Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

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c) Price risk

The Fund invests in Canadian, U.S. and foreign equities. U.S. and foreign equities are maintained at less than 60% of the total value of the portfolio. The Fund's maximum initial investment in any one security is limited to 10% of the value of the Fund's portfolio at the time of investment.

As at December 31, 2024, 98.0% (December 31, 2023 – 98.7%) of the Fund's net assets were traded on global stock exchanges. If equity prices on the global stock exchanges had increased or decreased by 10% as at the year-end, with all other factors remaining constant, net assets could possibly have increased or decreased, respectively, by approximately \$4,053,000 (December 31, 2023 – \$3,706,000). In practice, actual results may differ from this sensitivity analysis and the difference could be material.

d) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a loss could arise from a security issuer or counterparty to a financial instrument not being able to meet its financial obligations in full when they fall due. The main concentration to which the Fund is exposed arises from the Fund's investments in short-term notes. The Fund's exposure to counterparty credit risk on cash and other receivables is not significant.

As at December 31, 2024, the Fund had 1.5% (December 31, 2023 – 1.0%) of net assets invested in short-term notes, all guaranteed by the federal government of Canada.

e) Liquidity risk

Redeemable units are redeemable on demand at the holder's option; however, it is not expected that this is representative of the Fund's actual cash outflows as holders of these instruments typically retain them for a longer year.

The Fund held no illiquid securities at the reporting date. All accrued liabilities come due within the next fiscal year.

f) Concentration risk

The following table summarizes the Fund's concentration risk by industry sector related to investments in equities:

|                        | <b>December 31, 2024</b><br>as a % of<br>total equities | <b>December 31, 2023</b><br>as a % of<br>total equities |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Financials             | 23.3  | 21.6  |
| Information technology | 21.2  | 20.0  |
| Consumer discretionary | 13.5  | 16.2  |
| Industrials            | 11.6  | 13.3  |
| Energy                 | 7.5   | 6.1   |
| Communication services | 6.1   | 5.9   |
| Consumer staples       | 4.8   | 4.0   |
| Health care            | 4.7   | 5.5   |
| Materials              | 4.4   | 4.6   |
| Utilities              | 2.9   | 2.8   |
|                        | <hr/> 100.0   | <hr/> 100.0   |

# **CWB Onyx North American Equity Fund (formerly CWB Core Equity Fund)**

Notes to the Financial Statements – Fund Specific Information

**For the Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023**

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## **3 Related party transactions**

CWB Wealth Management Ltd. (the Manager) is entitled to management fees payable out of the Fund for Series A units and are calculated at a maximum of 1.0% per annum, before applicable sales taxes, of the daily net asset value of the Series A units. Series O unitholders negotiate a management fee that is paid directly to the Manager and not through the Fund. Annual management fees, administration costs, and operating expenses (excluding withholding taxes) related to Series A units are capped at 1.3% of the net asset value of the applicable units. For the year ended December 31, 2024, Series A gross management fees incurred by the Fund totaled \$426,023 (2023 – \$388,400). Of these management fees, the Manager waived \$82,263 (2023 – \$36,103) during the year. Actual administration and operating expenses, excluding management fees, charged to the Fund related to Series A units totaled \$208,836 (2023 – \$152,767) during the year ended December 31, 2024. Amounts due from the Manager at December 31, 2024 reflect Series O management fees, administration costs and operating expenses paid by the Fund during the year, and therefore are to be reimbursed to the Fund.

The Manager refunds a portion of management fees for employees of the Manager as well as employees of Canadian Western Bank, the Manager's parent company. This is achieved by refunding a portion of the management fee charged to the Fund based on the aggregate value of the investments held by employees. Refunded amounts are automatically reinvested in additional units of the Fund. The refunded or refundable amounts are shown as management fees refunded on the Statements of Comprehensive Income. During the year ended December 31, 2024, the Manager refunded management fees related to Series A units held by employees of both the Manager and Canadian Western Bank totaling \$82,289 (2023 – nil).

As at December 31, 2024, 31,691 Series A units and 109,993 Series O units of the Fund (December 31, 2023 – 141,829 total units) were held by key management personnel of the Manager and their immediate family members.

## **4 Income taxes**

Non-capital losses are available to be carried forward for twenty years. Capital losses for income tax purposes may be carried forward indefinitely and applied against capital gains realized in future years. As at December 31, 2024, the Fund had no allowable capital losses or non-capital losses (December 31, 2023 – nil) available for carry forward in future years.

Certain investment income and capital gains received by the Fund are subject to withholding tax imposed in the country of origin. Such income and gains are recorded on a gross basis and the related withholding taxes are shown as a separate expense in the Statements of Comprehensive Income. For the year ended December 31, 2024, the average withholding tax rate was 14% (2023 – 14%).

# CWB Onyx North American Equity Fund (formerly CWB Core Equity Fund)

Notes to the Financial Statements – Fund Specific Information

For the Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

## 5 Redeemable units

The following table summarizes unit transactions during the year ended December 31, 2024 and 2023:

|   | Series A  |           | Series O |      |
|---|-----------|-----------|----------|------|
|   | 2024      | 2023      | 2024     | 2023 |
| Redeemable units outstanding – Beginning of year                                      | 1,606,012 | 1,726,408 | -        | -    |
| Redeemable units issued for cash  | 111,568   | 33,217    | 123,460  | -    |
| Redeemable units redeemed   | (426,098) | (194,131) | (43)     | -    |
| Redeemable units issued on reinvestment of distributions and management fees refunded | 7,866     | 40,518    | 46       | -    |
| Redeemable units outstanding – End of year  | 1,299,348 | 1,606,012 | 123,463  | -    |

## 6 Fair value of financial instruments

For a general discussion of the Fund’s fair value measurements, refer to Note B(c) in the “Notes to the Financial Statements – General Information” related to all CWB Onyx Portfolio Series.

The following tables illustrate the classification of the Fund’s financial instruments within the fair value hierarchy:

| Investments at fair value through profit or loss as at December 31, 2024 | Level 1<br>\$ | Level 2<br>\$ | Level 3<br>\$ | Total<br>\$ |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Short-term notes   | -             | 627,778       | -             | 627,778     |
| Domestic equities  | 19,302,293    | -             | -             | 19,302,293  |
| Foreign equities   | 21,225,073    | -             | -             | 21,225,073  |
|  | 40,527,366    | 627,778       | -             | 41,155,144  |

  

| Investments at fair value through profit or loss as at December 31, 2023 | Level 1<br>\$ | Level 2<br>\$ | Level 3<br>\$ | Total<br>\$ |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Short-term notes   | -             | 375,528       | -             | 375,528     |
| Domestic equities  | 18,087,357    | -             | -             | 18,087,357  |
| Foreign equities   | 18,975,693    | -             | -             | 18,975,693  |
|  | 37,063,050    | 375,528       | -             | 37,438,578  |

The carrying values of cash, subscriptions receivable, dividends receivable, amounts due from the Manager, redemptions payable, and accrued liabilities approximate their fair values due to their short-term nature. The carrying amount of the Fund’s net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units approximates fair value as it is measured at the redemption amount and is classified as Level 2 within the fair value hierarchy. There were no transfers within the fair value hierarchy during the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023.



# **CWB Onyx North American Equity Fund** (formerly CWB Core Equity Fund)

Notes to the Financial Statements – Fund Specific Information

**For the Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023**

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## **7 Brokerage commissions and soft dollars**

The Fund may transact with brokers who charge a commission in “soft dollars” to purchase services that provide value to the unitholders of the Fund. Any services received, which are purchased with brokerage commissions, are reviewed to ensure that they benefit all unitholders and that their costs are efficient when compared to replicating or obtaining similar services outside of this arrangement. Our primary use of soft dollars is for real time security pricing and analysis. The ascertainable soft dollar value received by the Fund during the year ended December 31, 2024 was \$40 (December 31, 2023 – \$26).

# **CWB Onyx North American Equity Fund (formerly CWB Core Equity Fund)**

## **Notes to Financial Statements – General Information**

### **For the Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023**

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General Information related to the CWB Onyx Portfolio Series contained herein should be read in conjunction with the “Notes to the Financial Statements – Fund Specific Information” beginning on page 10.

#### **A General**

The CWB Onyx Portfolio Series consists of the CWB Onyx Balanced Solution, the CWB Onyx Canadian Equity Fund, the CWB Onyx Conservative Solution, the CWB Onyx Diversified Income Fund, the CWB Onyx Global Equity Fund, the CWB Onyx Growth Solution, and the CWB Onyx North American Fund (collectively, the Funds).

CWB Onyx Balanced Solution, the CWB Onyx Canadian Equity Fund, the CWB Onyx Conservative Solution, the CWB Onyx Diversified Income Fund, the CWB Onyx Global Equity Fund, and the CWB Onyx Growth Solution, domiciled in Canada, were established on February 2, 2016 under the laws of Alberta pursuant to a master declaration of trust (the Declaration of Trust) between CWB Wealth Management Ltd., as manager and as trustee. RBC Investor Services Trust is the custodian and administrator of the Funds.

The CWB Onyx North American Fund (formerly the CWB Core Equity Fund) is domiciled in Canada. The CWB Onyx North American Fund is an open-ended mutual fund trust and was established by a Declaration of Trust made as of May 4, 2001, under the laws of Alberta. The initial units of the CWB Onyx North American Fund were issued to the public on August 10, 2001. Prior to March 1, 2017, Adroit Investment Management Ltd. (Adroit) acted as the Fund’s trustee, manager, distributor, and portfolio manager. On March 1, 2017, the Manager assumed these duties after amalgamating with Adroit. RBC Investor Services is the custodian and administrator of the Fund. The declaration of trust governing the CWB Onyx North American Fund was amended and restated on August 28, 2024 (i) to contemplate the issuance of unites in more than one series, and to reflect the designation of the outstanding units of the funds as Series A units of the fund, and (ii) to reflect an increase in the frequency of the valuation of the fund such that the net asset value of the fund and the net asset value per unit of each series of units of the Fund will be calculated on each day that the Toronto Stock Exchange is open for business. On August 28, 2024, the name of the CWB Core Equity Fund was changed to the CWB Onyx North American Equity Fund.

The Funds are authorized to issue an unlimited number of series and an unlimited number of units. Currently authorized series of units are as follows: Series A and Series O. A holder of units is entitled to one vote at any meeting of unitholders of the Fund or a meeting of unitholders of that specific series for each dollar in value of units owned on the relevant date. In addition, each unit of a series entitles the holder to participate equally with all other units of the series in the regular distribution of net income and net realized capital gains of the Fund allocated to the series.

Series O units are available to large private or institutional investors who satisfy certain criteria established by the Manager. No management fees or operating expenses (other than certain litigation related expenses, if any) are charged to the Funds with respect to Series O units. Instead, each Series O investor negotiates a separate fee that is paid directly to the Manager and the Manager pays the operating expenses of the Funds (other than certain litigation expenses, if any) with respect to Series O units. Series A units carry a management fee and operating expenses and are available to all investors. In all other respects the series are equal.

During the year, Canadian Western Bank (“CWB”), the parent company of CWB Wealth, announced it had entered into a definitive agreement with National Bank of Canada (“NBC”) to acquire all the issued and outstanding common shares of CWB. This transaction was completed on February 3, 2025 and CWB Wealth is now a wholly owned subsidiary of NBC.

The financial statements were authorized for issue by the Manager on March 31, 2025.

# **CWB Onyx North American Equity Fund (formerly CWB Core Equity Fund)**

Notes to the Financial Statements – General Information

**For the Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023**

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## **B Material accounting policies**

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

### a) Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with IFRS® Accounting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IFRS Accounting Standards) on a historic cost basis, except for the revaluation of investments at fair value through profit or loss.

### b) Use of estimates and significant judgments

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRS Accounting Standards requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities as at the date of the financial statements as well as the reported amount of revenues and expenses during the period.

Estimated and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to estimates are recognized in the period in which the estimates are revised and in any future period affected. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

### c) Financial instruments

#### i) Classification and measurement

##### Initial recognition and measurement

All financial instruments are measured at fair value on initial recognition. Subsequently, financial assets are to be classified into one of three categories: amortized cost, fair value through other comprehensive income, or fair value through profit or loss, based on the cash flow characteristics and the business model under which the assets are held.

##### Debt financial assets

A debt financial asset is classified and subsequently measured at amortized cost only if the asset is held within a business model whose objective is to hold assets to collect contractual cash flows, the contractual terms whose objective give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal outstanding, and it is not designated as fair value through profit or loss.

A debt financial asset is classified and subsequently measured at fair value through other comprehensive income only if the asset is held within a business model whose objective is achieved by both collecting contractual cash flows and selling financial assets, the contractual terms of the financial asset give rise on the specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding, and it is not designated as fair value through profit or loss.

All other debt financial assets that do not meet the above criteria are classified as measured at fair value through profit or loss.

# CWB Onyx North American Equity Fund (formerly CWB Core Equity Fund)

Notes to the Financial Statements – General Information

For the Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

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## Equity instruments

Equity instruments are classified and measured at fair value through profit or loss unless an irrevocable election is made to designate non-trading instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income at the time of initial recognition. This election has not been made.

## Financial liabilities

A financial liability is generally measured at amortised cost, with exceptions that may allow for classification as fair value through profit or loss or designation at fair value through profit or loss. These exceptions include financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss, such as derivatives that are liabilities, and financial liabilities that have been designated as measured at fair value through profit or loss.

### ii) Recognition

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are recognized initially on the trade date, which is the date on which the Funds become a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Other financial assets and financial liabilities are recognized on the date on which they are originated. The Funds derecognize a financial asset or liability when their contractual obligations are discharged, cancelled or expire, the Funds' right to receive cash flows expire or the Fund has transferred substantially all rights and rewards of ownership.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the Statements of Financial Position when there is a legally enforceable right to offset the recognized amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis, or to realize the asset and settle the liability simultaneously. The Funds have not offset any financial instruments as at December 31, 2024 or December 31, 2023.

### iii) Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

Significant judgement is applied to determine the classification of the Funds' investments. Based on each Fund's business model, the manner in which the investments are managed, and how performance is evaluated on a fair value basis, fair value through profit or loss is the most appropriate classification.

Investments are measured at fair value through profit or loss and are initially recorded at their fair value, being the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date, with the difference between this amount and cost recorded as unrealized appreciation in value of investments in the Statements of Comprehensive Income. In the case of securities listed on stock exchanges, the fair value means the last close price. For short-term notes, bonds and debentures, the fair value means the close price provided by independent security pricing services. In circumstances where the last close price is not within the bid-ask spread, the Funds' Manager determines the point within the bid-ask spread that is most representative of fair value based on the specific facts and circumstances. Investments for which reliable quotations are not readily available are valued at their fair value as determined by the custodian, independent of the Funds' Manager, using a valuation technique that requires the use of inputs and assumptions based on observable market data. Such investment valuations may differ from values that would have been determined had a ready market existed, and the difference could be significant.

# **CWB Onyx North American Equity Fund (formerly CWB Core Equity Fund)**

## Notes to the Financial Statements – General Information

### **For the Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023**

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The cost of investments represents the amount paid for each security and is determined on an average cost basis. Investment transactions are accounted for on a trade date basis, and transaction fees, being any costs that can be directly attributed to the acquisition or disposal of an investment, incurred in the purchase and sale of securities by the Funds are recognized in the Statements of Comprehensive Income.

#### iv) Financial assets at amortized cost

Financial assets at amortized cost, which are financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market, are recognized initially at fair value plus directly attributable transaction costs. After initial recognition, these financial assets are measured at amortized cost, being the amount required to be received or paid, discounted, when appropriate, at the investment's effective interest rate, less impairment losses. The Funds' cash, subscriptions, dividends and interest receivables as well as amounts from CWB Wealth Management Ltd. are classified as financial assets at amortized cost.

Financial assets at amortized cost are assessed at each reporting date to determine whether there is objective evidence of impairment, including forward-looking information. A financial asset is impaired if there is objective evidence of impairment as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the asset and that loss event had an impact on the estimated future cash flows of that asset that can be estimated reliably.

#### v) Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at amortized cost. Redemptions payable, distributions payable and accrued liabilities as well as amounts due to CWB Wealth Management Ltd. are classified as financial liabilities.

#### vi) Valuation models

The Funds are required to classify investments into three levels based on the method used to value the investments. Level 1 values are based on quoted prices in active markets for identical securities. Level 2 values are based on significant observable market inputs, such as quoted prices for similar securities and quoted prices in inactive markets. Level 3 values are based on significant unobservable inputs that reflect the Funds' determination of assumptions that market participants might reasonably use in valuing the securities. Refer to Note 7 in the "Notes to the Financial Statements – Fund Specific Information" for further information about the Fund's fair value measurements.

#### d) Cash and bank overdrafts

Cash is comprised of demand deposits with financial institutions. Outstanding bank overdraft balances are short-term in nature and used to accommodate unit redemption requests while the Funds effect an orderly liquidation of portfolio assets. Cash and bank overdrafts are carried at cost which approximates fair value.

# **CWB Onyx North American Equity Fund (formerly CWB Core Equity Fund)**

Notes to the Financial Statements – General Information

**For the Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023**

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e) Redeemable units

In accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards, the Funds classify financial instruments issued as financial liabilities or equity instruments based on the substance of the contractual terms of the instruments. The Funds have multiple series that do not have identical features and therefore, their units do not qualify as equity under IFRS Accounting Standards. The Funds' redeemable units, which are classified as liabilities, are measured at the redemption amount and provide investors with the right to require redemption, subject to available liquidity, for cash at a unit price based on the Funds' valuation policies at each redemption date. Units may be sold back to the Funds (the sale is called a 'redemption') at the then current Net Asset Value per Unit (NAVPU), upon the delivery of a redemption request to the Funds' Manager, together with any other documents the Manager may reasonably require. The NAVPU for the purposes of subscriptions or redemptions is computed by dividing the net asset value for the series by the total number of units of the series outstanding at such time. Net asset value utilizes closing price to determine fair value, except where the last traded price for financial assets is not within the bid-ask spread, which is consistent with the presentation of net assets in the financial statements. As at December 31, 2024 and December 31, 2023, there were no differences between the Funds' NAVPU and its net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units per unit calculated in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards.

Distributions to holders of redeemable units are recognized in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Redeemable Units when they are authorized and no longer at the discretion of the Manager.

f) Income and expense recognition

Dividend income is recognized on the ex-dividend date. Interest income for distribution purposes shown on the Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss) represents the coupon interest received by the Funds accounted for on an accrual basis. Interest receivable is shown separately on the Statements of Financial Position based on the fixed income securities' stated rates of interest. The Funds amortize premiums paid or discounts received on the purchase of fixed income securities using the effective interest rate method. Realized gains and losses from the sale of investments and unrealized appreciation in the value of investments are calculated with reference to the average cost of the related investments. All income, net realized gains (losses), unrealized appreciation in value, and transaction costs are attributable to investments.

The expenses of each Fund are allocated amongst the series of units on a series-by-series basis. Each series bears any expense that can be specifically attributed to that series. Common expenses, such as audit and custody fees, are allocated amongst the series on a pro rata basis relative to the net asset value of each series.

g) Functional and foreign currencies

The financial statements are presented in Canadian dollars, which is the Funds' functional and presentation currency.

Foreign currency transactions are translated into Canadian dollars using the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. Foreign currency assets and liabilities are translated into Canadian dollars using the exchange rate prevailing at the period-end date.

# CWB Onyx North American Equity Fund (formerly CWB Core Equity Fund)

## Notes to the Financial Statements – General Information

### For the Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

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The Funds do not isolate the foreign exchange component from the total realized and unrealized gains and losses on investments. Foreign exchange gains and losses arising on the translation of foreign cash balances or on the settlement of foreign denominated receivables and amounts payable are recognized in the Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss).

h) Increase in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units per unit

Increase in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units per unit in the Statements of Comprehensive Income represents the increase in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units for the period, divided by the weighted average number of units outstanding during the period.

i) Income and withholding taxes

The Funds qualify as mutual fund trusts, are subject to tax under the Income Tax Act (the Tax Act) on all of their taxable income (including net taxable capital gains) and are permitted a deduction in computing taxable income for all amounts which are paid or payable in the year to their unitholders. It is the policy of each Fund to allocate to the unitholders all income of the Fund for the period so that it will not pay any Canadian federal income tax under Part I of the Tax Act. Accordingly, no provision for income taxes has been made in these financial statements.

The Funds may incur withholding taxes imposed by certain countries on investment income and capital gains. Such income and gains are recorded on a gross basis and the related withholding taxes are shown as a separate expense in the Statements of Comprehensive Income, where applicable.

j) Future Accounting Changes

*IFRS 18 Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements*

In April 2024, the IASB issued IFRS 18 *Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements* (IFRS 18) to improve reporting of financial performance. IFRS 18 replaces IAS 1 and carries forward many requirements from IAS 1 unchanged. The new accounting standard introduces changes to the structure of a company's income statement, more transparency in presentation of performance measures, and less aggregation of items into large, single numbers. IFRS 18 applies for annual reporting periods beginning on or after January 1, 2027, however earlier application is permitted. The Manager is currently assessing the potential impacts on the financial statements.

*IAS 21 The Effects of Changes in Foreign Exchange Rates*

On August 15, 2023, the IASB published an amendment to IAS 21 *The Effects of Changes in Foreign Exchange Rates*. The amendment Lack of Exchangeability specifies when a currency is exchangeable and when it is not, how to determine the exchange rate when a currency is not exchangeable, and the additional information required to be disclosed when a currency is not exchangeable. The provisions of this amendment will apply on a modified retrospective basis to financial statements beginning on or after January 1, 2025. Early adoption is permitted. The Manager is assessing the impacts to the financial statements.

# CWB Onyx North American Equity Fund (formerly CWB Core Equity Fund)

## Notes to the Financial Statements – General Information

### For the Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

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#### Classification and Measurement of Financial Instruments

In May 2024, the IASB issued amendments to IFRS 9 *Financial Instruments* and IFRS 7 *Financial Instruments: Disclosures*. The amendments relate to settling financial liabilities using an electronic payment system and assessing contractual cash flow characteristics of financial assets, including those with Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG)-linked features. The IASB also amended disclosure requirements relating to investments in equity instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI) and added disclosure requirements for financial instruments with contingent features. The amendments are effective for annual periods beginning on or after January 1, 2026, with early adoption permitted. The Manager is assessing the impacts to the financial statements.

#### C Financial risk management

The following is a general discussion of the financial risks to which the Funds are exposed. Detailed financial risk information applicable to the Fund is included in Note 3 of the “Notes to the Financial Statements – Fund Specific Information”.

The Funds are exposed to a variety of financial risks, which are concentrated in their investment holdings. The Schedule of Investment Portfolio groups securities by asset type, geographic region and market segment, where applicable.

The Funds’ risk management practice includes the monitoring of compliance with the investment guidelines contained in the Funds’ constating documents. The Manager manages the potential effects of financial risks on the Funds’ performance by employing and overseeing professional and experienced portfolio advisors that regularly monitor the Funds’ positions and market events as well as diversifying investment portfolios within the constraints of the Funds’ investment guidelines. All investments result in a risk of loss of capital.

Unpredictable events such as environmental or natural disasters, war, terrorism, pandemics, outbreaks of infectious diseases, and similar public health threats may significantly affect the economy and the markets and issuers in which a fund invests. Certain events may cause instability across global markets, including reduced liquidity and disruptions in trading markets, while some events may affect certain geographic regions, countries, sectors and industries more significantly than others, and exacerbate other pre-existing political, social, and economic risks. The Fund’s performance could be negatively impacted if the value of a portfolio holding were harmed by such events.

##### a) Currency risk

Currency risk is the risk that the value of investments denominated in currencies, other than the functional currency of the Fund, will fluctuate due to changes in foreign exchange rates. Foreign equities are exposed to currency risk as the prices denominated in foreign currencies are converted to the Funds’ functional currency in determining fair value.

The Funds may enter into forward currency contracts for economic hedging purposes to reduce foreign currency exposure or to establish exposure to foreign currencies.

##### b) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk arises from the effects of fluctuations in the prevailing levels of market interest rates on the fair value of financial assets and liabilities. The Funds’ exposure to interest rate risk is concentrated in their investment in fixed income securities (bonds, debentures and short-term notes). Other assets and liabilities are short-term in nature and/or non-interest bearing.



# **CWB Onyx North American Equity Fund (formerly CWB Core Equity Fund)**

## Notes to the Financial Statements – General Information

### **For the Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023**

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The Funds' policies require the Manager to manage risk by positioning the portfolios to take advantage of shifts in yield curve by emphasizing the segments fixed income securities within the term maturity that offer the best value, and calculating the average duration of the portfolios of fixed income securities. The average effective duration of the Funds' portfolios is a measure of the sensitivity of the fair value of the Funds' fixed income securities to changes in market interest rates.

c) Price risk

Price risk is the risk that the fair value of a financial instrument will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or currency risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual financial instrument or its issuer, or factors affecting all similar financial instruments traded in a market.

The Funds' policy is to manage price risk through diversification and selection of securities and other financial instruments within the limits specified in the Funds' constating documents. The Fund has adopted the standard investment restrictions and practices prescribed by Canadian securities regulation and, in addition, will restrict its investments to those prescribed under the Tax Act for Tax Deferred Plans.

d) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a loss could arise from a security issuer or counterparty to a financial instrument not being able to meet its financial obligations in full when they fall due. The fair value of fixed income securities and preferred shares includes consideration of the credit worthiness of the issuer. The main concentration to which a Fund is exposed arises from the Funds' investments in fixed income securities and preferred shares. The Funds' exposure to counterparty credit risk on cash and other receivables is not significant. The carrying value of these financial instruments as recorded in the Statements of Financial Position reflects the Funds' maximum exposure to credit risk.

The risk management strategy for the Funds is to invest primarily in fixed income securities and preferred shares of higher credit quality issuers and to limit the amount of credit exposure with respect to any one corporate issuer. Credit risk is monitored by the Manager in accordance with the Funds' investment policies. The Funds have adopted the standard investment restrictions and practices prescribed by Canadian securities regulation and, in addition, will restrict its investments to those prescribed under the Tax Act for Tax Deferred Plans.

Transactions in listed securities are settled/paid for upon delivery using approved brokers. The risk of default is considered minimal, as delivery of securities sold is only made once the broker has received payment. Payment is made on a purchase once the securities have been received by the broker. The trade will fail if either party fails to meet its obligation.

e) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Funds will encounter difficulty in meeting the obligations associated with their financial liabilities that are settled by delivering cash or another financial asset. The Funds' exposure to liquidity risk is concentrated in the daily cash redemptions of units. The Funds primarily invest in securities that are traded in active markets and can be readily disposed. In addition, the Funds retain sufficient cash and short-term investment holdings to maintain liquidity. The Funds may, from time to time, enter into over-the-counter derivative contracts or invest in unlisted securities, which are not traded in an organized market and may be illiquid.

# **CWB Onyx North American Equity Fund (formerly CWB Core Equity Fund)**

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**For the Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023**

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f) Concentration risk

Concentration risk arises as a result of the concentration of exposures within the same category, whether it is geographical location, product type, industry sector or counterparty type. The Funds' policy is to manage concentration risk through appropriate diversification within the limits specified in the Funds' constating documents.

## **D Related party transactions**

a) Management fees

Management fees are paid in respect of managing the investment portfolio, providing investment analysis and recommendations, making investment decisions, making brokerage arrangements relating to the purchase and sale of the investment portfolio, making arrangements for the purchase and sale of units of the Funds by investors and ensuring compliance with the Funds' constating documents. For Series A units, the management fee paid by each Fund is calculated daily as a percentage of the net asset value of Series A units of the Fund and paid monthly. No management fees are charged to the Funds with respect to Series O units. Instead, each Series O investor negotiates a separate fee that is paid directly to the Manager. The annual management fee paid by Series O unitholders will not exceed the annual management fee paid by Series A unitholders.

The Manager may also hire sub-advisors, including those that are related to the Manager, to manage the investment portfolios of the Funds. Any fees paid to sub-advisors are paid directly by the Manager, not the Funds.

At the Manager's discretion, management fees related to individual unitholders may be reduced depending on factors such as investment size or relationship with the unitholder. Refunded amounts are automatically reinvested in additional units of the relevant Fund. The refunded amounts are shown as management fees refunded on the Statements of Comprehensive Income.

b) Operating expenses

In addition to management fees, Series A units pay their direct or proportionate share of all operating and administrative costs including custodian, trustee, audit and legal fees, unitholder servicing costs and costs of preparing and filing financial and regulatory reports. The Manager has agreed to waive fees and expenses charged to Series A units in excess of a specified annual percentage of the net asset value of the series. If Series A fees and expenses are less than the specified percentage within 36 months of the date they were waived, the Manager has the right to seek reimbursement for previously waived costs. Since December 31, 2023, the Manager can, but is not obligated to, reduce or waive fees or operating expenses in respect of Series A units.

No operating expenses (other than certain litigation related expenses, if any) are charged to Series O.

# **CWB Onyx North American Equity Fund (formerly CWB Core Equity Fund)**

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## **E Capital risk management**

The capital of the Funds is represented by the net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units with no par value. The amount of net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units can change significantly on a daily basis as the Funds are subject to daily subscriptions and redemptions at the discretion of unitholders. The Funds have no restrictions or specific capital requirements on the subscriptions and redemptions of units. The Funds' objective in managing the assets of the Funds is to ensure a stable base to maximize returns to all investors, and to manage liquidity risk arising from redemptions.

In order to maintain or adjust the capital structure, the Funds' policy is to perform the following:

- monitor the level of daily subscriptions and redemptions relative to the liquid assets and adjust the amount of distributions the Funds pay to redeemable unitholders; and
- redeem and issue new units in accordance with the constitutional documents of the Funds, which include the ability to restrict redemptions and require certain minimum holdings and subscriptions.

The Manager monitors capital on the basis of the value of net assets attributable to redeemable unitholders