Wellington FinTech Fund

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MARKET REVIEW

Global equities rose in January. The transition of power in the US brought meaningful changes to outlooks for foreign policy, trade dynamics, and economic growth. The Trump administration's protectionist policies and territorial ambitions created a complex economic and political landscape that strengthened the US dollar and increased economic uncertainty, raising concerns about potential trade-related inflation. Against this backdrop, the US Federal Reserve held interest rates unchanged, while the European Central Bank and Bank of Canada lowered policy rates. Japan's central bank raised rates for the third time since March 2024 following a prolonged pause. The US announced plans for a multi-hundred-billion-dollar investment in the AI project "Stargate" with aims to invest heavily in AI infrastructure, but the release of two competitive large language models by Chinese startup DeepSeek caused investors to question the long-term monetization structure of the foundational large language models developed by US technology companies. Europe's economy slowed in the fourth quarter, with the eurozone's GDP rising just 0.8% in 2024. In contrast, US GDP grew by 2.8%, and China's economy expanded by 5%, meeting the government's official target. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau resigned as leader of the ruling Liberal Party and as prime minister. The Israel/Hamas ceasefire went into force, with Hamas releasing three hostages in exchange for 90 Palestinian prisoners.

FUND PERFORMANCE AND ATTRIBUTION

- The fund delivered positive returns for the month.
- On an absolute basis, all sectors contributed over the period. Financials and information technology were the top contributing sectors.
- At the issuer level, our top two absolute contributors were Experian and Guidewire Software, while our top two absolute detractors were Intuit
 and Fair Isaac.
- Shares of Experian, a multinational consumer credit reporting agency, rose over the period. The company released 3Q earnings that were inline with expectations, and maintained its fiscal year organic revenue forecast. Shares of Intuit fell over the period, as investor fears on Tax season were exacerbated by DOGE-related uncertainty. Intuit is a vendor of accounting and financial management software for small businesses and consumer tax software. Lingering concerns on the new TurboTax growth equation, as altered by DOGE tax initiative risk, weighed on shares over the period

FUND POSITIONING AND OUTLOOK

FinTech equities ended January in positive territory, underperforming the broader market. Payments names contributed the most to relative returns amid reports of strong credit and debit spend growth from large US issuers. Performance of payments companies was followed by tech infrastructure companies and companies engaged in the digitization of financial services.

January was characterized by market turmoil following DeepSeek's announcement of their R1 model. Investors questioned what a possible shift toward more efficient, lower cost AI models would mean for the future demand for costly AI infrastructure and shares of companies closely tied to this name tumbled; Nvidia fell nearly 17% in one day. Our portfolio's true FinTech focus benefitted from this market turbulence, particularly our financial software names, which have a unique ability to capitalize on potentially cheaper AI applications resulting in a more easily earned

Changes to portfolio positioning were limited for the month. We added to payment provider Global-E as we believe the company is well-positioned to benefit from improving global consumer sentiment following mid-year declines. GLBE is in the early stages of penetrating a large global cross-border direct-to-consumer (D2C) ecommerce market and is well integrated with leading D2C ecommerce platforms, which should support persistent growth. Elsewhere, our position in Guidewire Software benefited relative results. Guidewire is a technology platform provider for the insurance industry. We like the company as it is relatively immune to Al-related risk. Further, the company benefits from inflation, as insurance companies increase premiums in inflationary environments and Guidewire prices based on those premiums, providing comfort in the name even if the macro environment deteriorates.

At the end of the period, our largest overweights were financials and industrials. We were most underweight to health care, communication services and consumer staples, all of which we had no exposure to. From a regional perspective, our largest overweight was North America and we were most underweight to Emerging Markets and Japan, neither of which we had exposure to.

PAST PERFORMANCE DOES NOT PREDICT FUTURE RETURNS. AN INVESTMENT CAN LOSE VALUE.

Fund performance is based on USD N Acc share class and are net of fees and expenses. Other share class performance may differ. Index used in the calculation of attribution data: MSCI All Country World. Fund performance is net of actual (but not necessarily maximum) withholding and capital gains tax but are not otherwise adjusted for the effects of taxation and assume reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. If an investor's own currency is different from the currency in which the fund is denominated, the investment return may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations. The views expressed are in the context of the investment objective of the Fund only and should not be considered a recommendation or advice.

RISKS

CAPITAL: Investment markets are subject to economic, regulatory, market sentiment and political risks. All investors should consider the risks that may impact their capital, before investing. The value of your investment may become worth more or less than at the time of the original investment. The Fund may experience a high volatility from time to time. CONCENTRATION: Concentration of investments within securities, sectors or industries, or geographical regions may impact performance. CURRENCY: The value of the Fund may be affected by changes in currency exchange rates. Unhedged currency risk may subject the Fund to significant volatility. DERIVATIVES (C) (MKT): Derivatives may provide more market exposure than the money paid or deposited when the transaction is entered into (sometimes referred to as Leverage). Market movements can therefore result in a loss exceeding the original amount invested. Derivatives may be difficult to value. Derivatives may also be used for efficient risk and portfolio management, but there may be some mismatch in exposure when derivatives are used as hedges. EMERGING MARKETS: Emerging markets may be subject to custodial and political risks, and volatility. Investment in foreign currency entails exchange risks. EQUITIES: Investments may be volatile and may fluctuate according to market conditions, the performance of individual companies and that of the broader equity market. MANAGER: Investment performance depends on the investment management team and their investment strategies. If the strategies do not perform as expected, if opportunities to implement them do not arise, or if the team does not implement its investment strategies successfully; then a fund may underperform or experience losses. SMALL AND MID-CAP COMPANY: Small and mid-cap companies' valuations may be more volatile than those of large cap companies. They may also be less liquid. SUSTAINABILITY: A Sustainability Risk can be defined as an environmental, social or governance event or condition that, if it occurs, could cause an actual or potential material negative impact on the value of an investment.

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