



Brand Leaders Income Fund

Annual Financial Statements

December 31, 2017

Brand Leaders Income Fund

MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared by Harvest Portfolios Group Inc. in its capacity as Manager of the Fund and approved by the Board of Directors of the Manager. The Fund's Manager is responsible for the information and representation contained in these financial statements.

The Manager maintains appropriate processes to ensure that relevant and reliable financial information is produced. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and include certain amounts that are based on estimates and judgments made by the Manager. The significant accounting policies, which the Manager believes are appropriate, are described in Note 3 to the financial statements.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP is the external auditor of the Fund. They have audited the financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards to enable them to express to the unitholders their opinion on the financial statements. Their report is included as an integral part of the financial statements.

On behalf of Harvest Portfolios Group Inc.,

Signed "Michael Kovacs"

Signed "Daniel Lazzer"

Michael Kovacs
President and Chief Executive Officer

Daniel Lazzer
Chief Financial Officer

Oakville, Canada
March 26, 2018



March 26, 2018

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Unitholders of Brand Leaders Income Fund ("the Fund")

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Fund, which comprise the statements of financial position as at December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016 and the statements of comprehensive income (loss), changes in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units and cash flows for the years ended December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016, and the related notes, which comprise a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's responsibility for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained in our audits is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

*PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
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Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Fund as at December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the years ended December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016 in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

(Signed) "PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP"

Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

Toronto, Ontario

Brand Leaders Income Fund

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION			
As at December 31,	2017		2016
Assets			
Current assets			
Investments	\$	8,265,927	\$ 10,495,273
Cash		65,431	413,883
Dividends receivable		35,625	44,993
Unrealized appreciation on foreign currency forward contracts (Note 6)		159,587	-
		8,526,570	10,954,149
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Distributions payable (Note 4)		47,618	63,117
Payable for options contracts written		-	20,251
Unrealized depreciation on foreign currency forward contracts (Note 6)		-	230,334
		47,618	313,702
Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units	\$	8,478,952	\$ 10,640,447
Number of redeemable units outstanding (Note 4)		732,582	971,029
Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units per unit	\$	11.57	\$ 10.96

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Brand Leaders Income Fund

STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)			
For the year ended December 31,	2017		2016
Income			
Net gain (loss) on investments			
Dividends	\$	193,097	\$ 317,337
Net realized gain (loss) on sale of investments		2,097,881	4,394,843
Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments		(1,403,334)	(4,414,964)
Net gain (loss) on investments		887,644	297,216
Net gain (loss) on derivatives			
Net realized gain (loss) on options written		(50,257)	(156,279)
Net realized gain (loss) on foreign exchange		157,140	(128,283)
Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of foreign exchange		383,812	114,763
Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of on options written		(8,364)	8,364
Net gain (loss) on derivatives		482,331	(161,435)
Total income (net)	\$	1,369,975	\$ 135,781
Expenses (Note 5)			
Management fees		85,710	116,283
Service fees		37,620	51,179
Withholding taxes		30,964	40,120
Unitholder reporting costs		20,792	30,351
Audit fees		25,488	22,638
Transfer agency fees		9,135	7,739
Custodian fees and bank charges		53,415	38,147
Independent Review Committee fees		1,698	2,290
Filing fees		27,102	29,787
Legal fees		6,171	5,369
Transaction costs (Note 8)		11,289	15,753
Total expenses	\$	309,384	\$ 359,656
Increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units	\$	1,060,591	\$ (223,875)
Increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units per unit (Note 4)	\$	1.41	\$ (0.21)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Brand Leaders Income Fund

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HOLDERS OF REDEEMABLE UNITS			
For the year ended December 31,	2017		2016
Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units beginning of year	\$	10,640,447	\$ 24,065,966
Increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units	\$	1,060,591	\$ (223,875)
Redeemable unit transactions			
Redemption of redeemable units		(2,650,672)	(12,444,241)
Net unitholders' transactions	\$	(2,650,672)	\$ (12,444,241)
Distributions to holders of redeemable units			
Return of capital		(571,414)	(757,403)
Total distributions to holders of redeemable units	\$	(571,414)	\$ (757,403)
Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units end of year	\$	8,478,952	\$ 10,640,447

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Brand Leaders Income Fund

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS			
For the year ended December 31,	2017		2016
Operating activities			
Increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units	\$	1,060,591	\$ (223,875)
Add (deduct) items not affecting cash			
Realized (gain) loss on sale of investments		(2,097,881)	(4,394,843)
Realized (gain) loss on options written		50,257	156,279
Change in unrealized (appreciation) depreciation of investments		1,403,334	4,414,964
Change in unrealized (appreciation) depreciation of options written		8,364	(8,364)
Change in unrealized (appreciation) depreciation of foreign exchange		(383,812)	(114,763)
Proceeds from sale of investments		9,185,064	16,812,103
Purchases of investments		(6,340,043)	(3,072,905)
Net change in non-cash assets and liabilities		3,259	17,420
Net cash flow provided by (used in) operating activities	\$	2,889,133	\$ 13,586,016
Financing activities			
Redemption and cancellation of redeemable units		(2,650,672)	(12,444,241)
Distributions paid to holders of redeemable units		(586,913)	(838,735)
Net cash flow provided by (used in) financing activities	\$	(3,237,585)	\$ (13,282,976)
Net increase (decrease) in cash during the year		(348,452)	303,040
Cash, beginning of the year		413,883	110,843
Cash, end of the year	\$	65,431	\$ 413,883
Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information			
Dividends received, net of withholding taxes*	\$	171,501	\$ 296,084

*included in operating activities

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Brand Leaders Income Fund

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS				
As at December 31, 2017				
Number of Shares	Security	Average Cost (\$)	Carrying Value (\$)	% of Net Assets
EQUITIES				
Banking & Other Financial Issuers				
4,200	JPMorgan Chase & Co.	473,269	562,760	6.6
8,400	Morgan Stanley	544,309	552,235	6.5
		1,017,578	1,114,995	13.1
Consumer Discretionary Issuers				
6,500	Starbucks Corporation	473,022	467,720	5.5
4,000	The Walt Disney Company	346,762	538,819	6.4
		819,784	1,006,539	11.9
Consumer Staples Issuers				
3,700	Kimberly-Clark Corporation	576,413	559,369	6.6
3,600	PepsiCo, Inc.	492,425	540,914	6.4
		1,068,838	1,100,283	13.0
Energy Issuers				
6,800	Royal Dutch Shell PLC ADR	491,408	568,373	6.7
		491,408	568,373	6.7
Health Care Issuers				
3,100	Johnson & Johnson	458,695	542,693	6.4
		458,695	542,693	6.4
Industrials Issuers				
3,000	Deere & Company	297,631	588,298	7.0
3,700	United Parcel Service, Inc. Class B	443,490	552,369	6.5
		741,121	1,140,667	13.5
Information Technology Issuers				
425	Alphabet Inc. Class A	459,475	560,939	6.6
2,500	Apple Inc.	325,213	530,092	6.2
9,900	Intel Corporation	370,426	572,578	6.8
5,200	Microsoft Corporation	338,353	557,322	6.6
4,000	Visa Inc. Class A	567,234	571,446	6.7
		2,060,701	2,792,377	32.9
Total investments		6,658,125	8,265,927	97.5
Foreign currency forward contracts (Note 6)			159,587	1.9
Other assets less liabilities			53,438	0.6
Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units			8,478,952	100.0

Brand Leaders Income Fund

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2017

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Brand Leaders Income Fund (the “Fund”) is an investment fund established under the laws of the Province of Ontario pursuant to a Declaration of Trust dated June 29, 2011 and as amended and restated, being the inception date. There was no significant activity in the Fund from the date of inception to commencement of operations on July 19, 2011. On June 29, 2011, the Fund completed an initial public offering of 2,500,000 units at \$12.00 per unit for gross proceeds of \$30,000,000. On August 3, 2011, an over-allotment option was exercised for an additional 101,378 units at a price of \$12.00 per unit for gross proceeds of \$1,216,536. The address of the Fund’s registered office is 710 Dorval Drive, Oakville, Ontario L6K 3V7.

The Fund’s investment objectives are to provide unitholders with monthly cash distributions, the opportunity for capital appreciation and lower overall volatility of Portfolio returns than would otherwise be experienced by owning Equity Securities of the Brand Leaders directly. As part of the investment strategy, the Fund will invest in an equally-weighted portfolio of equity securities of 15 Brand Leaders from the Brand Leaders Investable Universe that have a market capitalization of at least US\$10 billion at the time of investment.

2. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). These financial statements were authorized for issue by Harvest Portfolios Group Inc. (the “Manager”) on March 26, 2018.

3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Financial instruments

The Fund recognizes financial instruments at fair value upon initial recognition, plus transaction costs in the case of financial instruments not measured at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL). Transaction costs on financial assets and liabilities at FVTPL are expensed as incurred. Regular way purchases and sales of financial assets are recognized at their trade date. The Fund’s investments and derivative assets and liabilities are measured at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL), including investments which have been designated at FVTPL. Derivative assets and liabilities are classified as held-for-trading (HFT). The Fund’s obligation for net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units is presented at the redemption amount. All other financial assets and liabilities are measured at amortized cost. Under this method, financial assets and liabilities reflect the amount required to be received or paid, discounted, when appropriate, at the contract’s effective interest rate. Carrying values of other financial assets and liabilities at amortized cost approximate their fair values due to the short term to maturity. The Fund’s accounting policies for measuring the fair value of its investments and derivatives are identical to those used in measuring its net asset value (NAV) for transactions with unitholders. As at December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016, there were no differences between the Fund’s NAV per security and its net assets per security calculated in accordance with IFRS.

Fair value of investments and derivatives

Investments and derivatives that are traded in an active market are valued at their closing prices through recognized public stock exchanges or through recognized investment dealers on the valuation date. The Fund uses the last traded market price that falls within the bid-ask spread. In circumstances where the last traded price is not within the bid-ask spread, the Manager determines the point within the bid-ask spread that is most representative of fair value based on specific facts and circumstances. Investments held are represented by equities. Derivatives held include options and foreign currency forward contracts.

Investments and derivatives held that are not traded in an active market are valued using valuation techniques, on such basis and in such a manner established by the Manager. The value of any security for which, in the opinion of the Manager, the published market quotations are not readily available shall be the fair value as determined by the Manager. The fair values of certain securities may be determined using valuation models that are based, in part, on assumptions that are not supported by observable market inputs. These methods and procedures may include, but are not limited to, performing comparisons with prices of comparable or similar securities, obtaining valuation related information from issuers and/or other analytical data relating to the investment and using other available indication of value. These values are independently assessed internally to ensure that they are reasonable. However, because of the inherent uncertainty of valuation, the estimated fair values for the aforementioned securities and interests may be materially different from the values that would be used had a ready market for the security existed. The fair values of such securities are affected by the perceived credit risks of the issuer, predictability of cash flows and length of time to maturity.

Brand Leaders Income Fund

Classification of redeemable units

Under IFRS, IAS 32 Financial Instruments – Presentation requires that units or shares of an entity which include a contractual obligation for the issuer to repurchase or redeem them for cash or another financial asset be classified as a financial liability unless certain criteria are met. In addition to the annual redemption at 100% of NAV, the Fund's units are redeemable at 95% of their market price monthly. As a result, the Fund's units contain multiple contractual obligations and are presented as financial liabilities on transition to IFRS as they do not meet the criteria for classification as equity.

Cash

Cash is comprised of cash on deposit.

Investment transactions and income recognition

Net realized gain (loss) on investments and net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments are determined on an average cost basis. Dividend income is accounted for on the ex-dividend date.

Foreign currency translation

The Fund's subscriptions and redemptions are denominated in Canadian dollars which is also the Fund's functional and presentation currency. Purchases and sales of investments denominated in foreign currencies and foreign currency dividend and interest income are translated into Canadian dollars at the rate of exchange prevailing at the time of the transactions. Realized and unrealized foreign currency gains or (losses) on investments are included in the Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss) in "Net realized gain (loss) on sale of investments" and "Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments", respectively. Realized and unrealized foreign currency gains or losses on assets, liabilities, and income, other than investments denominated in foreign currencies, are included in the Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss) in "Net realized gain (loss) on foreign exchange" and "Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of foreign exchange", respectively. Foreign currency assets and liabilities in the Statements of Financial Position are translated into Canadian dollars on the statement date.

Foreign currency forward contracts

The Fund may enter into foreign currency forward contracts to hedge against exposure to foreign currency fluctuations. The fair value of these contracts is based on the difference between the contract rate and current forward market rate for the underlying currency at the measurement date applied to the contract's notional amount and adjusted for counterparty risk. Upon closing of a contract, the gain or loss is recorded as a net realized gain or loss on foreign exchange.

Offsetting financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the Statements of Financial Position when there is a legally enforceable right to offset the recognized amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis, or realize the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Redeemable units valuation

The NAV on a particular date will be equal to the aggregate value of the assets of the Fund less the aggregate value of the liabilities of the Fund, expressed in Canadian dollars at the applicable exchange rate on such date. The NAV and NAV per unit will be calculated on each Thursday during the year (or, if a Thursday is not a Business Day, the Business Day following such Thursday) and on the last Business Day of each month, and any other time as may be determined by the Manager from time to time. "Business Day" means any day on which the TSX is open for trading.

Options

An option is a contractual arrangement under which the seller (writer) grants the purchaser (holder) the right, but not the obligation, either to buy (a call option) or sell (a put option) at or by a set date or during a set period, a specific amount of securities or a financial instrument at a pre-determined price. The seller receives a premium from the purchaser in consideration for the assumption of a future securities price.

The premium received upon writing an option is recorded at cost as "Payable for option contracts written" in the Statements of Financial Position. As long as the position of the written option is maintained, the liability for written options is revalued at an amount equal to the current market value of the option. Any gain or loss resulting from revaluation is reflected in the Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss) in "Net changes in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of options written".

The gain or loss on sale or expiry of options is reflected in the Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss) in "Net realized gain (loss) on sale of options written".

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Increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units per unit

“Increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units per unit” in the Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss) represents the increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units, divided by the weighted average units outstanding for the financial period.

Income and other taxes

The Fund qualifies as a mutual fund trust under the Income Tax Act (Canada). For tax purposes, the Fund has a December 31 year end. All of the Fund’s net income for tax purposes and sufficient net capital gains realized in any period are required to be distributed to unitholders such that no income tax is payable by the Fund. As a result, the Fund does not record income taxes. Since the Fund does not record income taxes, the tax benefit of capital and non-capital losses has not been reflected in the statement of financial position as a deferred income tax asset. Capital losses may be carried forward indefinitely to reduce future realized capital gains. Non-capital losses may be carried forward 20 years and applied against future taxable income. As at the last taxation year end, the Fund had \$829,665 of non-capital losses and no net capital losses available to be carried forward for income tax purposes.

The Fund may incur withholding taxes imposed by certain countries on investment income and capital gains. Such income and gains are recorded on a gross basis and the related withholding taxes are shown as a separate expense.

As the Manager is a resident of Ontario, the expenses paid by the Fund generally include HST of 13%. HST is calculated using the residency of unitholders in the Fund as at specific times, rather than the physical location of the Manager. A blended rate refund is filed with the Canada Revenue Agency on behalf of the Fund, in arrears, using each province’s HST rate or GST rate in the case of non-participating provinces.

Critical accounting estimates and judgments

The preparation of financial statements requires management to use judgment in applying its accounting policies and to make estimates and assumptions about the future. The following discusses the most significant accounting judgments and estimates that the Fund has made in preparing the financial statements:

- a) Fair value measurement of derivatives and securities not quoted in an active market

The Fund may hold financial instruments that are not quoted in active markets, including derivatives. Fair values of such instruments are determined using valuation techniques and may be determined using reputable pricing sources (such as pricing agencies) or indicative prices from market makers. Broker quotes as obtained from the pricing sources may be indicative and not executable or binding. Refer to Note 7 for further information about the fair value measurement of the Fund’s financial instruments.

- b) Classification and measurement of investment and application of the fair value option

In classifying and measuring financial instruments held by the Fund, the Manager is required to make significant judgments about whether or not the business of the Fund is to invest on a total return basis for the purpose of applying the fair value option for financial assets under IAS 39, Financial Instruments – Recognition and Measurement (IAS 39). The most significant judgments made include the determination that certain investments are held-for trading and that the fair value option can be applied to those which are not.

Accounting standards issued but not yet adopted

IFRS 9, Financial Instruments

The final version of IFRS 9, Financial Instruments, was issued by the IASB in July 2014 and will replace IAS 39 Financial Instruments – Recognition and Measurement. IFRS 9 introduces a model for classification and measurement, a single, forward-looking ‘expected loss’ impairment model and a substantially reformed approach to hedge accounting. The new single, principle based approach for determining the classification of financial assets is driven by cash flow characteristics and the business model in which an asset is held. The new model also results in a single impairment model being applied to all financial instruments, which will require more timely recognition of expected credit losses. It also includes changes in respect of own credit risk in measuring liabilities elected to be measured at fair value, so that gains caused by the deterioration of an entity’s own credit risk on such liabilities are no longer recognized in profit or loss. IFRS 9 is effective for annual periods beginning on or after January 1, 2018, however, is available for early adoption. In addition, the own credit changes can be early applied in isolation without otherwise changing the accounting for financial instruments. The Manager does not expect any change in the measurement of the financial assets and liabilities of the Fund.

Brand Leaders Income Fund

4. REDEEMABLE UNITS

The authorized capital of the Fund consists of an unlimited number of transferable units of one class representing an equal, undivided interest in the net assets of the Fund. Except as provided in the Declaration of Trust, all units have equal rights and privileges. Each unit is entitled to one vote at all meetings of unitholders and is entitled to participate equally in any and all distributions made by the Fund. The units trade on the TSX under the symbol HBL.UN. As at December 31, 2017, the closing price of the units was \$11.50 per unit (December 31, 2016 - \$10.78 per unit).

The Fund's normal course issuer bid program was not renewed after it expired on August 24, 2016.

Redemptions

Units may be surrendered prior to 5:00 p.m. (Toronto time) on the 10th business day before the last business day of the applicable month by the holders for monthly redemption. Upon receipt by the Fund of the redemption notice, the holder of a unit shall be entitled to receive a price per unit equal to the lesser of:

- (a) 95% of the "market price" of the units on the principal market on which the units are quoted for trading during the 20 trading day period ending immediately before the monthly redemption date; and
- (b) 100% of the "closing market price" on the principal market on which the units are quoted for trading on the monthly redemption date.

Notwithstanding the monthly redemption price formula above, at no time will the Fund pay out redemption proceeds greater than the NAV per Unit as determined on the monthly redemption date for each Unit being redeemed.

In accordance with the Fund prospectus, in addition to the monthly redemption rights, on an annual basis, units may be surrendered for redemption at the Fund's NAV per unit, subject to the required redemption notice period, for the second last business day of January and the unitholder will receive payment on or before the 15th business day of the following month. On January 31, 2017, 238,447 (January 31, 2016 – 1,251,256) units were redeemed and cancelled for \$2,650,672 (January 31, 2016 - \$12,444,241).

The following units were redeemed and/or cancelled during the year:

	Units outstanding
Total outstanding as at January 1, 2016	2,222,285
Redeemable units redeemed	(1,251,256)
Total outstanding as at December 31, 2016	971,029
Redeemable units redeemed	(238,447)
Total outstanding as at December 31, 2017	732,582

The weighted average number of units outstanding during the year ended December 31, 2017 was 752,180 units (2016 – 1,066,754 units).

Distributions

The Fund intends to make monthly cash distributions to unitholders of record on the last business day of each month and pay such cash distributions on or before the 15th day of the following month. Beginning in November 2011, the Fund will annually determine and announce the distribution amount for the following year based upon the prevailing market conditions. The distribution amount was \$571,414 or \$0.065 per unit per month for the year ended December 31, 2017 (2016 - \$757,403 or \$0.065 per unit per month).

5. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS AND OTHER EXPENSES

Management and service fees

Harvest Portfolios Group Inc. is the Manager of the Fund and is responsible for managing the Fund's overall business and operations and provides key management personnel to the Fund. The Manager retained Highstreet Asset Management Inc. ("Highstreet" or the "Investment Manager") to provide investment management services to the Fund up until termination on March 31, 2016. Highstreet was paid a fee for its portfolio advisory service, from the management fee received from the Fund, calculated on the basis of the Fund's net assets.

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The Manager is entitled to a fee of 0.90% of the average weekly NAV, plus applicable taxes, per annum of the Fund. The Fund pays service fees to registered dealers at the rate on 0.40% of the average weekly NAV, plus applicable taxes, per annum of the Fund. Service fees are accrued daily and paid monthly to the Manager, who in turn pays the dealers quarterly.

Operating expenses

The Fund is responsible for operating expenses relating to the carrying on of its business, including custodial services, interest, taxes, legal, audit fees, transfer agency services relating to the issue and redemption of units, and the cost of financial and other reports, costs and expenses for the Fund's Independent Review Committee ("IRC"), including fees and expenses of the IRC members and compliance with applicable laws, regulations and policies. The Manager pays for such expenses on behalf of the Fund, except for certain expenses such as interest, and is then reimbursed by the Fund.

Other expenses

The Manager will be reimbursed by the Fund for all reasonable costs, expenses and liabilities incurred by the Manager for performance of services on behalf of the Fund in connection with the discharge by the Manager of its duties hereunder. Such costs and expenses may include, without limitation: mailing and printing expenses for reports to unitholders and other unitholder communications; a reasonable allocation of salaries, benefits and consulting fees; independent directors of the Manager and other administrative expenses and costs incurred in connection with the Fund's continuous public offering and other obligations. These expenses are allocated by the Manager on a reasonable basis, across all of the Harvest Portfolios Group Inc. funds, and series of each applicable fund. These expenses were \$15,187 for the year ended December 31, 2017 (2016 - \$27,073) and are included in the unitholder reporting costs on the Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss).

6. FOREIGN CURRENCY FORWARD CONTRACTS

The Fund enters into foreign currency forward contracts to hedge assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies. Foreign currency forward contracts entered into by the Fund represent a firm commitment to buy or sell a currency at a specified value and point in time based upon an agreed or contracted quantity. The value of the foreign currency forward contract is the difference between the contract rate and the current forward rate at the measurement date applied to the contract's notional amount and adjusted for counterparty risk. The unrealized gains or losses on the forward contract are reported as part of the change in unrealized appreciation or depreciation of foreign exchange in the Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss) until it is closed out or partially settled.

At December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016, the Fund had entered into the following foreign currency forward contracts:

As at December 31, 2017					
Counterparty	Settlement Date	Purchased currency	Sold currency	Unrealized gain (loss)	Contract Price
Royal Bank of Canada credit rating AA-	January 18, 2018	CAD \$4,019,510	USD \$3,150,000	\$73,730	0.7837
National Bank of Canada credit rating A	January 18, 2018	CAD \$4,018,991	USD \$3,150,000	\$73,210	0.7838
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce credit rating A+	February 14, 2018	CAD \$513,524	USD \$400,000	\$12,647	0.7789
Total		CAD \$8,552,025	USD \$6,700,000	\$159,587	

As at December 31, 2016					
Counterparty	Settlement Date	Purchased currency	Sold currency	Unrealized gain (loss)	Contract Price
Royal Bank of Canada credit rating AA-	January 20, 2017	CAD \$5,113,505	USD \$3,900,000	(\$115,450)	0.7627
National Bank credit rating A	January 20, 2017	CAD \$5,114,070	USD \$3,900,000	(\$114,884)	0.7626
Total		CAD \$10,227,575	USD \$7,800,000	(\$230,334)	

Brand Leaders Income Fund

Offsetting of foreign currency forward contracts

In 2017, the Fund had a foreign exchange settlement for its foreign currency forward contracts that do not meet the criteria for offsetting in the Statements of Financial Position. The following table presents the recognized financial instruments that were not offset, as at December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016.

December 31, 2017			
Financial assets and liabilities	Gross assets (liabilities)	Amounts eligible for offset	Net offset amounts
Derivative assets	\$159,587	-	\$159,587
Derivative liabilities	-	-	-

December 31, 2016			
Financial assets and liabilities	Gross assets (liabilities)	Amounts eligible for offset	Net offset amounts
Derivative assets	-	-	-
Derivative liabilities	(\$230,334)	-	(\$230,334)

7. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

Investment activities of the Fund expose it to a variety of financial risks: credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk (including interest rate risk, other price risk and currency risk). The Manager seeks to minimize these risks by employing experienced portfolio managers that will manage the security portfolios of the Fund on a daily basis according to market events and the investment objectives of the Fund. To assist in managing risk, the Manager also maintains a governance structure that oversees the Fund's investment activities and monitors compliance with the Fund's stated investment strategy and securities regulations.

Other price risk

Other price risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The value of securities in the Fund's portfolio may be affected by the stock market conditions rather than each company's performance. Developments in the market are affected by general economic and financial conditions. Political, social and environmental factors can also affect the value of any investment.

As at December 31, 2017, 97.5% (December 31, 2016 – 98.6%) of the Fund's net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units were traded on public stock exchanges. If equity prices on these exchanges had increased or decreased by 5%, as at year end, with all other factors remaining constant, net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units would have increased or decreased by approximately \$413,296 (December 31, 2016 - \$524,764).

In practice, the actual trading results may differ and the difference could be material.

Currency risk

Currency risk is the risk that the value of investments denominated in currencies other than the functional currency of the Fund will fluctuate as a result of changes in foreign exchange rates. When a Fund buys an investment priced in a foreign currency and the exchange rate between the Canadian dollar and the foreign currency changes unfavorably, it could reduce the value of the Fund's investment.

The table below summarizes the Fund's net exposure to currency risk. Amounts shown are based on the carrying value of monetary and non-monetary net assets (including derivatives and the underlying principal (notional) amount of forward currency contracts, if any).

As at December 31, 2017				
Currency	Currency exposure*	Forward contracts*	Net currency exposure*	As a % of net assets
U.S. Dollars	\$8,351,308	\$8,392,438	(\$41,130)	(0.5)

*In Canadian dollars

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As at December 31, 2016				
Currency	Currency exposure*	Forward contracts*	Net currency exposure*	As a % of net assets
U.S. Dollars	\$10,715,664	\$10,457,908	\$257,756	2.4

*In Canadian dollars

The non-monetary currency exposure is \$8,265,927 (December 31, 2016 – \$10,475,022) and the monetary currency exposure is \$85,381 (December 31, 2016 – \$240,642).

As at December 31, 2017, if the Canadian dollar had strengthened or weakened by 5% in relation to all foreign currencies, with all other variables held constant, the Fund's net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units would have increased or decreased, respectively, by approximately \$2,057 (December 31, 2016 - \$12,888) or 0.0% (December 31, 2016 - 0.1%) based on the net currency exposure. In practice, the actual results may differ from this sensitivity analysis and the difference could be material.

As all of the securities in the portfolio investments are denominated in U.S. dollars and expected dividends and premiums from call options received are in U.S. dollars, the Fund enters into a forward currency contract on substantially all of the value of the portfolio investments back to the Canadian dollar at all times.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk arises from the possibility that changes in interest rates will affect future cash flows or fair value of financial instruments. Interest rate risk arises when the Fund invests in interest-bearing financial instruments. The Fund does not hold any bonds or money market instruments; therefore, the Fund has no significant exposure to interest rate risk.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is defined as the risk that a fund may not be able to settle or meet its obligations on time or at a reasonable price. The Fund is exposed to redemption of units as described in Note 4. However, the Manager does not expect that the contractual maturity will be representative of the actual cash outflows as holders of those units typically retain them for a longer period. Therefore, in order to maintain sufficient liquidity, the Fund primarily invests in securities that are actively traded in public markets and can be readily disposed of to raise liquidity.

As at December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016, all of the Fund's financial liabilities have maturities of less than three months.

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a counterparty to a financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation or commitment that it has entered into with the Fund.

All transactions executed by the Fund in listed securities are settled/paid for upon delivery using approved brokers. The risk of default is considered minimal, as delivery of securities sold is only made once the broker has received payment. Payment is made on a purchase once the securities have been received by the broker. The trade will fail if either party fails to meet its obligation.

The Fund also enters into foreign currency forward contracts which are exposed to credit risk. The maximum credit risk exposure is the unrealized gain (loss) on the forward contracts.

As at December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016 the Fund did not have significant credit risk exposure. All cash held by the fund is held with a reputable and regulated financial institution.

Fair value of financial instruments

The Fund classifies fair value measurements within a hierarchy which gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are:

Level 1: Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date;

Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (i.e. as prices) or indirectly (i.e. derived from prices); and

Level 3: Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data.

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The table below summarizes the fair value of the Fund's financial instruments using the following fair value hierarchy:

Transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy are deemed to have occurred at the beginning of the reporting period.

Securities classification:

Investments at fair value as at December 31, 2017				
	Level 1 (\$)	Level 2 (\$)	Level 3 (\$)	Totals (\$)
Financial Assets				
Equities				
Common Stock	7,697,554	-	-	7,697,554
ADR	568,373	-	-	568,373
Derivatives				
Foreign currency forward contracts	-	159,587	-	159,587
Total Financial Assets	8,265,927	159,587	-	8,425,514

Investments at fair value as at December 31, 2016				
	Level 1 (\$)	Level 2 (\$)	Level 3 (\$)	Totals (\$)
Financial Assets				
Equities				
Common Stock	8,576,737	-	-	8,576,737
ADR	1,918,536	-	-	1,918,536
Total Financial Assets	10,495,273	-	-	10,495,273
Financial Liabilities				
Derivatives				
Options	(20,251)	-	-	(20,251)
Foreign currency forward contracts	-	(230,334)	-	(230,334)
Total Financial Liabilities	(20,251)	(230,334)	-	(250,585)

There were no Level 3 securities held by the Fund as at December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016, and there were no significant transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 for the year ended December 31, 2017 or for the year ended December 31, 2016.

The value of the equities and written options is based on quoted prices. The value of the foreign currency forward contract is determined as the difference between the contract rate and the current forward rate at the measurement date applied to the contract's notional amount and adjusted for counterparty risk.

Concentration Risk

Concentration risk arises as a result of the concentration of exposures within the same category, whether it is geographical location, product type, industry, sector or counterparty type. The following is a summary of the Fund's concentration risk by geography and segment.

Geography:

As at	December 31, 2017		December 31, 2016	
	\$*	% of net assets	\$*	% of net assets
United States of America	8,265,927	97.5	10,475,022	98.4
Totals	8,265,927	97.5	10,475,022	98.4

*Stated in Canadian dollars

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Market Segment (percentage of net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units):

	December 31, 2017	December 31, 2016
	% of net assets	% of net assets
EQUITIES		
Information Technology Issuers	32.9	27.4
Industrial Issuers	13.5	27.6
Banks and Other Financial Issuers	13.1	12.5
Consumer Staples Issuers	13.0	17.4
Consumer Discretionary Issuers	11.9	6.4
Energy Issuers	6.7	7.3
Health Care Issuers	6.4	-
OPTIONS		
Consumer Staples Issuers	-	(0.1)
Industrials Issuers	-	(0.1)
Total	97.5	98.4

8. SOFT DOLLAR COMMISSIONS

Brokerage commissions paid to certain brokers may, in addition to paying for the cost of brokerage services in respect of security transactions, also provide for the cost of investment research services provided to the investment manager. The value of such research services included in commissions paid to brokers for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 amounted to \$nil.

9. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

On January 31, 2018, 299,531 units were redeemed and cancelled for \$3,586,105.

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