# **Bank of Canada Statement Summary and Commentary**



September 4, 2024 Page 1 of 2

Bank of Canada Statement Summary and Commentary: The Bank of Canada (the "Bank") cut rates for the third consecutive time with a 25 basis points cut in its target for the overnight rate to 4.25%. The Bank stated "With continued easing in broad inflationary pressures, Governing Council decided to reduce the policy interest rate by a further 25 basis points. Excess supply in the economy continues to put downward pressure on inflation, while price increases in shelter and some other services are holding inflation up. Governing Council is carefully assessing these opposing forces on inflation".

Regarding CPI, the Bank stated that "inflation slowed further to 2.5% in July. The Bank's preferred measures of core inflation averaged around 2 ½% and the share of components of the consumer price index growing above 3% is roughly at its historical norm. High shelter price inflation is still the biggest contributor to total inflation but is starting to slow. Inflation also remains elevated in some other services".

The Bank commented on the Canadian economy as follows, "In Canada, the economy grew by 2.1% in the second quarter, led by government spending and business investment. This was slightly stronger than forecast in July, but preliminary indicators suggest that economic activity was soft through June and July. The labour market continues to slow, with little change in employment in recent months. Wage growth, however, remains elevated relative to productivity."

The bond market reaction to the announcement was muted – basically no change. The Canadian dollar rose by one quarter of 1 cent on the news.

Goodwood Portfolio Reaction: The Bank's third 25 basis points rate cut was well anticipated by the market. A weak labour market is becoming an increasing concern for the Canadian economy and is prompting the Bank to ease monetary policy. We have now seen two months of negative job creation in June and July and the unemployment rate has risen to 6.4%. Goodwood's interest rate forecast for the remainder of 2024 is for two additional 25 basis points rate cuts at the Bank's October and December meetings. Goodwood's 2025 interest rate forecast is set out in the table below.

Goodwood Fixed-Income Strategies: Goodwood uses a disciplined, bottom-up, and fundamental approach in analyzing Canadian investment-grade corporate bonds. The investment-grade portfolios seek to preserve capital and provide a high cash coupon income. We have been adding current new issues to the portfolios with cash coupons in the 4.50% to 5.25% per annum range. In addition, we believe bonds in our portfolios may outperform as a result of spread tightening from improving company and industry fundamentals. Our strategies are well diversified by position size, industry sectors and term-to-maturity. Goodwood's flexible, tactical approach can capitalize on inefficiencies in the fixed-income markets. The long-only investment-grade bond mandate invests in 20-30 fixed-income securities. Similar Long-Short mandate: Goodwood Milford Fund. Goodwood also acts as sub-advisor, managing investment grade bond and ESG-conscious investment grade bond mandates for third-party clients, institutions, pensions and endowments.

#### Historical Interest Rate Trend and Forecast:

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Quarter	BOC	3M	2Y	5Y	10Y	30Y	FED	3M	2Y	5Y	10Y	30Y
Q1'24	5.00	5.01	4.19	3.54	3.47	3.36	5.50	5.36	4.62	4.21	4.19	4.34
Q2'24	4.75	4.66	4.00	3.52	3.51	3.40	5.50	5.36	4.72	4.33	4.34	4.50
Q3'24	4.25	4.10	3.25	3.10	3.20	3.25	5.25	5.20	3.90	3.70	3.85	4.20
Q4'24	3.75	3.75	2.90	2.90	3.10	3.20	4.75	4.70	3.70	3.55	3.70	4.10
Q1'25	3.25	3.25	2.70	2.80	3.05	3.10	4.25	4.30	3.30	3.50	3.65	4.00
Q2'25	3.00	3.00	2.60	2.75	3.00	3.05	3.75	3.80	3.20	3.40	3.60	3.90
Q3'25	3.00	2.90	2.50	2.70	2.90	3.00	3.50	3.55	3.15	3.30	3.55	3.90
Q4'25	3.00	2.80	2.50	2.70	2.90	3.00	3.50	3.50	3.15	3.30	3.50	3.90
Actual	Forecast	Sources: Historic	al: Refinitiv: Foreca	ast: Goodwood Inc	i.							

### Corporate Spread (i.e., premium over government bonds) Trend and Forecast:

Corporate bond spreads are 0 to 10 basis points tighter over equivalent term Government of Canada bond yields since the last Bank of Canada announcement on July 24, 2024.

Strategy	Effective Duration*	Yield to Maturity*
Goodwood Investment-Grade Bonds	4.9	4.3
Goodwood ESG-Conscious Investment-Grade Bonds	4.3	4.2
Goodwood Milford Fund	4.4	4.0
iShares Core Canadian Universe Bond ETF	7.2	3.8
iShares Canadian Corporate Bond ETF	5.8	4.6
Available through Goodwood Inc.		

Sources: Goodwood Inc., iShares by Blackrock \*As at August 31, 2024. See full disclosure on page 2.

### **Recent Investment-Grade Additions to Portfolios:**

ATS Corporation 6.50% 08/21/2032 Chemtrade Logistics Inc 6.375% 08/28/2029 Enbridge Inc 4.73% 08/22/2034 Rogers Communications 4.25% 04/15/2032 South Bow 4.933% 02/01/2035 Suncor Energy 5% 04/09/2030

## Recent Investment-Grade Deletions from Portfolios:

BP Capital Markets 3.47% 05/15/2025 [sold] Dollarama Inc 2.443% 07/09/2029 [sold] John Deere 2.81% 01/19/2029 [sold] Rogers Communications 5.65% 09/21/2026 [sold] Smartcentres REIT 5.162% 08/01/2030 [sold] TransCanada 2.97% 06/09/2031 [sold]



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September 4, 2024 Page 2 of 2

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