

# CWB Onyx Balanced Solution

## Annual Management Report of Fund Performance

For the period ended December 31, 2023

### Disclosure

This annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete annual financial statements of the investment fund. You can get a copy of the annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling 1-855-292-9655, by writing to us at Suite 3000, 10303 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5J 3X6, by visiting our website at [www.cwbwealth.com](http://www.cwbwealth.com), or by visiting SEDAR at [www.sedarplus.ca](http://www.sedarplus.ca).

CWB Wealth Management Ltd. (“CWB WM”) is the manager of the fund, and a wholly owned subsidiary of Canadian Western Bank (“CW Bank”).

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



## Caution Regarding Forward Looking Information

This report may contain forward-looking statements including, but not limited to, statements about the Fund, its strategy, risks, expected performance and condition. Forward-looking statements include statements that are predictive in nature, that depend upon or refer to future events or conditions, or that include words such as “anticipates”, “believes”, “estimates”, “expects”, “intends”, “plans”, “may”, or future or conditional verbs such as “will”, “should”, “would” and “could”, and similar forward-looking expressions or negative versions thereof. In addition, any statement that may be made concerning future performance, strategies or prospects, and possible future Fund action, is also a forward-looking statement.

Forward-looking statements are based on current expectations and projections about future general economic, political, and relevant market factors, such as interest rates, foreign exchange rates, equity and capital markets, and the general economic and business environment, in each case assuming no material changes to applicable tax or other laws, government regulations, or policies.

By their very nature, forward-looking statements involve numerous assumptions and are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties, which give rise to the possibility that the Fund’s predictions, forecasts, projections, expectations, and conclusions will not prove to be accurate, and that its assumptions may not be correct.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance, and actual events could differ materially from those expressed or implied in any forward-looking statements made by the Fund. A variety of factors, many of which are beyond the Fund’s control, may cause actual results to differ materially from the expectations expressed in the forward-looking statements. These factors include, but are not limited to, general economic, political, and relevant market factors in North America and internationally, interest and foreign exchange rates, equity and capital markets, business competition, technological change, changes in government relations, unexpected judicial or regulatory proceedings and catastrophic events, including natural disasters, pandemics, war and other risks described in the Fund’s current simplified prospectus. The above-mentioned list of important factors is not exhaustive.

Before making any investment decisions, investors and others relying on forward-looking statements should carefully consider the foregoing factors and the uncertainties and risks they contain. We caution readers not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements are issued in good faith and may be modified without notice. We assume no obligation to update forward-looking statements in the light of new information, future events, or other circumstances unless applicable legislation so requires.

# Management Discussion of the Performance of the CWB Onyx Balanced Solution

## Investment Objectives and Strategies

The investment objective of the CWB Onyx Balanced Solution (the “Fund”) is to achieve long-term capital appreciation by investing in a balanced portfolio of equity and fixed income securities.

The Fund invests in units of the CWB Onyx Canadian Equity Fund, the CWB Onyx Global Equity Fund and the CWB Onyx Diversified Income Fund (the “CWB Onyx Portfolio Series Funds”). We target an allocation of 60% in affiliated mutual funds that invest primarily in Canadian, U.S. and international equity securities, real estate investment trusts and similar investment vehicles. We target an allocation of 40% in affiliated mutual funds that invest primarily in Canadian, U.S. and international fixed income securities. We will position our equity and fixed income exposures within a +/- 10% range relative to the above target allocation.

## Risks

No changes to the Fund affecting the Fund’s overall level of risk were made during the 12-month period ended December 31, 2023 (the “Period”). The risks of investing in the Fund and the suitability of the Fund for investors remain as discussed in the Fund’s most recent simplified prospectus or any amendments or fund facts.

## Results of Operations

Over the Period, the Fund’s net assets decreased by \$1,725,955 to \$27,304,629. This reflects an increase of \$3,300,437 from investment performance, distributions to unitholders of \$835,736 and net withdrawals of \$4,190,656.

Series A units of the Fund returned 12.42% over the Period versus the Fund’s internal benchmark (the “Fund Benchmark”), a combination of FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index, S&P/TSX Total Return (“TR”) Composite Index, S&P 500 TR Index \$CAD and the MSCI All Country World Index ex-USA \$CAD, which returned 11.78% over the Period. The Fund’s general market index benchmarks, the FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index and the S&P/TSX Composite TR Index (the “Broad-Based Benchmarks”), returned 6.69% and 11.75%, respectively, over the Period. Unlike the Fund Benchmark and the Broad-Based Benchmarks, the Fund’s return is calculated after the deduction of fees and expenses. Returns for individual Series O unitholders of the Fund may vary, largely due to differences in fees and expenses.

Central banks continued to raise interest rates over the period in order to bring inflation down to more reasonable levels. After raising interest rates by 4.00% in 2022, the Bank of Canada continued to raise rates by another 0.75% over the period with the last increase occurring in July 2023.

In the U.S., the Federal Reserve Board followed up a 3.75% increase in the Fed Funds Target in 2022, by hiking rates another 1.5% over the period. The rapid pace of rate increases had the desired effect on inflation, with the Consumer Price Index in both Canada and the U.S. falling over the period.

With significant progress on inflation, central banks started to signal in the fourth quarter of 2023 that future rate hikes may not be necessary to bring down to more desirable levels and in fact cuts may begin in 2024.

This pivot in rate expectations, from hikes to potential cuts, caused a significant rally in global equity and bond markets as market participants started to increase the odds of a soft economic landing (i.e., no recession). U.S. stocks were particularly strong on the year, with the emergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) through applications such as ChatGPT taking centre stage with investors.

The Fund maintained an overweight in equities and an underweight in fixed income relative to its benchmark through the period which helped relative performance.

## Recent Developments

Macroeconomic data such as inflation and GDP growth will continue to see heightened scrutiny in 2024. Investors believe that interest rates cuts are likely to begin in Q2 2024, and they will be looking for any signs that shift expectations.

## Related Party Transactions

CWB WM serves as trustee, manager, portfolio advisor, and principal distributor of the Fund. The Fund pays CWB WM a management fee as compensation for its services. Refer to the section titled 'Management Fees' for a summary of fees paid to CWB WM.

The Fund invests in units of the CWB Onyx Portfolio Series Funds. These funds are related and connected issuers of the Fund, as CWB WM serves as trustee, principal portfolio advisor, and manager for the CWB Onyx Portfolio Series Funds.

The Investment Review Committee (IRC) of the Fund has approved standing instructions permitting investments in the CWB Portfolio Series Funds, and other mutual funds managed by CWB WM or its affiliates (the "Fund of Fund Investing"). The standing instructions require that the Fund of Fund Investing be conducted in accordance with CWB WM policy and that CWB WM will advise the IRC of a material breach of the standing instructions. CWB WM policy requires that an investment decision in respect of the Fund of Fund Investing (i) is made free from any influence by an entity related to CWB WM and without taking into account any consideration relevant to an entity related to CWB WM; (ii) represents the business judgment of the portfolio manager/sub-advisor uninfluenced by considerations other than the best interests of the Fund; (iii) complies with CWB WM policy; and (iv) achieves a fair and reasonable result for the Fund.

CWB WM entered into a participating dealer agreement (the "Dealer Agreement") with Canadian Western Financial Ltd. ("CWF"), an affiliate of CWB WM. Pursuant to the Dealer Agreement, CWB WM pays CWF a monthly

trailing commission equal to 1/12th of 1% of the net asset value attributable to units of the Fund held by CWF clients. This trailing commission is paid directly by CWB WM and does not increase the management fee paid to CWB WM by the Fund.

## Financial Highlights

The following tables show selected key financial information about the Fund and are intended to help you understand the Fund's performance for the past five years.

### CWB Onyx Balanced Solution Series A Net Assets per Unit<sup>1</sup>

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Net assets, beginning of year	\$11.80	\$13.50	\$12.23	\$11.49	\$10.35
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>					
Total dividend and interest revenue	\$0.42	\$0.51	\$0.40	\$0.29	\$0.33
Total expenses	(\$0.24)	(\$0.24)	(\$0.25)	(\$0.22)	(\$0.22)
Realized gains (losses) for the year	\$0.42	\$0.36	\$0.21	\$0.12	\$0.08
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year	\$0.82	(\$1.81)	\$1.01	\$0.52	\$1.09
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$1.42</b>	<b>(\$1.18)</b>	<b>\$1.37</b>	<b>\$0.71</b>	<b>\$1.28</b>
<b>Distributions:</b>					
From income (excluding dividends)	\$0.18	\$0.13	\$0.07	\$0.05	\$0.11
From dividends	-	-	-	-	-
From capital gains	\$0.18	\$0.43	-	-	-
Return of capital	-	-	\$0.03	-	-
<b>Total annual distributions<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>\$0.36</b>	<b>\$0.56</b>	<b>\$0.10</b>	<b>\$0.05</b>	<b>\$0.11</b>
<b>Net assets as at last date of the period shown</b>	<b>\$12.87</b>	<b>\$11.80</b>	<b>\$13.50</b>	<b>\$12.23</b>	<b>\$11.49</b>

## CWB Onyx Balanced Solution Series O Net Assets per Unit<sup>1</sup>

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Net assets, beginning of year	<b>\$11.99</b>	<b>\$13.76</b>	<b>\$12.48</b>	<b>\$11.75</b>	<b>\$10.61</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>					
Total dividend and interest revenue	\$0.35	\$0.61	\$0.45	\$0.20	\$0.39
Total expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Realized gains (losses) for the year	\$0.35	\$0.42	\$0.25	\$0.08	\$0.09
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year	\$0.79	(\$2.04)	\$0.91	\$0.21	\$1.05
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$1.49</b>	<b>(\$1.01)</b>	<b>\$1.61</b>	<b>\$0.49</b>	<b>\$1.53</b>
<b>Distributions:</b>					
From income (excluding dividends)	\$0.45	\$0.40	\$0.35	\$0.30	\$0.36
From dividends	-	-	-	-	-
From capital gains	\$0.18	\$0.44	\$0.03	-	-
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-
Total annual distributions <sup>3</sup>	<b>\$0.63</b>	<b>\$0.84</b>	<b>\$0.38</b>	<b>\$0.30</b>	<b>\$0.36</b>
Net assets as at last date of the period shown	<b>\$13.09</b>	<b>\$11.99</b>	<b>\$13.76</b>	<b>\$12.48</b>	<b>\$11.75</b>

<sup>1</sup> This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements. All figures presented are prepared in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards, which requires the Fund to measure the fair value of its investments based on close market prices, where the close market price falls between the bid-ask spread, which is consistent with the method used in measuring the net asset value for transactions with unitholders.

<sup>2</sup> Net assets and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase (decrease) from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial period.

<sup>3</sup> Distributions were paid in cash, reinvested in additional units of the Fund or both.

### Ratios and Supplemental Data – Series A

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Total Net asset value (000's) <sup>1</sup>	\$25,786	\$27,108	\$34,116	\$31,214	\$33,972
Number of units outstanding <sup>1</sup>	2,003,703	2,297,600	2,527,127	2,553,083	2,957,321
Management expense ratio <sup>2</sup>	1.83%	1.83%	1.82%	1.84%	1.85%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions	2.24%	2.12%	2.07%	2.07%	1.99%
Trading expense ratio <sup>3</sup>	-	-	-	-	-
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>4</sup>	10.09%	9.22%	9.00%	11.25%	4.81%
Net asset value per unit	\$12.87	\$11.80	\$13.50	\$12.23	\$11.49

### Ratios and Supplemental Data – Series O

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Total Net asset value (000's) <sup>1</sup>	\$1,519	\$1,923	\$1,997	\$1,227	\$2,007
Number of units outstanding <sup>1</sup>	116,034	160,346	145,193	98,334	170,776
Management expense ratio <sup>2</sup>	-	-	-	-	-
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions	-	-	-	-	-
Trading expense ratio <sup>3</sup>	-	-	-	-	-
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>4</sup>	10.09%	9.22%	9.00%	11.25%	4.81%
Net asset value per unit	\$13.09	\$11.99	\$13.76	\$12.48	\$11.75

<sup>1</sup> This information is provided as of December 31 of the year shown unless otherwise stated.

<sup>2</sup> Management expense ratio ("MER") is based on total expenses (excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs) for the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period.

<sup>3</sup> The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period.

<sup>4</sup> The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio adviser manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher a fund's portfolio turnover rate in a year, the greater the trading costs payable by the fund in the year, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the year. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a fund.

## Management Fees

The management fee for each applicable series is calculated and accrued daily as a percentage of its NAV. The annual management fees and a breakdown of the services received in consideration of the management fees, as a percentage of the management fees, for each series are as follows:

Fund	Management Fee (% of NAV)	Distribution Costs (% of Management Fee)	Others* (% of Management Fee)
Onyx Balanced Solution Fund – Series A	1.70	55.93	44.07
Onyx Balanced Solution Fund – Series O	N/A	N/A	N/A

\* Includes investment advisory fees, administration fees, and other operating fees

The Fund’s management fees were used by CWB WM to pay for the cost of managing the investment portfolio, providing investment analysis and recommendations, making investment decisions, making brokerage arrangements for the purchase and sales of investment portfolio, providing other services, and compensating CWB WM for acting as trustee of the Fund. CWB WM also used the management fee to fund trailing commissions and any other compensation to CWF whose clients invest in the Fund.

The Series O management fee is negotiated and paid directly by each investor and will not exceed the Series A management fee.

## Past Performance

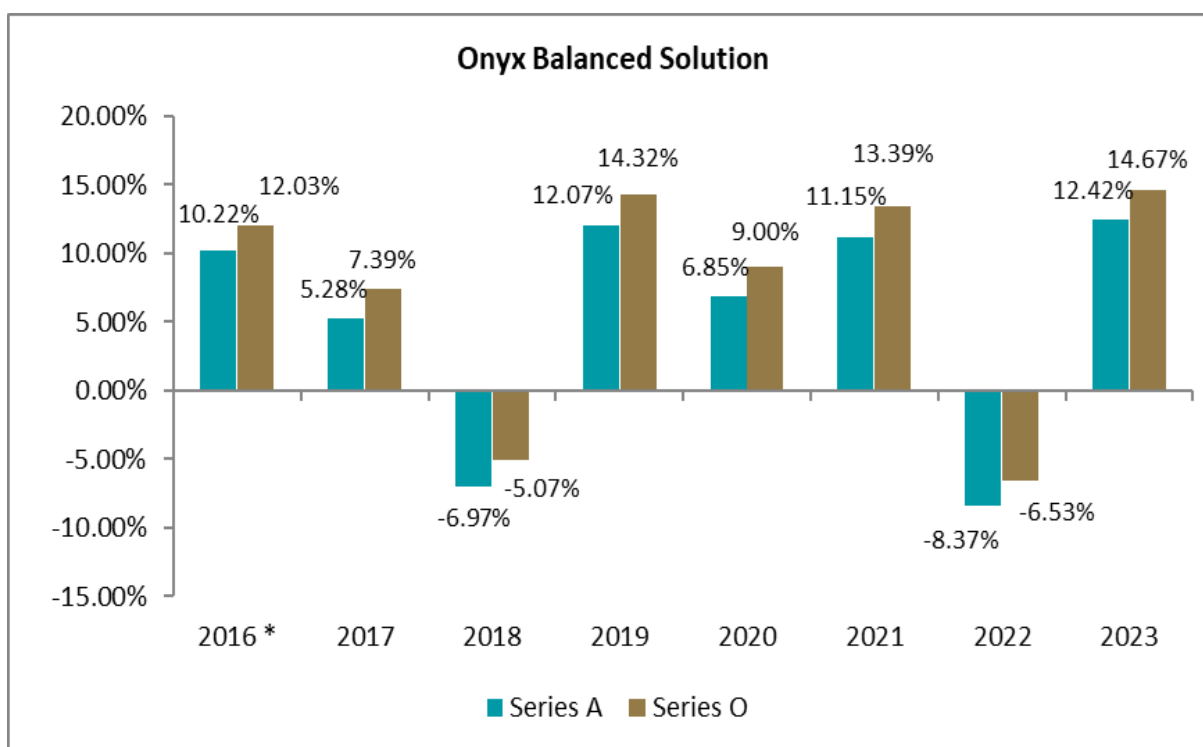
The past performance of the Fund is set out in the following charts. The performance information shown assumes that all distributions made by the Fund in the years shown were reinvested in additional securities of the Fund and would be lower if distributions were not reinvested. The performance information does not take into account sales, redemptions, distributions, or other optional charges, or income taxes payable that would have reduced returns or performance.

Mutual fund returns are not guaranteed. Please note that past performance is not indicative of future performance.

## Year-by-Year Returns

The following bar chart shows the Fund’s annual performance in each of the periods shown and illustrates how the Fund’s performance has changed from period to period. The chart below shows, in percentage terms, how an investment made on January 1 would have increased or decreased by December 31, unless otherwise indicated.





\*Return from February 10, 2016 (commencement of operations) to December 31, 2016, not annualized.

## Annual Compound Returns

The following table displays the historical annual compounded total return for each series of units of the Fund for the years shown ending on December 31, 2023, compared with the following benchmarks:

- Fund Benchmark:
  - 35% FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index
  - 30% S&P/TSX Composite TR Index
  - 15% S&P 500 TR Index (in \$CAD)
  - 15% MSCI All Country World Index Ex-U.S. (in \$CAD)
  - 5% FTSE 91-Day T-Bill Index
- Broad-Based Benchmarks:
  - FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index
  - S&P/TSX Composite TR Index

	Series A Units (%)	Series O Units (%)	Fund Benchmark (%)	FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index (%)	S&P/TSX Composite TR Index (%)
One Year	12.42	14.67	11.78	6.69	11.75
Three Year	4.62	6.72	4.39	(2.80)	9.59
Five Year	6.51	8.66	7.61	1.30	11.30
Ten Year	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Since Inception*	5.09	7.18	7.03	1.66	9.87

\*Inception date February 10, 2016

### *Index Descriptions*

- FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index: This index is composed of investment grade, fixed coupon, government, and corporate bonds, issued in Canada and denominated in Canadian dollars, with a remaining term to maturity of at least one year. The index is weighted by market capitalization.
- S&P/TSX Composite TR Index \$CAD: This index is a broad-based stock market index of the largest Canadian firms listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange and includes the reinvestment of cash distributions in the calculation of returns.
- S&P 500 TR Index \$CAD: This index is a measure of the stock performance of 500 leading companies listed on stock exchanges in the United States, in Canadian dollars, and includes the reinvestment of cash distributions in the calculation of returns.
- MSCI All Country World Index ex-USA: This index is designed to measure large and mid cap companies across 22 of 23 developed market countries (excluding the USA) and 26 emerging markets (EM) countries, in Canadian dollars. Please see the end of this report for additional information about this index.
- FTSE 91-Day T-Bill Index: This index tracks the performance of the current on-the-run 91-day Government of Canada T-Bill. It tracks a single security switched at each auction date (approximately every two weeks).

A discussion of the performance of the Fund relative to its benchmark(s) is found in the Results of Operation section of this report.

## **Summary of Investment Portfolio**

The following table summarizes how the Fund's assets were distributed across various sectors as at December 31, 2023.

Portfolio Breakdown	% of Net Asset Value
Cash	0.2
Other net assets/(liabilities)	0.1
Fixed Income Funds	37.1
Canadian Equity Funds	31.4
International Equity Funds	31.2
Total	100.0

## Top 25 Holdings

The following table lists the holdings of the Fund (based on percentage of net asset values of the Fund) as at December 31, 2023. The prospectuses and other information about the underlying investment funds are available online at [www.sedarplus.ca](http://www.sedarplus.ca)

Security	%
CWB Onyx Diversified Income Fund, Series O	37.1
CWB Onyx Canadian Equity Fund, Series O	31.4
CWB Onyx International Equity Fund, Series O	31.2
Cash and Other Net Assets	0.3

The investments and percentages may have changed by the time you purchase units of the Fund due to portfolio transactions of the Fund. The top 25 holdings are made available quarterly and may be obtained by contacting CWB WM at 1-855-292-9655 or by writing to: [info@cwwealth.com](mailto:info@cwwealth.com) CWB Wealth Management Ltd., Suite 3000, 10303 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5J 3X6.

## Additional Disclosures on Benchmarks

The MSCI All Country World Index ex-USA is an index of the trading prices of the shares of companies across developed and emerging markets worldwide, excluding the U.S. Neither MSCI nor any other party involved in or related to compiling, computing or creating the MSCI data makes any express or implied warranties or representations with respect to such data (or the results to be obtained by the use thereof), and all such parties hereby expressly disclaim all warranties of originality, accuracy, completeness, merchantability, or fitness for a particular purpose with respect to any of such data. Without limiting any of the foregoing, in no event shall MSCI, any of its affiliates or any third party involved in or related to compiling, computing, or creating the data have any liability for any direct, indirect, special, punitive, consequential or any other damages (including lost profits) even if notified of the possibility of such damages. No further distribution or dissemination of the MSCI data is permitted without MSCI's express written consent.

The blended returns are calculated by CWB WM using end of day index level values licensed from MSCI ("MSCI Data"). For the avoidance of doubt, MSCI is not the benchmark "administrator" for, or a "contributor", "submitter" or "supervised contributor" to, the blended returns, and the MSCI Data is not considered a "contribution" or "submission" in relation to the blended returns, as those terms may be defined in any rules, laws, regulations, legislation, or international standards. MSCI Data is provided "AS IS" without warranty or liability and no copying or distribution is permitted. MSCI does not make any representation regarding the advisability of any investment or strategy and does not sponsor, promote, issue, sell or otherwise recommend or endorse any investment or strategy, including any financial products or strategies based on, tracking, or otherwise utilizing any MSCI Data, models, analytics or other materials or information.