

TIME TO *travel*

Pondering life after the FPR at the 2005 Global Investment Conference.



In 1996, the first-ever Global Investment Conference was held in Whistler, British Columbia, with 47 attendees representing pension funds, money managers, and even the government of South Africa's Gauteng province. This year, the Global Investment Conference once more returned to Whistler from April 6 to 8—this time, for a special 10th anniversary celebration.

The timing for the 2005 conference couldn't have been better, with Finance Minister Ralph Goodale proposing to remove the Foreign Property Rule in his February 23 budget speech. Accordingly, many presen-

ters approached foreign investments from a perspective unconstrained by 30% caps or other hinderances.

However, in an informal pre-conference poll of plan sponsor attendees, 53% of the respondents indicated they'd review their level of foreign investment should the FPR be removed. The average respondent had 35% in international assets, which meant that many had already found a way, through synthetic exposure or otherwise, to circumvent Ottawa's edict.

It was also clear that with the passing of the FPR, passive indexing was losing favour: active management of international bonds and equities was seen to be preferable

without the worry of rebalancing to stay outside of foreign content limits.

As always, China continues to be a hot topic in global investing. Howard Balloch, president of the Balloch Group and the Canada China Business Council, as well as former Canadian ambassador to China, delivered an informed and intimate glimpse of the Middle Kingdom in his key note speech.

Although the future for global investment by Canadian pension plans may have never seemed so promising (at least not in recent memory), there is, as always, some uncertainty: the federal budget bill had not yet received final assent in the House of Commons, and China's economy—the fastest-growing in the industrialized world—is already being cooled by the country's leadership. Nevertheless, 34 years after foreign content restrictions were first placed on pension fund assets, an end to this involuntary "home bias" might finally be in sight. ■

—James Lewis, managing editor



FRONT ROW: Dale King, Canadian Investment Review; Claude Maheu, Québec Pension Plan; Barb Curlew, Province of New Brunswick; Marc Poupart, Hudson's Bay Company; Gayle McDade, City of Regina; Laurent Halcrow, Baring Asset Management; James Lewis, Canadian Investment Review; Andrew Waters, RBC Global Services; Luc de la Durantaye, TAL Global Asset Management; Claire Kyle, Bank of Montreal; Sébastien Page, State Street Associates; Eric Léveillé, Barclays Global Investors Canada; Richard Lafamme, Université du Québec. **SECOND ROW:** Karee Lang, Canadian Investment Review; Louise Koza, University of Western Ontario; Joan Wright, 3M Canada; Chris Cockburn, Capital Guardian; Laurence Waring, Universities Academic Pension Plan; John Stookes, TAL Global Asset Management; Frank Warnock, University of Virginia; Rick Abbott, City of Winnipeg; Janet Greenwood, Aurion Capital Management; Dexton Blackstock, State Street Global Markets; Michelle Savoy, Capital Guardian; Andrew Campbell, Nunavut Trust; Stephen Johnson, Integra Capital Management; Paul Halpern, University of Toronto; John Akkerman, AllianceBernstein. **THIRD ROW:** Terri Troy, Royal Bank of Canada; Stephen Steele, Ford Motor Company of Canada; Michel Jalbert, TAL Global Investment Management; Yves Slater, Commission Administrative des Régimes de Retraite et d'Assurances (CARRA); Rob Baillie, RBC Global Services; Jai Parihar, Alberta Revenue; Diane Fulton, University of British Columbia; Ed Peters, PanAgora Asset Management; John Chase, Lazard Asset Management; Stephan Siegel, Columbia University; Johnny Quigley, Fondation Lucie et André Chagnon; Bob Kamp, TELUS; Jeff Grossman, State Street Global Markets; Rajiv Silgado, Barclays Global Investors Canada; Michel Toupin, Université Laval. **FOURTH ROW:** Randall O'Leary, Baring Asset Management; Howard Balloch, the Balloch Group; Jamie Colliver, Integra Capital Management; A.J. Pienaar, JPMorgan Asset Management; Gretchen Van Riesen, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce; Julie Cays, Hospitals of Ontario Pension Plan; Paul Pugh, Ontario Municipal Employees' Retirement System; Jacques Marleau, City of Montréal; Lisa Moen, Saskatchewan Healthcare Employees' Pension Plan; Michael Peck, JPMorgan Asset Management. **FIFTH ROW:** Tim Pardee, RBC Global Services; David Finstad, Alberta Investment Management; Emilian Groch, Alberta Teachers Retirement Fund; Denis Larose, Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology Pension Plan; Scott Wallace, Alliance Capital; Dan Foster, United Church of Canada; Paul Williams, Canadian Investment Review; Lindsey Fuller, Manitoba Superannuation Fund; Howard Williams, JPMorgan Asset Management; Tom Palameta, DaimlerChrysler Canada; John Sinclair, New Brunswick Investment Management Corporation; Michael Campbell, Imperial Oil; Mary Anne Wiley, Barclays Global Investors Canada; Stan Hamilton, University of British Columbia. **NOT SHOWN:** Bill Daley, Lazard Asset Management; Martin Evans, Georgetown University; Sandra Nuttall, AllianceBernstein; Scott Perkin, Association of Canadian Pension Management; Patrick Ryan, Lazard Asset Management; Chris Ryder, Capital Guardian; Gerry Wahl, Teck-Cominco.