Fair & efficient capital markets
We participate in initiatives that will increase transparency, protect investors, and foster fair and efficient capital markets. For example, in order to integrate material ESG considerations into investment processes, asset managers need robust and comprehensive disclosure from issuers on material ESG-related factors. This may include disclosure of ESG policies, strategies, risk management, and ESG performance. RBC GAM participates in initiatives that encourage better disclosure of material ESG risks and opportunities and the steps issuers take to address them.

Proxy voting
We exercise the voting rights of the portfolios we manage in the best interests of our clients and with a view to enhancing the long-term value of the securities held in accounts that we manage. We generally support proposals that encourage enhanced disclosure and transparency on issues that present material risks to the issuers in which we are invested. Full details can be found in our Proxy Voting Guidelines. Our voting record is published on our website, in accordance with regulatory requirements.

Engagement
We engage with regulatory bodies, both individually and collaboratively with other investors, to promote well-functioning markets and address systemic risks. This engagement is a critical component of our stewardship activities (Principles 9 and 10). We also believe that collaboration with like-minded investors may give us greater influence on issues that are material to our investments, and often serves as a more efficient avenue for engagement on regulatory initiatives and policy matters. Please see Summary of our Industry Initiatives below for more.

Collaborative Initiatives
Our collaborative initiatives related to fostering fair and efficient capital markets include:

- Alternative Investment Management Association (AIMA)
- Canadian Coalition for Good Governance (CCGG)
- Council of Institutional Investors (CII)
- Emerging Markets Investor Alliance (EMIA)
- International Corporate Governance Network (ICGN)
- Investor Stewardship Group (ISG)
- Investment Association (IA)
- Responsible Investment Association (RIA)
- Standards Board for Alternative Investments (SBAl)
- Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB)
- U.N. Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)

2021 Highlights
- Met with the regulator and commented on Canadian Securities Administrators’ proposed guidance on ESG-related investment fund disclosures.
- Served on the CCGG Public Policy Committee, CCGG Environmental and Social Committee, ICGN Global Governance Committee, PRI Policy Committee, RIA Board of Directors, and SASB Investor Advisory Group. We provide comments on various regulatory initiatives through these affiliations.
- Provided input on two ICGN comment letters: (1) U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission to enhance climate-related financial disclosures; (2) U.K. Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy consultation to restore trust in audit and corporate governance.
- The PH&N Fixed Income team met with an advisor to the Government of Canada to share views on the design of Canada’s green bond framework, including criteria aligning government commitments with company expectations, and issuers’ overall environmental and social impact.
- BlueBay participated in a Fixed Income Stewardship Working Group with the IA to develop guidance on how fixed income stewardship can be improved.
- BlueBay participated in the PRI Securitised Products Advisory Committee and provided input into its state of the market report.