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# COUNSEL PORTFOLIO SERVICES INC.

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## ANNUAL INFORMATION FORM

June 29, 2023

OFFERING SERIES O AND PRIVATE WEALTH SECURITIES

(UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED) OF:

### COUNSEL PORTFOLIO COMPONENTS

COUNSEL CANADIAN CORE FIXED INCOME<sup>1</sup>  
COUNSEL DEFENSIVE GLOBAL EQUITY  
COUNSEL GLOBAL FIXED INCOME  
COUNSEL GLOBAL LOW VOLATILITY EQUITY  
COUNSEL NORTH AMERICAN HIGH YIELD BOND  
IPC CANADIAN EQUITY<sup>1</sup>  
IPC MULTI-FACTOR CANADIAN EQUITY  
IPC MULTI-FACTOR U.S. EQUITY  
IPC MULTI-FACTOR INTERNATIONAL EQUITY

### IPC PRIVATE WEALTH VISIO POOLS

IPC PRIVATE WEALTH VISIO CORE FIXED INCOME<sup>1</sup>  
IPC PRIVATE WEALTH VISIO NORTH AMERICAN EQUITY<sup>1</sup>  
IPC PRIVATE WEALTH VISIO NORTH AMERICAN EQUITY HIGH INCOME<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Series O securities only.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	NAME, FORMATION AND HISTORY OF THE FUNDS.....	3
2.	INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS AND PRACTICES .....	5
3.	DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES .....	9
4.	VALUATION OF PORTFOLIO SECURITIES.....	11
5.	CALCULATION OF NAV.....	14
6.	PURCHASES AND SWITCHES (EXCHANGES OF SECURITIES) .....	15
7.	HOW TO REDEEM SECURITIES.....	18
8.	RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUND OPERATIONS.....	20
9.	CONFLICTS OF INTEREST .....	29
10.	FUND GOVERNANCE.....	35
11.	FEES AND EXPENSES.....	45
12.	INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS.....	46
13.	REMUNERATION OF DIRECTORS, OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES .....	54
14.	MATERIAL CONTRACTS .....	56

## 1. NAME, FORMATION AND HISTORY OF THE FUNDS

### ***Introduction***

This annual information form contains information concerning the mutual funds listed on the front cover (individually, each is a “**Fund**” and collectively, they are referred to as the “**Funds**”). The Funds do not distribute securities to retail investors under a current simplified prospectus. This annual information form is prepared in accordance with Part 9 of National Instrument 81-106, *Investment Fund Continuous Disclosure* (“**NI 81-106**”), which requires a mutual fund to file an annual information form if the mutual fund has not obtained a receipt for a prospectus during the last twelve months preceding its financial year.

To make this annual information form easier to read and understand, we have used personal pronouns throughout much of the text. References to “**Counsel**”, “**our**”, “**we**” or “**us**” generally refer to **Counsel Portfolio Services Inc.** in its capacity as manager and trustee of the Funds. References to “**you**” are directed to the reader as an **investor** in the Funds holding securities directly or in a registered plan.

In this document we refer to “**financial advisors**” and “**dealers**.” The financial advisor is the individual with whom you consult for investment advice, and the dealer is the company or partnership that employs your financial advisor and may include, at our discretion, a company or partnership that has received an exemption from the dealer registration requirements from the Canadian securities regulatory authorities.

The Funds are part of a larger group of mutual funds we manage and are referred to collectively as the “**Counsel Funds**” or, each individually, as a “**Counsel Fund**”. Other Counsel Funds are offered under a simplified prospectus.

In Canada, a mutual fund can be established either as a unit trust or as one or more classes of shares of a corporation. The Funds have been established as unit trusts and issue units to investors. In this document, reference to a Fund’s “**securities**” means its units. Investors in the Funds are sometimes referred to as “**securityholders**”.

The following plans are collectively referred to as “**registered plans**”:

- registered retirement savings plans (“**RRSPs**”), including
  - locked-in retirement accounts (“**LIRAs**”),
  - locked-in retirement savings plans (“**LRSPs**”),
  - restricted locked-in savings plans (“**RLSPs**”),
- registered retirement income funds (“**RRIFs**”), including
  - life income funds (“**LIFs**”),
  - locked-in retirement income funds (“**LRIFs**”),
  - prescribed retirement income funds (“**PRIFs**”),

- restricted life income funds (“**RLIFs**”),
- tax-free savings accounts (“**TFSAs**”),
- registered education savings plans (“**RESPs**”),
- registered disability savings plans (“**RDSPs**”), and
- deferred profit-sharing plans (“**DPSPs**”).

***Address of the Funds and Counsel***

The registered address of the Funds and Counsel is:

5015 Spectrum Way, Suite 300  
 Mississauga, Ontario L4W 0E4  
 Telephone: 1-877-625-9885  
 Email: info@counselservices.com  
 Website: www.counselservices.com

***Formation of the Funds***

Each of the Funds has been formed as an “**open-end**” unit trust under the laws of the Province of Ontario by declaration of trust. An open-end unit trust is a mutual fund that can issue an unlimited number of securities (“**units**”) and permits investors to redeem their securities for cash at their request.

The Funds are currently governed by the terms of an Amended and Restated Master Declaration of Trust dated May 1, 2002, as amended and restated on January 19, 2004, March 1, 2004, July 13, 2012, and October 29, 2015, as amended (the “**Master Declaration of Trust**”). The Master Declaration of Trust is amended each time a new Fund or series of a Fund is created to include the investment objectives and any other information specific to the new Fund and/or series, and it is also amended each time a Fund is terminated or a series of a Fund is terminated or redesignated.

The table below lists the name of each Fund and the date of its formation:

<b>Fund Name</b>	<b>Date of Formation</b>
Counsel Canadian Core Fixed Income	January 7, 2016
Counsel Defensive Global Equity	January 7, 2016
Counsel Global Fixed Income	May 23, 2014
Counsel Global Low Volatility Equity	January 7, 2016
Counsel North American High Yield Bond	October 29, 2015
IPC Multi-Factor Canadian Equity	October 29, 2019
IPC Multi-Factor U.S. Equity	October 29, 2019
IPC Multi-Factor International Equity	October 29, 2019

<b>Fund Name</b>	<b>Date of Formation</b>
IPC Private Wealth Visio Core Fixed Income	October 30, 2020
IPC Private Wealth Visio North American Equity	October 30, 2020
IPC Canadian Equity	June 16, 2021
IPC Private Wealth Visio North American Equity High Income	June 16, 2021

### ***Major Changes to the Funds During the Last 10 Years***

To date, the following Funds have experienced major events or made the following changes to their name, investment objective, investment strategy (material change only), portfolio manager, or sub-advisor during the last ten years:

<b>Fund Name</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Counsel Global Fixed Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Franklin Advisers Inc. appointed as sub-advisor to the Fund</li> </ul>	November 17, 2017
IPC Private Wealth Visio North American Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beutel, Goodman &amp; Company Ltd. appointed sub-advisor to the Fund</li> </ul>	October 29, 2021

## **2. INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS AND PRACTICES**

### ***National Instrument 81-102***

The Funds are subject to certain restrictions and practices contained in securities legislation, including National Instrument 81-102 *Investment Funds* (“**NI 81-102**”), which are designed, in part, to ensure that the investments of mutual funds are diversified and relatively liquid and to ensure the proper administration of mutual funds. We intend to manage the Funds in accordance with these restrictions and practices or to obtain relief from the securities regulatory authorities before implementing any variations.

### ***Exemptions from NI 81-102***

Before the date of this annual information form, we applied to the securities regulatory authorities for, and received, exemptions from the provisions of NI 81-102 related to the Funds, listed below.

#### **(A) U.S. Listed ETF Relief**

This ETF Relief is only relevant for U.S. listed exchange traded funds (“**ETFs**”).

The Funds have obtained an exemption from the Canadian securities regulatory authorities which allows them to purchase and hold securities of the following types of ETFs (collectively, the “**Underlying ETFs**”):

- (i) ETFs that seek to provide daily results that replicate the daily performance of a specified widely quoted market index (the ETF's "Underlying Index") by a multiple of up to 200% ("Leveraged Bull ETFs"), inverse multiple of up to 100% ("**Inverse ETFs**"), or an inverse multiple of up to 200% ("**Leveraged Bear ETFs**");
- (ii) ETFs that seek to replicate the performance of gold or silver, or the value of a specified derivative whose underlying interest is gold or silver on an unlevered basis ("**Underlying Gold or Silver Interest**"), or by a multiple of up to 200% (collectively, the "**Leveraged Gold/Silver ETFs**"); and
- (iii) ETFs that invest directly, or indirectly through derivatives, in physical commodities, including but not limited to agriculture or livestock, energy, precious metals and industrial metals, on an unlevered basis ("**Unlevered Commodity ETFs**"), together with the Leveraged Gold/Silver ETFs, collectively, the "**Commodity ETFs**").

This relief is subject to the following conditions:

- a Fund's investment in securities of an Underlying ETF must be in accordance with its fundamental investment objectives;
- the securities of the Underlying ETF must be traded on a stock exchange in Canada or the United States;
- a Fund may not purchase securities of an Underlying ETF if, immediately after the transaction, more than 10% of the NAV of the Fund would consist of securities of Underlying ETFs;
- a Fund may not purchase securities of Inverse ETFs or securities of Leveraged Bear ETFs or sell any securities short if, immediately after the transaction, the Fund's aggregate market value exposure represented by all such securities purchased and/or sold short would exceed 20% of the NAV of the Fund, taken at market value at the time of the transaction; and
- immediately after entering into a purchase, derivatives or other transaction to obtain exposure to physical commodities, the Fund's aggregate market value exposure (whether direct or indirect, including through Commodity ETFs) to all physical commodities (including gold); does not exceed 10% of the NAV of the Fund taken at market value at the time of the transaction.

### ***Sub-Advisor Relief***

Irish Life Investment Managers Limited has received an exemption from the *Commodity Futures Act* (Ontario) registration requirements in respect of any trades made by the Funds that they sub-advise in commodity future contracts and commodity future options traded on commodity future exchanges outside of Canada and cleared through clearing corporations outside of Canada.

### ***Inter-Fund Trades***

As permitted under National Instrument 81-107 *Independent Review Committee for Investment Funds* (“**NI 81-107**”), the Funds may engage in inter-fund trades subject to certain conditions, including, for exchange-traded securities, that the trades are executed using the current market price of a security rather than the last sale price before the execution of the trade. Accordingly, the Funds have obtained exemptive relief to permit the Funds to engage in inter-fund trades if the security is an exchange-traded security, executed at the last sale price, immediately before the trade is executed, on an exchange upon which the security is listed or quoted.

### ***Standard Investment Restrictions and Practices***

The remaining standard investment restrictions and practices set out in NI 81-102 are deemed to be included in this annual information form. A copy of the investment restrictions and practices adopted by the Funds will be provided to you upon request by writing to us at the address shown under Section 1 “**Name, Formation and History of the Funds - Address of the Funds and Counsel**”.

### ***Approval of the Independent Review Committee***

The Independent Review Committee (“**IRC**”) of the Counsel Funds under NI 81-107 has approved a standing instruction to permit the Counsel Funds to invest in certain issuers related to us as provided for in NI 81-107. Issuers related to us include issuers that control Counsel or issuers that are under common control with Counsel. We have determined that, notwithstanding the specific provisions of NI 81-107 and the standing instruction that has been adopted, it would be inappropriate for the Funds to invest in securities issued by IGM Financial Inc., which indirectly owns 100% of the outstanding common shares of Counsel. The IRC monitors the investment activity of the Counsel Funds in related issuers at least quarterly. In its review, the IRC considers whether investment decisions:

- have been made free from any influence by, and without taking into account any consideration relevant to, the related issuer or other entities related to us or the Fund;
- represent our business judgment, uninfluenced by considerations other than the best interests of the Fund;
- have been made in compliance with our policies and the IRC’s standing instruction; and
- achieve a fair and reasonable result for the Fund.

The IRC must notify the securities regulatory authorities if it determines that we have not complied with any of the above conditions.

Please see the “**Counsel Funds’ Independent Review Committee**” section for additional information about the IRC.

## ***Change of Investment Objectives and Strategies***

A change in a Fund's investment objectives can only be made with the consent of the investors in the Fund at a meeting called for that purpose. The investment strategies explain how the Fund intends to achieve its investment objectives. As manager of the Funds, we may change the investment strategies from time to time, but will give you notice, by way of a press release, of our intention to do so if it would be a material change as defined in NI 81-106. Under NI 81-106, a change in the business, operations or affairs of a Fund is considered to be a "material change" if a reasonable investor would consider it important in deciding whether to purchase or continue to hold securities of the Fund.

## ***Dealer-Managed Mutual Funds***

The Funds are dealer-managed mutual funds and are, therefore, prohibited from making certain investments prescribed by NI 81-102. Specifically, the Funds shall not knowingly make an investment in a class of securities

- of an issuer, during, or for 60 days after, the period in which we, or an associate or affiliate of ours, act as an underwriter in the distribution of securities of that class of securities, except as a member of the selling group distributing five percent or less of the securities underwritten;
- of an issuer of which a partner, director, officer or employee of ours, or a partner, director, officer or employee of an affiliate or associate of ours, is a partner, director or officer, unless the partner, director, officer or employee
  - does not participate in the formulation of investment decisions made on behalf of the Funds;
  - does not have access before implementation to information concerning investment decisions made on behalf of the Funds; and
  - does not influence, other than through research, statistical and other reports generally available to clients, the investment decisions made on behalf of the Funds.
- These restrictions do not apply to an investment in a class of securities issued or fully and unconditionally guaranteed by the government of Canada or the government of a jurisdiction.
- These restrictions also do not apply to an investment in
  - a class of securities of an issuer if the IRC has approved the transaction,
  - a class of debt securities of an issuer, if the security has and continues to have an approved credit rating,



- a class of securities for which a prospectus has been filed in Canada and during the 60-day period referred to above, the investment is made on an exchange on which the securities are listed.

### 3. DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES

Each Fund is associated with a specific investment portfolio and specific investment objectives. Each Fund is entitled to the total return (including realized and unrealized gains) on the portfolio assets of that Fund, less that portion of management fees, administration fees, and fund costs, as applicable, attributable to that Fund. Please refer to “**Fees and Expenses**” in Section 11 for further details.

#### ***Series of Securities***

Each Fund may have an unlimited number of series of securities and may issue an unlimited number of securities within each series. The Funds may offer new series at any time without notice to, or approval of, investors. Expenses of each series of each Fund are tracked separately and a separate NAV is calculated for each series. Although the money that you and other investors pay to purchase securities of each series, and the expenses of each series, are tracked on a series-by-series basis in your Fund’s administration records, the assets of all series of your Fund are combined into a single pool to create one portfolio for investment purposes.

The series described in this annual information form are the following:

Series Private Wealth	Only available to investors enrolled in discretionary account programs offered by our affiliate IPC Securities. We do not charge a management fee on Series Private Wealth securities, instead you pay a negotiable fee to IPC Securities when you enter into an agreement to participate in these programs.
Series O	Special-purpose securities only available for purchase by other Counsel Funds. We do not charge management or administration fees on Series O securities.

#### ***Distributions***

Each Fund intends to distribute sufficient net income and net capital gains to its investors each year to ensure that the Fund does not pay ordinary income tax under Part I of the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) (the “**Tax Act**”). A Fund may also distribute returns of capital. A Fund may pay a distribution of net income, net capital gains and/or returns of capital at such time or times as we, acting as manager, in our discretion, determine.

The net income and net capital gains of a Fund will be distributed first to pay any management expense distributions to investors who are entitled to benefit from a reduction in the management fee. For more information see “**Fees and Expenses**”. A

Fund that is a “mutual fund trust” for purposes of the Tax Act may allocate net capital gains as a redemption distribution to an investor who redeems that Fund’s securities – including to an investor who redeems that Fund’s securities in the course of switching to another Counsel Fund – provided the capital gain so allocated is not more than the investor’s accrued gain on the securities redeemed. Any remaining net income or net capital gains of the Fund to be distributed will be allocated among the series of securities of the Fund based on the relative NAVs of the series and on each series’ expenses available to offset net income or net capital gains on or before the date of the distribution, and distributed *pro rata* to investors in each series on the distribution payment date. Any such distribution will occur on or about the business day following the distribution record date or dates, at our discretion.

### ***Liquidation or Other Termination Rights***

If a Fund (or a particular series of securities of a Fund) is ever terminated, each security that you own will participate equally with each other security of the same series in the assets of the Fund attributable to that series after all of the Fund’s liabilities (or those allocated to the series of securities being terminated) have been paid or provided for.

### ***Conversion and Redemption Rights***

You can exchange (a “switch”) your investment among the series of a Counsel Fund or from any of the Funds to another Counsel Fund available through your dealer as described in Section 6, “**Purchases and Switches (Exchanges of Securities)**”, and your securities may be redeemed as described in Section 7, “**How to Redeem Securities**”.

### ***Certificates***

No certificates representing securities shall be issued for securities held in a Fund unless we otherwise permit. Any certificates so issued shall be in such form as approved by us, from time to time. We may issue a replacement certificate if we are satisfied that the original certificate has been mutilated, lost or destroyed.

### ***Voting Rights and Changes Requiring Investor Approval***

You have the right to exercise one vote for each security held at meetings of all investors of your Fund and at any meetings held solely for investors of that series of securities. We are required to convene a meeting of investors of a Fund to ask them to consider and approve, by not less than a majority of the votes cast at the meeting (either in person or by proxy), any of the following material changes if they are ever proposed for the Fund:

- a change to the basis of the calculation of management fee rates or of other expenses that are charged to the Fund or to you, which could result in an increase

in charges to the Fund or to you, unless (i) the contract is an arm's length contract with a party other than us or an associate or affiliate of ours for services relating to the operation of the Fund, and (ii) you are given at least 60 days' written notice of the effective date of the proposed change, or unless (i) the mutual fund is permitted to be described as "no-load", and (ii) the investors are given at least 60 days' written notice of the effective date of the proposed change. Similarly, the introduction of certain new fees by us for the Fund, which may be payable by the Fund or by investors of the Fund, would also require the approval of a majority of the votes cast at a meeting of investors of the Fund;

- a change of the manager of the Fund (other than a change to one of our affiliates);
- any change in the investment objectives of the Fund;
- any decrease in the frequency of calculating the NAV for each series of securities;
- certain material reorganizations of the Fund; and
- any other matter which is required by the constating documents of the Fund, by the laws applicable to the Fund, or by any agreement to be submitted to a vote of the investors in the Fund.

### ***Other Changes***

You will be provided at least 60 days' written notice of

- a change of auditor of the Fund; and
- certain reorganizations with, or transfer of assets to, another mutual fund, if the Fund will cease to exist thereafter and you will become a securityholder of the other Fund (otherwise an investor vote will be required).

## **4. VALUATION OF PORTFOLIO SECURITIES**

The portfolio securities of each Fund are valued as at the close of trading on the Toronto Stock Exchange (the "TSX") (the "valuation time") on each trading day. A "trading day" is any day that the TSX is open for trading. The value of the portfolio securities and other assets of each Fund is determined by applying the following rules:

- Cash on hand or on deposit, bills and notes and accounts receivable, prepaid expenses, cash dividends and interest declared or accrued and not yet received are generally valued at their full amount, unless we have determined that any of these assets are not worth the full amount, in which event, the value shall be deemed to be the value that we reasonably deem to be the fair value.
- Portfolio securities listed on a public securities exchange are valued at their close price or last sale price reported before the valuation time on that trading day. If

there is no close price and if no sale is reported to have taken place before the valuation time on that trading day, they are valued at the average of the last bid and ask prices reported before that time on that trading day.

- Unlisted portfolio securities traded on an over-the-counter market are valued at the last sale price reported before the valuation time on that trading day. If no sale is reported to have taken place before the valuation time on that trading day, they are valued at the average of the last bid and ask prices reported before that time on that trading day.
- Notwithstanding the foregoing, if portfolio securities are interlisted or traded on more than one exchange or market, we shall use the close price or last sale price or the average of the last bid and ask prices, as the case may be, reported before the valuation time on the exchange or market we determine to be the principal exchange or market for those securities.
- Fixed-income securities listed on a public securities exchange will be valued at their close price or last sale price before the valuation time on that trading day, or if there is no close price and if no sale is reported to have taken place before the valuation time on that trading day, at the average of the last bid and ask prices before that time on that trading day.
- Non-exchange-traded fixed-income securities of the Funds are valued at their fair value based on prices supplied by established pricing vendors, market participants or pricing models, as determined before the valuation time on that trading day.
- When a Fund owns securities issued by another mutual fund (an “**Underlying Fund**”) the securities of the Underlying Fund are valued at the NAV calculated by the manager of the Underlying Fund for the applicable series of securities of the Underlying Fund for that trading day in accordance with the constating documents of the Underlying Fund.
- Long positions in options, debt-like securities and warrants are valued at the current market value of their positions.
- Where an option is written by a Fund, the premium received by the Fund for those options is reflected as a deferred credit. The deferred credit is valued at an amount equal to the current market value of the option, which would have the effect of closing the position. Any difference resulting from revaluation shall be treated as an unrealized gain or loss on investment. The deferred credit shall be deducted in calculating the NAV of the Fund. The Fund’s portfolio securities which are the subject of a written option shall continue to be valued at their current market value as determined by us.
- Foreign currency hedging contracts are valued at their current market value on that trading day, with any difference resulting from revaluation being treated as an unrealized gain or loss on investment.

- The value of a forward contract or swap is the gain or loss on the contract that would be realized if, on that trading day, the position in the forward contract or the swap were to be closed out.
- The value of a standardized future is determined as follows:
  - if the daily limits imposed by the futures exchange through which the standardized future was issued are not in effect, the gain or loss on the standardized future that would be realized if, on that trading date, the position in the standardized future was closed out, or
  - if the daily limits imposed by the futures exchange through which the standardized future was issued are in effect, based on the current market value of the underlying interest of the standardized future.
- Margin paid or deposited on standardized futures or forward contracts is reflected as an account receivable, and margin consisting of assets other than cash is noted as held as margin.
- Portfolio securities, the resale of which are restricted or limited by law or by means of a representation, undertaking or agreement by the Fund, are valued at the lesser of
  - their value based upon reported quotations in common use on that trading day; and
  - the market value of portfolio securities of the same class or series of a class, whose resale is not restricted (“**related securities**”) less an amount which reflects the difference between the acquisition cost of the securities versus the market value of the related securities on the date of the purchase; this amount decreases over the restricted period in proportion until the securities are no longer restricted.
- Portfolio securities and other assets that are quoted in foreign currencies are converted to Canadian dollars using an exchange rate as of the close of the North American markets on that trading date.
- Notwithstanding the foregoing, portfolio securities and other assets for which market quotations are, in our opinion, inaccurate, unreliable, not reflective of all available material information or not readily available, are valued at their fair value as determined by us.

If a portfolio security cannot be valued under the foregoing rules or under any other valuation rules adopted under applicable securities laws, or if any rules we have adopted are not set out under applicable securities laws, but at any time are considered by us to be inappropriate under the circumstances, then we will use a valuation we consider to be fair, reasonable and in your best interest. In those circumstances, we would typically review current press releases concerning the portfolio security, discuss an appropriate

valuation with other portfolio managers, analysts, the Investment Funds Institute of Canada and consult other industry sources to set an appropriate fair valuation. If, at any time, the foregoing rules conflict with the valuation rules required under applicable securities laws, we will follow the valuation rules required under applicable securities laws.

The constating documents of each of the Funds contain details of the liabilities to be included in calculating the NAV for each series of securities of each of the Funds. The liabilities of a Fund include, without limitation, all bills, notes and accounts payable, management fees, administration fees and/or operating expenses payable or accrued, all contractual obligations for the payment of money or property, all allowances authorized or approved by us for taxes (if any) or contingencies, and all other liabilities of the Fund. We will determine in good faith whether such liabilities are series expenses or common expenses of the Funds. In calculating the NAV for each series of securities, we will use the latest reported information available to us on each trading day. The purchase or sale of portfolio securities by a Fund will be reflected in the first calculation of the NAV for each series of securities after the date on which the transaction becomes binding.

We have not, within the past three (3) years, exercised our discretion to deviate from the Funds' valuation practices described above.

### ***Difference from International Financial Reporting Standards***

In accordance with amendments to NI 81-106, the fair value of a portfolio security used to determine the NAV of a series for purchases and redemptions by investors will be based on the Fund's valuation principles set out above, which may not be the same as the International Financial Reporting Standards ("**IFRS**"). Hence, the NAV may differ from what is reported in the annual and interim financial statements.

## **5. CALCULATION OF NET ASSET VALUE**

The NAV of a Fund, as of any valuation time, is the market value of the Fund's assets less its liabilities.

After the close of business on each trading day, a separate NAV will be calculated for each series of securities of each Fund because the management fees, administration fees and fund costs for each series are different. The NAV of each series of a Fund is calculated by

- **adding** up the series' proportionate share of the cash, portfolio securities and other assets of the Fund;
- **subtracting** the liabilities applicable to that series of securities (which includes the series' proportionate share of common liabilities, plus liabilities directly attributable to the series); and

- **dividing** the result (the NAV of the series) by the total number of securities of that series owned by investors.

The NAV applied to purchase and redemption orders of securities of each series of each Fund (except as noted in the next paragraph) will generally increase or decrease on each trading day as a result of changes in the value of the portfolio securities owned by the Fund. When distributions (other than management expense distributions) are declared by a series of a Fund, the NAV of that series will decrease by the per security amount of the distributions on the payment date.

The NAV for purchases and redemptions of securities of the Funds is the NAV first calculated after the receipt of all appropriate documents pertaining to a purchase or redemption order in good order.

The NAV of the Fund and the NAV for each series of a Fund is available at your request, and at no cost, by contacting us toll-free at 1-877-625-9885 or by email at [info@counselervices.com](mailto:info@counselervices.com).

## **6. PURCHASES AND SWITCHES (EXCHANGES OF SECURITIES)**

Securities of the Funds are only available for purchase by other Counsel Funds or investors enrolled in discretionary account programs managed by IPC Securities, all of whom are “accredited investors”. If applicable, you may purchase, switch (redeem securities of one Fund and purchase securities of another Counsel Fund) or redeem securities of a Fund only through your financial advisor. The financial advisor you select is your agent, to provide you with investment recommendations to meet your own risk/return objectives and to place orders to purchase, switch, or redeem securities on your behalf.

We are not liable for the recommendations given to you by your financial advisor and we are entitled to rely on electronic or other instructions that a financial advisor or dealer provides to us without verifying your instructions. We will not make a determination as to the suitability of a Fund purchase or the appropriateness of the purchase option selected when we receive purchase, redemption or switch instructions from your dealer.

You purchase and switch Fund securities at their current NAV, as determined for each series.

### ***Purchase of Securities***

The NAV on a purchase of securities is based on the Fund’s next calculation of NAV for the series of securities after your purchase or switch order has been received in good order.

We must receive the application form and money within two (2) trading days of your purchase order. If we have not received payment by the end of the second (2<sup>nd</sup>)

trading day after your purchase order is placed, we are required by law to redeem the securities on the next trading day. If the amount received on the redemption exceeds what you would have paid for the securities, the Fund must keep the surplus. However, if your purchase obligation exceeds the amount received on the redemption (which will occur if the Fund's NAV has declined since the date of your purchase order), you or your dealer will be required to pay the Fund the amount of the deficiency plus any additional expenses of processing the redemption order. Your dealer may require you to pay this amount if you were the cause of the failed purchase order.

We may reject a purchase order if the rejection of the order is made within one trading day of receiving the order and all cash received with the order is refunded immediately.

### ***Compensation Paid to Your Dealer***

We provide portfolio management and portfolio sub-advisory services to IPC Securities for the discretionary account programs managed by IPC Securities, through which Series Private Wealth securities of a Fund are sold. Other than the discretionary account programs managed by IPC Securities, we do not have any special agreements or arrangements with respect to IPC Securities and IPC Investments will receive commissions and charge fees to investors who purchase securities of a Fund through them in the same manner as any unrelated dealer.

### ***Switches***

The following table summarizes which switch transactions will be taxable to you if the securities are held outside a registered plan. See "**Income Tax Considerations**" for more information about the Canadian federal income tax considerations that may arise if you switch or redeem your investment in a Fund.

<b>Type of Switch</b>	<b>Taxable</b>	<b>Non-Taxable</b>
From any series and/or purchase option to any other series and/or purchase option of the same Fund		✓
All other switches	✓	

### ***How to Switch Securities between Funds***

You can switch your investment among the mutual fund securities of any Counsel Fund for which you are eligible by contacting your financial advisor who will pass your instructions on to us promptly. You should know the following information about switches:

- Your dealer can charge you a switch fee of up to 2% of the value of the securities switched for the services which it provides to you on the switch.



- If the securities you want to switch were bought under the redemption charge purchase option or the low-load purchase option, your new securities will have the same redemption charge schedule. If the new securities are not available under the redemption charge purchase option or the low-load purchase option, as applicable, you will have to pay any applicable redemption charges on the securities you redeem before your new securities are issued.
- Securities you bought under the sales charge purchase option can only be switched for other securities under the sales charge purchase option. Securities you bought under the redemption charge purchase option should generally only be switched for other securities under the redemption charge purchase option. Securities you bought under the low-load purchase option should generally only be switched for other securities under the low-load purchase option. If you follow these rules, you will avoid having to pay any unnecessary additional sales charges. Switches among purchase options are permitted under certain circumstances.
- You may not switch securities you bought under the redemption charge purchase option to other securities to be purchased under the low-load purchase option, or *vice versa*.
- If you switch, the tax treatment will be as described under the heading “**Income Tax Considerations**” in Section 12 below.
- The NAV on a switch of securities is based on the Fund’s first calculation of NAV for the series of securities after your switch order has been received in good order.

### ***How to Switch Securities from One Series to another Series within the Same Fund***

You can switch your securities of one series into securities of another series of the same Fund by contacting your financial advisor who will promptly pass your instructions on to us.

### ***Delivery of Statements and Reports***

We or your financial advisor or dealer will send you the following:

- confirmation statements when you buy, sell, redeem or switch securities of a Fund;
- account statements;
- at your request, annual audited financial statements and/or semi-annual unaudited financial statements for your Fund, and annual management reports of fund performance and/or interim management reports of fund performance; and
- if you own securities of a Fund that paid a distribution in a non-registered plan, any tax statements required under the Tax Act.

You should retain all your confirmations and account statements to assist with the preparation of your tax return and calculations of the adjusted cost base (“**ACB**”) of your securities for tax purposes. Please note that financial statements and management reports of fund performance for your Fund are also available to you electronically at [www.counselservices.com](http://www.counselservices.com).

## 7. HOW TO REDEEM SECURITIES

### ***Redemption of Securities***

You may redeem all or any portion of your investment in a Fund on any trading day by contacting your financial advisor and providing instructions to proceed with a redemption order or, if you have already made arrangements with your dealer, by electronic means through your dealer.

The amount that you will receive for your redemption order is based on the Fund’s NAV for the series of securities next calculated after your redemption order has been received in good order. Your redemption request must be in writing or, if you have made arrangements with your dealer, by electronic means through your dealer and must be accompanied by your security certificate, if a certificate was issued to you for those securities. To protect you from fraud, for redemptions above certain dollar thresholds, your signature on your redemption request (and certificate, if applicable) must be guaranteed by one of a bank, trust company, member of a recognized stock exchange or any other organization satisfactory to us.

If you request more than one redemption at a time, your redemption requests will be processed in the order in which they are received. Redemption orders involving transfers to or from registered plans may be delayed until all administrative procedures involved with registered plans are complete.

If we do not receive everything we need to complete your redemption order within ten (10) trading days after the redemption date, under securities law, we are required on that tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) trading day to purchase the same number of securities that you redeemed. We will apply your redemption proceeds to the payment required for those securities. If the NAV has decreased since the sale date, the Fund must keep the excess proceeds. If the NAV has increased since that date, you or your dealer will be required to pay the Fund the deficiency and any additional expenses of processing the repurchase order. Your dealer may require you to pay this amount if you were the cause of the failed redemption order.

We may redeem your securities, without notice, if we determine, at our discretion, that

- you are engaging in inappropriate or excessive short-term trading;

- you have become a resident, for purposes of applicable securities law or tax law, of a foreign jurisdiction where such foreign residency may have negative legal, regulatory or tax implications for a Fund; or
- it would be in the best interest of the Fund to do so.

You remain responsible for all tax consequences, costs and losses, if any, associated with the redemption of securities of a Fund upon the exercise by us of our right to redeem.

### ***Suspension of Redemption Rights***

We may suspend the redemption of securities of a Fund or may postpone the date of payment upon redemption (i) during any period when normal trading is suspended on a stock exchange, options exchange or futures exchange within or outside Canada on which securities are listed and posted for trading, or on which specified derivatives are traded, which represent more than 50% by value or underlying market exposure of the total assets of the Fund without allowance for liabilities, and if those portfolio securities or specified derivatives are not traded on any other exchange that represents a reasonably practical alternative for the Fund, or (ii) with the prior permission of the Ontario Securities Commission. For purposes of making this determination, a Top Fund will be considered to own directly the securities owned by the Underlying Fund(s).

During any period of suspension there will be no calculation of the NAV for any series of securities of the Fund, and the Fund will not be permitted to issue, redeem or switch any securities. The issue, redemption and switch of securities and the calculation of the NAV for each series of securities will resume when trading resumes on the exchanges referred to in (i), above, or when the Ontario Securities Commission declares the suspension ended.

In the event of a suspension,

- if you have placed a purchase order for a series of securities of the Fund, you may either withdraw the purchase order prior to termination of the suspension or receive securities of the series based on the series NAV next calculated after the termination of the suspension; and
- if you have requested the redemption or switch of securities, but the redemption or switch proceeds cannot be calculated because of the suspension, you may either withdraw your request prior to termination of the suspension or receive payment based on the NAV next calculated after the termination of the suspension; or
  - in the case of redemption, receive payment based on the NAV, next calculated after the termination of the suspension; or
  - in the case of a switch, have the securities switched on the basis of the series NAV next calculated after the termination of the suspension.

If we have received your redemption request and the redemption proceeds have been calculated prior to a suspension, but payment of the redemption proceeds has not yet been made, the Fund will pay your redemption proceeds to you during the suspension period.

## 8. RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUND OPERATIONS

### *Management Services*

We are the manager, promoter, portfolio manager, and trustee of the Counsel Funds. You may contact us concerning the Counsel Funds or your accounts at:

Counsel Portfolio Services Inc.  
5015 Spectrum Way, Suite 300  
Mississauga, Ontario L4W 0E4  
Telephone: 11877-625-9885  
Email: [info@counselservices.com](mailto:info@counselservices.com)  
Website: [www.counselservices.com](http://www.counselservices.com)

The documents comprising each Fund's permanent information record and the registers of investors of each of the Funds are maintained at the office of the Funds' transfer agent and registrar, Mackenzie Financial Corporation ("**Mackenzie**"), in Toronto.

In our capacity as manager of the Funds, we provide the staff necessary to conduct the Funds' day-to-day operations under the terms of the Master Management Agreement described under "**Master Management Agreement**". The services that we provide to the Funds, as manager, include the following:

- in-house portfolio managers or arranging for external sub-advisors to manage the Funds' portfolios;
- arranging fund administration services to process portfolio trades and to provide daily calculations of the value of the Funds' portfolio securities, the NAV of the Funds, and the NAV per security for each series of the Funds;
- transfer agent/registrar personnel to process purchase, switch and redemption orders;
- promoting the sales of each Fund's securities through independent financial advisors in each province and territory of Canada;
- customer service personnel to respond to dealer and investor enquiries concerning investor accounts; and
- all other support personnel to ensure that the Funds' operations are conducted in an efficient manner.

For more information about the management agreements, including the material terms, see "**Master Management Agreement**".

From time to time, we may engage outside parties as agents to assist us in providing management and administrative services to the Funds. As manager of the Funds, we determine the terms of engagement and compensation payable by the Funds to those agents. If we engage sub-advisors, they will have specialized skills or geographic expertise pertinent to local markets and provide portfolio management services and portfolio security selection for all or part of a Fund’s portfolio. In the case of sub-advisors, we are responsible for payment of their compensation out of our management fees received from the Funds and for monitoring their compliance with the Funds’ investment objectives and strategies, but we do not pre-approve their trades on behalf of the Funds. For more information about these sub-advisors, see “**Portfolio Management Services**”. We have also engaged CIBC Mellon Global Securities Services Company and CIBC Mellon Trust Company (“**CIBC Mellon**”) as Fund Administrator. For more information about CIBC, please see “**Fund Administrator**”.

For information about our voting procedures where a mutual fund owns securities issued by another fund (an “**Underlying Fund**”), see “**Voting Rights and Changes Requiring Investor Approval**” under “**Description of Securities**”.

B2B Trustco is the trustee of the registered plans sponsored by us.

### ***Directors and Executive Officers of Counsel***

The names, municipalities of residence and principal occupations during the preceding five (5) years for each of our directors and executive officers are set out in the tables below. Only the current position of executive officers who have been with us for more than five (5) years is shown.

<b>Name and Municipality of Residence</b>	<b>Position</b>
Blaine Shewchuk Winnipeg, Manitoba	Director and Chair of Counsel; Director, President and Chief Executive Officer of Investment Planning Counsel Inc; Director of IPC Investment Corporation
Naomi Andjelic Bartlett Burlington, Ontario	Director of Counsel and Mackenzie; Senior Vice-President, Chief Compliance Officer of IGM Financial Inc. <sup>1</sup> ; Director of IPC Securities Corporation and IPC Investment Corporation Previously, Vice-President Compliance, Scotiabank (August 2018-August 2021) and prior thereto, Director, Compliance, Global Banking & Markets and Treasury, Scotiabank.
Samuel M.R. Febbraro Ancaster, Ontario	Director, President and Chief Executive Officer and Ultimate Designated Person of Counsel; Executive Vice President, Advisor Services of Investment Planning Counsel Inc.
Karen L. Gavan Toronto, Ontario	Director of Counsel and Mackenzie

Name and Municipality of Residence	Position
Nancy McCuaig Winnipeg, Manitoba	Director of Counsel and Mackenzie; Senior Vice-President, Technology Architecture and Information Security of IGM Financial Inc. <sup>1</sup>  Previously, Senior Vice-President, Chief Technology and Data Office, IGM Financial Inc. (2018-2021) and prior thereto, Senior Vice-President, Head of IT, Investors Group Inc.
Reginald J. Alvares Toronto, Ontario	Executive Vice-President, Advisor & Information Services of Counsel and Investment Planning Counsel Inc.; Director, Chair, President, Chief Executive Officer and Ultimate Designated Person of IPC Investment Corporation and IPC Securities Corporation
Paulette Jervis Oakville, Ontario	Chief Financial Officer and Chief Compliance Officer of Counsel
Corrado S. Tiralongo Richmond Hill, Ontario	Chief Investment Officer of Counsel; Portfolio Manager of IPC Securities Corporation
Paul Punzo Markham, Ontario	Vice-President, Portfolio Strategy of Counsel  Previously, Deputy Chief Investment Officer, Counsel and IPC Securities Corporation 2021-2022; and prior thereto Director of Business Development, Investment Solutions, Scotiabank 2016-2019
Matt Grant Toronto, Ontario	Secretary of Counsel; Vice-President, Legal, Asset Management of IGM Financial Inc. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Our Parent Company

### **Portfolio Management Services**

Although we are the portfolio manager for all of the Funds, the portfolio investments of the Funds are either managed directly by us or by sub-advisors hired by us.

Each of the portfolio managers has primary responsibility for the investment advice given to the accounts that he/she manages or co-manages. On a continuing basis, each portfolio manager evaluates the accounts for which he/she has responsibility, including the percentage that is invested in a type of security generally or in a particular security, diversification of holdings among industries and, in general, the makeup of the account.

The sub-advisors we hire also provide portfolio management services to other mutual funds and private accounts. If the availability of any particular portfolio security is limited and that security is appropriate for the investment objective of more than one mutual fund or private account, the securities will be allocated among them on a *pro rata*

basis or other equitable basis having regard to whether the security is currently held in any of the portfolios, the relevant size and rate of growth of the accounts and any other factors that we or the sub-advisors, as applicable, consider reasonable.

Under securities law, we are required to advise you that there may be difficulty enforcing legal rights against a sub-advisor if the sub-advisor is resident outside Canada and all, or a substantial portion of their respective assets are likely to be located outside of Canada. At present, Irish Life Investment Managers Limited and Franklin Advisers Inc. are located outside of Canada. International sub-advisors are not fully subject to the requirements of Canadian securities legislation, including proficiency, capital insurance, record keeping, segregation of funds and securities, and statements of account and portfolio. As Manager of the Funds, we are responsible for the sub-advisor’s compliance with the overall investment objectives and strategies of the Funds, but we do not provide prior approval or review of specific portfolio security investment decisions taken by any sub-advisor.

Details of the portfolio management agreements entered into between us and the sub-advisor firms are set out later in this annual information form in Section 14, “**Material Contracts**”.

The tables below describe the portfolio manager or sub-advisors and its principal location, as well as the lead portfolio managers for each Counsel Fund, their years of service with that firm and their most recent five (5) years’ business experience.

***Counsel Portfolio Services Inc., Mississauga, Ontario***

We provide portfolio management services to all of the Funds. The following individuals are principally responsible for portfolio investment for the Funds:

Name and Title	Length of Service with Counsel	Principal occupation in the last 5 years
Corrado Tiralongo Chief Investment Officer	Since 2007	Chief Investment Officer, Counsel and Portfolio Manager of IPC Securities Corporation
Paul Punzo Vice-President, Portfolio Strategy	Since 2019	Vice-President, Portfolio Strategy of Counsel Previously, Deputy Chief Investment Officer, Counsel and IPC Securities Corporation 2021-2022; and prior thereto Director of Business Development, Investment Solutions, Scotiabank 2016-2019

In its role as portfolio manager, Counsel is also responsible for managing the index replication strategies used in respect of IPC Multi-Factor Canadian Equity, IPC Multi-Factor U.S. Equity and IPC Multi-Factor International Equity.

**Acadian Asset Management LLC (“Acadian”), Boston, Massachusetts**

Acadian is the sub-advisor for IPC Private Wealth Visio North American Equity High Income. The following individuals, together with a team of portfolio managers, are principally responsible for portfolio investment for the Fund:

<b>Name and Title</b>	<b>Length of Service with Acadian</b>	<b>Principal occupation in the last 5 years</b>
Brendan Bradley Executive Vice President, Chief Investment Officer	Since 2004	Chief Investment Officer at Acadian; prior thereto Co-Chief Investment Officer at Acadian; Director, Portfolio Management at Acadian; Director, Managed Volatility Strategies at Acadian
Charles V. Johnson Vice President, Portfolio Manager	Since 2005	Portfolio Manager at Acadian; Prior thereto, Associate Portfolio Manager at Acadian; Portfolio Construction at Acadian; Investment Operations at Acadian
Scott Brymer Senior Vice President, Portfolio Manager	Since 2006	Portfolio Manager at Acadian; Prior thereto, Strategy Analyst at Acadian; Portfolio Construction Analyst at Acadian

**Franklin Advisers Inc. (“Franklin”), San Mateo, California**

Franklin is the sub-advisor for Counsel Global Fixed Income. The following individuals are principally responsible for portfolio investment for the Fund:

<b>Name and Title</b>	<b>Length of Service with Franklin</b>	<b>Principal occupation in the last 5 years</b>
Michael Hasenstab Executive Vice President, Portfolio Manager, Chief Investment Officer	Since 1995	Executive Vice President, Portfolio Manager and Chief Investment Officer of Templeton Global Macro
Christine Yuhui Zhu Senior Vice President, Portfolio Manager, Director of Portfolio Construction & Trading	Since 2007	Senior Vice-President, Portfolio Manager, and Director of Portfolio Construction & Trading for Templeton Global Macro



***Guardian Capital LP (“Guardian”), Toronto, Ontario***

Guardian is the sub-advisor for IPC Canadian Equity. The following individuals, together with a team of portfolio managers, are principally responsible for portfolio investment for the Fund:

<b>Name and Title</b>	<b>Length of Service with Guardian</b>	<b>Principal occupation in the last 5 years</b>
D. Edward Macklin Managing Director, Head of Canadian Equity	Since 2000	Portfolio Manager, Guardian Capital LP
Samuel Baldwin Senior Portfolio Manager	Since 2007	Portfolio Manager, Guardian Capital LP

***Irish Life Investment Managers Limited (“ILIM”), Dublin, Ireland***

ILIM is the sub-advisor for Counsel Defensive Global Equity and Counsel Global Low Volatility Equity. The following individuals are principally responsible for portfolio investment for these Funds:

<b>Name and Title</b>	<b>Fund</b>	<b>Length of Service with ILIM</b>	<b>Principal occupation in the last 5 years</b>
Niall O’Leary Head of Indexation, Fixed Income & Credit Solutions	Counsel Defensive Global Equity	Since 2019	Global Head of Fixed Income Portfolio Strategy at State Street Global Advisors
Dr. Ronan Bradley Co-Portfolio Manager and Head of Quantitative Research	Counsel Defensive Global Equity Counsel Global Low Volatility Equity	Since 2002	Senior Quantitative Fund Manager
Darragh O’Dowd Head of Portfolio Solutions and Quant Management	Counsel Global Low Volatility Equity	Since 2007	Senior Quantitative Fund Manager

***Mackenzie Financial Corporation, Toronto, Ontario***

Mackenzie is a sub-advisor for Counsel Canadian Core Fixed Income. The following individuals, together with a team of portfolio managers, are principally responsible for portfolio investment for the Fund:

<b>Name and Title</b>	<b>Length of Service with Mackenzie</b>	<b>Principal occupation in the last 5 years</b>
Steven Locke Senior Vice President, Chief Investment Officer, Fixed Income and Multi-Asset Strategies	Since 2008	Portfolio Manager
Felix Wong Vice President, Investment Management	Since 2008	Portfolio Manager
Konstantin Boehmer Senior Vice-President, Investment Management	Since 2013	Portfolio Manager
Caroline Chan Vice-President, Investment Management	Since 2018	Portfolio Manager
Mark Hamlin Vice-President, Investment Management	Since 2018	Portfolio Manager

***Putnam Investments Canada ULC (“Putnam”), Toronto, Ontario***

Putnam is the sub-advisor for Counsel North American High Yield Bond. The following individuals are principally responsible for portfolio investment for the Fund:

<b>Name and Title</b>	<b>Length of Service with Putnam</b>	<b>Principal occupation in the last 5 years</b>
Norman Boucher Portfolio Manager, Corporate and Tax-Exempt Credit Term	Since 1998	Portfolio Manager
Robert L. Salvin Head of Corporate and Tax-Exempt Credit Team, Portfolio Manager	Since 2000	Portfolio Manager

On May 31, 2023, Franklin Resources, Inc. (“Franklin Resources”) and Great-West Lifeco Inc., the parent company of Putnam U.S. Holdings I, LLC (“Putnam Holdings”), announced that they have entered into a definitive agreement for a subsidiary of Franklin Resources to acquire Putnam Holdings in a stock and cash transaction. As part of this transaction, Putnam Investments Canada ULC (“Putnam”), an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Putnam Holdings and sub-adviser to the Counsel North American High Yield

Bond Fund, would become an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Franklin Resources. The transaction is subject to customary closing conditions, including receipt of applicable regulatory approvals. Subject to such approvals and the satisfaction of these conditions, the transaction is currently expected to be consummated in the fourth quarter of 2023.

***Beutel, Goodman & Company Ltd. (“Beutel”), Toronto, Ontario***

Beutel is the sub-advisor for IPC Private Wealth Visio North American Equity. The following individuals are principally responsible for portfolio investment for the Fund:

Name and Title	Length of Service with Beutel	Principal occupation in the last 5 years
Pat Palozzi Vice President, Canadian Equities	19 years	Lead Portfolio Manager
Glenn Fortin Vice President, U.S. & International Equities	27 Years	Lead Portfolio Manager

***Brokerage Arrangements***

Investment portfolio brokerage transactions for the Counsel Funds are arranged by us, or where applicable, by sub-advisors retained by us through a number of brokerage firms. Brokerage fees for the Counsel Funds are usually paid at the most favourable rates available to us and the sub-advisors, based on their respective entire volumes of Fund trading as manager and/or investment advisors of significant mutual fund and other assets and subject to the rules of the appropriate stock exchange. Many of the brokerage firms who carry out brokerage transactions for the Counsel Funds also sell securities of those Counsel Funds to their clients. Investment portfolio brokerage transactions carried out by the Counsel Funds for which we have appointed a sub-advisor will be allocated by those sub-advisors in accordance with their existing brokerage policies.

From time to time, we and certain sub-advisors may also allocate brokerage transactions to compensate brokerage firms for general investment research, including provision of industry and company analysis, economic reports, statistical data pertaining to the capital markets, portfolio reports and portfolio analytics, trading data and other services that assist the portfolio manager in carrying out investment decision-making services to the Counsel Funds for which they provide portfolio management services. The portfolio managers will allocate those transactions with appropriate regard to the principles of a reasonable brokerage fee, benefit to the Counsel Funds and best execution of the brokerage transactions. We attempt to allocate the Counsel Funds’ brokerage business on an equitable basis, bearing in mind the above principles. We and the Counsel Funds are not under a contractual obligation to allocate brokerage transactions to any specific brokerage firm. Other than fund-on-fund investments for certain Counsel Funds,

forward currency contracts and cash management activities, we do not carry out brokerage transactions nor do any companies that are affiliated with us.

Since the date of the last annual information form, certain third party companies, including brokerage firms, provided certain services to us and the sub-advisors on behalf of the Counsel Funds and these services were paid for by the Counsel Funds (also known as “**soft dollars**”), including the provision of industry and company analysis, economic reports, statistical data pertaining to the capital markets, portfolio reports and portfolio analytics. For more information and to obtain the name of these companies, you can contact us at 1-877-625-9885 or by email at [info@counsel-services.com](mailto:info@counsel-services.com). Please note that we and the sub-advisors face a potential conflict of interest by obtaining services using soft dollars. This conflict exists because we and the sub-advisors are able to use these services to manage the Counsel Funds without paying cash for these services. This reduces our and the sub-advisor’s expenses to the extent that we or the sub-advisors would have paid for these services directly had they not been paid for using soft dollars. Certain Counsel Funds may generate soft dollars used to purchase services that ultimately benefit other Counsel Funds, effectively cross-subsidizing the other Counsel Funds that benefit directly from the service. For instance, fixed-income funds normally do not generate soft dollars to pay for products. Therefore, where services used to manage fixed-income Counsel Funds are paid for using soft dollars, the soft dollars have been generated entirely by equity Counsel Funds. In other words, the fixed-income Counsel Funds receive the benefit of these services even though they have been paid for by the equity Counsel Funds.

### ***Trustee***

Pursuant to the Master Declaration of Trust, as amended and restated, we act as trustee of each Fund.

### ***Directors and Officers of the Trustee***

Our directors and officers are set out under “**Directors and Executive Officers of Counsel**”.

### ***Custodian***

Pursuant to a master custodian agreement entered into with Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (“**CIBC**”) Toronto, Ontario, (“**Master Custodian Agreement**”) CIBC acts as custodian for the Counsel Funds. The details of the Master Custodian Agreement are set out in Section 14, “**Material Contracts**”.

The custodian receives and holds all cash, portfolio securities and other assets of each Fund for safekeeping and will act upon our instructions with respect to the investment and reinvestment of each Fund’s assets from time to time. Under the terms of the custodian agreement and subject to the requirements of the Canadian Securities Administrators, the custodian may appoint one or more sub-custodians to facilitate

effecting portfolio transactions outside of Canada. We pay the fees for custodial safekeeping services out of the administration fee we receive from the Fund. The fees for portfolio securities transactions are calculated on an individual Fund basis according to the portfolio security transactions undertaken for the Fund, and are paid by the Funds.

Other than cash or portfolio securities that may be deposited as margin, CIBC will hold all of the Funds' Canadian cash and portfolio securities in Toronto. Foreign securities and related cash accounts will be held either at an office of CIBC or by its sub-custodians.

### ***Securities Lending Agents***

We, on behalf of the Funds, have entered into a securities lending authorization agreement dated May 10, 2010, as amended with CIBC of Toronto, Ontario, the custodian of the Funds and The Bank of New York Mellon ("**BNY Mellon**") of New York, New York (the "**Securities Lending Agreement**"). The securities lending agents are not our affiliate or our associate.

The Securities Lending Agreement appoints and authorizes the CIBC and BNY Mellon to act as agent for securities lending transactions for those Counsel Funds that engage in securities lending and to execute in the applicable Counsel Fund's name, and on its behalf, securities lending agreements with borrowers in accordance with NI 81-102. The Securities Lending Agreement stipulates that the collateral received by a Counsel Fund in a securities lending transaction must generally have a market value of 105%, but never less than 102%, of the value of the securities loaned. Under the Securities Lending Agreement, CIBC and BNY Mellon agree to indemnify us from certain losses incurred in connection with the Securities Lending Agent's failure to perform any obligations under the Securities Lending Agreement. The Securities Lending Agreement may be terminated at any time at the option of either party upon 30 days' prior written notice to the other party.

### ***Auditor***

The auditor of the Funds is KPMG LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants, Toronto, Ontario.

### ***Registrar and Transfer Agent***

Mackenzie acts as the registrar and transfer agent of the Funds at its office in Toronto, Ontario. The register of investors of each of the Funds is maintained at Mackenzie's office in Toronto.

### ***Fund Administrator***

CIBC Mellon Global Securities Services Company and CIBC Mellon Trust Company are collectively the Fund Administrator. The Fund Administrator is responsible

for certain aspects of the day-to-day administration of the Funds, including NAV calculations and fund accounting.

## 9. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

### *Principal Holders of Securities*

**Shares of Counsel:** IGM Financial Inc., Winnipeg, Canada indirectly owns all of the outstanding voting shares of Counsel. As at May 31, 2023, Power Financial Corporation (“**Power**”) beneficially owned, directly and indirectly 238,041,916 common shares of IGM Financial Inc., representing 66.010% of the outstanding voting shares of IGM Financial Inc. (excluding 0.023% held by The Canada Life Assurance Company in its segregated funds or for similar purposes). Power Corporation of Canada directly owned 100% of the outstanding voting shares of Power. The Desmarais Family Residuary Trust, a trust for the benefit of the members of the family of the late Mr. Paul G. Desmarais, has voting control, directly and indirectly, of Power Corporation of Canada.

On April 3, 2023, The Canada Life Assurance Company announced an agreement to acquire Investment Planning Counsel Inc. (the parent company of Counsel). The transaction is expected to be completed within 2023. Counsel will continue to operate as manager of the Counsel Funds and the agreement is not expected to impact the Fund’s operations.

**Directors and Executive Officers of Counsel:** As of May 31, 2023, the directors and executive officers of Counsel beneficially owned, directly or indirectly, in aggregate, less than 1% of the common shares of IGM and less than 1% the common shares of any service provider to Counsel or the Funds.

**Independent Review Committee:** As of May 31, 2023, the members of the IRC beneficially owned, directly or indirectly, in aggregate less than 1% of the common shares of IGM; and less than 1% of the common shares of any service provider to Counsel or the Funds.

**Securities of the Funds:** As of May 31, 2023, the only persons known by Counsel to own, beneficially or of record, directly or indirectly, more than 10% of the outstanding securities of any series of the Funds were the following registered owners:

Fund name	Series	Number of Securities	% of Series	Investor
Counsel Canadian Core Fixed Income	O	16,366,462	47.17%	IPC Monthly Income Portfolio
		5,463,081	15.74%	Counsel Retirement Foundation Portfolio
		4,037,090	11.63%	Counsel Retirement Preservation Portfolio

<b>Fund name</b>	<b>Series</b>	<b>Number of Securities</b>	<b>% of Series</b>	<b>Investor</b>
Counsel Defensive Global Equity	O	6,436,046	52.32%	Counsel Retirement Foundation Portfolio
		4,304,746	35.00%	Counsel Retirement Accumulation Portfolio
		1,559,518	12.68%	Counsel Retirement Preservation Portfolio
	Private Wealth	67	100.00%	Counsel Portfolio Services Inc.
Counsel Global Fixed Income	O	975,706	81.73%	IPC Monthly Income Portfolio
		218,129	18.27%	IPC Conservative Income Portfolio
Counsel Global Low Volatility Equity	O	3,376,055	52.60%	Counsel Retirement Foundation Portfolio
		1,841,089	28.69%	Counsel Retirement Accumulation Portfolio
		1,200,675	18.71%	Counsel Retirement Preservation Portfolio
	Private Wealth	69	100.00%	Counsel Portfolio Services Inc.
Counsel North American High Yield Bond	O	3,521,730	35.85%	IPC Monthly Income Portfolio
		2,684,938	27.33%	Counsel High Yield Fixed Income
		1,694,661	17.25%	Counsel Retirement Foundation Portfolio
		1,008,208	10.26%	Counsel Retirement Accumulation Portfolio
	Private Wealth	69	100.00%	Counsel Portfolio Services Inc.
IPC Canadian Equity	O	3,347,016	94.29%	IPC Monthly Income Portfolio
IPC Multi-Factor Canadian Equity	O	4,302,170	42.36%	IPC Monthly Income Portfolio
		3,564,452	35.10%	Counsel Balanced Portfolio
		1,523,419	15.00%	Counsel Growth Portfolio
IPC Multi-Factor International Equity	O	8,532,669	61.58%	Counsel Balanced Portfolio
		3,569,753	25.76%	Counsel Growth Portfolio
IPC Multi-Factor U.S. Equity	O	13,448,786	61.37%	Counsel Balanced Portfolio
		5,690,806	25.97%	Counsel Growth Portfolio
	Private Wealth	113,415	18.70%	The 625 Powell Street Foundation
IPC Private Wealth Visio Core Fixed Income	O	2,961,916	44.83%	IPC Private Wealth Visio Balanced Pool
		1,281,414	19.39%	IPC Private Wealth Visio Balanced Income Pool
		1,061,719	16.07%	IPC Private Wealth Visio Balanced Growth Pool
		745,699	11.29%	IPC Private Wealth Visio Income Pool

Fund name	Series	Number of Securities	% of Series	Investor
IPC Private Wealth Visio North American Equity	O	3,095,697	61.88%	IPC Private Wealth Visio Balanced Pool
		1,538,280	30.75%	IPC Private Wealth Visio Growth Pool
IPC Private Wealth Visio North American Equity High Income	O	1,411,918	100.00%	IPC Private Wealth Visio Balanced Income Pool

### ***Investments by Mutual Funds Managed by Counsel and its Affiliates***

Mutual funds managed by us and our affiliates may invest in Series O securities. As these series are intended solely for investment by these funds, as a means to ensure that there is no duplication of fees payable to us, they do not pay sales charges, redemption fees, management fees, or administration fees. Up to 100% of the Series O securities of a Fund may be owned by one or more of these investors. Therefore, these investors may own (individually or collectively) more than 10% of all the outstanding securities of a Fund.

### ***Affiliated Entities***

As of the date of this annual information form, each of the following companies is an “affiliated entity” to us (as this term is defined in the form requirement under NI 81-101) and provides services to the Funds or to us in relation to the Funds’ operations:

- IPC Investment Corporation (“**IPC Investments**”), a mutual fund dealer, and IPC Securities Corporation (“**IPC Securities**”), a securities dealer, are wholly-owned subsidiaries of Investment Planning Counsel Inc. (“**IPCI**”) and act as participating dealers with respect to the distribution of securities of the Funds. In addition, IPC Investments provides brokerage services to certain Counsel Funds when it invests in securities of underlying mutual funds that are not managed by us. The Funds pay no brokerage commissions on these investment transactions.
- Other indirect, wholly owned or majority-owned subsidiaries of IGM, who are therefore affiliated with us and who may act as participating dealers with respect to the distribution of securities of the Funds, include Investors Group Securities Inc. (an investment dealer) and Investors Group Financial Services Inc. (“**IGFS**”) (a mutual fund dealer). Great-West Lifeco Inc. (“**GWL**”) is also a majority-owned subsidiary of Power. GWL’s activities are principally carried out through its subsidiary, The Canada Life Assurance Company. Other indirectly, wholly owned subsidiaries of GWL who are therefore affiliated with us and who, as participating dealers, may hold, sell, and/or recommend securities of the Funds include Quadrus Investment Services Ltd. (a mutual fund dealer). We do not have any special agreements or arrangements with respect to these participating dealers listed in this paragraph. All of these dealers will receive applicable commissions and charge fees to investors who purchase securities of the Funds through them in the same manner as any unrelated dealer.



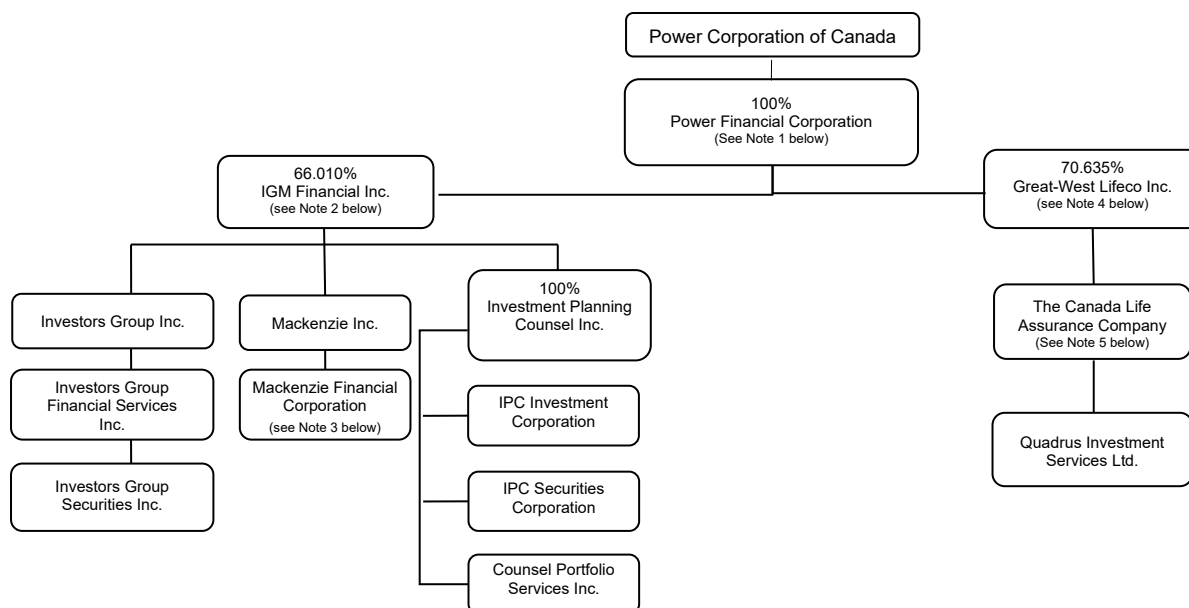
- Mackenzie provides portfolio sub-advisory, registrar and transfer agency services for Counsel Canadian Core Fixed Income. The fees for these services are paid by us and not the Funds.
- Certain of the Funds may invest in Mackenzie-managed mutual funds as Underlying Funds from time to time.
- We offer our employees the opportunity to purchase securities of the Counsel Funds through accounts held at IPC Investments. IPC Investments receives any applicable trailing commissions in the same manner as any unrelated dealer.

Details of the amount of fees, if any, payable by the Funds to any of those service providers are contained in the audited financial statements of the Funds.

The following Directors and/or Executive Officers of Counsel are also directors and/or Executive Officers of IPC Investments and IPC Securities:

- Blaine Shewchuk, Director of Counsel, and Director, President and Chief Executive Officer of Investment Planning Counsel Inc.; and Director of IPC Investments; and
- Reginald J. Alvares, Executive Vice-President, Advisor & Information Services of Counsel and Investment Planning Counsel Inc., and Chair of the Board, President, Chief Executive Officer and Ultimate Designated Person of IPC Investments and IPC Securities.

The following diagram describes the relevant corporate relationships within the Power Group of Companies as at May 31, 2023, where ownership is 100%, unless otherwise indicated.



**Note 1:**

Power Corporation of Canada directly controls 100% of Power Financial Corporation.

**Note 2:**

Power Financial Corporation directly and indirectly owns 66.010% (excluding 0.023% held by The Canada Life Assurance Company in its segregated funds or for similar purposes).

**Note 3:**

Non-voting common and non-voting participating shares have also been issued.

**Note 4:**

Power Corporation of Canada directly and indirectly controls 70.635% (including 2.378% held indirectly by IGM Financial Inc.) of the outstanding common shares of Great-West Lifeco Inc., representing approximately 65% of all voting rights attached to all outstanding voting shares of Great-West Lifeco Inc.

**Note 5:**

On April 3, 2023, The Canada Life Assurance Company announced an agreement to acquire Investment Planning Counsel Inc. (the parent company of Counsel). The transaction is expected to be completed within 2023. Counsel will continue to operate as manager of the Counsel Funds and the agreement is not expected to impact the Fund's operations.

## 10. FUND GOVERNANCE

### ***Our Duty to the Counsel Funds***

#### ***Counsel***

As the manager of the Counsel Funds, we are under a statutory duty imposed by the *Securities Act* (Ontario) to act honestly, in good faith and in the best interests of all our managed Counsel Funds, and to exercise the degree of care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in the same circumstances.

Our Board of Directors is responsible for overseeing our compliance with that statutory duty owed to the Counsel Funds.

The Board of Directors operates in accordance with the provisions of a Unanimous Shareholders Agreement (the “**USA**”) entered into by our shareholders. Pursuant to the USA, the Board generally supervises our functions as the manager of the Funds. IPCI, the sole voting shareholder, has oversight responsibilities for all other matters related to us, including corporate governance, operating results, financial and strategic planning, product strategy, compensation and personnel decisions and overall corporate level risk management.

In addition, we have appointed an IRC, which reviews potential conflicts of interest matters referred to it by our management.

#### ***Board of Directors of Counsel***

Our Board is currently comprised of five directors, one of whom is independent of us and our subsidiaries and affiliates and five of whom are members of management. The Board’s mandate is for the most part limited to fund governance matters through the operation of the USA and oversees us in fulfilling our obligations in our role as the manager and trustee of the Counsel Funds.

The Board performs its role through the following activities:

- approving the offering documents of new funds;
- supervises our activities in respect of our obligations in managing the Counsel Funds, which are based on laws and regulations, the constating documents of the Counsel Funds and the continuous disclosure documents of the Counsel Funds (such as simplified prospectuses, annual information forms, Fund Facts documents, management reports of fund performance, etc.). The Board has also created sub-committees to review simplified prospectuses, information circulars and other continuous disclosure documents prepared for investors and potential investors;

- meets at least quarterly and reviews policies adopted by us and reports relating to our compliance with those policies, including policies relating to conflicts of interest as required by NI 81-107. The principal policies include valuation of portfolio securities for the Counsel Funds, the use of derivative instruments by the Counsel Funds, the use of securities lending by the Counsel Funds, short selling, proxy-voting policies for the Counsel Funds, the allocation of trades on behalf of the Counsel Funds and the restrictions imposed on personal trading by officers and others with access to the Counsel Funds' trading activities (which are contained in the Business Conduct Policy). The restrictions on personal trading comply with the standards for the mutual fund industry set by the Investment Funds Institute of Canada. Compliance monitoring with respect to these and other policies is carried out on an ongoing basis by the staff of our Legal and Compliance Departments, who report to the Board on a regular basis;
- receives reports regarding the compliance of the Counsel Funds with their investment objectives and strategies, and securities legislation generally;
- reviews performance of the Counsel Funds. In this capacity, it receives regular reports from management with respect to the performance of the Counsel Funds and reviews with management the performance of specific portfolio managers and sub-advisors. However, the ultimate decisions regarding appointing or replacing specific portfolio managers or sub-advisors are the responsibility of management and overseen by IPCI;
- reviews proposals regarding material changes to the Counsel Funds and any continuous disclosure in respect of those changes;
- receives regular reports on, and reviews with management the operations of, the Counsel Funds. This includes oversight of fund valuation processes, the transfer agency function, and the information systems used to support these operations. The Board also reviews material services provided by third party suppliers;
- reviews all financial reporting by the Counsel Funds, including the interim and annual financial statements and management reports of fund performance;
- meets with the Counsel Funds' auditors regularly to discuss the financial reporting of the Counsel Funds and specific accounting issues that may arise and the effect of specific events on the Counsel Funds' financial position. The Board also reviews with management and with the Counsel Funds' auditor the adoption of specific accounting policies;
- receives reports from management with respect to our compliance with laws and regulations that affect us as a manager of mutual funds and that could have a material impact on fund financial reporting, including tax and financial reporting laws and obligations. The Board also reviews the income tax status of the Counsel Funds and Counsel;
- reviews policies relating to financial risks established by management of Counsel, as well as compliance with those policies, and reviews and assesses the insurance coverage maintained by us as it relates to our role of managing the Counsel Funds;

- reviews internal financial controls with management on a regular basis. The Board meets with our Internal Audit Department, outside the presence of management, to review and gain assurance that reasonable financial controls are in place and are effective;
- reviews the annual plan of our Internal Audit Department with respect to the Counsel Funds and their reports;
- oversees all aspects of the relationship between us and the auditor of the Counsel Funds. The Board reviews and approves the terms of auditor engagements, the audit and non-audit services provided by the auditor, sets its remuneration and reviews its performance annually or more frequently. The Board regularly meets with the auditor outside the presence of management of Counsel; and
- reviews its mandate on a regular basis.

The independent members of the Board are compensated for their participation on the Board through the payment of an annual retainer. Board members who are part of management receive no additional compensation for their participation on the Board. The Board may, from time to time, engage legal consultants to assist it in fulfilling its duties. We generally pay for these expenses.

Our Board is not responsible for overseeing the activities of our wholly owned subsidiaries. Our subsidiaries are overseen by their own Boards of Directors under applicable corporate statutes within their local jurisdiction.

### ***Counsel Funds' Independent Review Committee***

Under NI 81-107, mutual funds are required to form an independent review committee to review, among other things, conflict-of-interest matters to provide impartial judgment on these matters to us, in our role as manager of the Counsel Funds. We have created the IRC, which consists of four members: Robert Hines (Chair), George Hucal, Scott Edmonds and Atul Tiwari.

The IRC reviews potential conflicts of interest referred to it by us, as manager of the Counsel Funds, and makes recommendations on whether a course of action achieves a fair and reasonable result for the applicable Counsel Funds, and only upon making that determination does it recommend to us that the transaction proceed. This includes potential transactions, as well as regular review of our policies and procedures relating to conflicts of interest.

NI 81-107 specifically permits us to submit proposals to the IRC to cause a Counsel Fund to directly purchase or sell securities to another Counsel Fund without using a broker, although, to date, we have not taken advantage of this provision. Also, as stated under “**Investment Restrictions and Practices**”, the IRC has approved standing instructions to permit the Counsel Funds to invest in securities of companies related to us.

NI 81-107 also permits the IRC, upon referral by us, to consider proposals to change the auditor of a Counsel Fund or to approve mergers between Counsel Funds. In most cases, if the IRC approves these changes, a vote of investors would not be required; rather, you would be given 60 days' prior notice of the changes.

### ***Supervision of Securities Lending, Repurchase and Reverse Repurchase Transactions***

The Funds are permitted to engage in securities lending, repurchase and reverse repurchase transactions consistent with their respective investment objective and in compliance with the applicable provisions of NI 81-102. We have appointed the Funds' Custodian as the Funds' agent and have entered into a written agreement with that agent to administer any securities lending and repurchase transactions for a Fund a Securities Lending Agreement. Those Funds may also enter into reverse repurchase transactions directly or through an agent.

The Securities Lending Agreement complies with, and the agent is bound to comply with, the applicable provisions of NI 81-102.

The Funds are subject to the following general risks associated with securities lending repurchase and reverse repurchase transactions:

- when entering into securities lending, repurchase and reverse repurchase transactions, the Funds are subject to the credit risk that the counterparty may default under the agreement and the Funds would be forced to make a claim in order to recover its investment.
- when recovering its investment on a default, the Funds could incur a loss if the value of the portfolio securities loaned (in a securities lending transaction) or sold (in a repurchase transaction) has increased in value relative to the value of the collateral held by the Funds.
- similarly, the Funds could incur a loss if the value of the portfolio securities it has purchased (in a reverse repurchase transaction) decreases below the amount of cash paid by the Funds to the other party.

We will manage the risks associated with securities lending, repurchase and reverse repurchase transactions by requiring the agent to

- maintain internal controls, procedures and records, including a list of approved counterparties based on generally accepted creditworthiness standards, transaction and credit limits for each counterparty and collateral diversification standards;
- establish daily the market value of both the securities loaned by a Fund under a securities lending transaction or sold by a Fund under a repurchase transaction

and the cash or collateral held by a Fund. If, on any day, the market value of the cash or collateral is less than 102% of the market value of the borrowed or sold securities, the agent will request that the counterparty provide additional cash or collateral to the Fund to make up the shortfall; and

- ensure that a Fund does not loan or sell more than 50% of the total assets of that Fund through securities lending or repurchase transactions (without including the collateral for loaned securities and cash for sold securities).

Securities lending and reverse repurchase transactions are entered into by the agent on behalf of the Funds, and we monitor the risks of these transactions. To facilitate monitoring, the agent provides us with regular and comprehensive reports summarizing the transactions involving securities lending, repurchase and reverse repurchases. At present, we do not simulate stress conditions to measure risk in connection with securities lending, repurchase or reverse repurchase transactions. Risk measurement procedures or simulations are conducted by the agent in respect of loans outstanding and the collateral lodged by each borrower and across all borrowers in the agents' overall securities lending and repurchase portfolios. These procedures and simulations include the Funds' securities, but are not specific to the Funds.

### ***Supervision of Derivatives Trading***

The Funds may use derivatives for hedging purposes such as protecting the Fund's investment portfolio against market volatility or changes in interest rates. In addition, many of the Funds may also use derivatives for non-hedging purposes in order to invest indirectly in securities or financial markets or to gain exposure to other currencies.

We have adopted various policies and internal procedures to supervise the use of derivatives within our Fund portfolios. All policies and procedures comply with the derivative rules set out in NI 81-102 or as modified by any exemptions to NI 81-102 granted by the Canadian Securities Administrators. These policies are reviewed at least annually by senior management.

We have established an approval process for the use of derivatives before derivatives can be used in the Funds to ensure compliance with NI 81-102 or any granted exemptions to NI 81-102 and to ensure that the derivative is suitable for that particular Fund within the context of that Fund's objectives and investment strategies.

The Fund Administrator provides fund administration services to the Counsel Funds, including valuation, recording, monitoring and reporting on the derivative transactions that are entered into the Counsel Funds' portfolio records.

Our Portfolio Management Department also executes derivatives transactions. Each transaction is entered and valuations are recorded at the time of initial entry by a qualified staff member who has met threshold education and experience requirements.

Valuations of derivative securities are carried out according to the procedures described under “**Valuation of Portfolio Securities**”.

Periodic reporting identifying Counsel Fund derivative activity on a fund-by-fund basis, counterparty risk analysis, concentration levels and compliance with regulatory requirements is conducted by management. Any exceptions are identified and applicable corrective action is undertaken.

Under NI 81-102, mutual funds may engage in derivative transactions for both hedging and non-hedging purposes. Where we engage an external advisory firm to provide portfolio sub-advisory services to the Counsel Funds and that firm trades in derivative securities (or other instruments) for the Counsel Funds, under NI 81-102, we will be responsible for ensuring that all trading for the Counsel Funds by the sub-advisors is suitable to the Counsel Funds’ objectives and strategies. When derivatives are acquired for hedging purposes, our internal policies require that the derivatives have at least a high degree of negative correlation to the position being hedged, as required by NI 81-102. Derivatives will not be used to create leverage within the Counsel Fund’s portfolio unless permitted under NI 81-102. We do not simulate stress conditions to measure risk in connection with the Counsel Funds’ use of derivatives.

The Chief Investment Officer (“**CIO**”) is responsible for overseeing compliance with the derivatives policies and procedures by the Portfolio Management Department and/or the sub-advisors. Any non-compliance is escalated immediately to the portfolio manager and CIO. The compliance department reports any identified exceptions to the derivatives policies and procedures described above. This reporting is provided to our Fund Oversight Committee of the Board of Directors on a quarterly basis.

### ***Proxy-Voting Policies and Procedures***

The following is a description of our proxy-voting policies and procedures for voting the securities of companies. Each Fund is required under securities laws to establish policies and procedures that it will follow to determine whether, and how, to vote on any matter for which it receives, in its capacity as securityholder, proxy materials for a meeting of securityholders.

#### ***Voting Practices***

Our objective is to vote the portfolio securities of companies in a manner most consistent with the long-term economic interest of Fund investors. We and the sub-advisors take reasonable steps to vote all proxies received. However, we and the sub-advisors cannot guarantee that we, or they, will vote in all circumstances. We and the sub-advisors may refrain from voting where administrative or other procedures result in the costs of voting outweighing the benefits. We and the sub-advisors may also refrain from voting if, in our or their opinion, abstaining or otherwise withholding our or their vote is in the best interests of Fund investors. We and the sub-advisors are not restricted from trading in a security due to an upcoming securityholder meeting.



We may engage a third party to consult and provide recommendations, or to vote proxies on behalf of the Funds in a manner that is consistent with our policy. Counsel may also delegate to the sub-advisors, the authority to make all voting decisions concerning the securities held in the Counsel Funds they sub-advise on a discretionary basis in accordance with the applicable sub-advisory agreement.

### ***Fund-of-Fund Voting***

Under NI 81-102, a mutual fund may directly (or indirectly, by using derivative instruments) invest some or all of its assets in an Underlying Fund. We may vote the securities of any Underlying Fund owned by a Fund when the Underlying Fund is not managed by us. If an Underlying Fund is managed by us or one of our associates or affiliates, we will not vote the securities of the Underlying Fund but will decide if it is in your best interests for you to vote individually on the matter. Generally, for routine matters, we will decide that it is not in your best interests to vote individually. However, if we decide that it is in your best interests, then we will ask you for instructions on how to vote your proportionate interest of the Underlying Fund securities owned by the Fund, and we will vote accordingly. We will only vote the proportion of the Underlying Fund securities for which we have received instructions.

### ***Summary of Proxy-Voting Policies***

Below is a statement of principles that generally describe how we may vote on some commonly raised issues. We may elect to vote contrary to these guidelines provided the vote is in the best economic interest of the Counsel Fund.

- We generally vote in favour of proposals that (i) support a majority of Board members being independent of management; (ii) the appointment of outside directors to an issuer Board or Audit Committee; as well as (iii) requirements that the Chair of the Board be separate from the office of the Chief Executive Officer.
- Proxies related to executive compensation are voted on a case-by-case basis. Generally, we will vote in favour of stock options and other forms of compensation that (i) do not result in a potential dilution of more than 10% of the issued and outstanding shares; (ii) are granted under clearly defined and reasonable terms; (iii) are commensurate with the duties of plan participants; and (iv) are tied to the achievement of corporate objectives.
- We will generally not support (i) options with a strike price of less than 100% of the fair market value of the underlying common shares at the time it is granted; (ii) the repricing of options; (iii) plans that give the Board broad discretion in setting the terms of the granting of options; or (iv) plans that authorize allocation of 20% or more of the available options to any individual in any single year.
- We will generally vote in favour of shareholder rights plans designed to provide sufficient time to undertake a fair and complete shareholder value maximization process and that do not merely seek to entrench management or deter a public

bidding process. In addition, we will generally support plans that promote the interests and equal treatment of all investors, and that allow for periodic shareholder ratification.

- We will evaluate and vote on securityholder proposals on a case-by-case basis. All proposals on financial matters will be given consideration. Generally, proposals that place arbitrary or artificial constraints on the company will not be supported.
- Proposals relating to social, governance and environmental issues will be considered on a case-by-case basis. We will generally not support proposals that are unduly burdensome or result in unnecessary and excessive costs to the company. We will also generally vote for proposals that encourage responsible policies and practices, such as disclosure of risks arising from, and assessments of the impact of, social, governance, and environmental issues.

### ***Conflicts of Interest***

Circumstances may occur where a Counsel Fund has a potential conflict of interest relative to its proxy-voting activities. Where a portfolio manager has a conflict or potential conflict, he or she will notify the CIO or Chief Compliance Officer (“**CCO**”). Should the CIO or CCO conclude that a conflict exists, the CCO will document the conflict and inform our Proxy Administrator (“**Administrator**”).

The Administrator will maintain a Proxy Voting Watch List (“**Watch List**”) that records the names of issuers that may be in conflict and will notify the CIO or CCO of any meeting circulars and proxies received from an issuer on the Watch List. The CIO or CCO will discuss the voting matter(s) with the portfolio manager and ensure that the proxy voting decision is based on our proxy-voting policy and is in the best interests of the Counsel Fund.

All voting decisions made under the procedure described in this section are documented and filed by the Administrator.

### ***Information Requests***

The policies and procedures that the Counsel Funds follow when voting proxies relating to portfolio securities are available upon request at any time, at no cost, by calling toll-free 1-877-625-9885 or by writing to Counsel Portfolio Services Inc., 5015 Spectrum Way, Suite 300, Mississauga, Ontario L4W 0E4 or through [www.counselervices.com](http://www.counselervices.com).

Each Counsel Fund’s proxy-voting record for the most recent 12-month period ending June 30 is available, free of charge, to any investor of that Fund upon request at any time after August 31 of the same year, by calling 1-877-625-9885 and is also available on our website at [www.counselervices.com](http://www.counselervices.com).

## **Short-Term Trading**

We have adopted policies and procedures to detect and deter inappropriate short-term trading and excessive short-term trading.

We define an **inappropriate short-term trade** as a combination of a purchase and redemption (including switches between Counsel Funds) made within 30 days that we believe is detrimental to Counsel Fund investors and that may take advantage of certain Counsel Funds with portfolio securities priced in other time zones or illiquid investments that trade infrequently.

We define **excessive short-term trading** as a combination of purchases and redemptions (including switches between Counsel Funds) that occurs with such frequency within a 30-day period that we believe the trading is detrimental to Counsel Fund investors.

Inappropriate short-term trading may harm Counsel Fund investors who do not engage in these activities by diluting the NAV of their Fund securities as a result of the market timing activities of other investors. Inappropriate and excessive short-term trading may cause a Counsel Fund to carry an abnormally high cash balance and/or high portfolio turnover rate, both of which may reduce a Counsel Fund's returns.

All trades that we determine to be inappropriate short-term trades may be subject to a 2% fee. All trades that we determine to be part of a pattern of excessive short-term trading may be subject to a 1% fee. The fees charged will be paid to the applicable Counsel Fund(s).

We may take such additional action as we consider appropriate to prevent further similar activity by you. These actions may include the delivery of a warning to you, placing you/your account on a watch list to monitor your trading activity and the subsequent rejection of further purchases by you if you continue to attempt such trading activity and/or closure of your account.

In determining whether a short-term trade is inappropriate or excessive, we will consider relevant criteria including the following:

- *bona fide* changes in investor circumstances or intentions;
- unanticipated financial emergencies;
- the nature of the Counsel Fund;
- past trading patterns;
- unusual market circumstances; and
- an assessment of harm to the Counsel Fund or to us.

The following types of redemptions (including switches) will be exempt from short-term trading fees:

- from an Underlying Fund by a Top Fund in a Fund-of-Funds program;
- rebalancing of your holdings within Series Private Wealth under the IPC Private Wealth Program;
- for systematic withdrawal plans; and
- redemptions of securities received on the reinvestment of income or other distributions;

We, the Counsel Funds and any other parties to the circumstances above do not receive any compensation or other consideration for the above arrangements. Other than as listed above, we have not entered into any arrangements with any other entity (including other funds) which would permit for short-term trading by that entity.

In making these judgments, we seek to act in a manner that we believe is consistent with your best interests. Your interests and the Counsel Fund's ability to manage its investments may be adversely affected by inappropriate or excessive short-term trading because, among other things, these types of trading activities can dilute the value of Counsel Fund securities, can interfere with the efficient management of the Counsel Funds' portfolios and can result in increased brokerage and administrative costs.

While we will actively take steps to monitor, detect and deter inappropriate and excessive short-term trading, we cannot ensure that such trading activity will be completely eliminated.

For example, certain financial institutions may offer alternative investment products to the public that are comprised, in whole or in part, of securities of Counsel Funds. These institutions may open accounts with us on behalf of multiple investors whose identity and trading activity is not normally recorded on our transfer agent system.

**We reserve the right to restrict, reject or cancel, without any prior notice, any purchase or switch order, including transactions that we deem to represent inappropriate or excessive short-term trading.**

## **Short Selling Policies and Procedures**

The Funds may engage in short selling, where such short selling will be done in accordance with securities regulations. We have adopted written policies and procedures that set out the objectives and goals for short selling and the risk management procedures applicable to short selling. These policies and procedures (which include trading limits and controls) are developed by our compliance department and the CIO, and are reviewed annually. The Board of Directors also reviews and approves the policies each year. The CIO is responsible for approving whether a Fund may use short selling and for overseeing the Fund's short selling activities. Short selling activities are monitored by our compliance department. Risk measurement procedures or simulations generally are not used to test the portfolio of the Fund under stress conditions.

## **11. FEES AND EXPENSES**

There are fees and expenses that you may have to pay on your investment in a Fund. You may have to pay some of these fees and expenses directly. Alternatively, a Fund may have to pay some of these fees and expenses directly which will therefore reduce the value of your investment in the Fund.

Included in the fees and expenses associated with investing in the Funds are management fees and "fund costs" (see below). The management fees are paid by the Funds to us as manager of the Funds and are subject to applicable taxes, including G.S.T./H.S.T.

Management fees are used to pay for (i) costs of managing the investment portfolio; (ii) providing investment analysis and recommendations; (iii) making investment decisions; (iv) the purchase and sale of the investment portfolio; and (v) providing other services. We also use management fees to fund commission payments and other compensation paid to the dealers and brokers for securities of the Fund bought and held by investors.

There is no management or administration fee for Series O securities. There is also no management fee for Series Private Wealth. Instead, with respect to Series Private Wealth, an investor enters into an agreement to participate in the discretionary account programs managed by IPC Securities and agrees to pay certain asset-based fees to IPC Securities, which may require the redemption of Series Private Wealth securities held by the investor. Administration Fees of 0.15% of net asset value and fund costs related to Series Private Wealth securities will be charged to that series.

We pay all operating expenses other than "**Fund Costs**" (see below), in respect of each series of a Fund in exchange for a fixed-rate annual administration fee (the "**Administration Fee**"). Administration fees are paid by each series of a Fund and are subject to applicable taxes, such as G.S.T./H.S.T. We provide the majority of services for the Funds to operate although we retain third parties to provide certain services.

In exchange for the Administration Fee, the expenses borne by us on behalf of the Funds include (i) recordkeeping, accounting and fund valuation costs; (ii) custody safekeeping fees (except as noted below); (iii) audit and legal fees, and (iv) the costs of preparing and distributing Fund financial reports, simplified prospectuses, and other investor communications we are required to prepare to comply with applicable laws (other than the costs of complying with any new regulatory requirements, as described in “**Fund Costs**” below).

Each series of each Fund pays “**Fund Costs**”, which include interest and borrowing costs, brokerage commissions and related transaction fees, taxes (including, but not limited to, G.S.T., H.S.T., income tax and withholding tax), all fees and expenses of the Counsel Funds’ IRC, fees paid to external service providers associated with tax reclaims, refunds or the preparation of foreign tax reports on behalf of the Funds, and any new fees related to external services that were not commonly charged in the Canadian mutual fund industry and introduced after June 29, 2023. Costs of complying with new regulatory requirements will be assessed based on the extent and nature of these requirements. Fund Costs will be allocated to each series of each Fund based on their net assets relative to the net assets of all series of the Funds. We may allocate other Fund Costs among each series of a Fund based on such other method of allocation as we consider fair and reasonable to the Fund.

A proposal to change the basis of calculating the management fees or other fees and expenses, which could result in an increase in the charges payable by a Fund, would require that the change first be approved by a majority of the votes cast at a meeting of investors of that Fund unless (i) the party receiving the fees and expenses operates at arm’s length to that Fund and us and any of our associates or affiliates, and (ii) investors are given at least 60 days’ notice before the effective date of the proposed change or unless (i) the mutual fund is permitted to be described as “no-load”, and (ii) the investors are given at least 60 days’ written notice of the effective date of the proposed change. Similarly, the introduction of certain new fees by us for a Fund that may be payable by investors of that Fund would also require the approval of a majority of the votes cast at a meeting of investors of that Fund.

## **12. INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS**

This is a summary of principal Canadian federal income tax considerations under the Tax Act and the regulations under the Tax Act (the “**Regulations**”) applicable to the Funds and to you as an investor in the Funds. This summary assumes that you are an individual (other than a trust) who, at all relevant times, for purposes of the Tax Act, is resident in Canada, that you hold your securities directly, as capital property or within a registered plan, and are not affiliated with and deal at arm’s length with the Fund.

**This summary is not intended to be legal advice or tax advice. We have tried to make this discussion easy to understand. As a result, it may not be technically precise or cover all the tax consequences that may be relevant to you. Accordingly,**

**you should consult your own tax advisor, having regard to your own particular circumstances when you consider purchasing, switching or redeeming securities of a Fund.**

This summary is based on the current provisions of the Tax Act, the Regulations, all proposals for specific amendments to the Tax Act or the Regulations that have been publicly announced by the Minister of Finance (Canada) before the date hereof (“**Tax Proposals**”) and our understanding of the current published administrative practices and assessing policies of the Canada Revenue Agency (the “**CRA**”). Except for the foregoing, this summary does not take into account or anticipate any change in law, whether by legislative, regulatory, administrative or judicial action. Furthermore, this summary does not take into account provincial, territorial or foreign income tax legislation or considerations.

This summary is also based on the assumptions that (i) none of the issuers of securities held by a Fund will be a foreign affiliate of the Fund or any securityholder, (ii) none of the securities held by a Fund will be a “tax shelter investment” within the meaning of section 143.2 of the Tax Act; (iii) none of the securities held by a Fund will be an interest in a trust (or a partnership which holds such an interest) which would require the Fund (or the partnership) to report significant amounts of income in connection with such interest pursuant to the rules in section 94.1 or 94.2 of the Tax Act, or an interest in a non-resident trust other than an “exempt foreign trust” as defined in the Tax Act; and (iv) no Fund will enter into any arrangement where the result is a dividend rental arrangement for the purposes of the Tax Act.

### ***How the Funds are Taxed***

The following paragraphs describe some of the ways in which mutual funds can earn income:

- Mutual funds can earn income in the form of interest, dividends or income from the investments they make, including in other mutual funds, and can be deemed to earn income from investments in certain foreign entities. All income must be computed in Canadian dollars, even if earned in a foreign currency.
- Mutual funds can realize a capital gain by selling an investment for more than its adjusted cost base (“**ACB**”). They can also realize a capital loss by selling an investment for less than its ACB. A mutual fund that invests in foreign-denominated securities must calculate its ACB and proceeds of disposition in Canadian dollars based on the conversion rate on the date the securities were purchased and sold, as applicable. As a result, a mutual fund may realize capital gains and losses due to changes in the value of the foreign currency relative to the Canadian dollar.
- Mutual funds can realize gains and losses from using derivatives or engaging in short selling. Generally, gains and losses from derivatives are added to or subtracted from the mutual fund’s income. However, if derivatives are used by a mutual fund as a hedge to limit its gain or loss on a specific capital asset or group

of capital assets and there is sufficient linkage, then the gains and losses from these derivatives are generally capital gains or capital losses. Generally, gains and losses from short selling Canadian securities are treated as capital gains or capital losses, and gains and losses from short selling foreign securities are treated as income. The derivative forward agreement rules in the Tax Act (the “**DFA Rules**”) target certain financial arrangements (described in the DFA Rules as “derivative forward agreements”) that seek to reduce tax by converting, through the use of derivative contracts, the return on investment that would have the character of ordinary income to capital gains. The DFA Rules will generally not apply to derivatives used to closely hedge gains or losses due to currency fluctuations on underlying capital investments of a Fund. Hedging, other than currency hedging on underlying capital investments, which reduces tax by converting the return on investments that would have the character of ordinary income to capital gains through the use of derivative contracts, will be treated by the DFA Rules as on income account.

- Premiums received for covered call options and cash covered put options written by a Fund that are not exercised prior to the end of the year will constitute capital gains of the Fund in the year received unless such premiums are received by the Fund as income from a business of buying and selling securities or the Fund has engaged in a transaction or transactions considered to be an adventure in the nature of trade. Each such Fund purchases securities for its portfolio with the objective of earning dividends thereon over the life of the Fund, writes covered call options with the objective of increasing the yield on the portfolio beyond dividends received, and writes cash covered put options to increase returns and to reduce the net cost of purchasing securities upon the exercise of put options. Thus, having regard to the foregoing and in accordance with the CRA’s published administrative policies, transactions undertaken by the Funds in respect of shares and options on such shares are treated and reported by the Funds as arising on capital account.
- Premiums received by a Fund on covered call (or cash-covered put) options that are subsequently exercised will be added in computing the proceeds of disposition (or deducted in computing the ACB) to the Fund of the securities disposed of (or acquired) by the Fund upon the exercise of such call (or put) options. In addition, where the premium was in respect of an option granted in a previous year so that it constituted a capital gain of the Fund in the previous year, such capital gain may be reversed.
- Gains and losses from trading in precious metals and bullion will be treated on income account, rather than as capital gains and losses.

In certain circumstances, a Fund may be subject to loss restriction rules that deny or defer the deduction of certain losses. For example, a capital loss realized by a Fund will be suspended if, during the period that begins 30 days before and ends 30 days after the date on which the capital loss was realized, the Fund or an affiliated person (as defined in the Tax Act) acquires property that is, or is identical, to the property on which the loss was realized and continues to own that property at the end of the period.



If a Fund invests in another fund that is a Canadian resident trust (an “**Underlying Canadian Fund**”), other than a specified investment flow-through trust, the Underlying Canadian Fund may designate to the Fund a portion of the distributed amounts as may reasonably be considered to consist of: (i) taxable dividends (including eligible dividends) received by the Underlying Canadian Fund on shares of taxable Canadian corporations; and (ii) net taxable capital gains realized by the Underlying Canadian Fund. Any such designated amounts will be deemed for tax purposes to be received or realized by the Fund as such a taxable dividend or taxable capital gain, respectively. An Underlying Canadian Fund that pays foreign withholding tax may make designations such that a Fund may be treated as having paid its share of such foreign tax for purposes of the foreign tax credit rules in the Tax Act.

### ***The Funds***

Each Fund computes its income or loss separately. All of a Fund’s deductible expenses, including management fees, will be deducted in calculating the Fund’s income for each taxation year. A Fund will be subject to tax on its net income, including net taxable capital gains, not paid or payable to its investors for the taxation year, after taking into consideration any loss carry-forwards and any capital gains refund. Each Fund intends to pay to investors enough of its income and capital gains for each taxation year so that it will not be liable for ordinary income tax under Part I of the Tax Act.

The losses of a Fund may be restricted when a person or partnership becomes a “majority-interest beneficiary” of the Fund (generally by holding securities representing more than 50% of the NAV of the Fund) unless the Fund qualifies as an “investment fund” by satisfying certain investment diversification and other conditions.

Each Fund will be entitled for each taxation year throughout which it is a mutual fund trust to reduce (or receive a refund in respect of) its liability, if any, for tax on its net realized capital gains by an amount determined under the Tax Act based on the redemptions of its securities during the year (“capital gains refund”). The Manager may in its discretion utilize the capital gains refund mechanism for a Fund in any particular year. The capital gains refund in a particular taxation year may not completely offset the tax liability of the Fund for such taxation year which may arise upon the sale of its investments in connection with redemption of securities.

A Fund is required to compute its income and gains for tax purposes in Canadian dollars. A Fund’s foreign investments may therefore result in foreign exchange gains or losses that will be taken into account in computing the Fund’s income for tax purposes. Generally, foreign source income is subject to withholding taxes.

Tax Proposals would have the effect of denying the deductibility of net interest expense in certain circumstances, including the computation of taxable income by a trust. If these Tax Proposals are enacted as proposed, the amount of interest deductible by the Fund may be reduced.

Each of Counsel Global Fixed Income, IPC Multi-Factor Canadian Equity, IPC Multi-Factor U.S. Equity, and IPC Multi-Factor International Equity currently qualify as a “mutual fund trust” under the Tax Act and each is expected to continue to so qualify at all material times.

***Funds that do not Qualify as “mutual fund trusts”***

A Fund that does not qualify as a “mutual fund trust” for purposes of the Tax Act throughout a taxation year is not eligible for the capital gains refund and could be subject to alternative minimum tax for the year, Part X.2 tax, as well as other taxes under the Tax Act. In addition, if one or more “financial institutions,” as defined in the Tax Act, owns more than 50% of the fair market value of the securities of such a Fund, that Fund will be a “financial institution” for the purposes of the “mark-to-market” tax rules. In this case, most of the Fund’s investments would be considered mark-to-market property, with the result that

- it will be deemed to have disposed of and re-acquired its mark-to-market property at the end of each taxation year, as well as at such time as it becomes, or ceases to be, a financial institution; and
- the gains and losses from these deemed dispositions will be on income account, not capital account.

In any year throughout which the Funds do not qualify as a mutual fund trust for purposes of the Tax Act, the Funds could be subject to tax under Part XII.2 of the Tax Act. Part XII.2 of the Tax Act provides that certain trusts (excluding mutual fund trusts) that have an investor who is a “designated beneficiary” under the Tax Act at any time in the taxation year are subject to a special tax under Part XII.2 of the Tax Act on the trust’s “designated income” under the Tax Act. “Designated beneficiaries” generally include non-resident persons, non-resident owned investment corporations, certain trusts, certain partnerships, and certain tax-exempt persons in certain circumstances where the tax-exempt person acquires securities from another beneficiary. “Designated income” generally includes income from businesses carried on in Canada and taxable capital gains from dispositions of taxable Canadian property. Where the Fund is subject to tax under Part XII.2, provisions in the Tax Act are intended to ensure that securityholders who are not designated beneficiaries receive an appropriate refundable tax credit.

The following funds do not qualify as mutual fund trusts under the Tax Act:

- Counsel Canadian Core Fixed Income;
- Counsel Defensive Global Equity;
- Counsel Global Low Volatility Equity;
- Counsel North American High Yield Bond;
- IPC Canadian Equity;
- IPC Private Wealth Visio North American Equity; and
- IPC Private Wealth Visio North American Equity High Income.

## ***Taxation of the Fund if Investing in Foreign-Domiciled Underlying Trusts***

### ***Section 94.1***

A Fund may be subject to section 94.1 of the Tax Act if it holds or has an interest in “offshore investment fund property” within the meaning of the Tax Act. In order for section 94.1 of the Tax Act to apply to that Fund the value of the interests must reasonably be considered to be derived, directly or indirectly, primarily from portfolio investments of the offshore investment fund property. If applicable, these rules can result in the Fund including an amount in its income based on the cost of its offshore investment fund property multiplied by a prescribed interest rate. These rules would apply in a taxation year to a Fund if it could reasonably be concluded, having regard to all the circumstances, that one of the main reasons for that Fund acquiring, holding or having the investment in, the entity that is an offshore investment fund property is to benefit from the portfolio investments of the entity in such a manner that the taxes on the income, profits and gains therefrom for any particular year are significantly less than the tax that would have been applicable if such income, profits and gains had been earned directly by a Fund. The Manager has advised that none of the reasons for a Fund acquiring an interest in an offshore investment fund property may reasonably be considered to be as stated above.

### ***Section 94.2***

A Fund may invest in foreign-domiciled underlying investment funds that qualify as “exempt foreign trusts” (the “**Underlying Foreign Funds**”) for purposes of the non-resident trust rules in sections 94 and 94.2 of the Tax Act.

If the total fair market value at any time of all fixed interests of a particular class in an Underlying Foreign Fund held by the Fund, persons or partnerships not dealing at arm’s length with the Fund, or persons or partnerships that acquired their interests in the Underlying Foreign Fund in exchange for consideration given to the Underlying Foreign Fund by the Fund, is at least 10% of the total fair market value at the time of all fixed interests of the particular class of the Underlying Foreign Fund, the Underlying Foreign Fund will be a “foreign affiliate” of the Fund and will be deemed by section 94.2 of the Tax Act to be at the time a “controlled foreign affiliate” of the Fund.

If the Underlying Foreign Fund is deemed to be a “controlled foreign affiliate” of the Fund at the end of the particular taxation year of the Underlying Foreign Fund and earns income that is characterized as “foreign accrual property income” as defined in the Tax Act (“**FAPI**”) in that taxation year of the Underlying Foreign Fund, the Fund’s proportionate share of the FAPI (subject to deduction for grossed up “foreign accrual tax” as discussed below) must be included in computing its income for Canadian federal income tax purposes for the taxation year of the Fund in which that taxation year of the Underlying Foreign Fund ends, whether or not the Fund actually receives a distribution of that FAPI. It is expected that the full amount of the income, as determined for Canadian federal income tax purposes, allocated or distributed to an Underlying Foreign Fund by the

issuers that it holds securities of will be FAPI. FAPI will also include any net realized taxable capital gains, as determined for Canadian federal income tax purposes, of the Underlying Foreign Fund from the disposition of those securities.

To the extent an amount of FAPI will be required to be included in computing the income of a Fund for Canadian federal income tax purposes, a grossed-up amount may be deductible in respect of the “foreign accrual tax” as defined in the Tax Act (“**FAT**”), if any, applicable to the FAPI. Any amount of FAPI included in income (net the amount of any FAT deduction) will increase the ACB to the Fund of its units of the Underlying Foreign Fund in respect of which the FAPI was included.

### ***How You are Taxed on a Fund Investment***

How you are taxed on an investment in the Funds depends on whether you hold the investment inside or outside a registered plan.

### **If You Hold Securities of the Funds Outside a Registered Plan**

#### ***Distributions***

You must include in your income for a taxation year the taxable portion of all distributions paid or payable (collectively, “**paid**”) to you from a Fund during the year, computed in Canadian dollars, whether these amounts were paid to you in cash or reinvested in additional securities. The amount of reinvested distributions is added to the ACB of your securities to reduce your capital gain or increase your capital loss when you later redeem. This ensures that you do not pay tax on the amount again at a later date.

Distributions paid by a Fund may consist of capital gains, ordinary taxable Canadian dividends, foreign source income, other income and/or return of capital.

Ordinary taxable Canadian dividends are included in your income subject to the gross-up and dividend tax credit rules. Capital gains distributions will be treated as capital gains realized by you, one-half of which will generally be included in calculating your income as a taxable capital gain. A Fund may make designations in respect of its foreign-source income and foreign taxes paid so that you may be able to claim foreign tax credits.

You may receive a return of capital from your Fund. You will not be immediately taxed on a return of capital, but it will reduce the ACB of your securities of that Fund (unless the distribution is reinvested) such that when you redeem your securities, you will realize a greater capital gain (or smaller capital loss) than if you had not received the return of capital. If the ACB of your securities is reduced to less than zero, the ACB of your securities will be deemed to be increased to zero and you will be deemed to realize a capital gain equal to the amount of this increase.

The higher the portfolio turnover rate of a Fund in a year, the greater the chance that you will receive a capital gains distribution. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a Fund.

When securities of a Fund are acquired by purchasing or switching into that Fund, a portion of the acquisition price may reflect income and capital gains of the Fund that have not yet been realized or distributed. Accordingly, securityholders who acquire securities of a Fund just before a distribution date, including at year-end, may be required to include in their income amounts distributed by the Fund, even though these amounts were earned by the Fund before the securityholder acquired securities and were included in the price of the securities.

### ***Switches***

You will not realize a capital gain or capital loss when you switch between series of the same Fund. The cost of the acquired securities will be equal to the ACB of the securities that you switched.

Other switches involve a redemption of the securities being switched and a purchase of the securities acquired on the switch.

### ***Redemptions***

If you redeem securities outside of a registered plan (including switches between Funds) the Fund may distribute capital gains to you as partial payment of the redemption price. The taxable portion of the capital gain so allocated must be included in your income (as taxable capital gains) and may be deductible by the Fund in computing its income, subject to subsection 132(5.3) of the Tax Act. Subsection 132(5.3) of the Tax Act only permits a trust that is a “mutual fund trust” for purposes of the Tax Act a deduction in respect of a capital gain of the “mutual fund trust” designated to a securityholder on a redemption of securities where the securityholder’s proceeds of disposition are reduced by the designation, up to the amount of the securityholder’s accrued gain on those securities. Securityholders who redeem securities are advised to consult with their own tax advisers.

You will realize a capital gain (capital loss) if any of your securities in a Fund are redeemed. Generally, your capital gain (capital loss) will be the amount by which the NAV of the redeemed securities is greater (less) than the ACB of those securities. Generally, one-half of your capital gain is included in your income for tax purposes as a taxable capital gain and one-half of your capital loss can be deducted against your taxable capital gains, subject to the provisions of the Tax Act.

In certain circumstances, loss restriction rules will limit or eliminate the amount of a capital loss that you may deduct. For example, a capital loss that you realize on a redemption of securities will be deemed to be nil if, during the period that begins 30 days before and ends 30 days after the day of that redemption, you acquired identical securities (including through the reinvestment of distributions) and you continue to own these identical securities at the end of that period. In this case, the amount of the denied capital loss will be added to the ACB of your securities. This rule will also apply where the

identical securities are acquired and held by a person affiliated with you (as defined in the Tax Act).

### ***Calculating Your ACB***

Your ACB must be calculated separately for each series of securities that you own in each Fund and must be calculated in Canadian dollars. The total ACB of your securities of a particular series of a Fund is generally equal to:

- the total of all amounts you paid to purchase those securities,  
**plus**
- the ACB of any securities of another series and/or the fund that were switched on a tax-deferred basis into securities of the particular series,  
**plus**
- the amount of any reinvested distributions on that series,  
**less**
- the return of capital component of distributions on that series,  
**less**
- the ACB of any securities of other series that were switched on a tax-deferred basis into securities of another series and/or the fund,  
**less**
- the ACB of any of your securities of that series that have been redeemed.

The ACB of a single security is the average of the total ACB. Where you switch between series and/or purchase options of the same Fund, the cost of the new securities acquired on the switch will generally be equal to the ACB of the previously owned securities switched for those new securities.

For example, suppose you own 500 securities of a particular series of a Fund with an ACB of \$10 each (a total of \$5,000). Suppose you then purchase another 100 securities of the same series of that Fund for an additional \$1,200, including a sales charge. Your total ACB is \$6,200 for 600 securities so that your new ACB of each security of the series of the Fund is \$6,200 divided by 600 securities, or \$10.33 per security.

### ***Tax Statements and Reporting***

If applicable, we will send statements to you each year identifying the taxable portion of your distributions, the return of capital component of distributions and redemption proceeds paid to you for each year. Tax statements will not be sent to you if you did not receive distributions or redemption proceeds, or if securities are held in your registered plan. You may wish to consult a tax advisor to help you with these calculations.

Generally, you will be required to provide your financial advisor with information related to your citizenship or residence for tax purposes and, if applicable, your foreign tax identification number. If you, or your controlling person(s) are (i) identified as a U.S. Person (including a U.S. resident or citizen), (ii) identified as a tax resident of a country other than Canada or the U.S.; or (iii) do not provide the required information and indicia of U.S. or non-Canadian status are present, details about you and your investment in a Fund will be reported to the CRA unless securities are held inside a registered plan. The CRA may provide the information to the relevant foreign tax authorities under exchange-of-information treaties.

### **If You Hold Securities of the Funds Inside a Registered Plan**

When securities of a Fund are held in your registered plan, generally, neither you nor your registered plan will be taxed on distributions received from the Fund or capital gains realized on the disposition of the securities of the Fund provided the securities are a qualified investment and are not a prohibited investment for the registered plan. However, a withdrawal from a registered plan may be subject to tax.

The securities of Funds that are mutual funds trusts under the Tax Act are expected to be qualified investments for registered plans at all times.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the holder of a TFSA or RDSP, the subscriber of a RESP or the annuitant of a RRSP or RRIF (a “controlling individual”) holds a “significant interest” in a Fund, or if such controlling individual does not deal at arm’s length with a Fund for purposes of the Tax Act, the securities of such Fund will be a “prohibited investment” for such TFSA, RRSP, RESP, RDSP, or RRIF. If securities of a Fund are a “prohibited investment” for a TFSA, RRSP, RESP, RDSP or RRIF that acquires such securities, the controlling individual will be subject to a penalty tax as set out in the Tax Act. Generally, a controlling individual will not be considered to have a “significant interest” in a Fund unless the controlling individual owns 10% or more of the value of the outstanding securities of such Fund, either alone or together with persons and partnerships with which the controlling individual does not deal at arm’s length. If your registered plan holds a prohibited investment, you become liable to a 50% potentially refundable tax on the value of the prohibited investment and a 100% tax on income and capital gains attributable to, and capital gains realized on, the disposition of the prohibited investment.

**You should consult your own tax advisor regarding the special rules that apply to each type of registered plan, including whether or not a particular security of a Fund would be a prohibited investment for your registered plan. It is your responsibility to determine the tax consequences to you and your registered plan of establishing the registered plan and causing it to invest in a Fund. Neither we nor the Fund assume any liability to you as a result of making the securities of the Fund available for investment within registered plans.**

### 13. REMUNERATION OF DIRECTORS, OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

The Funds do not directly employ any directors, officers or trustees to carry out Fund operations.

Each member of the IRC is currently entitled to receive an annual retainer of \$7,500 (\$11,000 for the Chair) and a \$1,500 fee for each IRC meeting attended. Members are also entitled to be reimbursed for all reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, including travel and accommodation expenses. We also purchase and maintain insurance liability coverage for the benefit of the IRC members. For the period ended March 31, 2023, the total amount we expensed in this regard for all Counsel Funds was \$120,911. All fees and expenses were allocated among the Counsel Funds in a manner that was fair and reasonable.

The individual IRC members were compensated from all funds managed by Counsel over the same period as follows:

<b>IRC Member</b>	<b>Total individual compensation, including expense reimbursement</b>
Robert Hines (Chair)	\$32,036
George Hucal	\$29,625
Scott Edmonds	\$29,625
Atul Tiwari	\$29,625

For a description of the role of the IRC, please see “**Fund Governance - Counsel Funds’ Independent Review Committee**”.

### 14. MATERIAL CONTRACTS

Set out below are particulars of the material contracts entered into by the Funds as of the date of this annual information form, as well as a description of any sub-advisor agreements that we have entered into with certain firms for certain of the Funds. Minor contracts entered into by the Funds in the ordinary course of their business have been excluded.

You may inspect copies of the contracts listed below during normal business hours at our Mississauga office at 5015 Spectrum Way, Suite 300, Mississauga, Ontario L4W 0E4.

#### ***Master Declaration of Trust***

We have executed the Master Declaration of Trust, in our capacity as trustee of each of the Funds, as of the dates set out in Section 1, “**Name, Formation and History**”



**of the Funds**". The Master Declaration of Trust sets out the powers and duties of the manager and the trustee of the Funds, the attributes of securities of the Funds, procedures for purchase, exchange and redemption of securities, recordkeeping, calculation of the Funds' income and other administrative procedures. It also contains provisions for the selection of a successor trustee if we should resign and for termination of the Funds if no successor trustee can be found. We are not paid a fee in our capacity as trustee (as would be required if an outside trustee were hired), but are entitled to be reimbursed for any costs incurred on the Funds' behalf. The Master Declaration of Trust is amended each time a new fund is added.

The Master Declaration of Trust may be terminated with respect to any of the Funds upon 90 days' notice to applicable securityholders. Under the Master Declaration of Trust, the trustee may resign upon 180 days' notice to us and investors. We may remove the trustee upon 90 days' notice. If a successor trustee is not appointed by investors, the Fund will be terminated by the distribution of the Fund's net assets to its investors.

### ***Master Management Agreement***

We have entered into an Amended and Restated Master Management Agreement (the "**Management Agreement**"), dated July 13, 2012, as amended, for all of the Funds, to provide the management and administrative services to the Funds necessary to enable them to carry out their business operations.

Under the Management Agreement, we are responsible for directly providing, or for arranging other persons or companies to provide, administration services to the Funds, portfolio management services, distribution services for the promotion and sale of the Funds' securities and other operational services. The Management Agreement contains details about the fees and expenses payable by the Funds to us, including the management fee rates and any administration fee rates or reimbursement arrangements as applicable, and the Management Agreement is amended each time a new fund or new series of a Fund is added to the Management Agreement. The Management Agreement have been executed by us on our own behalf, as manager, and on behalf of the Funds for which we are trustee, in our capacity as trustee.

The Management Agreement provides that the Manager may terminate the agreement on 90 days' prior written notice. The agreement may be terminated immediately if any party to the agreement ceases to carry on business, becomes bankrupt or insolvent, resolves to wind up, or if any party to the agreement is in breach of the terms of the agreement and the breach has continued for at least 30 days without being remedied.

### ***Master Custodian Agreement***

We have entered into a master custodian agreement with CIBC dated as of November 10, 2005, as amended, on behalf of all of the Counsel Funds to obtain custodial services for the Counsel Funds' assets ("**Master Custodian Agreement**").

The Master Custodian Agreement complies with the applicable provisions of NI 81-102 regarding custodial services and requires the custodian to hold the Funds' assets in trust and to separately identify each Fund's account assets. The Master Custodian Agreement contains a schedule as to which of the Counsel Funds the Master Custodian Agreement applies, and the schedule will be amended each time a new fund is added. The agreement contains a schedule of which Funds are governed by that agreement and the fees payable to the custodian for the range of services provided to the Counsel Funds. The agreement can be terminated by the Funds or by the custodian on 120 days' prior written notice.

### ***Portfolio Management Agreements***

Except as noted below, Counsel is the portfolio manager for each of the Funds under the terms of its Management Agreement with the Funds. Counsel has entered into sub-advisory agreements with each of the firms listed below to provide portfolio management services to certain of the Funds.

Under each of these agreements, the sub-advisor firms will designate a lead portfolio manager to make all portfolio decisions concerning each Fund (or the portion of each Fund) they advise, all necessary brokerage arrangements and to issue appropriate instructions to the custodian (or the sub-custodian) of the Funds to facilitate delivery and settlement of portfolio transactions. These firms are required to adhere to the investment objectives and investment strategies adopted by the Fund. They have each agreed to act honestly, in good faith and in the best interests of the Fund, and to use the degree of care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in the circumstances. Counsel pays the sub-advisor fees out of the management fees it receives from each of the Funds.

Each of the agreements listed below may be terminated by either party on 90 days' prior written notice to the other party (unless otherwise indicated in the chart below), or earlier in the event of (i) a breach of the agreement which has not been corrected; or (ii) immediately in the event that the sub-advisor is subject to a material regulatory issue that would affect the sub-advisor's ability to fulfil its obligations under the agreement; or (iii) immediately in the event of Counsel's, the advisor's or the sub-advisor's bankruptcy.

<b>Sub-Advisor</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Date of Agreement</b>
Acadian Asset Management LLC	IPC Private Wealth Visio North American Equity High Income	July 13, 2012, as amended on November 13, 2020 and May 18, 2021

<b>Sub-Advisor</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Date of Agreement</b>
Franklin Advisers, Inc.	Counsel Global Fixed Income	December 20, 2012
Irish Life Investment Managers Limited	Counsel Defensive Global Equity Counsel Global Low Volatility Equity	January 7, 2016
Mackenzie Financial Corporation	Counsel Canadian Core Fixed Income	May 30, 2012
Putnam Investments Canada ULC	Counsel North American High Yield Bond	October 1, 2012
Guardian Capital LP <sup>1</sup>	IPC Canadian Equity	May 31, 2021
Beutel, Goodman & Company Ltd	IPC Private Wealth Visio North American Equity	October 29, 2021

<sup>1</sup>May be terminated by the Manager on 30 days' prior written notice and may be terminated by the sub-advisor on 90 days' prior written notice.

**COUNSEL PORTFOLIO SERVICES INC.**

**ANNUAL INFORMATION FORM**

<b>COUNSEL PORTFOLIO COMPONENTS</b>
<b>COUNSEL CANADIAN CORE FIXED INCOME</b>
<b>COUNSEL DEFENSIVE GLOBAL EQUITY</b>
<b>COUNSEL GLOBAL FIXED INCOME</b>
<b>COUNSEL GLOBAL LOW VOLATILITY EQUITY</b>
<b>COUNSEL NORTH AMERICAN HIGH YIELD BOND</b>
<b>IPC CANADIAN EQUITY</b>
<b>IPC MULTI-FACTOR CANADIAN EQUITY</b>
<b>IPC MULTI-FACTOR U.S. EQUITY</b>
<b>IPC MULTI-FACTOR INTERNATIONAL EQUITY</b>

<b>IPC PRIVATE WEALTH VISIO POOLS</b>
<b>IPC PRIVATE WEALTH VISIO CORE FIXED INCOME</b>
<b>IPC PRIVATE WEALTH VISIO NORTH AMERICAN EQUITY</b>
<b>IPC PRIVATE WEALTH VISIO NORTH AMERICAN EQUITY HIGH INCOME</b>

Additional information about the Funds described in this annual information form is available in the Funds' management reports of fund performance and financial statements.

You can get a copy of these documents at no cost by calling toll-free 1-877-625-9885, or from your dealer or by email at [info@counselervices.com](mailto:info@counselervices.com)

These documents and other information about the Funds, such as information circulars and material contracts, are also available on Counsel's Internet site at [www.counselervices.com](http://www.counselervices.com) and on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

**MANAGER OF THE COUNSEL FUNDS:**

Counsel Portfolio Services Inc.  
5015 Spectrum Way  
Suite 300  
Mississauga, Ontario L4W 0E4