# Interim Management Report of Fund Performance

For the Six-Month Period Ended September 30, 2023

This Interim Management Report of Fund Performance contains financial highlights but does not contain either the interim financial report or annual financial statements of the exchange-traded fund ("ETF"). You may obtain a copy of the interim financial report or annual financial statements, at no cost, by calling the toll-free number 1-800-387-0614, by writing to us at Mackenzie Financial Corporation, 180 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5V 3K1, by visiting our website at www.mackenzieinvestments.com or by visiting the SEDAR+ website at www.sedarplus.ca.

Unitholders may also contact us using one of these methods to request a copy of the ETF's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record or quarterly portfolio disclosure. For more information, please refer to the ETF's Prospectus and ETF Facts, which may also be obtained, at no cost, using any of the methods outlined above. For the ETF's current net asset value per unit and for more recent information on general market events, please visit our website.

## A NOTE ON FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This report may contain forward-looking statements that reflect our current expectations or forecasts of future events. Forward-looking statements include statements that are predictive in nature, depend upon or refer to future events or conditions, or include words such as "expects", "anticipates", "intends", "plans", "believes", "estimates", "preliminary", "typical" and other similar expressions. In addition, these statements may relate to future corporate actions, future financial performance of a fund or a security and their future investment strategies and prospects. Forward-looking statements are inherently subject to, among other things, risks, uncertainties and assumptions that could cause actual events, results, performance or prospects to differ materially from those expressed in, or implied by, these forward-looking statements. These risks, uncertainties and assumptions include, without limitation, general economic, political and market factors in North America and internationally, interest and foreign exchange rates, the volatility of global equity and capital markets, business competition, technological change, changes in government regulations, changes in securities laws and regulations, changes in tax laws, unexpected judicial or regulatory proceedings, catastrophic events, outbreaks of disease or pandemics (such as COVID-19), and the ability of Mackenzie to attract or retain key employees. The foregoing list of important risks, uncertainties and assumptions is not exhaustive. Please consider these and other factors carefully and do not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements.

The forward-looking information contained in this report is current only as of the date of this report. There should not be an expectation that such information will in all circumstances be updated, supplemented or revised whether as a result of new information, changing circumstances, future events or otherwise.



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# **Management Discussion of Fund Performance**

November 13, 2023

This Management Discussion of Fund Performance presents the portfolio management team's view on the significant factors and developments that have affected the ETF's performance and outlook in the six-month period ended September 30, 2023 (the "period"). If the ETF was established during the period, "period" represents the period since inception.

In this report, "Mackenzie" and "the Manager" refer to Mackenzie Financial Corporation, the manager of the ETF. In addition, net asset value ("NAV") refers to the value of the ETF as calculated for subscription and redemption purposes, on which the discussion of ETF performance is based.

Please read A Note on Forward-Looking Statements on the first page of this document.

#### Risk

The risks of the ETF remain as discussed in the ETF's Prospectus.

The ETF is suitable for short- to medium-term investors looking for the current income potential of floating-rate instruments linked to interest rate changes to hold as part of their portfolio to diversify their fixed income holdings, who can handle the volatility of bond markets and who have a low to medium tolerance for risk. The ETF was deemed suitable for investors who had a low tolerance for risk during the period from July 27, 2023, to September 29, 2023.

## Results of Operations

#### **Investment Performance**

During the period, the ETF returned 5.7% (after deducting fees and expenses). This compares with a return of -4.5% for the ETF's broad-based index, the FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index, and a return of 6.3% for the ETF's narrow index, the Morningstar LSTA Leveraged Loan (Hedged) Index. All index returns are calculated on a total return basis in Canadian dollar terms. Investors cannot invest in an index without incurring fees, expenses and commissions, which are not reflected in the index returns.

In response to elevated inflation, the U.S. Federal Reserve increased its federal funds rate by 50 basis points over the period to a target range of 5.25%–5.50%. The floating-rate nature of the asset class led to higher interest rates for term loans. Loan prices rose amid expectations the U.S. economy may avoid a significant recession, and loan spreads (the margin by which the interest rate, which fluctuates according to a loan's market price, exceeds the floating reference rate) narrowed.

The ETF outperformed the broad-based index, with its shorter duration (lower sensitivity to interest rates) contributing to performance. Holdings in floating-rate term loans also contributed to performance. Conversely, exposure to real estate sector corporate bonds detracted from performance relative to the broad-based index. Given the ETF's mandate, the return of the narrow index is a more meaningful comparison.

The ETF underperformed the narrow index, with holdings in high-yield bonds detracting from performance. Holdings in real estate sector bonds, overweight exposure to technology sector loans and underweight exposure to consumer finance sector loans also detracted from performance. Conversely, the ETF's overweight exposure to loans rated "B" contributed to performance relative to the narrow index, as did its overweight position in automotive, health care and building products sector loans.

Over the period, the ETF's exposure to term loans and to the United States increased, based on the portfolio management team's assessment of valuations and opportunities, and as a result of market movements.

#### **Net Assets**

The ETF's net assets decreased by 14.3% during the period to \$589.3 million. This change was composed primarily of \$35.6 million in net income (including any interest and/or dividend income) from investment performance, after deducting fees and expenses, and a decrease of \$134.3 million due to net unitholder activity (including sales, redemptions and cash distributions).

At September 30, 2023, 29.8% of the ETF's NAV was held as inventory by the ETF's designated broker primarily for the purpose of sales to investors in the secondary market. As a result of these investments, the ETF is subject to large transaction risk as discussed in the Prospectus. Mackenzie manages this risk to reduce the possibility of any adverse effect on the ETF or on its investors, through such processes as settling transactions in kind, charging creation and/or redemption fees for transactions settling in cash, and establishing appropriate order cut-off times for transactions.

#### Recent Developments

The portfolio management team expects interest rates to remain at elevated levels for longer than initially expected, while economic growth slows because of the impact of earlier central bank rate increases. The team is cautious about high-yield bonds as economic uncertainty challenges credit fundamentals with tighter spreads (the difference in yield between high-yield and investment grade bonds).

The team also remains cautious about term loans because their floating rates have resulted in higher borrowing costs as interest rates rose. Term loans are not shielded from economic risks, and their outlook depends on economic developments and growth expectations. The team believes elevated inflation, high rates and weakening demand could lead to greater market volatility and wider loan spreads.

## Related Party Transactions

#### **Management Fees**

The annualized management expense ratio ("MER") for the ETF during the period ended September 30, 2023, was similar to the MER for the year ended March 31, 2023. Total expenses paid vary from period to period mainly as a result of changes in average assets in the ETF. The MERs are presented in the *Financial Highlights* section of this report. The ETF paid management fees to the Manager at the annual rate of 0.60%

The management fee for the ETF is calculated and accrued daily as a percentage of its NAV. The ETF's management fees were used by the Manager to pay for the costs of managing the investment portfolio of the ETF, including providing investment analysis and recommendations, making investment decisions, making brokerage arrangements for the purchase and sale of the investment portfolio and providing other services, and to pay for all costs and expenses (other than certain specified fund costs as more fully described in the Prospectus) required to operate the ETF.

#### Other Related Party Transactions

Investment funds managed by Mackenzie and its affiliates may invest in the ETF in accordance with the investment objectives of those funds. At September 30, 2023, funds managed by Mackenzie owned 11.5% of the ETF's NAV, funds managed by Canada Life Investment Management Ltd. owned 6.5% of the ETF's NAV, and funds managed by I.G. Investment Management, Ltd. owned 1.5% of the ETF's NAV. All related party transactions are based on the current market price. As a result of these investments, the ETF may be subject to large transaction risk as discussed in the Prospectus. Mackenzie manages this risk to reduce the possibility of any adverse effects on the ETF or on its investors, through such processes as settling transactions in kind, charging creation and/or redemption fees for transactions settling in cash, and establishing appropriate order cut-off times for transactions.

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During the period, the ETF received \$0.004 million in income distributions from investments in other ETFs managed by Mackenzie to offset fees paid within those ETFs. There is no assurance that these distributions will continue in the future.

The ETF did not rely on an approval, positive recommendation or standing instruction from the Mackenzie Funds' Independent Review Committee with respect to any related party transactions in the period.

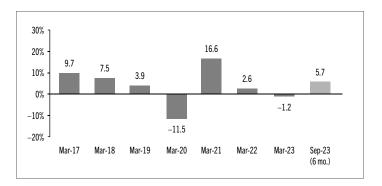
## **Past Performance**

The ETF's performance information assumes all distributions made by the ETF in the periods presented are reinvested in additional units of the ETF. The performance information does not take into account brokerage commissions or income taxes payable by any investor that would have reduced returns or performance. The past performance of the ETF is not necessarily an indication of how it will perform in the future.

If you hold this ETF outside of a registered plan, income and capital gains distributions paid to you increase your income for tax purposes whether paid to you in cash or reinvested in additional units of the ETF. The amount of reinvested taxable distributions is added to the adjusted cost base of the units that you own. This would decrease your capital gain or increase your capital loss when you later sell from the ETF, thereby ensuring that you are not taxed on this amount again. Please consult your tax advisor regarding your personal tax situation.

## Year-by-Year Returns

The following bar chart presents the performance of the ETF for each of the fiscal periods shown. The chart shows, in percentage terms, how much an investment made on the first day of each fiscal period, or on the ETF's inception date (April 19, 2016), as applicable, would have increased or decreased by the last day of the fiscal period presented.



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# Summary of Investment Portfolio at September 30, 2023

PORTFOLIO ALLOCATION	% OF NAV
Bonds	100.4
Exchange-traded funds/notes	2.1
Equities	0.3
Cash and cash equivalents	0.1
Other assets (liabilities)	(2.9)

REGIONAL ALLOCATION	% OF NAV
United States	87.6
Canada	4.7
Luxembourg	3.4
Spain	2.0
United Kingdom	1.9
Germany	1.1
France	0.7
Netherlands	0.6
Australia	0.4
Ireland	0.2
Cash and cash equivalents	0.1
China	0.1
Hong Kong	0.1
Other assets (liabilities)	(2.9)

SECTOR ALLOCATION	% OF NAV
Term loans	90.4
Corporate bonds	8.9
Exchange-traded funds/notes	2.1
Federal bonds	1.0
Health care	0.2
Cash and cash equivalents	0.1
Mortgage backed	0.1
Utilities	0.1
Other assets (liabilities)	(2.9)

BONDS BY CREDIT RATING *	% OF NAV		
AAA	0.9		
A	1.5		
BBB	1.5		
BB	15.3		
В	56.9		
Less than B	12.2		
Unrated	12.1		

 <sup>\*</sup> Credit ratings and rating categories are based on ratings issued by a designated rating organization.

TOP 25 POSITIONS	% OF NAV
Issuer/Underlying Fund	
Timber Servicios Empresariales SA Term Loan B 1st Lien F/R 03-29-2029	2.0
iShares iBoxx \$ High Yield Corporate Bond ETF	1.8
Hunter Douglas Inc. Term Loan B 1st Lien F/R 02-25-2029	1.8
Restaurant Brands Term Loan 1st Lien Sr F/R 09-12-2030	1.6
Domtar Corp. Term Loan B 1st Lien F/R 10-01-2028	1.5
Quasar Intermediate Holdings Ltd. Term Loan B 1st Lien F/R 01-20-2029	1.4
ADS Tactical Inc. Term Loan B 1st Lien F/R 03-04-2028	1.4
Veregy Term Loan 1st Lien F/R 11-03-2027	1.3
Albion Acquisitions Ltd. Term Loan 1st Lien F/R 07-31-2026	1.3
Arc Falcon I Inc. Term Loan 1st Lien F/R 09-22-2028	1.3
LSF10 XL Bidco SCA Term Loan B 1st Lien F/R 03-30-2028	1.2
Nielsen Holdings PLC Term Loan B 1st Lien F/R 02-05-2028	1.2
Dispatch Terra Acquistion LLC Term Loan B 1st Lien F/R 03-25-2028	1.2
Specialty Pharma III Inc. Term Loan B 1st Lien F/R 02-24-2028	1.2
Spectrum Group Buyer Inc. Term Loan B 1st Lien F/R 05-11-2028	1.2
East West Manufacturing LLC Term Loan B 1st Lien F/R 01-05-2029	1.2
OpenMarket Inc. Term Loan 1st Lien 09-17-2026	1.1
KP Germany Erste GmbH Term Loan B 1st Lien F/R 02-04-2026	1.1
C&D Technologies Inc. Term Loan B 1st Lien F/R 12-13-2025	1.0
Luxembourg Investment Co. 428 SARL Term Loan B 1st Lien F/R 10-22-2028	1.0
Magenta Buyer LLC Term Loan 1st Lien F/R 05-03-2028	1.0
Cook & Boardman Group LLC Term Loan 1st Lien F/R 10-12-2025	1.0
TRC Cos. Inc. Term Loan 2nd Lien F/R 11-19-2029	1.0
Neptune Bidco US Inc. Term Loan B 1st Lien F/R 04-11-2029	0.9
Employbridge LLC Term Loan B 1st Lien F/R 07-16-2028	0.9
Top long positions as a percentage	
of total net asset value	31.6

The ETF held no short positions at the end of the period.

For the prospectus and other information about the underlying fund(s) held in the portfolio, visit www.mackenzieinvestments.com or www.sedarplus.ca.

The investments and percentages may have changed since September 30, 2023, due to the ongoing portfolio transactions of the ETF. Quarterly updates of holdings are available within 60 days of the end of each quarter except for March 31, the ETF's fiscal year-end, when they are available within 90 days.

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# **Financial Highlights**

The following tables show selected key financial information about the ETF and are intended to help you understand the ETF's financial performance for each of the fiscal periods presented below. In the period when the ETF was established, "period" represents the period from inception to the end of that fiscal period. The inception date can be found under *Past Performance*.

#### THE ETF'S NET ASSETS PER SECURITY (\$)1

CAD Units (Ticker: MFT)	Sep. 30 2023	Mar. 31 2023	Mar. 31 2022	Mar. 31 2021	Mar. 31 2020	Mar. 31 2019
Net assets, beginning of period	17.48	18.90	19.14	17.42	20.98	21.42
Increase (decrease) from operations:						
Total revenue	0.94	1.35	0.92	1.08	1.49	1.48
Total expenses	(0.03)	(0.08)	(0.09)	(0.10)	(0.10)	(0.11)
Realized gains (losses) for the period	(0.22)	(1.38)	(0.62)	(0.57)	(0.17)	(0.55)
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	0.30	(0.37)	0.22	2.24	(2.94)	(0.10)
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>2</sup>	0.99	(0.48)	0.43	2.65	(1.72)	0.72
Distributions:						
From net investment income (excluding Canadian dividends)	(0.84)	(1.08)	(0.75)	(1.01)	(1.41)	(1.27)
From Canadian dividends	_	-	_	-	_	-
From capital gains	_	-	-	-	_	_
Return of capital	_	-	-	-	(0.02)	(0.01)
Total annual distributions <sup>3</sup>	(0.84)	(1.08)	(0.75)	(1.01)	(1.43)	(1.28)
Net assets, end of period	17.43	17.48	18.90	19.14	17.42	20.98

- (1) These calculations are prescribed by securities regulations and are not intended to be a reconciliation between opening and closing net assets per unit. This information is derived from the ETF's unaudited interim financial statements and audited annual financial statements. The net assets per unit presented in the financial statements may differ from the net asset value per unit calculated for ETF pricing purposes. An explanation of these differences, if any, can be found in the Notes to Financial Statements.
- (2) Net assets and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase/decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the fiscal period.
- (3) Distributions were paid in cash/reinvested in additional units of the ETF, or both.

#### **RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA**

CAD Units (Ticker: MFT)	Sep. 30 2023	Mar. 31 2023	Mar. 31 2022	Mar. 31 2021	Mar. 31 2020	Mar. 31 2019
Total net asset value (\$000) <sup>1</sup>	589,251	687,963	1,122,513	640,339	377,946	672,373
Units outstanding (000) <sup>1</sup>	33,800	39,350	59,400	33,450	21,700	32,050
Management expense ratio (%) <sup>2</sup>	0.67	0.68	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.69
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions (%) <sup>2</sup>	0.67	0.68	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.69
Trading expense ratio (%) <sup>3</sup>	_	-	_	_	_	-
Trading expense ratio before reimbursements (%) <sup>3</sup>	_	-	_	_	_	_
Portfolio turnover rate (%)4	16.39	41.68	64.59	56.22	43.57	87.82
Net asset value per unit (\$)	17.43	17.48	18.88	19.14	17.40	20.95
Closing market price (\$) <sup>5</sup>	17.46	17.40	18.92	19.22	16.78	20.89

- (1) This information is provided as at the end of the fiscal period shown.
- (2) Management expense ratio ("MER") is based on total expenses, excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs, income taxes and withholding taxes, for the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net assets during the period, except as noted. If the ETF was established in the period, the MER is annualized from the date of inception to the end of the period. Where the ETF directly invests in securities of another fund (including other ETFs), the MER presented for the ETF includes the portion of MERs of the other fund(s) attributable to this investment. Any income distributions received from ETFs managed by the Manager, with the intention of offsetting fees paid within those ETFs but which are not considered to be duplicative fees under regulatory requirements, are treated as waived expenses for MER purposes. The Manager may waive or absorb operating expenses at its discretion and stop waiving or absorbing such expenses at any time without notice.
- (3) The trading expense ratio ("TER") represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net assets during the period. Where the ETF invests in securities of another fund (including other ETFs), the TER presented for the ETF includes the portion of TERs of the other fund(s) attributable to this investment. The Manager may reimburse the ETF for certain brokerage commissions and other transaction costs (including those payable to the custodian or its agents). The Manager may make these reimbursements at its discretion and stop these reimbursements at any time without notice.
- (4) The ETF's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the ETF's portfolio advisor manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the ETF buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the period. The higher the ETF's portfolio turnover rate in a period, the greater the trading costs payable by the ETF in the period, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the year. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of the ETF. The portfolio turnover rate is not provided when the ETF is less than one year old.
- (5) Closing market price, or the midpoint of the bid and ask prices in the absence of a closing market price, on the last trading day of the period as reported on the Toronto Stock Exchange.