

Chief Financial Officer's Report to
Audit Committee
2020 April 20

ISC: UNRESTRICTED
AC2020-0442

2019 Annual Investment Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2019 Annual Investment Report outlined in Attachment 1 provides an overview of investment activity, asset balances, and portfolio returns for City investments during the year. It also reports on compliance with investment policy and regulatory requirements, and risk management practices.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:

That the Audit Committee:

1. Recommends Council approval of The City of Calgary 2019 Annual Investment Report, and
2. Forward report AC2020-0442 to the 2020 April 27 Regular Meeting of Council as an item of Urgent Business.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE, 2020 APRIL 20:

That Council approve The City of Calgary 2019 Annual Investment Report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

Pursuant to The City of Calgary Investment Governance Policy (CFO001), Administration reports to Council annually, through the Audit Committee, regarding the investments of The City during the year.

BACKGROUND

City funds are invested in a diversified portfolio of financial assets consisting of money market securities, short- and long-term government and corporate bonds, global and Canadian equity investments, and direct infrastructure equity investments, to meet the investment objectives of City funds. This includes return and liquidity requirements as well, to match funds with longer-term time horizons.

The Annual Investment Report is an integral component of The City's investment governance structure and risk oversight to ensure investments are optimally managed. This report provides a summary of 2019 investment activity, asset mix, asset class and investment manager performance, as well as compliance information for Audit Committee.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

In 2019, The City of Calgary's total portfolio (including internally and externally managed portfolios), returned 6.5 per cent after fees on a market value basis. The 2019 net portfolio return beat the benchmark return of 5.6 per cent, and the 2019 the annual inflation rate for Canada of 2.2 per cent. On a four-year annualized basis, the total portfolio return of 3.2 per cent exceeded the benchmark return of 2.9 per cent.

City investments are managed by a combination of investment managers; internally by the Treasury division within Finance business unit and externally by several specialty managers retained to manage bond and equity portfolio mandates.

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Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

The Investment Advisory Committee (“IAC”) provides oversight of City investments and monitors compliance with all applicable policies and regulations. The 2019 Annual Investment Report on investment holdings and performance was reviewed and approved by the IAC at its meeting on 2020 April 2.

Strategic Alignment

The management of The City’s investment portfolios follows industry best practice and aligns with prudent stewardship of financial resources and sustainability of The City.

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

Social

Prudent and responsible investment of The City’s investments provides necessary financial resources and generates sustainable investment income in support of City operations and objectives.

Environmental

Prudent investment in companies and governments that follow environmental and social principles supports sustainable risk/return performance of City investments to meet City goals and objectives.

Economic (External)

Financial and economic market conditions impact both investment income earned, as well as the market valuation of The City’s investment portfolios.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

Total investment income earned in 2019 was \$211.4 million compared to budget of \$91.8 million. There are no specific financial implications associated with this report.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

There are no specific financial implications associated with this report.

Risk Assessment

The City of Calgary mitigates risk within its investment portfolios through a sound governance structure, adherence to government regulations, and The City’s Investment Policy. Investment managers retained by The City, manage risk by investing in quality investments and ensuring sufficient diversification among holdings in their portfolios. The IAC oversees investment strategy and regularly reviews the investment activity, compliance and risk mitigation practices of both internal and external managers to meet City’s investment objectives.

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Subsequent Events

In the first quarter of 2020 the coronavirus epidemic became a global pandemic with far-reaching effects for global economies and financial markets. As of March 20, 2020, the TSX was down 30.5% and the S&P 500, 28.7%, year-to-date. The WTI oil price had fallen from a 2020 high of \$63.27 down to \$22.43 as a result of the Saudi-Russia price war and the demand shock from COVID-19. The Canadian dollar had weakened from 1.2965 to 1.4511 per US dollar. Bond returns have thus far been positive though credit has done poorly. The Bank of Canada cut its overnight rate from 1.75% to 0.75% while the US Federal Reserve cut rates even deeper to between 0% and 0.25%. Governments had also begun rolling out fiscal stimulus measures to prop up demand. Despite the sell-off, markets have been functioning well for the most part though there have been some liquidity issues in the credit markets. Indications are that central banks will intervene to ensure the smooth functioning of these markets and the Bank of Canada has already announced measures to do so. Indications are that there will be more pain to come in both equity and fixed income markets, but most experts are still confident in a strong bounce back for the economy and markets once the pandemic has subsided.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

As part of a sound governance practice, the Annual Investment Report provides the Audit Committee and Council with the reporting of The City's investment activity, asset class holdings, and performance during 2019 to meet investment objectives.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Attachment 1 – 2019 Annual Investment Report