

# CI SELECT CANADIAN EQUITY FUND

## Q2-2022 Commentary



FUND	1 YEAR	3 YEAR	5 YEAR	10 YEAR	S.I.
CI Select Canadian Equity Fund, Series F*	-6.1%	9.5%	7.3%	9.4%	8.8%
Benchmark: 50% MSCI ACWI Index/50% S&P/TSX Composite Index	-8.1%	7.0%	7.3%	9.9%	N/A

\* Inception date: August 8, 2000. Formerly Signature Select Canadian Fund, renamed effective July 29, 2021.

Source: CI Global Asset Management, as at June 30, 2022.

### PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

- Over the second quarter of 2022, CI Select Canadian Equity Fund, Series F (the Fund) returned -13.1% compared with its benchmark (50% MSCI ACWI Index/50% S&P/TSX Composite Index), which returned -13.0%.
- The Fund underperformed its benchmark primarily as a result of the Fund's overweight exposure to the energy and health care sectors as well as stock selection within those sectors. Security selection in the communication services sector was another significant contributor to performance, largely because of the Fund's higher exposure to more defensive telecommunications company stocks.

### CONTRIBUTORS TO PERFORMANCE

The Fund's position in Cenovus Energy Inc. contributed to performance. While the company benefited from stronger oil prices, its outperformance was primarily driven by the narrowing of its relative valuation gap because of strong refining margins in its U.S. refining assets. In addition, the company revealed a more transparent capital allocation strategy during its first-quarter 2022 earnings call.

Another contributor to the Fund's performance was Suncor Energy Inc., which benefited from strong energy prices and high refining margins. The company's stock price was particularly strong because of an activist investor taking a stake in the company and pushing for a variety of operational and strategic changes to release value.

### DETRACTORS FROM PERFORMANCE

A holding in Manulife Financial Corp. detracted from the Fund's performance. The company reported weaker-than-expected first-quarter 2022 results, and the market focused on an accounting-based writedown of shareholders' equity and earnings. We believe the company's valuation currently incorporates these factors, and we continue to believe the company's stock represents solid value.

Another detractor from the Fund's performance was a holding in Shopify Inc. Its stock declined because of a broad-based decline in information technology markets amid fears that growth in the company's core businesses could decline because of economic and competitive factors.

### PORTFOLIO ACTIVITY

During the quarter, we added a new position in Royal Bank of Canada to the Fund. The company's stock was repurchased after being sold from the Fund's portfolio in the first quarter of 2022. The addition was based on our belief that the company's stock price decline

had more than fully priced in a negative economic environment for the bank, and that its competitive position as well as overall loan and earnings quality were underappreciated by the market.

We sold a Fund holding in NextEra Energy Inc. based on its premium valuation relative to other utilities. There are also concerns that growth in the company's renewables business could fall short of expectations for profit growth.

## **MARKET OVERVIEW**

During the past six months, the macroeconomic debate had pivoted between inflation fears and growth worries. The U.S. inflation readings in early June sent 10-year U.S. Treasury yields to 3.5%, which may well mark the high point in the current environment, with the market at one point pricing in a terminal federal funds rate of almost 4% (currently at 2.25%). Following the June spike in interest rates, the macroeconomic debate quickly shifted from inflation to growth and whether the economy would be able to avoid a recession given the higher interest rate structure. Our expectation is that inflation could start to decline in the second half of 2022 but that the decline in U.S. and global inflation could be slow and might stay above 3%, which would suggest further U.S. interest rate increases in the latter part of 2022.

Given these factors, Canadian equity markets remain reasonably well positioned, with a stock market that trades cheaper than its U.S. peers, a good exposure to the war-disrupted energy, materials and agriculture sectors, solvent banks, and excess consumer savings. We believe the outlook for Canadian equities remains reasonable after the second-quarter 2022 sell-off, particularly if recession fears prove to be overblown.

The Fund holds moderate overweight allocations to value-oriented sectors such as financials and energy, although valuations and growth opportunities within the information technology sector led us to increase exposure to this sector late in the period.

Source: CI Global Asset Management

**For more information, please visit [ci.com](https://www.ci.com).**

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