

## NBI Jarislowsky Fraser Select Balanced Fund (E/F Series)

### PERFORMANCE REVIEW (%)

Annualized for periods greater than 1 year

Annualized Returns / December 31, 2019	3 months	1 year	3 years	5 years	S.I.
NBI Jarislowsky Fraser Select Balanced Fund (E/F Series)	2.4	15.4	5.6	5.7	7.2
Benchmark	2.4	16.2	6.8	6.3	-

Calendar Year Returns / December 31	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
NBI Jarislowsky Fraser Select Balanced Fund (E/F Series)	15.4	-2.4	4.5	8.7	3.0
Benchmark	16.2	-2.8	7.8	8.2	3.2

### PORTFOLIO

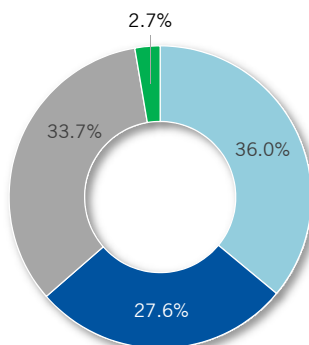
#### REPRESENTATIVE HOLDINGS

Holdings	Industry
TD Bank	Financials
Enbridge	Energy
CN Railway	Industrials
Microsoft	Technology
IQVIA Holdings	Health Care

#### BONDS

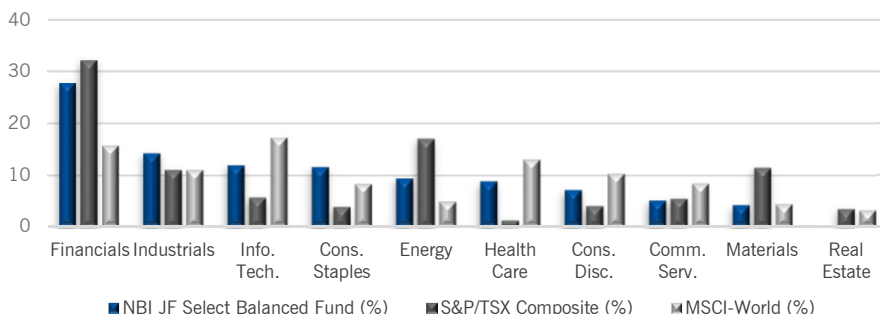
Issuer	Coupon/Maturity
Royal Bank of Canada	2.03%, 03/15/21
CIBC	2.90%, 09/14/21
Bank of Nova Scotia	3.27%, 01/11/21
Province of Ontario	2.90%, 06/02/28
Government of Canada	2.25%, 06/01/29

#### ASSET MIX



- Canadian Equities (36.0%)
- Foreign Equities (27.6%)
- Fixed Income (33.7%)
- Cash (2.7%)

#### EQUITY SECTOR MIX



### FUND OBJECTIVE

This Fund's investment objective is to achieve moderate capital growth. The Fund invests, directly or indirectly, in a diversified portfolio comprised mainly of Canadian fixed income and equity securities.

### FUND FACTS

Inception Date	October 7, 2010
Price Per Unit	\$15.10
AUM (\$ Millions)	\$148.5

### MER:

E-Series	0.86%
F-Series	0.86%

### FUND CODES:

E-Series	NBC3901
F-Series	NBC3701

### BENCHMARK:

- FTSE Canada Universe Bond (40%)
- S&P/TSX Capped Composite (32%)
- MSCI-World ex-Canada (23%)
- FTSE Canada 91 Day T-Bills (5%)

### ABOUT JARISLOWSKY, FRASER LIMITED

Founded in 1955, Jarislowsky, Fraser Limited is one Canada's largest independent investment management firms. Our primary goal is growing capital, over the long term, for our clients in a low risk manner. The firm's philosophy is founded upon time-proven principles of fundamental investing. This investment approach has produced consistent returns through changing economic environments and has been effective in minimizing the volatility prevalent in today's global markets.

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## QUARTERLY COMMENTARY

Looking back on 2019, the year started under a dark cloud, with fears that interest rates had risen too far, too fast, and a number of risks needing to be addressed politically, including U.S.-China trade tensions, the USMCA and Brexit, among others. The year finished with movement on all three fronts, as well as lower interest rates in most of the world's major economies, which provided the stimulus for financial markets to generate strong returns for the fourth quarter and for 2019 as a whole.

On the economic front, growth could be characterized as "tepid", with global real GDP growth tracking at 2.8% – the lowest pace in a decade. The US continues to lead the developed economies by a good margin, and will be helped by progress in trade negotiations with China, although policy uncertainty remains in place with Europe. In Canada, growth is trending at around +1.7% per annum, and there is nothing on the near term horizon that is likely to push that significantly higher. The Bank of Canada has refrained from cutting rates this year, preferring to more carefully assess the balance between external issues and domestic resilience; however, the markets are betting on at least one rate cut in 2020.

The fourth quarter saw very strong equity returns, which took many indexes to all-time highs. Positive catalysts in the quarter included tempering of Brexit uncertainty due to a significant majority in the UK election results, progress on the trade front with a U.S.-China "phase one" deal reached, and ongoing monetary accommodation from key central banks globally.

## PORTFOLIO REVIEW

Notable in the Canadian Equity portfolio this quarter was the strong rebound of SNC, based on improved fundamentals regarding cash flows and margins, along with its strategic decision to gradually exit the construction business that has been responsible for disappointing earnings. Other top contributors were Stantec and Industrial Alliance. Stantec is well positioned to benefit from the tailwind of numerous engineering projects. The main detractors in the quarter were the absence of Canadian Pacific Railway and Shopify from the portfolio, as well as weakness from Gildan. In the Foreign Equities portfolio, top contributors to performance were UnitedHealth and Atlas Copco., and top detractors were Anheuser-Busch InBev and Unilever.

The fixed income portfolio outperformed the benchmark in the quarter and the year. Canadian corporate bonds outperformed federal bonds in the fourth quarter; and consequently the portfolio's overweight position in corporate bonds generated notable allocation performance. The portfolio's strong relative performance in the quarter was enhanced by corporate bond selection in the infrastructure and industrial sectors, as well as solid security selection in the provincial bond sector.

STRATEGY & INVESTMENT  
OUTLOOK

Market returns came in well ahead of our (and most others') expectations. The overweight allocation to equities was maintained and this was beneficial to both absolute and relative returns, particularly given that our conservative approach frequently makes it difficult to keep up when markets are "on fire".

It is unlikely that the market will be as generous in 2020. If economies see growth deteriorate, then 2020 is likely to be a challenging year for stocks and a better year for bonds. We see a backdrop where our conservative, quality-focused approach will tend to perform relatively well. In the meantime, we will remain overweight in equities because we believe that our equity holdings are less exposed to the economic cycle than the market as a whole. We are ready, however, to reduce that bias if and when, the fundamentals dictate.

The Bank of Nova Scotia (BNS) is the parent company of Jarislowsky, Fraser Limited. BNS securities held in the portfolio are related securities.

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Source of data: MSCI Inc., S&P Financial Services LLC., TSX Inc., PC Bond Analytics, Wilshire Analytics, Bloomberg.