

# INTERIM MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE

## Investment Portfolio

# Meritage Balanced Portfolio

For the period ended June 30, 2009

This interim management report of fund performance contains financial highlights, but does not contain interim or annual financial statements of the Portfolio. You can get a copy of the interim or annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling toll-free 1-866-603-3601, by emailing us at [infomeritage@nbc.ca](mailto:infomeritage@nbc.ca), by visiting our website at [www.meritageportfolios.com](http://www.meritageportfolios.com), by visiting SEDAR's website at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com), or by contacting your advisor.

Securityholders may also contact us using one of these methods to request a copy of the portfolio's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosure.

## Management Discussion of Fund Performance

### Results of Operations

The Meritage Balanced Portfolio Advisor Series units returned 7.46% for the six-month period ended June 30, 2009, compared to 17.56% for the S&P/TSX Composite Index. The blended benchmark, which is comprised of the DEX Universe Bond Index (proportion of 50%), the S&P/TSX Composite Index (proportion of 25%) and the MSCI World Index (\$C) (proportion of 25%), had a 5.90% return during the same period. Unlike the benchmark, the Portfolio's return is calculated after the deduction of fees and expenses. Please see the Past Performance section for performance returns of the F Series. Performance returns of the F Series may differ from Adviser Series due mainly to the varying level of fees and expenses.

On June 30, 2009, the net asset value of the Meritage Balanced Portfolio was about \$106.11 million compared to \$95.14 million on December 31, 2008. The increase in the net asset value is attributable to the positive market's trend amplified by the proceeds from the net sales.

The global stock markets experienced significant gains from early March to early June, as authorities injected trillions of dollars into the economy and the marketplace. Most major equity indices advanced by double digit levels as fears of a disastrous outcome for the global economy were appeased. Emerging markets and commodity driven economies, such as Canada, experienced even stronger moves. Canada's S&P/TSX Composite Index performed strongly returning 17.56% for the six-month period. However, technology and financials were the best performing sectors. The Canadian small-cap securities, as measured by the S&P/TSX Equity Small Cap Index, outperformed the large and mid-cap securities, as measured by the S&P/TSX 60 Index and S&P/TSX Equity Mid Cap Index, respectively. The S&P/TSX Equity Small Cap Index returned 21.0%, while the S&P/TSX 60 Index and S&P/TSX Equity Mid Cap Index returned 18.3% and 14.4%, respectively.

In fixed-income markets, the huge expansion of central bank balance sheets and government deficits are now working against the government bond market. For the six-month period, the DEX Universe Bond Index returned 2.79%, with the corporate sector leading while the Government of Canada sector ended in negative territory.



For the six month period, the Portfolio outperformed its benchmark. Fidelity Canadian Disciplined Equity Fund and the Mackenzie Saxon Small Cap Fund were the largest contributors to the Portfolio's performance, with 19.60% and 19.10%, respectively. The Fidelity Canadian Disciplined Equity Fund outperformed strongly the benchmark, by about 13.50%. The Fund's outperformance of the benchmark is primarily attributable to astute security selection in the energy sector and the increasing of the exposure in the materials sector, given attractive valuation and the rebound in commodity prices and base metals. Another contributor to the Fund's outperformance, was the overweight in diversified financials industry, such as capital market exchange companies, which are benefiting from higher trading volumes following increased market volatility.

The Mackenzie Saxon Small Cap Fund outperformed its benchmark by wide margin, about 13.00%. The outperformance of the Fund is due to the small-cap's performance with a very strong efficiency from small-cap metal and gold stocks, while other small-cap sectors were in the red during the last quarter. The Fund holds no gold stocks and only one metal stock.

The Brandes Global Small Cap Equity Fund, returned 16.64%. This high performance relative to the benchmark contributed strongly to the Portfolio's positive return. The Fund's performance is due to its overweight positions in the chemicals industry. This overweight had a positive impact on the Fund's absolute performance. The underweight of the Fund in the real estate investment trust industry, had a positive impact on the Fund's relative performance.

The Mackenzie Sentinel Corporate Bond Fund was also a big contributor to performance. The Fund returned 16.30% due to the improvement of the credit market, with a positive tone over the period. This drove the bond credit spread to tighten, primarily attributable to the energy, infrastructure, telecommunications and industrial sectors. The Fund reduced its cash weighting to make some bond investments in Cascades (7.25% - 2013) and Calfrac Holdings (7.75% - 2015), both leaders in their respective fields with strong asset value support relative to their market prices. This contributed strongly to the Fund's performance.

The TD Canadian Blue Chip Equity Fund returned 9.70%. The performance outcome of the Fund was largely attributable to sector selection rather than stock selection. The Fund's underweight positions in some sectors such as energy, materials and technology information sectors, held back Fund performance. The Fund's defensive positioning in foreign equities held back returns the first half of the year when commodities rallied.

The TD Real Return Bond Fund returned 5.80%. This was attributable to the positive tone in the credit market with trading activity and liquidity improving. As a result, corporate bonds generally outperformed government bonds during the six-month period.

The Capital International-Global Equity Fund rose 3.72%. The Fund's positive results for the semi-annual period, is in part due to the Fund's exposure to the information technology sector, based on the selection of companies with healthy balance sheets and strong prospects. The rebound of the worldwide demand for energy showed tentative signs of a rebound from last year's lows. The Fund was well positioned in this area, which yielded positive results.

The positive return of the Mackenzie Cundill Value Fund is attributable to the high performance of some companies within the Fund, which has been clearly buoyed by improving markets and expectation that the worst is gone. The best performance came from Dell Inc., Microsoft Corp., and the Japanese consumer discretionary, Sega Sammy Holdings.

The detractor from performance was the Mackenzie Ivy Foreign Equity Fund, which returned -1.20%. During the six-month period, currency negatively impacted the performance of the Fund. The Fund is based on a long-term investment strategy which wasn't rewarded during the semi-annual period.

## Recent Events

During the past six months, the asset allocation of the Portfolio remained unchanged. The Portfolio remained broadly diversified across sectors, regions and assets.

The Portfolio Advisers of the Mackenzie Saxon Small Cap Fund believe that the stock market's rally in the second quarter, the positive comments from U.S. banks along with strengthening U.S. housing data, restored investor's optimism. They believe that small-cap valuation will continue to look very attractive both in absolute terms and relative to the Large Caps.

The Portfolio Advisers of the Mackenzie Ivy Foreign Equity Fund believe that market volatility provides opportunities to add interesting assets depending on their valuation. They believe that it is extremely difficult to time the market and that it is better to invest in high quality businesses that will benefit when the economy recovers, but also offer better downside protection if the economy remains weak.

The Portfolio Advisers of the Beutel Goodman Income Fund believe that credit spreads will likely tighten and the central banks in both Canada and the U.S. will use more tools in their monetary and fiscal toolboxes to tighten corporate bond spreads to help the economy.

The Portfolio advisers of the Fidelity Canadian Disciplined Equity Fund expect markets to remain volatile until the financials sector begins to stabilize.

The Portfolio Advisers of the Mackenzie Sentinel Corporate Bond Fund became slightly more optimistic over the past three months, as new deals and debt financings have come back into the market place. Corporate bonds outperformed equities and treasuries during recent periods of weakness.

The Portfolio Advisers of the TD Real Return Bond Fund believe that over the long term, real return bonds should be viewed as a form of insurance for investors that are concerned about higher levels of inflation.

The Portfolio Advisers of the TD Canadian Blue Chip Equity Fund believe that a sustained economic recovery will be seen into 2010 or later. In their opinion, this is due to the U.S. consumers continuing to deleverage and Asian consumers more biased to saving than spending.

## **New Accounting Policies**

The Accounting Standards Board of Canada (AcSB) as ruled that as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011, the financial statements of companies with an obligation of public accountability will be presented by the International Financial reporting Standards (IFRS) as published by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and will replace the Canadian Generally Accepted Accounting Policies (GAAP). Changes to these new standards will come into force on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 for the funds currently under review.

Management is currently reviewing and developing a plan to meet the timetable for implementation of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA) regarding the adoption of IFRS. Key elements of this plan are to provide information concerning qualitative impact of these new standards in the financial statements, the information required with respect to their quantitative impact in the financial statements, if any, and the preparation of the financial statements 2011 with comparative figures under IFRS.

## **Related Party Transactions**

### **Manager**

As described in the *Management Fee* section, the Portfolio pays annual management fees to National Bank Securities Inc. (the "Manager") in consideration for management services. The management fees cover mainly the Manager's costs of managing the Portfolio's investments. The Manager is an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of National Bank of Canada (the "Bank").

The Portfolio reimbursed the Manager for operating expenses incurred in administering the Portfolio, including trustee, record-keeping, custodial, legal, audit, investor servicing, and securityholder reporting fees.

### **Portfolio Advisor**

The Manager has appointed National Bank Trust ("NBT"), an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of the Bank, as the portfolio advisor for the Portfolio. A flat fee is payable annually to NBT for its management services.

### **Trustee, Custodian and Registrar**

Natcan Trust Company ("NTC"), an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of the Bank, is the Portfolio's trustee. In this capacity, it is the legal owner of the Portfolio's investments.

NTC also acts as the Portfolio's custodian, registrar and transfer agent. The Manager pays NTC for its services as custodian based on the assets held by the Portfolio. In addition, a flat fee per transaction is paid to NTC. With respect to the registrar and transfer agent services for the Portfolio, a fixed annual amount is paid to NTC by the Manager.

NTC also has responsibility for valuation of the Portfolio and the Portfolio's accounting and records. NTC is paid for these functions by the Manager.

### **Brokerage Fees and Sales Commissions**

NBT carries out the Portfolio transactions in the underlying funds through National Bank Direct Brokerage Inc. ("NBDB"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Bank. Each month, the Manager pays a flat fee for each transaction carried out in the underlying fund securities.

# Financial Highlights

The following tables show selected key financial information about the Portfolio and are intended to help you understand the Portfolio's financial performance for the last period ended June 30, 2009 and the past 3 years.

## Advisor Series

### The Portfolio's Net Assets per Unit<sup>(1)</sup>

	6-month period ended June 30, 2009	2008	2007	2006 95 days
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$ 8.44	\$ 9.81	\$ 10.22	\$ 10.00
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>				
total revenue	\$ 0.11	\$ 0.31	\$ 0.29	\$ 0.11
total expenses	\$ (0.10)	\$ (0.21)	\$ (0.24)	\$ (0.06)
realized gains (losses) for the period	\$ (0.05)	\$ (0.44)	\$ 0.35	\$ 0.37
unrealized gains (losses) for the period	\$ 0.69	\$ (0.94)	\$ (0.62)	\$ (0.07)
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>\$ 0.65</b>	<b>\$ (1.28)</b>	<b>\$ (0.22)</b>	<b>\$ 0.35</b>
<b>Distributions:</b>				
From income (excluding dividends)	\$ —	\$ (0.07)	\$ (0.02)	\$ (0.01)
From dividends	\$ —	\$ (0.03)	\$ (0.02)	\$ (0.02)
From capital gains	\$ —	\$ —	\$ (0.28)	\$ (0.17)
Return of capital	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
<b>Total annual distributions<sup>(3)</sup></b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ (0.10)</b>	<b>\$ (0.32)</b>	<b>\$ (0.20)</b>
<b>Net Assets as at June 30, 2009 and as at December 31 of year shown</b>	<b>\$ 9.07</b>	<b>\$ 8.44</b>	<b>\$ 9.81</b>	<b>\$ 10.22</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> This information is derived from the Portfolio's unaudited interim financial statements and audited annual financial statements. The net assets per security presented in the financial statements differs from the net asset value calculated for portfolio pricing purposes. An explanation of these differences can be found in the notes to the financial statements.

<sup>(2)</sup> Net assets and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase/decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial period.

<sup>(3)</sup> Distributions were paid in cash or reinvested in additional units of the Portfolio, or both.

## Ratios and Supplemental Data

	6-month period ended June 30, 2009	2008	2007	2006 95 days
Total net asset value (000's) <sup>(1)</sup>	\$105,745	\$94,444	\$105,804	\$34,093
Number of units outstanding <sup>(1)</sup>	11,655,542	11,193,211	10,783,454	3,334,417
Management expense ratio <sup>(2)</sup>	2.28 %	2.29 %	2.32 %	2.35 %
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions	2.46 %	2.56 %	2.75 %	3.16 %
Trading expense ratio <sup>(3)</sup>	— %	— %	— %	— %
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(4)</sup>	6.66 %	41.71 %	6.66 %	— %
Net asset value per unit	\$ 9.07	\$ 8.44	\$ 9.81	\$ 10.22

<sup>(1)</sup> This information is provided as at June 30, 2009 and as at December 31 for the year shown.

<sup>(2)</sup> Management expense ratio is based on total expenses (excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs) for the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net assets during the period.

<sup>(3)</sup> The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net assets during the period.

<sup>(4)</sup> The Portfolio's turnover rate indicates how actively the Portfolio's advisor manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Portfolio buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher a portfolio's turnover rate in a year, the greater the trading costs payable by the portfolio in the year, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the year. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a portfolio.

# Financial Highlights

## F Series

### The Portfolio's Net Assets per Unit<sup>(1)</sup>

	6-month period ended June 30, 2009	2008	2007	2006 95 days
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$ 8.48	\$ 9.88	\$ 10.23	\$ 10.00
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>				
total revenue	\$ 0.11	\$ 0.33	\$ 0.29	\$ 0.13
total expenses	\$ (0.10)	\$ (0.22)	\$ (0.13)	\$ (0.03)
realized gains (losses) for the period	\$ (0.05)	\$ (0.46)	\$ 0.44	\$ 0.29
unrealized gains (losses) for the period	\$ 0.70	\$ (0.98)	\$ (0.77)	\$ (0.05)
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>\$ 0.66</b>	<b>\$ (1.33)</b>	<b>\$ (0.17)</b>	<b>\$ 0.34</b>
<b>Distributions:</b>				
From income (excluding dividends)	\$ —	\$ (0.17)	\$ (0.07)	\$ (0.04)
From dividends	\$ —	\$ (0.03)	\$ (0.01)	\$ (0.02)
From capital gains	\$ —	\$ —	\$ (0.28)	\$ (0.17)
Return of capital	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
<b>Total annual distributions<sup>(3)</sup></b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ (0.20)</b>	<b>\$ (0.36)</b>	<b>\$ (0.23)</b>
<b>Net Assets as at June 30, 2009 and as at December 31 of year shown</b>	<b>\$ 9.17</b>	<b>\$ 8.48</b>	<b>\$ 9.88</b>	<b>\$ 10.23</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> This information is derived from the Portfolio's unaudited interim financial statements and audited annual financial statements. The net assets per security presented in the financial statements differs from the net asset value calculated for portfolio pricing purposes. An explanation of these differences can be found in the notes to the financial statements.

<sup>(2)</sup> Net assets and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase/decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial period.

<sup>(3)</sup> Distributions were paid in cash or reinvested in additional units of the Portfolio, or both.

### Ratios and Supplemental Data

	6-month period ended June 30, 2009	2008	2007	2006 95 days
Total net asset value (000's) <sup>(1)</sup>	\$535	\$494	\$576	\$239
Number of units outstanding <sup>(1)</sup>	58,401	58,244	58,290	23,368
Management expense ratio <sup>(2)</sup>	1.23 %	1.25 %	1.26 %	1.26 %
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions	1.41 %	1.51 %	1.69 %	1.91 %
Trading expense ratio <sup>(3)</sup>	— %	— %	— %	— %
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(4)</sup>	6.66 %	41.71 %	6.66 %	— %
Net asset value per unit	\$ 9.17	\$ 8.48	\$ 9.88	\$ 10.23

<sup>(1)</sup> This information is provided as at June 30, 2009 and as at December 31 for the year shown.

<sup>(2)</sup> Management expense ratio is based on total expenses (excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs) for the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net assets during the period.

<sup>(3)</sup> The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net assets during the period.

<sup>(4)</sup> The Portfolio's turnover rate indicates how actively the Portfolio's advisor manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Portfolio buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher a portfolio's turnover rate in a year, the greater the trading costs payable by the portfolio in the year, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the year. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a portfolio.

## Management Fees

The Portfolio pays annual management fees to the Manager in consideration for management, portfolio advisor and administrative services and facilities required by the Portfolio in its day-to-day operations. A portion of the management fees paid by the Portfolio covers trailer and sales commissions paid to dealers.

As the Portfolio invests in underlying funds, the fees and expenses payable in connection with the management of the underlying funds are in addition to those payable by the Portfolio. However, the Manager makes sure that the Portfolio does not pay any management (or operating) fees that, to a reasonable person, would duplicate a fee payable by the underlying fund for the same service.

The management fees are calculated as a fixed percentage of the Portfolio's daily net asset value, are accrued on a daily basis and are paid monthly. The Portfolio is required to pay Goods and Services Tax (GST) on the management fees.

The breakdown of the main services received in consideration for the management fees, as a percentage of the management fees collected from the Portfolio, is as follows:

Series	Management Fee	Distribution	Others <sup>†</sup>
Advisor Series	2.00%	Front	50.00%
		Back	75.00%
		Low Load 2 – Year 1 to 3**	75.00%
		Low Load 2 – Year 4 and after	50.00%
F Series*	1.00%	0.00%	100.00%

(\*) For F Series, no trailer commissions are paid. The dealer or broker is paid an annual fee based on the asset value of your account instead of paying a commission for each purchase, switch or redemption.

(\*\*) Excluding sales commissions paid on the Advisor Series with low load and back end fees.

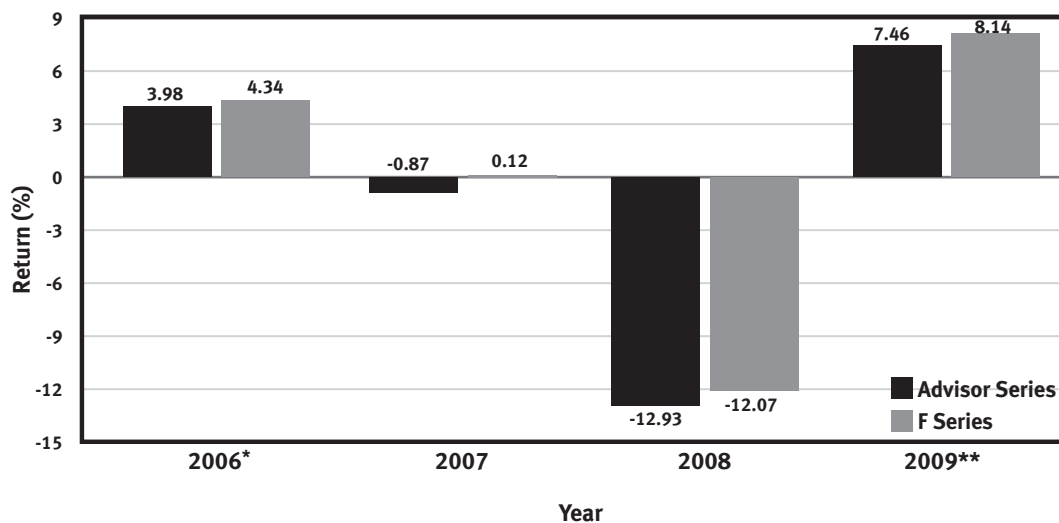
(†) Includes all costs related to management, investment advisory services, general administration and profit.

## Past Performance

The returns of each Portfolio or series of a Portfolio are calculated as of December 31 in each year, assume the reinvestment of all distributions and do not take into account sales, redemption charges, distributions, or optional charges that would have reduced returns. Past performance of a Portfolio or series of a Portfolio does not necessarily indicate how it will perform in the future.

### Year-by-Year Returns

The following bar chart shows the Portfolio's annual performance in each of the years shown and illustrates how the Portfolio's performance has changed from year to year. It shows in percentage terms how an investment made on January 1<sup>st</sup> would have increased or decreased by December 31 for each year and by June 30 of this year.



\* Returns for the period of September 25, 2006 to December 31, 2006.

\*\* Returns for the six-month period ended June 30, 2009.

# Summary of Investment Portfolio

## Top 25 Holdings

	% of Net Asset Value
Beutel Goodman Income Fund . . . . .	17.7
TD Canadian Bond Fund . . . . .	17.4
Mackenzie Sentinel Corporate Bond Fund . . . . .	10.1
Fidelity Canadian Disciplined Equity Fund . . . . .	7.6
Beutel Goodman Canadian Equity Fund . . . . .	7.5
Mackenzie Cundill Value Fund . . . . .	7.3
Mackenzie Ivy Foreign Equity Fund . . . . .	7.3
Brandes Global Small Cap Equity Fund . . . . .	5.3
Capital International - Global Equity Fund . . . . .	5.0
TD Real Return Bond Fund . . . . .	5.0
TD Canadian Blue Chip Equity Fund . . . . .	4.9
Mackenzie Saxon Small Cap Fund . . . . .	4.8
Cash & Other Assets . . . . .	0.1
	100.0

Net asset value . . . . . \$106,280,200

## Asset Mix

	% of Net Asset Value
Fixed Income Funds . . . . .	50.2
Global Equity Funds . . . . .	24.9
Canadian Equity Funds . . . . .	24.8
Cash & Other Assets . . . . .	0.1

The Summary of Investment Portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the investment fund. A quarterly update is available. For more information, you can write to [infomeritage@nbc.ca](mailto:infomeritage@nbc.ca), call us at 1-866-603-3601, or contact your advisor.

The prospectus and other information about the underlying investment funds are available on the internet at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

### Note on forward-looking statements

This document may contain forward-looking statements concerning the Portfolio, its future performance, its strategies or prospects or about future events or circumstances. Such forward-looking statements include, among others, statements with respect to our beliefs, plans, expectations, estimates and intentions.

By their very nature, forward-looking statements imply the use of assumptions and necessarily involve inherent risks and uncertainties, both general and specific. There is a significant risk that the explicit or implicit forecasts contained in these forward-looking statements might not materialize or that they may not prove to be accurate.

In fact, a number of factors could cause future results, conditions or events to differ materially from the objectives, expectations, expressed in such forward-looking statements. Such differences might be caused by several factors including changes in Canadian and worldwide economic and financial conditions (in particular interest and exchange rates and the prices of other financial instruments), market trends, new regulatory provisions, competition, changes in technology and the potential impact of conflicts and other international events, specifically those related to the war on terrorism, and other risks described in detail in the Portfolio's current simplified prospectus.

The foregoing list of factors is not exhaustive. Before making any investment decision, investors and others relying on our forward-looking statements should carefully consider the foregoing factors and the uncertainties and risks they contain. We caution readers not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements are issued in good faith and may be modified without notice. We assume no obligation to update forward-looking statements in the light of new information, future events or other circumstances unless applicable legislation so provides.

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