

## INVESTMENT COMMENTARY

**Barbados Segregated Pension Funds** 

September 2019

Risks to the downside continued to mount in the third quarter of 2019 with increasing uncertainties regarding trade, global growth and geopolitical tensions. Even though global central bank monetary policies remained accommodative global equity market advance was limited by the unresolved trade/tariff war. With Central banks appearing to have exhausted their monetary tools especially in Europe, market participants are now asking for fiscal stimulus to help avoid a global recession. The OECD revised its global growth forecast downward to 2.9% in 2019 and 3% in 2020. These figures represent the weakest annual growth rates since the global financial crisis in 2008. Oil prices surged in September after supply disruptions in Saudi Arabia but managed to stabilize by the end of guarter. The US Federal Reserve bank cut its lending rate for the second time since July to a range of 1.75% to 2.00%.

US equities advanced modestly during the guarter amid deepening uncertainty with both the Dow Jones Industrial Average and the S&P 500 Indices advancing 1.8% and 1.9% respectively. Emerging market equities underperformed relative to US equities. The MSCI EM Index returned -4.3% for the guarter and 5.9% over the year-to-date period. Trade tensions and a strong US Dollar had a larger negative impact on emerging markets than developed markets. Regionally, equity indices mostly underperformed relative to their international peers with the Trinidad, Barbados and Eastern Caribbean exchanges returning 0.5%, -0.4% and -0.2%, respectively. The Jamaica stock exchange continued to outperform returning 10.3%.

The Sagicor (Equity) Fund, underpinned by unrealized gains in regional and international holdings advanced

11.2%, while net assets stood at \$603.6 million for the guarter ended September 30, 2019. The Fund's NAV increased to \$62.72 as at September 30, 2019 up from \$62.44 as at June 30, 2019. The Fund remained predominantly allocated to equities, which accounted for 77% of net assets while domestic real estate represented 9% of net assets.

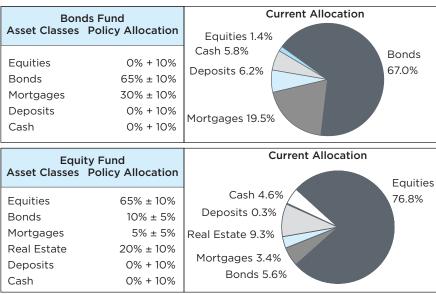
The yield of the 10-year US Treasury fell from 2.00% at the beginning of July 2019 and ended the third quarter at 1.67%. Market participant risk aversion, weakening global economic data and synchronized monetary easing by major central banks supported this year's bond rally.

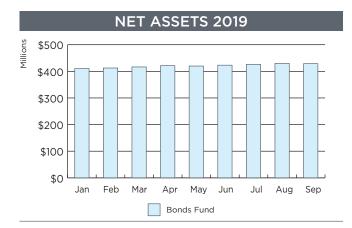
"Barbados continues to make good progress in implementing its ambitious and comprehensive economic reform program". That was the statement made by the IMF after concluding it's visit to the island September 6, 2019. Barbados and a committee of bondholders reached an agreement in principle on the restructuring of USD-denominated debt, according to a joint statement. Investor sentiment is expected to improve further given the removal of the uncertainty surrounding external creditors.

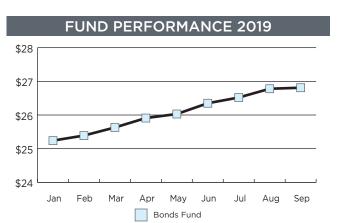
The Sagicor (Bonds) Fund achieved a 2019 year to date return of 7.3%, supported by increasing bond valuations during the third guarter. The Fund's NAV increased to \$26.81 as at September 30, 2019 up from \$26.35 as at June 30, 2019, while net assets totaled \$428.8 million. With market volatility expected to persist in the near term, demand for safe-haven assets such as bonds ought to continue.

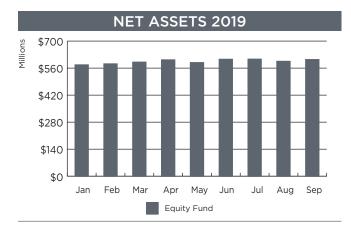
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS AS AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2019					
		EQUITY FUND		BONDS FUND	
Financial Investments	\$	534,508,654.34	\$	386,792,749.72	
Total Assets	\$	655,925,832.17	\$	469,194,507.70	
Total Liabilities	\$	52,333,428.67	\$	40,366,125.94	
Net Assets	\$	603,592,403.50	\$	428,828,381.76	
Net Investment Income/Loss	\$	61,287,881.76	\$	29,344,751.05	
No. of Units Outstanding as at September 30, 2019		9,624,140		15,994,300	
Net Asset Value per Unit as at September 30, 2019	\$	62.72	\$	26.81	
Increase/(decrease) in Net Asset Value per Unit for year		11.2%		7.3%	

## Policy Asset Allocation Sagicor Barbados Segregated Pensions Fund









**FUND PERFORMANCE 2019** 

