IA Clarington Global Multifactor Equity Fund

Manager Commentary – Q1 2026

The past 12 months were eventful on the economic and geopolitical fronts. 2025 was marked by global trade tensions that led to economic uncertainties. As trade tensions gradually eased, the first quarter of 2026 was marked by geopolitical events, most notably the conflict in Iran and the resulting energy shock. The blockade of the Strait of Hormuz led to a substantial reduction in global oil supply, pushing the price of Brent crude to US$104 per barrel by the end of March, an increase of more than 90% since the beginning of 2026. The magnitude of the inflationary effect will ultimately depend on the duration of the blockade.

As a result of rising inflation expectations, interest rates increased globally. The U.S. Federal Reserve kept its policy rate unchanged during the first quarter of 2026, balancing above-target inflation against a softening labour market. After slowing in the fourth quarter of 2025, U.S. growth rebounded strongly in the first quarter of 2026, with investment spending in artificial intelligence (AI) serving as one of the main drivers.

In Canada, the labour market started the year on a weak footing, with job losses erasing the gains recorded at the end of 2025. Inflation remained well controlled below 2% as of February 2026, although higher energy prices are expected to create renewed upward pressure. The Bank of Canada is expected to remain on hold.

Global growth was strong at the start of the year, particularly in Europe and emerging markets, largely reflecting the synchronized rate cuts implemented by central banks in recent years. The conflict in Iran, however, is likely to alter this outlook. The effects will be more severe for net energy importers, including many European and Asian countries. In Europe, the Bank of England and the European Central Bank may be forced to raise rates more quickly, and a recession could follow.

On the global and international front, the MSCI World Index and MSCI EAFE Index returned 15.3% and 17.6%, respectively, in Canadian-dollar terms for the 12-month period ending March 31, 2026.

Security selection in the health care sector was the main contributor to performance. At the sector level, an overweight allocation to communication services and an underweight allocation to health care also contributed to performance. Western Digital Corp. was among the top individual contributors to performance. An overweight allocation to Advantest Corp. also contributed.

Over the period, security selection detracted, making it the dominant factor behind the Fund's underperformance. Weak selection in the communication services and consumer discretionary sectors mostly outweighed positive selection in other sectors. At the sector level, an overweight allocation to energy and an underweight allocation to information technology detracted from performance. An overweight allocation to Adobe Inc. detracted from performance. An overweight allocation to PayPal Holdings Inc. also detracted.

The Fund is managed with a quantitative process, and most decisions are based on the input provided by the investment model, which analyzes factor exposure. The fund manager added Micron Technology Inc. based on systematic signals and added Chevron Corp. to enhance value and quality-oriented factor exposure.

The fund manager increased the Fund's exposure to NVIDIA Corp. to enhance momentum factor exposure.

Qualcomm Inc. and T-Mobile US Inc. were eliminated as valuation and momentum signals weakened, leading the stocks to rank lower within their universe. The fund manager reduced the Fund's exposure to Meta Platforms Inc. as momentum signals weakened, leading to a lower relative ranking within the model.

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Fund and Benchmark Performance: as at March 31, 2026	1-year	3-year	5-year	10-year
IA Clarington Global Multifactor Equity Fund – Series F	12.3%	17.7%	12.2%	10.9%
MSCI World Index^ (CAD)1	15.3%	18.0%	12.6%	12.6%

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For definitions of technical terms in this piece, please visit iaclarington.com/glossary and speak with your investment advisor.

IA Clarington Global Multifactor Equity Fund was formerly IA Clarington Global Value Fund. The name change was effective June 17, 2024.

1Source: MSCI Inc. MSCI makes no express or implied warranties or representations and shall have no liability whatsoever with respect to any MSCI data contained herein. The MSCI data may not be further redistributed or used as a basis for other indices or any securities or financial products. This report is not approved, reviewed, or produced by MSCI.

The performance data comparison is intended to illustrate the historical performance of the Fund as compared with historical performance of widely quoted market indices. There are various important differences that may exist between the Fund and the stated indices that may affect the performance of each. The MSCI World Index^ (CAD) is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed markets. MSCI World Index^ (CAD) consists of 23 developed market country indices. The Fund's market capitalization, geographic and sector exposure may differ from that of the benchmark. The Fund's currency risk exposure may be different than that of the benchmark. The Fund may hold cash while the benchmark does not. It is not possible to invest directly in market indices. The performance comparison is for illustrative purposes only and does not imply future performance.

Indicated mutual fund rates of return include changes in share or unit value and reinvestment of all dividends or distributions and do not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or optional charges or income taxes payable by any securityholder that would have reduced returns. Returns are historical annual compounded total returns.

Series F securities are available only to investors participating in fee based advisory programs through their dealer. No sales charges apply when investing in Series F. iA Clarington does not pay ongoing trailing commissions to dealers for Series F and therefore are not embedded in the Management Expense Ratio (MER). Instead, investors pay an explicit dealer advisor fee for investment advice and related services. Any differences in performance between fund series are primarily due to differences in fees and expenses, as described in the fund's prospectus.

The information provided should not be acted upon without obtaining legal, tax, and investment advice from a licensed professional. Statements by the portfolio manager or sub-advisor represent their professional opinion and do not necessarily reflect the views of iA Clarington. Specific securities discussed are for illustrative purposes only and should not be considered a recommendation to buy or sell. Mutual funds may purchase and sell securities at any time and securities held by a fund may increase or decrease in value. Past investment performance may not be repeated. Unless otherwise stated, the source for information provided is the portfolio manager. Statements that pertain to the future represent the portfolio manager's current view regarding future events. Actual future events may differ. Future-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ. Opinions may change as market conditions or other factors evolve.

Commissions, trailing commissions, management fees, brokerage fees and expenses all may be associated with mutual fund investments, including investments in exchange-traded series of mutual funds. The information presented herein may not encompass all risks associated with mutual funds. Please read the prospectus before investing. Mutual funds are not guaranteed, their values change frequently and past performance may not be repeated.

iA Clarington™ Investments