

DALHOUSIE RETIREES' TRUST FUND ANNUAL REPORT to RETIREES for the year ended June 30, 2022

Introduction:

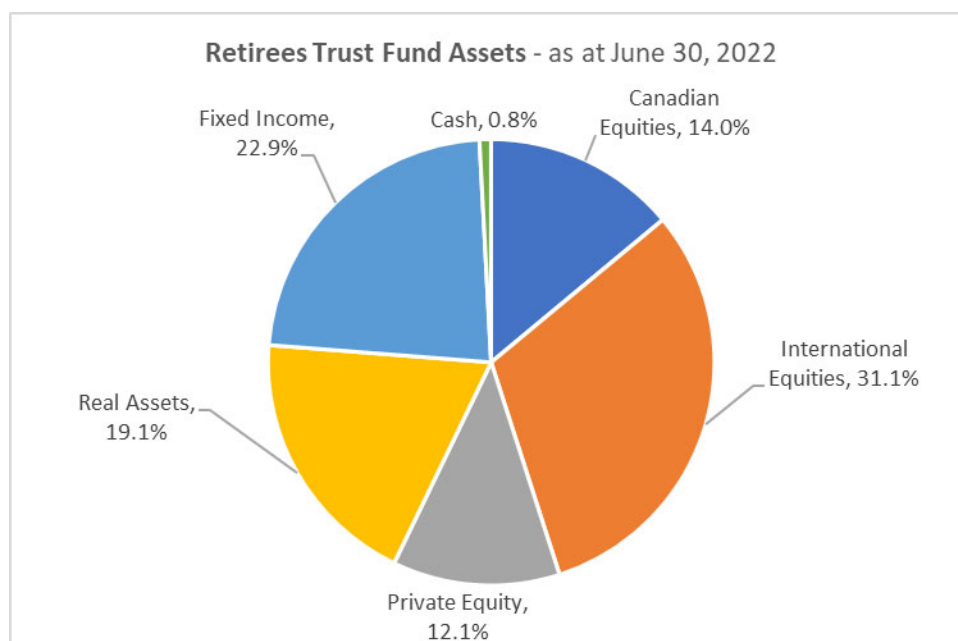
Monthly pension payments to the retired members of the Dalhousie University Staff Pension Plan are funded by assets held by the Dalhousie Retirees' Trust Fund (RTF). The RTF is one of two funds that support the benefits of the Plan, the other being the Pension Trust Fund which holds assets to fund the pension benefits earned and accumulated by members during their working careers. The RTF held \$795.0 million in net assets as at June 30, 2022 that will fund the future pension benefits of current retirees. The RTF made \$63.5 million in member benefit payments during the year.

The RTF is governed by a group of appointed Trustees. The RTF Trustees hold regular meetings to provide strategic guidance and policy directives for RTF investments, and to review the performance and operations of the investments. The primary objective of the Trustees is to secure the promised pension benefit and with the benefit secured, provide indexation to the extent that investment performance permits. As a group, the Trustees take a long-term view when establishing policy and strategy to enable the RTF to achieve its' financial and Plan benefit objectives.

Fund Structure:

The RTF trustees have aimed to structure and maintain a diversified portfolio of various asset classes including Canadian and international stocks, Canadian bonds, mortgages, US Private debt, and alternative asset classes. The alternative asset class includes real assets (domestic and non-domestic real estate, infrastructure) and private equity strategies. The RTF's asset mix policy which was approved by the Trustees at the June 2021 Investment Committee meeting, has established allocation targets of 32.5% publicly-listed equities, 32.5% alternatives, and 35% fixed income, although the actual mix will vary within prescribed ranges. It will take some time to implement the new asset mix, and public equities will continue to be allowed to drift higher until private placement equity subscriptions in the real assets and private equity areas can be closed and capital called for those commitments.

The RTF's asset allocation as at the most recent fiscal year end, June 30, 2022, is illustrated in the following chart.



The RTF Trustees engage multiple external investment management firms to invest the Fund's assets, which provide the RTF with another level of diversification. Specific investment mandates within certain asset classes are assigned to each firm to provide different yet complementary investment philosophies and styles. Collectively these manager assignments are administered to conform to the Fund's investment asset mix policy.

As noted earlier, the RTF's net assets were valued at \$795.0 million as at June 30, 2022, a decrease of \$34.8 million from June 30, 2021. This decrease, as depicted in the following table, was the result of investment losses, pension payments and fund expenses offset by fund inflows for new retirees incurred during the year.

Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits
For the year ended June 30, 2022
(millions)

Funding for new pensioners	\$ 60.1
Investment Returns	(26.8)
Benefits Paid	(63.5)
Fund Expenses	(4.6)
Net Change	<u>\$ (34.8)</u>

Investment Returns:

Public equities in Canadian, U.S. and overseas markets posted negative returns for the twelve-month period ending June 30, 2022, with returns ranging from negative 3.88% to negative 14.39% in local terms. The Canadian equity market, as represented by the S&P/TSX, had the highest return with negative 3.88%, while international equities returned negative 14.39% (in local terms). The U.S. and international returns increased to 28.24% and 20.54% respectively for the Canadian investor, as the Canadian dollar weakened against other currencies during this period. The Canadian bond market yielded a negative 11.40% return as yields rose during the period as the Bank of Canada started to increase interest rates to tame rising inflation.

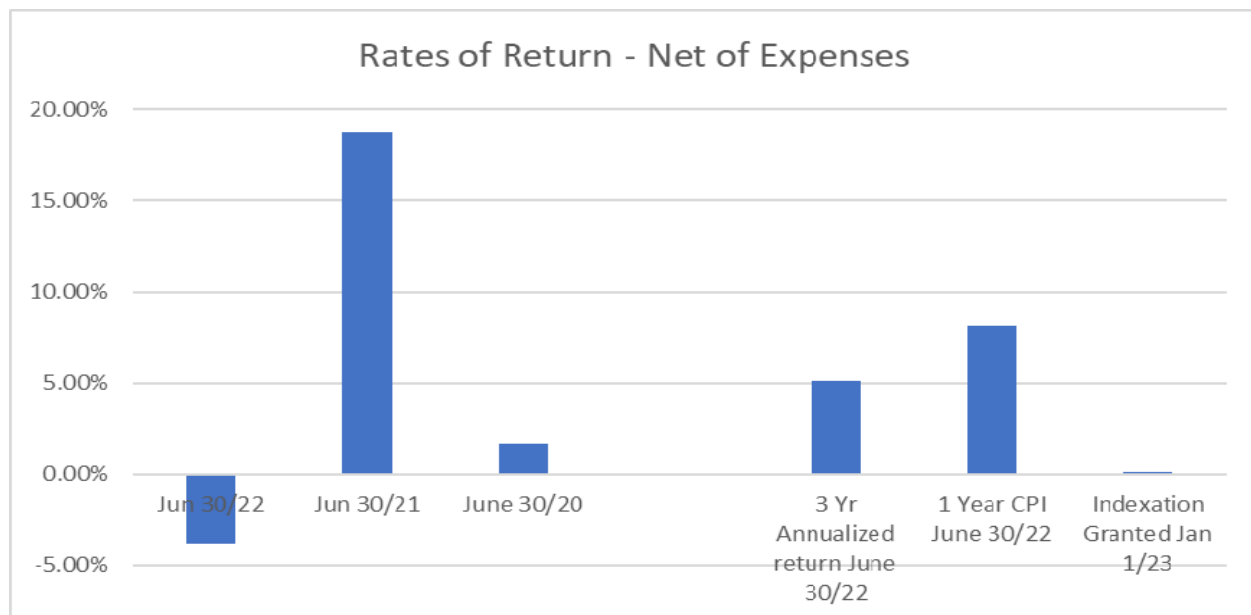
The RTF's returns (before expenses) and policy benchmark objectives (financial market index returns weighted per the RTF's policy allocation) for periods that ended June 30, 2022 were:

	<u>Annualized Returns (before fees) as at June 30, 2022</u>				
	<u>1 Year</u>	<u>2 Years</u>	<u>3 Years</u>	<u>4 Years</u>	<u>10 Years</u>
RTF	-3.3%	7.5%	5.7%	5.7%	7.7%
Passive Benchmark	-6.5%	3.8%	4.5%	5.1%	7.1%

Indexation:

a) Annual Indexation

The Dalhousie University Staff Pension Plan has an "excess interest" indexation provision that can increase pensions each January 1st for eligible retirees (those who retired prior to January 1 of the previous year). "Excess interest" may be available should the RTF's 3-year annualized return net of expenses for the 3-year period ended the previous June 30 exceed a threshold of 5.05%. The maximum allowable indexation is the 1-year Canadian Consumer Price (CPI) Index change as of each June 30th. Should the RTF's 3-year annualized return fall short of the 5.05% threshold in any given year, this shortfall must be recovered in subsequent years before any future indexation may be granted by this "excess interest" provision. Currently there is no accumulated shortfall for annual indexation determination purposes.



The RTF's 3-year return net of expenses at June 30, 2022 was 5.13% narrowly exceeding the 5.05% hurdle. CPI for the year ended June 30, 2022 was 8.133%. As the lesser of excess interest and actual CPI is granted, a pension increase of 0.0786% will be provided to those pensioners who are eligible for indexation January 1, 2023.

b) Catch-up Indexation

The Plan also gives the Trustees the discretion to use up to one-half of any surplus that an actuarial valuation may have identified in the Fund to catch up on any indexation missed in previous years. The actuarial valuation at January 31, 2020 identified a surplus of \$10.3 million. The RTF trustees met in March 2021 as they had deferred the decision in the fall of 2020 due to market volatility and uncertainty from the global pandemic. At the March 2021 meeting and seeing improved funded status of the plan as a result of the strong rebound in the markets, the Trustees decided to use \$5,154,500, the full amount available, to award catch up on missed indexation over the 2012 and 2013 period on a go-forward basis to eligible pensioners. This was effective January 2021 and processed June 2021. The next actuarial valuation is required to be filed no later than January 31, 2023.

The RTF's final audited financial statements for June 30, 2022 can be accessed at the University's Pension website: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/pension/reports/dalhousie-retirees--trust-fund-annual-financial-statements.html>

Questions relating to the Fund's investments may be directed to Nancy-Beth Foran at (902) 494-2307, while benefit-related queries can be directed to Laurie Creelman, Senior Pension Advisor at (902) 494-1120 or (902) 494-1782.

The current Trustees serving on the RTF are as follows:

Paul Beesley – joined July 2022
Robert Richardson(*Chair*) – until June 2022
Paul Conrod

Greg Hebb
Andrew Cochrane
Ron Pink – until Dec 2021
Aubrey Palmeter

Level Chan
Jonathan Shapiro – joined Jan 2022
Gitta Kulczycki

Yours truly,

Paul Beesley, Chair