



CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

Making a difference...together

INVESTMENT POLICY

Policy Type	Board [Corporate]		
Title	INVESTMENT POLICY		
Adopted Date	September 22, 2013	Policy Number	BRD07
Amendment #1	May 10, 2017		
Amendment #2	March 10, 2021 (Approved)		
Amendment #3	March 9, 2022 (Approved)		
Policy Owner	Financial Services		

1. PURPOSE

This investment policy provides the framework for investment portfolio management for the Capital Regional District (CRD), Capital Regional Hospital District (CRHD) and Capital Region Housing Corporation (CRHC).

It is the policy of the CRD, CRHD and CRHC to invest funds in a manner that provides the optimal blend of investment security and return while meeting the short and long term cash flow requirements in support of the corporate plan priorities while maintaining compliance with statutory requirements.

2. SCOPE

The investment policy applies to all cash operating funds, capital funds and reserve funds. It does not apply to funds held in trust or which have a specific legal or statutory requirement for cash management, disbursement, or investment.

3. PRINCIPLES

The investment of funds must reflect a management philosophy based on the fundamental objectives of

3.1 Safety of Principal

Investments shall be made to ensure preservation of principal within the portfolio. Preservation of principal is accomplished through placement of funds with creditworthy institutions and through portfolio diversification. Diversification is required to minimize potential losses on financial products.

3.2 Liquidity

The investment portfolio shall remain sufficiently liquid to meet all reasonably anticipated cash flow requirements.

3.3 Responsible Investing

The investment program will consider socially responsible investment products that adhere to statutory requirements and meet the objectives laid out in this policy.

Organizations that adopt a socially responsible investment platform in alignment with the published MFA ESG framework are preferred

3.4 Return on Investment

The investment portfolio shall be designed with the objective of maximizing market rate of return subject to the investment risk constraints, liquidity requirements and responsible investing objectives.

4. INVESTMENT PARAMETERS

4.1 Safety of Principal

The program will diversify cash reserve investments by security type and institution, taking into consideration the impact on return on investment. Section 5.4 outlines the authorized and suitable investments permissible to ensure optimal portfolio diversification.

4.2 Liquidity

To the extent possible, portfolio management will align investments with anticipated cash flow requirements. However, a portion of the portfolio shall be continuously invested in fully-liquid investments to meet ongoing obligations.

A long-term financial plan will be established for major capital reserves. The long-term financial plan will inform the term decision when placing timed investments in order to meet liquidity requirements.

4.3 Responsible Investing

Where responsible investment options provide comparable risk, return and liquidity, these facilities will be a priority. Investments are considered in alignment with responsible investing objectives when identified as meeting criteria as defined by MFA within the published MFA ESG Framework.

4.4 Return on Investment

The investment program will seek to maximize the total return on all funds under management after considering protection of principal, liquidity and responsible investing. Return will be monitored through performance benchmarks to ensure program activities are providing benefits in excess of costs and with the goal to preserve capital against inflation over time. Due to the nature of the CRHC business activities, delivering affordable housing within the social service sector, CRHC will be excluded from holding lower return products.

4.5 Authorized and Suitable Investments

Money held may be invested or reinvested according to section 183 of the *Community Charter* subject to the following conditions:

1. Investments in marketable securities of a chartered bank or savings institution or any province must have a DBRS risk rating of R-1 (low) or higher for short-term debt and a rating of A (low) for long-term debt or comparable ratings of another rating organization, indicating equal or superior credit quality (see Appendix A of this policy).

2. Investment placements will conform to the portfolio diversification constraints listed in Appendix B. Exceptions to constraints listed in Appendix A require Chief Financial Officer approval and shall be reported to the Board through Standing Committee at the next available meeting.
3. Internal projects under CRD service authority are considered allowable investment options when capital reserves are not immediately required and can be accessed through inter-service borrowing. Inter-service borrowing will be in compliance with legislation and the CRD Inter-Service Borrowing Guidelines.

5. STANDARD OF CARE

5.1 Prudence

Investments shall be made with judgment and care, under circumstances then prevailing, which persons of prudence, discretion, and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs. Investments will not be made for speculation. Foremost will be consideration for the safety of capital. Staff must be aware of reasonably foreseeable risks, trends and fluctuations in the market, and be able to recognize unreasonable risks whilst ensuring the liquidity of the investment portfolio.

5.2 Ethics and Conflict of Interest

Staff responsible for investing activities shall comply with the CRD Conflict of Interest Policy and shall refrain from personal business activity that could conflict with proper execution of the investment program, or which could impair the ability to make impartial investment decisions.

5.3 Delegation of Authority

Authority to manage the investment program (“the Program”) is granted to the Chief Financial Officer and is derived from section 237 of the *Local Government Act*.

5.4 Credit Risk Monitoring

To meet the objectives of this policy and ensure suitability of offerings, credit risk monitoring must be conducted by CRD Staff independent of vendor representations. The following due-diligence shall be performed:

1. In-house credit analysis shall be conducted on all financial institutions and investment counter-parties.
2. Credit reports and analysis, published by DBRS, S&P, Fitch or Moody’s, will be obtained from financial institutions, investment dealers and rating institutions and reviewed.
3. Credit reports and analysis are recognized as opinions and not a guarantee for safety of principal.
4. When placing investments in individual marketable securities and more than one credit rating is available, the average of two or more available credit ratings shall be used.

5.5 Consolidated Basis

All funds covered by this policy will be managed on a consolidated basis to ensure the best possible return by providing economies of scale.

5.6 Program Requirements

The Program shall abide by the following reporting requirements:

1. The Chief Financial Officer must report to the Finance Committee annually. The report must identify investment holdings and any deviations from this policy; and
2. An appropriate portfolio performance benchmark will be set and reported in the annual investment performance report.

6. POLICY REVIEW

Review Date	Description:
March 2026, unless legislative change or new MFA finance product	To ensure ongoing relevance, this policy shall be reviewed the earlier of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If a change in the relevant legislation governing the investment activities of local governments occurs; 2. If the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia establishes a new pooled fund investment product; or 3. Every five calendar years.

7. RELATED POLICY, PROCEDURE AND GUIDELINES

- Conflict of Interest Policy

**Appendix A
 Dominion Bond Rating Service (DBRS) Credit Quality Ratings**

Commercial Paper & Short-Term Debt	Bond & Long-term Debt	Bond & Long-term Debt	Description	CRD/CRHD/CRHC Investment Policy
R-1 (high)	AAA	Investment Grade ↑	Superior	Permissible
R-1 (high)	AA (high)			
R-1 (middle)	AA			
R-1 (middle)	AA (low)			
R-1 (low)	A (high)			
R-1 (low)	A			
R-1 (low)	A (low)			
R-2 (high)	BBB (high)	Speculative Grade	Adequate	Not Permissible
R-2 (middle)	BBB			
R-2 (low) / R-3	BBB (low)			
R-4	BB (high)			
R-4	BB			
R-4	BB (low)			
R-4	B (high)			
R-5	B			
R-5	B (low)			
R-5	CCC			
R-5	CCC			
R-5	CCC			
R-5	CC			
R-5	C			
D	D			

Appendix B Portfolio Diversification Constraints

Exposure constraints target protection of principal and return and set a maximum allowable share of the total portfolio that can be invested.

Due to market fluctuations and / or the timing of investment deposit transfers, maximum percentages in Appendix C may be exceeded at a point in time. Securities need not be liquidated to rebalance the portfolio; however, consideration should be given to this matter when future purchases are made to ensure that appropriate diversification is maintained.

The portfolio diversification constraints are found in Table 1 below:

Table 1: **Portfolio Diversification Constraints**

Investment Type	MAXIMUM of Total Reserves	MAXIMUM by Institution/product/ pooled fund
<u>Short-Term (< 2 year holding period)</u>		
Canadian Banks (Schedule 1) Deposits and/or GIC's	65%	35%
MFA Pooled Fund Products	50%	50%
Credit Unions (Rated/Insured) Deposits and/or GIC's	35%	20%
<u>Long-Term (> 2 year holding period)</u>		
Canadian Banks (Schedule 1) Deposits and/or GIC's	65%	35%
MFA Pooled Fund Products	60%	30%
Credit Unions (Rated/Insured) Deposits and/or GIC's	35%	20%
Internal Projects (5+ years)	30%	-
Federal Bonds	20%	10%
Municipal Finance Authority of BC Bonds	20%	20%
Provincial Bonds	15%	15%
Municipal, Regional District or Greater Board Bonds	15%	15%