

**INDEPENDENT REVIEW COMMITTEE
2023 ANNUAL REPORT TO UNITHOLDERS**

March 7, 2024

Dear Unitholder:

As Chair of the Independent Review Committee (the “IRC”) for the exchange traded funds managed by FT Portfolios Canada Co. (the “Funds”) established pursuant to *National Instrument 81-107 - Independent Review Committee for Investment Funds* (“NI 81-107”), I am pleased to provide you with this annual report to unitholders of the Funds for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023 as required under NI 81-107.

The IRC is comprised of three independent members with expertise in a variety of fields, including financial institutions, other investment businesses, prudential regulation and governance.

Securities regulators have given the IRC a mandate to review mutual fund conflict of interest matters referred to the IRC by the Manager of the Funds and to give its approval or recommendation, depending on the conflict of interest matter. The IRC has conducted its business on behalf of the Funds with a view to ensuring compliance with NI 81-107. The Manager of the Funds has provided the IRC with compliance certificates with respect to the standing instructions it has issued. We are satisfied that the Manager of each Fund has acted in accordance with all related regulations, policies and standing instructions governing the management of conflicts of interest in the management of the Funds.



Paul Duffy
Chair of the Independent Review Committee

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Members of the IRC

The members of the IRC are:

Paul Duffy (Chair)
David Conway
Nancy Ng

The IRC acted as an independent review committee during the period from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 (the “Period”) in respect of the funds (the “Funds”) listed on Schedule 1.

None of the members of the IRC acts on an IRC for any other investment funds.

Paul Duffy was appointed as Chair of the IRC on April 1, 2020. David Conway was appointed April 1, 2021. Anne Bell resigned effective July 17, 2023 and Nancy Ng was appointed November 1, 2023.

During the Period, none of the members of the IRC had any relationships with FT Portfolios Canada Co. (the “Manager”), the manager of the Funds, that would cause a reasonable person to question an IRC member’s independence.

Holdings of Securities

- (a) Funds: As at December 31, 2023, no member of the IRC beneficially owned more than 1% of the value of any of its’ Funds.
- (b) Manager: As at December 31, 2023, no member of the IRC beneficially owned directly or indirectly any class or series of voting or equity securities of the Manager.
- (c) Service Providers: As at December 31, 2023, the members of the IRC, individually and in the aggregate beneficially owned an inconsequential number being less than 0.01% of any class or series of voting or equity securities of a person or company that provides services to the Funds or to the Manager.

IRC Compensation and Indemnities

The fees and expenses of the IRC of the Funds are allocated in proportion to the average net assets of each Fund managed by the Manager during the period in which the fees or expenses arose. This totalled \$60,036 in 2023. The IRC expenses were waived by the Manager therefore the Funds did not absorb IRC expenses.

The aggregate compensation paid by the Funds to the IRC during the Period was \$53,844.

In 2023 each member of the IRC was paid an annual retainer of \$16,000 and \$1,000 (\$1,500 for the Chair) for each IRC meeting the member attends. No indemnities were paid to the IRC by the Funds or the Manager during the Period.

At least annually, or on such less frequent basis as the IRC deems appropriate, the IRC will review its compensation, giving consideration to the following:

1. the best interests of the Funds;
2. industry best practices, including industry averages and surveys on IRC compensation;
3. the number, nature and complexity of the Funds for which the IRC acts;
4. the nature and extent of the workload of each member of the IRC, including the commitment of time and energy that is expected from each member; and
5. the IRC's most recent self-assessment and any recommendation of the manager of the Funds in respect of IRC compensation and expenses.

The committee last met to discuss its compensation on March 9, 2023. It reviewed the above criteria on a best efforts basis including comparative data from other fund groups (to the extent available). Based on their review of the above factors, it was recommended that no changes be made to the current compensation. The Manager agreed with this recommendation. The fees paid for each meeting attended remains unchanged at \$1,000 (\$1,500 for the Chair).

The IRC also reviews the expense reimbursement policy applicable to the IRC on an annual basis.

No changes are recommended.

Conflict of Interest Matters

The IRC is not aware of any instance in which the Manager of a Fund acted in a conflict of interest matter referred to the IRC during the Period for which the IRC did not give a positive recommendation or for which the Manager did not meet a condition imposed by the IRC in its recommendation or approval.

Policies and Standing Instructions

The Manager has policies and procedures in place to address each of the actions listed below in this report. From time to time, these policies may be updated and/or eliminated if no longer applicable. For each of these actions, the IRC has issued standing instructions to the Manager that permit the Manager to proceed with the proposed action on an ongoing basis rather than seeking the IRC's approval or recommendation in each instance. The standing instructions require the Manager to comply with their related policy and procedures and to report periodically to the IRC.

Approvals

In accordance with the requirements of National Instrument 81-102 and National Instrument 81-107, the IRC has provided approval by way of standing instruction for each Fund in respect of the following policies:

1. Related Party Transactions addresses potential conflicts of interest that arise when the Manager or advisor could favour securities which assist such parties or affiliates when making investment decisions for a Fund.
2. Inter-Fund Trades addresses the potential conflicts of interest that arise when one Fund purchases securities from, or sell securities to, another investment fund managed by the Manager or an affiliate of the Manager. These could be beneficial to one party to the transaction to the detriment of the other.

The Manager provided a written report to the IRC describing its reliance (if any) on the standing instructions during the period.

Recommendations

In addition, the IRC provided a positive recommendation and standing instruction in respect of the following conflict of interest policies:

1. Fair Allocation Policy addresses the potential conflict of interest that an advisor could allocate investments in a manner that favours itself rather than its clients or favour one or more clients to the detriment of others.
2. Best Execution and Soft Dollar Arrangements Policy addresses the potential conflicts of interest that may arise when determining which entity should execute trades for a Fund or using client brokerage commissions as payment for order execution services or research services (also known as 'soft dollar' arrangements).
3. Allocating Costs to Funds Policy addresses the potential conflicts of interest that may arise when the Manager allocates expenses to the Funds. The Manager may be motivated to favour one Fund over another or allocate expenses to Funds that the Manager should bear itself.
4. Correcting Portfolio NAV Errors Policy addresses the potential conflicts of interest that may arise when the Manager detects an error in the calculation of portfolio net asset value of a Fund that results from a breach of the standard of care and when making related adjustments to the Fund.

5. Proxy Voting Policy addresses the potential conflicts of interest that may arise when the Manager is required to vote proxies of securities held by the Funds in instances where the Manager or related entities may have an interest.
6. Trade Error Correction Policy addresses the potential conflicts of interest that may arise when there is an error by the Manager or the advisor in the execution of a trade of a security held by a Fund.
7. Dealer Managed Investment Funds Policy addresses the potential conflicts of interest that may arise in which the dealer manager of the investment fund invests in securities in which the dealer manager, or an associate or affiliate of the dealer manager acts as an underwriter in the distribution of those securities.

The Manager provided a written report to the IRC describing its reliance (if any) on the standing instructions during the period.

SCHEDULE 1

Fund Name	Inception Date
First Trust Canadian Capital Strength ETF • FST (formerly First Trust Canadian Capital Strength Portfolio)	November 2001
First Trust Value Line® Dividend Index ETF (CAD-Hedged) • FUD	May 2013
First Trust Senior Loan ETF (CAD-Hedged) • FSL	August 2013
First Trust Global Risk Managed Income Index ETF • ETP	July 2014
First Trust Indxx NextG ETF • NXTG (formerly, First Trust AlphaDEX™ U.S. Energy Sector Index ETF • FHE)	October 2014
First Trust AlphaDEX™ U.S. Health Care Sector Index ETF • FHH, FHH.F	October 2014
First Trust AlphaDEX™ U.S. Industrials Sector Index ETF • FHG, FHG.F	October 2014
First Trust Dow Jones Internet ETF • FDN, FDN.F (formerly, First Trust AlphaDEX™ U.S. Consumer Staples Sector Index ETF • FHC, FHC.F)	October 2014
First Trust NASDAQ® Clean Edge® Green Energy ETF • QCLN (formerly, First Trust AlphaDEX™ U.S. Financial Sector Index ETF • FHF)	October 2014
First Trust NYSE Arca Biotechnology ETF • FBT (formerly, First Trust AlphaDEX™ U.S. Materials Sector Index ETF • FHM)	October 2014
First Trust Nasdaq Cybersecurity ETF • CIBR (formerly, First Trust AlphaDEX™ U.S. Consumer Discretionary Sector Index ETF • FHD)	October 2014
First Trust Cloud Computing ETF • SKYY (formerly, First Trust AlphaDEX™ U.S. Utilities Sector Index ETF • FHU)	October 2014
First Trust AlphaDEX™ U.S. Technology Sector Index ETF • FHQ, FHQ.F	October 2014
First Trust Morningstar Dividend Leaders ETF (CAD-Hedged) • FDL (formerly, First Trust Dorsey Wright U.S. Sector Rotation Index ETF (CAD-Hedged) • FSR)	September 2016
First Trust Indxx Innovative Transaction and Process ETF • BLCK	March 2018
First Trust International Capital Strength ETF • FINT	May 2018
*First Trust Vest U.S. Equity Buffer ETF – August • AUGB.F (formerly, First Trust Cboe Vest U.S. Equity Buffer ETF – August)	August 2019
*First Trust Vest U.S. Equity Buffer ETF – November • NOV.B.F (formerly, First Trust Cboe Vest U.S. Equity Buffer ETF – November)	February 2020
*First Trust Vest U.S. Equity Buffer ETF – February • FEBB.F (formerly, First Trust Cboe Vest U.S. Equity Buffer ETF – February)	February 2020
*First Trust Vest U.S. Equity Buffer ETF – May • MAYB.F (formerly, First Trust Cboe Vest U.S. Equity Buffer ETF – May)	May 2020
First Trust JFL Fixed Income Core Plus ETF • FJFB	March 2021
First Trust JFL Global Equity ETF • FJFG	March 2021
*First Trust Vest Fund of Buffer ETFs (Canada) ETF • BUFR (formerly, First Trust Cboe Vest Fund of Buffer ETFs (Canada) ETF)	May 2023

*Name change effective January 4, 2024