# Manulife Yield Opportunities Fund

Your all-in-one income solution



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## Times have changed

If you're focused on income, today's investing environment presents significant challenges. Traditional sources of income, such as Guaranteed Investment Certificates (GICs) and bonds, are providing minimal returns. In fact, nearly **30 percent** of the world's investment-grade debt is showing negative yields.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Bloomberg, December 2020

#### **Government of Canada Benchmark Bond Yields** 10 year Maturity 2 year 3 year 5 year 7 year Long term Yield 0.25% 0.34% 0.81% 0.99% 1.35% 1.77%

As of March 1, 2021. Source: Bank of Canada

#### **Guaranteed Investment Certificates**

Maturity	1 year	3 year	5 year
Rate	0.3%	0.5%	0.8%

As of March 3, 2021. Source: Bank of Canada

#### While equity markets offer the potential for higher returns, volatility poses a challenge.

#### Stock market volatility

S&P/TSX Composite Index historical performance



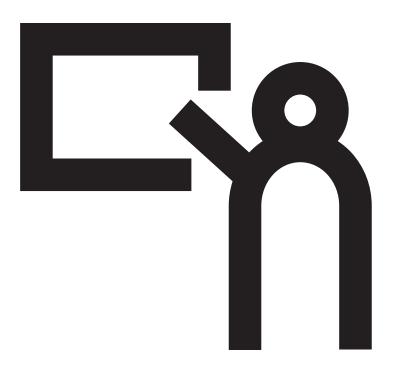
Source: <u>S&P Dow Jones Indices</u>
<u>The index is unmanaged and cannot be purchased directly by investors.</u>

### Our approach

At Manulife, we recognized the challenges facing income investors more than a decade ago. That's why we created the Manulife Yield Opportunities Fund. This fund has the flexibility to invest anywhere in the world, in any sector. Our goal is to provide you with steady income, whatever the source.

The fund is actively managed, which means that the managers can adjust holdings, moving in and out of asset classes to optimize performance in a changing market environment.

Our goal is to generate steady income, preserve capital and minimize volatility.



### Historical approach







### **Manulife Yield Opportunities Fund**





Dividend equities



Cash





Emerging-market



Floating-rate <u>loans</u>





Investment-grade corporate bonds

## A history of steady performance

Ten thousand dollars invested on January 1, 2011, would have grown to more than \$19,000 by the end of 2020.



#### Growth of \$10,000 over 10 years



Series F is generally designed for investors who have a fee-based or wrap account with their dealer. Series F performance is net of fees and expenses. Advisor Series is also available and includes a 1.00% trailing commission.

Source: Morningstar Direct (Time period: 1/1/2011 to 12/31/2020)

The rate of return shown is used only to illustrate the effects of the compound growth rate and is not intended to reflect future values of the investment fund or returns on investment in the investment fund. The indices cited are widely accepted benchmarks for investment performance within their relevant regions, sectors or asset classes, and represent non-managed investment portfolios. Although these indices are similar to the fund's objectives, there may be material differences including permitted holdings or investment strategies, which may impact returns. Please refer to the Fund Facts of the fund for more information.

## Over the past 10 years, the fund has produced an annualized return of 6.68% and consistently delivered six cents on the dollar in monthly distributions.

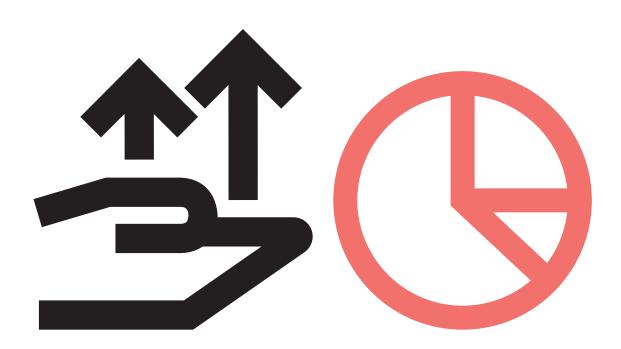
1 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	Since inception*
8.97%	5.98%	7.33%	6.68%	7.05%

Source: Morningstar Direct.

<sup>\*</sup> December 23, 2009. Returns in C\$ as of Dec. 31, 2020. <u>Series F</u>. Series F is generally designed for investors who have a fee-based or wrap account with their dealer. Series F performance is net of fees and expenses. Advisor Series is also available and includes a 1.00% trailing commission. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

### A look under the hood

The Manulife Yield Opportunities Fund takes a multi-sector approach to income generation. Each asset class brings unique benefits to the fund.



#### **Government bonds**

Government bonds are debt securities issued by federal, provincial and municipal governments. Investors lend their money to the issuer for a specified time and in return receive regular payments of interest at a specified interest rate.

While returns aren't guaranteed, they are backed by the power of the issuing government, making them a lower-risk investment. They help to reduce the overall risk profile of the Manulife Yield Opportunities Fund.

#### **Investment-grade corporate bonds**

Corporate bonds are debt securities issued by incorporated companies. "Investment-grade" means that these bonds are rated BBB (low) or higher, signifying that the issuer is unlikely to default on interest payments.

They provide core stable returns at higher yields than government bonds and cash can offer.

#### **Emerging-market debt**

Foreign governments also issue debt securities, and those of emerging nations, such as China and India, offer higher yields than their North American counterparts. These bonds may be issued in local currency as well as dollars, which provides an opportunity for the fund to benefit from currency-exchange fluctuations.

#### **High-yield bonds**

High-yield bonds offer to pay investors higher interest because the bond's issuer has a lower credit rating. We spend a lot of time and energy assessing the fundamental quality of the issuing company. Is the management capable? Is the company carrying a lot of debt? How is cash flow being used?

High-yield bonds typically account for a significant portion of total assets because they help us meet our income objectives. Together with floating-rate loans (see below), they are really the foundation of the Manulife Yield Opportunities Fund

#### **Floating-rate loans**

With floating-rate loans, the interest rate moves up and down in line with an underlying money market reference rate. We use floating-rate securities to provide diversification and stability. When interest rates in general are rising, this helps to reduce risk for the fund.

#### **Equities**

Equities are stocks or shares issued by companies and traded on a stock exchange. The Manulife Yield Opportunities Fund may hold both preferred and common shares.

Preferred shares are usually issued by large, blue-chip corporations. They provide quarterly dividend income, typically at a higher yield than government bonds.

Common shares may generate dividend income too, but primarily we use them to help achieve the fund's secondary goal — long-term capital appreciation. They offer advantageous tax treatment as well. Equities generate capital gains, which are taxed less heavily than the interest produced by the fund's fixed-income holdings.

### The team behind the fund

The Manulife Yield Opportunities Fund is managed by a team of experienced managers, each with a special area of expertise.

Average

20+ years of experience\*

分

More than

C\$30 B

in assets under management\*



#### **Head of Canadian Fixed Income**

Roshan Thiru, CFA

#### **Portfolio Management**

Richard Kos, CFA

Senior Portfolio Manager

Andrew Gretzinger, CFA1

Portfolio Manager

Altaf Nanji, CFA<sup>2</sup>

Portfolio Manager

Sivan Nair, CFA

Managing Director and

Senior Portfolio Manager

#### Credit research

Altaf Nanji, CFA<sup>2</sup>

Head of Credit Research

Vincent Zheng, CFA

Senior Credit Analyst

Jose Saracut, CFA, FRM

Senior Credit Analyst

Jonathan Crescenzi, CFA

Senior Investment Analyst

Saad Qazi, CFA

Senior Investment Analyst

#### **Trading and money market**

Andrew Gretzinger, CFA1

Portfolio Manager

Faisal Rahman, CFA

Senior Portfolio Manager

John Xin, CFA

Assistant Portfolio Manager

#### **Additional resources**

**Investment Risk & Quantitative Analytics** 

Team of 10 analysts led by Peter Mennie

Client Portfolio Management

Team of 10 specialists led by Jeffrey Santerre

**US Credit Research** 

Team of 14 analysts led by Donald Tucker

**ESG Research & Integration** 

Team of 10 analysts led by Peter Mennie

<sup>\*</sup>As at October 1, 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Hybrid role while Andrew transitions his portfolio management duties and assumes role as Head of Canadian Fixed Income Trading.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Dual role. Altaf serves as portfolio manager on the Canadian Fixed Team as well as the team's Head of Credit Research.

### **Manulife** Investment Management

# To learn more, contact your advisor or visit manulifeim.ca

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The payment of distributions is not guaranteed and may fluctuate. If distributions paid by the fund are greater than the performance of the fund, then your original investment will shrink. Distributions should not be confused with a fund's performance, rate of return or yield. You may also receive return-of-capital distributions from a fund. Please consult with your tax advisor regarding the tax implications of receiving distributions. See the fund facts as well as the prospectus for more information on a fund's distributions policy.

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