The Queen’s Pension Plan (QPP) returned 1.6% net of fees in April, bringing the cumulative net return for the 2020-2021 plan year to 10.7%.

North American equities maintained positive momentum in April as corporate earnings surged and consumer activity intensified with looser pandemic restrictions in the U.S. The S&P/TSX Composite Index returned 2.4% with seven out of 11 sectors posting positive returns. Materials (+5.5%), Consumer Discretionary (+5.1%) and Real Estate (+4.2%) were the best performers while Health Care (-9.3%) was the worst performer. In the U.S., the S&P 500 gained 5.3% (+3.1% in Canadian dollar terms). All 11 sectors posted positive returns with Real Estate (+8.1%) the best performer, followed by Communications (+7.6%) and Financials (+6.4%). Outside North America, the MSCI World Index gained 4.1%, the MSCI Emerging Markets Index advanced 1.6% and the MSCI EAFE Index rose 1.3% in local currency terms (+2.5%, +0.3% and +0.9% in Canadian dollar terms, respectively).

The FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index was nearly flat, returning +0.1%. Two-year yields gained 8 basis points to 0.30% and ten-year yields slipped 1 basis point to 1.54%. The Provincial sector of the Index advanced 0.2% while both the Corporate and the Federal sectors were flat. The Canadian dollar appreciated 2.4% against the U.S. dollar, closing the month at 81.4 cents U.S.