

CENTRAL FUND OF CANADA LTD
Form 6-K
March 18, 2004

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**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 6-K

**REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-16 OR 15d-16
UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the month of January, 2004

CENTRAL FUND OF CANADA LIMITED

(Translation of registrant's name into English)

Suite 805, 1323 - 15th Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3C 0X8

(Address of principal executive office)

[Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F:

Form 20-F Form 40-F

[Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information in this Form is also hereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the *Securities Exchange Act of 1934*.

YES NO

[If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): N/A]

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

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CENTRAL FUND OF CANADA LIMITED
(Registrant)

Date MARCH 5, 2004

By: "(Signed)" J.C. STEFAN SPICER

(Signature)*

*Print the name and title under the signature of the signing officer

J.C. Stefan Spicer, President & CEO

1st QUARTER REPORT

Central Fund is currently 97.8% invested in gold and silver bullion. At January 31, 2004 Central Fund's gold holdings were 390,170 fine oz. of physical bullion and 5,261 fine oz. of gold bullion certificates. Silver holdings were 19,520,142 oz. of physical bullion and 245,572 oz. of silver bullion certificates. The physical bullion is unencumbered and held in safekeeping in allocated, segregated and insured vault storage by a Canadian chartered bank. Central Fund continues to fulfil its mandate as "The Sound Monetary Fund".

On behalf of the Board of Directors:

J.C. Stefan Spicer, President

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Results of Operations Change in Net Assets

Net assets increased by approximately \$92,747,000 during the three months ended January 31, 2004. Of that amount, \$71,451,000 was the result of the issuance of 15,050,000 Class A shares through a public offering on December 19, 2003. The shares were issued at a premium to net asset value such that there was no dilution of existing Class A shareholders' interests. Details of this public offering are provided in Note 3 to the accompanying financial statements. The \$21,296,000 balance of the increase in net assets was the result of higher prices of gold and silver, less operating costs, at January 31, 2004 compared to October 31, 2003 as described below.

Net Asset Value per Class A Share

| | U.S. \$ | Cdn. \$ |
|----------------------|------------|------------|
| October 31, 2003 | \$ 4.35 | \$ 5.74 |
| Changes due to: | | |
| Gold price | .06 | .08 |
| Silver price | .36 | .48 |
| Weaker Cdn. \$ | N/A | .03 |
| Other | .04 | .05 |
| Total changes | .46 | .64 |
| January 31, 2004 | \$ 4.81 | \$ 6.38 |

The \$0.46, or a 10.6% increase in net assets per Class A share, expressed in U.S. dollar terms, during the past three months was due primarily to the 3.5% increase in the price of gold and the 21.2% increase in the price of silver during the period. Net assets per Class A share, expressed in Canadian dollar terms, increased at a rate of 11.1%, being \$0.64 per Class A share. The increase described above was facilitated by the 0.5% increase in the U.S. dollar relative to the Canadian dollar. The components of the change in net asset value per Class A share in U.S. and Canadian dollars are summarized in the adjacent table.

Results of Operations Net Loss

The net loss, being the costs of stewardship for the three months ended January 31, 2004 was \$499,301 compared to \$334,333 in 2003. Since January 31, 2003, net assets have increased by approximately \$123,939,000 or 76%. The Company has used the bulk of the proceeds of

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two non-dilutive Class A share issues over the past twelve months to purchase gold and silver bullion, primarily in bar form. Certain expenses, such as administration fees that are scaled, and taxes, vary in proportion to net asset levels, or, in the case of stock exchange fees (included in shareholder information), with the total market value of Class A shares. Safekeeping fees and bullion insurance costs increased as a result of the purchases of additional physical gold and silver bullion discussed above.

Despite an increase in overall expense levels, the operating expenses (before taxes), as a percentage of average net assets, declined to 0.14% for the three months ended January 31, 2004 compared to 0.17% for the same three-month period in 2003. For the twelve months ended January 31, 2004, the operating expense ratio was 0.61% compared to 0.71% for the prior twelve-month period.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Central Fund's dollar liquidity objective is to hold cash reserves primarily for the payment of operating expenses, taxes and Class A share dividends. Should Central Fund not have sufficient currency to meet its cash requirements, a nominal portion of Central Fund's monetary bullion holdings may be sold to fund tax and dividend payments, provide working capital, and pay for redemptions of Class A shares, if any.

For the three months ended January 31, 2004, Central Fund's cash reserves increased by \$2,488,235 as amounts used to pay operating expenses, taxes and the Class A share dividend were more than offset by amounts retained in interest-bearing cash deposits for working capital purposes from the public offering in December 2003. Management monitors Central Fund's cash position with an emphasis on maintaining its mandate to hold maximum amounts of gold and silver bullion.

Statements of Net Assets

(expressed in U.S. dollars, unaudited)(note 1)

| | January 31 2004 | October 31 2003 |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Net Assets: | | |
| Gold bullion at market, average cost \$151,493,054 (2003: \$111,164,364) (note 2) | \$ 158,073,684 | 114,733,517 |
| Silver bullion at market, average cost \$131,083,826 (2003: \$103,068,226) (note 2) | 123,041,570 | 76,236,168 |
| Marketable securities at market, average cost \$89,430 | 64,535 | 70,998 |
| Interest bearing cash deposits | 6,803,702 | 4,315,467 |
| Prepaid insurance, interest receivable and other | 59,143 | 62,545 |
| | 288,042,634 | 195,418,695 |
| Accrued liabilities | (632,730) | (307,883) |
| Dividends payable | | (447,463) |
| | \$ 287,409,904 | 194,663,349 |
| Represented by: | | |
| Capital Stock (note 3): | | |
| 59,796,320 (2003:44,746,320) Class A shares issued | \$ 262,599,394 | 191,148,354 |
| 40,000 Common shares issued | 19,458 | 19,458 |
| | 262,618,852 | 191,167,812 |
| Contributed surplus (note 4) | 26,277,573 | 26,776,874 |
| Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments | (1,486,521) | (23,281,337) |
| | \$ 287,409,904 | 194,663,349 |

Net Asset Value Per Share (expressed in U.S. dollars):

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| | <u>January 31 2004</u> | <u>October 31 2003</u> |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Class A shares | \$ 4.81 | 4.35 |
| Common shares | \$ 1.81 | 1.35 |
| Net Asset Value Per Share (expressed in Canadian dollars): | | |
| Class A shares | \$ 6.38 | 5.74 |
| Common shares | \$ 2.40 | 1.78 |
| Exchange rate: U.S. \$1.00 = Cdn. | \$ 1.3264 | 1.3197 |

Notes:

- The accounting policies used in the preparation of these unaudited interim financial statements conform with those presented in Central Fund's October 31, 2003 audited annual financial statements. These interim financial statements do not include all of the disclosures included in the annual financial statements and accordingly should be read in conjunction with the annual financial statements.
- Details of gold and silver bullion holdings at January 31, 2004, are as follows:

| <u>Holdings</u> | <u>Gold</u> | <u>Silver</u> | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 100 & 400 fine oz bars | 390,170 | 1000 oz bars | 19,520,142 |
| Certificates | 5,261 | Certificates | 245,572 |
| Total fine ounces | 395,431 | Total ounces | 19,765,714 |
| Market Value: | Per Fine Ounce | | Per Ounce |
| October 31, 2003 | U.S. \$386.25 | | U.S. \$5.1350 |
| January 31, 2004 | U.S. \$399.75 | | U.S. \$6.2250 |

- On December 19, 2003, the Company, through a public offering, issued 15,050,000 Class A shares for proceeds of \$71,951,040 net of underwriting fees of \$2,997,960. Costs relating to this public offering were approximately \$500,000 and net proceeds were approximately \$71,451,040.

The Company used the net proceeds from this public offering to purchase 98,386 fine ounces of gold at a cost of \$40,328,690 and 4,919,333 ounces of silver at a cost of \$28,015,600, in physical bar form. The balance of the net proceeds of approximately \$3,106,750 was retained by the Company in interest bearing cash deposits for working capital purposes.

- Contributed surplus is used to eliminate any deficit that may arise from losses and for the payment of the Class A shares' stated dividend. Accordingly, \$499,301 (2003, \$334,333) has been transferred from contributed surplus on January 31, 2004 and 2003 representing the net loss for the three months then ended. This change does not affect the net asset value of the Company.

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Statements of Changes in Net Assets
(expressed in U.S. dollars, unaudited)(note 1)

| | Three months ended January 31 | |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------|
| | 2004 | 2003 |
| Net assets at beginning of period | \$ 194,663,349 | 132,447,600 |
| Add (deduct): | | |
| Unrealized appreciation of investments during the period | 21,794,816 | 16,980,294 |
| Net loss | (499,301) | (334,333) |
| Net issuance of Class A shares | 71,451,040 | 14,377,300 |
| Increase in net assets during the period | 92,746,555 | 31,023,261 |
| Net assets at end of period | \$ 287,409,904 | 163,470,861 |

Statements of Loss
(expressed in U.S. dollars, unaudited)(note 1)

| | Three months ended January 31 | |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------|
| | 2004 | 2003 |
| Income: | | |
| Interest | \$ 9,751 | 9,681 |
| Dividends | 97 | 55 |
| | 9,848 | 9,736 |
| Expenses: | | |
| Administration fees | 213,565 | 147,395 |
| Shareholder Information | 54,399 | 30,946 |
| Safekeeping, insurance and bank charges | 43,863 | 32,004 |
| Directors' fees and expenses | 15,327 | 13,536 |
| Professional fees | 9,566 | 17,994 |
| Registrar and transfer agents' fees | 6,670 | 6,759 |
| Miscellaneous | 346 | 340 |
| Foreign currency exchange loss | 8,001 | 6,827 |
| | 351,737 | 255,801 |
| Loss from operations before income taxes | (341,889) | (246,065) |
| Income taxes | (157,412) | (88,268) |
| Net loss (note 5) | \$ (499,301) | (334,333) |

Net loss per share:

Three months ended January 31

| | | | |
|----------------|----|-------|-------|
| Class A shares | \$ | (.01) | (.01) |
| Common shares | \$ | (.01) | (.01) |

Notes:

5. Under Canadian generally accepted accounting principles, the Company records the unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of its investments as a component of shareholders' equity. Under accounting principles generally accepted for investment companies in the United States, these amounts are reflected in the statements of income or loss. Under United States principles, net income for the three months ending January 31, 2004 would be \$21,295,515; (2003, \$16,645,961). The net assets of the Company are identical under both Canadian and United States generally accepted accounting principles.

Portfolio
at
January 31,
2004

Corporate Information

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Stock Exchange Listings

AMEX:
Class A shares

TSX:
Class A shares

| <i>Electronic Ticker Symbol</i> | <i>Newspaper Quote Symbol</i> |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| CEF | CFCda |
| CEF.A | CFund A |

Net Asset Value Information

The net asset value per Class A share is available daily by calling Central Fund.
The Thursday net asset value is published in financial newspapers in the United States and Canada.
In Canada the net asset value is also published daily in the *Globe and Mail Report on Business* Fund Asset Values table.

1ST QUARTER

INTERIM REPORT TO SHAREHOLDERS

for the three months ended January 31, 2004

QuickLinks

SIGNATURES

Net Asset Value Information