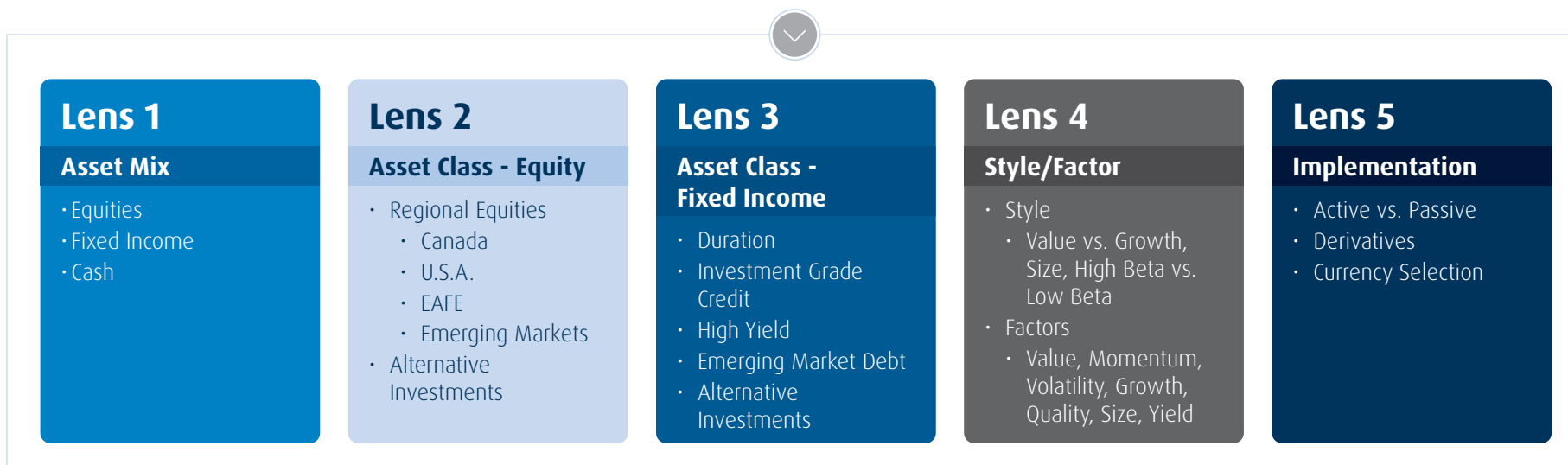


# BMO's "Five Lenses" Strategy

## BMO Multi-Asset Solutions Team

At BMO Global Asset Management (BMO GAM) we recognize that asset allocation is the primary driver of long-term portfolio performance. That's why we've created a group of asset allocators called the Multi-Asset Solutions Team (MAST), who

follow a consistent investment philosophy to focus on global idea generation with local portfolio implementation. The MAST has developed a simplified "Five Lenses" view to help explain what is driving their asset allocation decisions.



BMO Global Asset Management is a brand name that comprises BMO Asset Management Inc., BMO Investments Inc., BMO Asset Management Corp., BMO Asset Management Limited and BMO's specialized investment management firms. Commissions, trailing commissions (if applicable), management fees and expenses all may be associated with mutual fund investments. Please read the fund facts or prospectus of the relevant mutual fund before investing. Mutual funds are not guaranteed, their values change frequently and past performance may not be repeated. Distributions are not guaranteed and are subject to change and/or elimination. For a summary of the risks of an investment in BMO Mutual Funds, please see the specific risks set out in the prospectus.

BMO Mutual Funds are managed by BMO Investments Inc., which is an investment fund manager and a separate legal entity from Bank of Montreal.

Any statement that necessarily depends on future events may be a forward-looking statement. Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of performance. They involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Although such statements are based on assumptions that are believed to be reasonable, there can be no assurance that actual results will not differ materially from expectations. Investors are cautioned not to rely unduly on any forward-looking statements. In connection with any forward-looking statements, investors should carefully consider the areas of risk described in the most recent simplified prospectus.

The information provided on this report is intended for informational purposes only. Particular investments or trading strategies should be evaluated relative to each individual. The foregoing is not intended to be and should not be construed as legal, investment or tax advice to any party and a professional should be consulted with respect to any circumstance.

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At BMO GAM, we've always promoted the value of long-term investing. To us, that's always been the most important decision. In a similar vein, the Five Lens process begins with the strategic asset allocation, which takes into account the long term expected returns, standard deviations and correlations of various asset classes, adjusted for recent experience. This establishes our longer-term view (4-5 years) that defines the neutral asset mix and the design choices of each portfolio (subject to its objectives). However, we recognize that there are times when our short term views (3-12 months) differ substantially from our longer term views. This is where our tactical asset allocation is employed, and forms part of our risk management framework. How we make our tactical asset allocation decisions forms the DNA for our Five Lenses. Our process first decides where we want to be

more or less bullish, whether we need to adjust our geographic weightings (both within equities and bonds) and whether there are certain exposure we like to have more or less of (i.e., high yield vs. corporate bonds). We then decide whether there are certain styles or factors we want to adjust. The process concludes with how we want to implement those changes. We update tactical changes via our scorecard and communicate it via the Fives Lenses each quarter. Each portfolio is designed with specific portfolio parameters in mind to allow for sufficient degrees of freedom to implement meaningful tactical calls when appropriate, such as overweight U.S. equities, for example. For us, portfolio management involves both strategic and tactical decisions. We will continue to evolve our Five Lenses Strategy to produce better outcomes for our clients.

## Q1 2022 Strategy, as of January 2022

<b>Lens 1</b> <b>Asset Mix</b>	<b>Lens 2</b> <b>Asset Class - Equity</b>	<b>Lens 3</b> <b>Asset Class - Fixed Income</b>	<b>Lens 4</b> <b>Style/Factor</b>	<b>Lens 5</b> <b>Implementation</b>																						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>COVID-19 is back to the fore, this should cause short term disruptions but unlikely to have much in the way of market setbacks, specifically in the U.S.</li> <li>Global growth is normalizing but expected to remain above trend in 2022, supported by business investment and cash-rich consumers</li> <li>Monetary policy is slowly normalizing, not posing an immediate threat to equity valuations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North American equities are better positioned for COVID-19 uncertainty at a mid-cycle phase of the market, with lingering supply disruptions.</li> <li>EAFE economies remain most negatively exposed to global supply shortages, notably on energy.</li> <li>Emerging Market equities to continue facing cooling economic growth and a strong U.S. Dollar, but valuations look attractive.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The timeline to interest rates liftoff is compressing as central banks are slowly signaling policy tightening.</li> <li>Government bonds remain unattractive with low yields and above-trend economic outlook.</li> <li>High-yield debt looks less attractive as spreads have tightened and market volatility could increase in 2022.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At present, we are neutral on Style/Factor and we currently favour beta one.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bank of Canada may hike interest rates sooner than other central banks which would support the currency, versus heavy commodity-importing currencies such as the Euro and Japanese Yen.</li> </ul>																						
<b>Tactical Score:</b> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Equities</td> <td>+1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fixed Income</td> <td>-1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cash</td> <td>+1</td> </tr> </table>	Equities	+1	Fixed Income	-1	Cash	+1	<b>Tactical Score:</b> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Canada</td> <td>+1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>USA</td> <td>+1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EAFE</td> <td>-1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EM</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </table>	Canada	+1	USA	+1	EAFE	-1	EM	0	<b>Tactical Score:</b> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>IG Credit</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>High Yield</td> <td>-1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EM Debt</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </table>	IG Credit	0	High Yield	-1	EM Debt	0	<b>Tactical Score:</b> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Small Cap</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </table>	Small Cap	0	
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