



**US Equity Plus Income ETF  
(formerly US Buyback Leaders ETF)**

**Annual Management Report of Fund Performance**

**December 31, 2017**

The Fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosure, can be obtained at your request, and at no cost, by calling us at 1-866-998-8298; by writing to us at Harvest Portfolios Group Inc., 710 Dorval Drive, Suite 209, Oakville, Ontario, L6K 3V7; by visiting our website at [www.harvestportfolios.com](http://www.harvestportfolios.com); or on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

# **US Equity Plus Income ETF (formerly US Buyback Leaders ETF)**

## **CORPORATE OVERVIEW**

Harvest Portfolios Group Inc. (“Harvest”) is a Canadian Investment Manager focused on unique income generating investment products. Harvest was founded in 2009 and is focused on developing investment products that follow the investment philosophy of:

1. Clear investment objectives
2. Transparency
3. Income generation

Harvest endeavours to develop investment products that are clear in their mandate and easy for our investors to understand. We strive to be transparent, so that our investors can open their financial reports and know exactly what they own. Our funds are invested to provide investors with consistent monthly or quarterly income; therefore, we seek to invest our fund portfolios in well managed companies that have a history of steady cash flow and pay dividends.

## **INVESTMENT PRODUCT**

The US Equity Plus Income ETF (formerly US Buyback Leaders ETF) (the “Fund”) has investment objectives to provide unitholders with quarterly cash distributions, the opportunity for capital appreciation and provide investors with exposure to select large capitalization U.S. companies that are leaders in terms of share repurchase programs. As part of the investment strategy, the Fund will invest in an equally-weighted portfolio of equity securities of the 25 issuers selected from the top 100 issuers in the US Buyback Leaders Investable Universe with the highest Buyback Ratio and that have a market capitalization of at least US\$10 billion at the time of investment.

# US Equity Plus Income ETF (formerly US Buyback Leaders ETF)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

US Equity Plus Income ETF

Unitholder letter March 2018

Dear Valued Unitholder,

Fresh off the US Election, 2017 markets started off strong, coasted through the summer months and ended on an upswing. The US Federal Reserve raised the benchmark interest rate three times with December's quarter point hike being the 5th since 2006. President Trump managed to get his tax bill passed while US unemployment drifted ever lower and looks to breach below 4% in 2018. It was also the year of Bitcoin and the crypto currency mania, though back on earth, not a bad year for the portfolios with lower volatility than we have been used to for some time.

As per Warren Buffett, "In the business world, the rearview mirror is always clearer than the windshield". That said, 2017 will go down in the history of markets as one of the surprising "up" years as the preponderance of investors did not feel positive at the outset of the year. We have all heard the term "the most hated bull market", because it was hard to be long equities after what has been one volatile ride for the previous 16 years. It is sometimes forgotten that the S&P 500 highs of March 2000, were not achieved again until October 2007, and then achieved for a third time and finally surpassed in March 2013. If one was long the S&P 500 Index, one basically spent 13 years riding a roller coaster to end up on the same platform where one started. Since the Financial crisis bottomed in March 2009, we have had successive years of negative sentiment, quantitative easing, a new US President, a flash crash and two large pullbacks, the last between May 2015 and February 2016 with the S&P 500 down over 15% during that time. No doubt equity investors were skittish going into 2017.

Our investment philosophy at Harvest doesn't change, markets will change and we accept that, we will fine tune portfolios when the dynamics for a company change, but we maintain our long term thesis. Option writing, in our Leaders Funds, allows us to reduce some of the shorter term risk of a portfolio and monetize that portion of return for income generation. The majority of the portfolio will remain long due to our positive bias towards the businesses we hold. When we develop a new portfolio (Fund) at Harvest, the first thing we look at is the industry or theme, does it have growth characteristics, and will it continue to be part of human, industrial, technological or some other positive advancement. If we can answer "yes", then the deeper work begins on the portfolio construction.

Looking towards 2018, our belief is that investors stay the course. This is not a view of complacency as volatility will reemerge and markets will face new challenges, but one of long term belief that quality companies with established franchises, solid cash flow, earnings and track records of growth will prevail over time. Most importantly is patience, to hold on when times are good and when times are tough.

On behalf of Harvest, I would like to thank you for your trust and investment in our products.

Sincerely,

*Signed* "Michael Kovacs"

Michael Kovacs  
President and Chief Executive Officer

# **US Equity Plus Income ETF (formerly US Buyback Leaders ETF)**

## **MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION OF FUND PERFORMANCE**

The annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete annual financial statements of the Fund. For your reference, the annual financial statements of the Fund are attached to the annual management report of fund performance. You may obtain additional copies of these documents at your request, and at no cost, by calling toll free at 1-866-998-8298; by writing to us at Harvest Portfolios Group Inc., 710 Dorval Drive, Suite 209, Oakville, Ontario, L6K 3V7; or by visiting our website at [www.harvestportfolios.com](http://www.harvestportfolios.com); or on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

Unitholders may also contact us using one of these methods to request a copy of the Fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosure.

## **INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY**

The Fund has been established to provide investors with exposure to 25 issuers selected from the top 100 issuers with the largest dollar amount of shares repurchased over the prior four quarters for which information is publicly available relative to the issuer's current market capitalization that meet the following criteria: (i) are included in the S&P 500 Index; (ii) have a market capitalization that is at least US\$10 billion as determined at the time of investment; (iii) are incorporated in the U.S.; (iv) pay a dividend; and (v) have bought back their shares within the prior four quarters as determined at the time of investment.

The Fund's investment objectives are to provide Unitholders with (i) the opportunity for capital appreciation; and (ii) quarterly cash distributions.

The Manager will select the Equity Securities for the Portfolio and will quarterly reconstitute and rebalance the Portfolio such that the Portfolio, at the time of the initial investment and immediately following each quarterly reconstitution and rebalancing, will include an equal - weighting of the 25 issuers selected from the top 100 Buyback Issuers in the US Buyback Investable Universe with the highest Buyback Ratio.

## **RISK**

The risks associated with investing in the Fund are as described in the prospectus. There were no material changes to the Fund over the period that affected the overall level of risk of the Fund.

## **RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The US Equity Plus Income ETF (formerly US Buyback Leaders ETF) returned 18.24% for Series A and 18.80% for Series U compared to the S&P 500 Total Return Index return of 21.83% in USD for the period ending December 31, 2017.

Sentiment quickly turned positive late in 2016, as expectations for more pro-growth policies were lifted following the surprising US Presidential election victory by Donald Trump. Momentum continued through the entirety of 2017, despite periods of heightened uncertainty, as the Federal Reserve in the United States raised its Target Funds Rate three times during the course of the period. Political rhetoric also continued to provide a source of shorter term volatility, however strong US corporate earnings during the period, particularly those with domestic US earnings, showed resilience while balance sheets remained strong. The passage of tax reform late in the year, also helped to accelerate the equity markets rally heading into year end. As a result, those positions in the Fund exposed to the domestic U.S. economy, performed strongly.

The Fund was invested in 25 issuers selected from issuers in the S&P 500 that pay a dividend, are US incorporated, and rank within the top 100 issuers by their share repurchase ratios in accordance with its investment objectives and strategies.

## **RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

On July 5, 2017, the Fund made available to unitholders the opportunity to reinvest quarterly distributions in additional units of the Fund by participating in a distribution reinvestment plan which would provide that cash distributions, at the election of a unitholder, be automatically reinvested in additional units, as applicable, on such unitholder's behalf in accordance with the terms of the plan.

## **US Equity Plus Income ETF (formerly US Buyback Leaders ETF)**

On June 22, 2017, the Fund changed its name from US Buyback Leaders ETF to US Equity Plus Income ETF. The amended name of the Fund more accurately reflects the mandate of the Fund. No changes were made to the investment objective, strategies or management of the Fund

### **RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

There were no related party transactions during the reporting period, except for management fees and other expense reimbursements paid to Harvest, as noted below in Management and Other Fees.

### **MANAGEMENT AND OTHER FEES**

The Fund pays its manager, Harvest, a management fee calculated based on the average daily net asset value (“NAV”) and paid monthly in arrears, based on an annual rate of 0.75%, plus applicable taxes, of the NAV of the Fund. Prior to conversion, the calculation was based on the average weekly NAV.

At its sole discretion, the Manager may waive management fees or absorb expenses of the Fund. The management expense ratios of the Fund with and without the waivers and absorptions are reported in the Ratios and Supplemental Data table below.

#### **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 were \$37,375 for the year ended December 31, 2017 (2016 – \$70,620) and are included in the unitholder reporting costs on the Statement of Comprehensive Income (Loss).

### **RECOMMENDATIONS OR REPORTS BY THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The Independent Review Committee tabled no special reports and made no extraordinary material recommendations to management of the Fund during the year ended December 31, 2017.

# US Equity Plus Income ETF (formerly US Buyback Leaders ETF)

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The following tables present selected key financial information about the Fund and are intended to help you understand the Fund's financial performance for the year ended December 31, 2017 and past periods. This information is derived from the Fund's annual financial statements.

### Series A

<b>THE FUND'S NET ASSETS PER UNIT</b>	<b>2017</b>		<b>2016</b>		<b>2015</b>	
<b>Net assets - beginning of the year<sup>2</sup></b>	\$	<b>8.26</b>	\$	<b>7.76</b>	\$	<b>9.33</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations</b>						
Total revenue		0.15		0.15		0.13
Total expenses		(0.16)		(0.10)		(0.10)
Realized gains (losses) for the year		0.96		(0.32)		(0.98)
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year		0.47		0.75		(0.35)
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1.42</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>0.48</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(1.30)</b>
<b>Distributions<sup>3</sup></b>						
Return of capital		(0.40)		(0.40)		(0.30)
<b>Total annual distributions<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(0.40)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(0.40)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(0.30)</b>
<b>Net assets - end of the year<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>9.34</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8.26</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>7.76</b>

<b>RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA</b>	<b>2017</b>		<b>2016</b>		<b>2015</b>	
<b>Total net asset value</b>	\$	<b>17,707,612</b>	\$	<b>20,634,398</b>	\$	<b>39,001,565</b>
Number of units outstanding		1,896,723		2,496,723		5,025,054
Management expense ratio <sup>4</sup>		1.86%		1.39%		8.48%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions <sup>4</sup>		1.86%		1.39%		8.48%
Trading expense ratio <sup>5</sup>		0.10%		0.21%		0.20%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>6</sup>		99.87%		123.37%		64.30%
<b>Net asset value per unit</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>9.34</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8.26</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>7.76</b>
<b>Closing market price (HUL)*</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>9.42</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8.43</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>7.56</b>

\* On conversion to an ETF, Series A traded under the symbol HUL. Prior to conversion Series A traded under the symbol HUL.UN as a closed end fund.

# US Equity Plus Income ETF (formerly US Buyback Leaders ETF)

## Series U (CAD)

THE FUND'S NET ASSETS PER UNIT			
	2017	2016	2015
Net assets - beginning of the year <sup>2</sup>	\$ 11.31	\$ 10.89	\$ 11.66
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations</b>			
Total revenue	0.19	0.20	0.17
Total expenses	(0.21)	(0.14)	(0.13)
Realized gains (losses) for the year	1.21	(0.89)	(0.14)
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year	0.09	1.45	(0.50)
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$ 1.28</b>	<b>\$ 0.62</b>	<b>\$ (0.60)</b>
<b>Distributions<sup>3</sup></b>			
Return of capital	(0.52)	(0.53)	(0.40)
<b>Total annual distributions<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>\$ (0.52)</b>	<b>\$ (0.53)</b>	<b>\$ (0.40)</b>
<b>Net assets - end of the year<sup>1, 7</sup></b>	<b>\$ 12.00</b>	<b>\$ 11.31</b>	<b>\$ 10.89</b>

RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA			
	2017	2016	2015
<b>Total net asset value</b>	<b>\$ 2,651,280</b>	<b>\$ 2,214,858</b>	<b>\$ 2,759,997</b>
Number of units outstanding	220,850	195,850	253,500
Management expense ratio <sup>4</sup>	1.86%	1.39%	9.05%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions <sup>4</sup>	1.86%	1.39%	9.05%
Trading expense ratio <sup>5</sup>	0.10%	0.21%	0.20%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>6</sup>	99.87%	123.37%	64.30%
<b>Net asset value per unit</b>	<b>\$ 12.00</b>	<b>\$ 11.31</b>	<b>\$ 10.89</b>
<b>Closing market price - USD (HUL.U)*</b>	<b>\$ 9.51</b>	<b>\$ 8.59</b>	<b>\$ N/A</b>

\* On conversion to an ETF, Series U traded under the symbol HUL.U. Prior to conversion Series U units did not trade.

### Explanatory Notes:

- 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 reporting period. It is not intended that the Fund's net assets per unit table act as a continuity of opening and closing net assets per unit.
- Net assets, at the commencement of operations on March 25, 2015 was \$9.33, net of agents' commissions and issuance costs of \$0.67 per unit for Series A and net assets, at the beginning of the period was \$11.66 (\$9.33 USD), net of agents' commissions and issuance costs of \$0.80 (\$0.67 USD) per unit for Series U.
- Distributions were paid in cash or reinvested in additional units of the Fund.
- Management expense ratio ("MER") is based on total expenses (excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs) of the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period. The MER for 2015 (the year of inception) the year of inception, included agents' fees of \$2,705,788 and issue costs of \$571,677 for Series A and agents' fees of \$204,626 and issue costs of \$44,184 for Series U, which were treated as one-time expenses and therefore were not annualized. The MER without these costs is 1.47% for Series A and 1.47% for Series U.
- The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period.
- The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio advisor manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the period. The higher a Fund's portfolio turnover rate, the greater the trading costs payable by the Fund and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a Fund.
- The USD amount of the net assets at the end of the period was \$9.58USD.

# US Equity Plus Income ETF (formerly US Buyback Leaders ETF)

## Past Performance

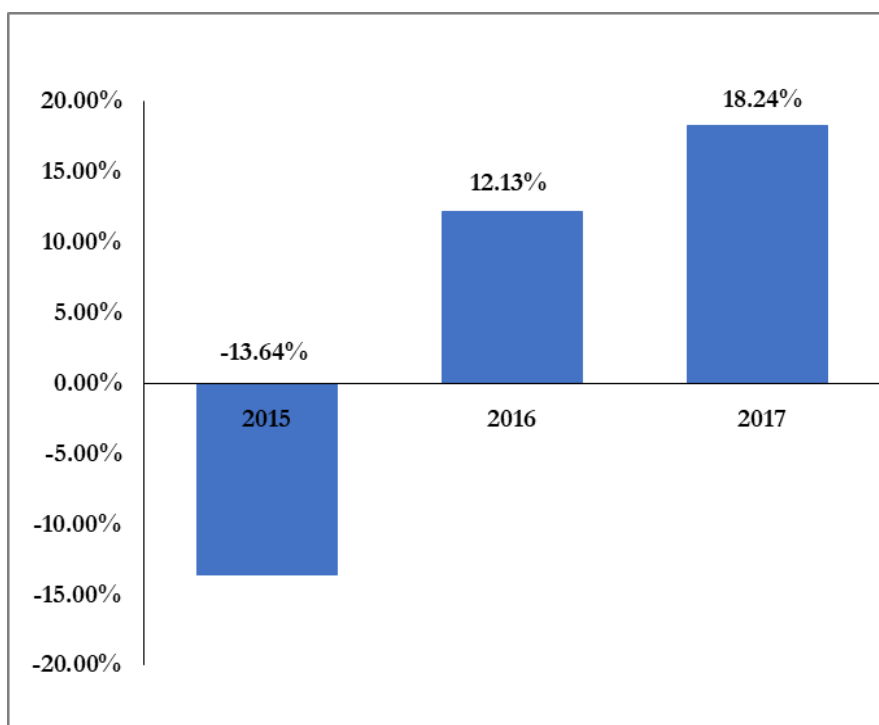
The performance information presented herein assumes all dividends of the Fund during the periods presented were reinvested in additional securities of the Fund. The performance information does not take into account sales, redemptions, or other charges that would have reduced returns or affected performance. Past performance of the Fund is not necessarily indicative of how it will perform in the future.

## YEAR-BY-YEAR RETURNS

The following charts present the Fund's performance for each of the years shown. The chart shows, in percentage terms, how much an investment made on the first day of each financial year would have grown or decreased by the last day of each financial year.

## Fund Performance

### Series A

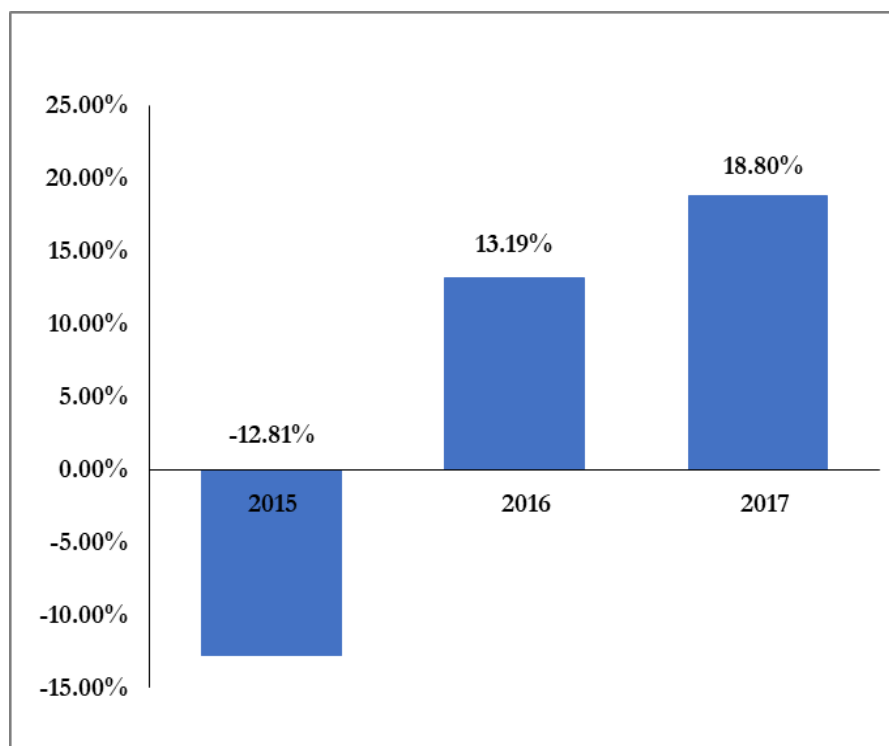


2015 represents the period from March 25 to December 31



## US Equity Plus Income ETF (formerly US Buyback Leaders ETF)

Series U (USD)



2015 represents the period from March 25 to December 31

### ANNUAL COMPOUND RETURNS

The following table shows the annual compound returns for the Fund. All returns are in Canadian dollars unless otherwise indicated, on a total return basis, net of fees.

For comparison purposes, the S&P 500 Total Return Index (USD) (the “Index”) is used. While the Fund uses this benchmark for long-term performance comparisons, it is not managed relative to the composition of the Index. As a result, the Fund may experience periods when its performance is not aligned with the Index, either positively or negatively. The return of the Index is calculated without the deduction of management fees and fund expenses whereas the performance of the Fund is calculated after deducting such fees and expenses. Please see the “Results of Operations” section of this report for a discussion on recent performance.

Investment Return %	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	Since Inception
Fund Performance – Series A	18.24	-	-	-	5.02
Fund Performance – Series U (USD)	18.80	-	-	-	5.92
S&P 500 Total Return Index (USD)	21.83	-	-	-	12.20

\*Since inception March 25, 2015

## US Equity Plus Income ETF (formerly US Buyback Leaders ETF)

### SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

The Portfolio by Sector chart below provides a portfolio breakdown based on the total transactional net asset value of the Fund's portfolio holdings. A detailed breakdown of the Fund's holdings is available in the "Schedule of Investments" section of the Fund's annual financial statements.

As at December 31, 2017

Top 25 Holdings	% of Net Asset Value
The Allstate Corporation	4.2
The Home Depot, Inc.	4.1
General Mills, Inc.	4.1
Valero Energy Corporation	4.1
Bank of America Corporation	4.1
Texas Instruments Incorporated	4.0
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.	4.0
Union Pacific Corporation	4.0
JPMorgan Chase & Co.	4.0
McDonald's Corporation	4.0
Alexandria Real Estate Equities, Inc.	4.0
United Technologies Corporation	4.0
Quest Diagnostics Incorporated	3.9
The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.	3.9
Illinois Tool Works Inc.	3.9
Bank of New York Mellon Corporation	3.9
CBS Corporation Class B	3.9
Visa Inc. Class A	3.9
The Walt Disney Company	3.9
Corning Incorporated	3.8
Amgen Inc.	3.8
Symantec Corporation	3.8
Apple Inc.	3.8
Humana Inc.	3.6
Gilead Sciences, Inc.	3.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>98.2</b>

This summary of investment portfolio may change due to the ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund. Quarterly updates of the Fund's investment portfolio are available from Harvest Portfolios Group Inc. at [www.harvestportfolios.com](http://www.harvestportfolios.com).

# US Equity Plus Income ETF (formerly US Buyback Leaders ETF)

## SECTOR ALLOCATION

Sector	% of Net Asset Value
Banking and Other Financial Issuers	20.1
Information Technology Issuers	19.3
Consumer Discretionary Issuers	15.9
Health Care Issuers	14.8
Industrial Issuers	11.9
Consumer Staples Issuers	8.1
Energy Issuers	4.1
Real Estate Issuers	4.0
Foreign currency forward contracts	2.2
Net other liabilities	(0.4)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**US Equity Plus Income ETF**  
**(formerly US Buyback Leaders ETF)**

**Head Office**

710 Dorval Drive, Suite 209  
Oakville, ON L6K 3V7  
Phone Number: 416.649.4541  
Toll Free: 866.998.8298  
Fax Number: 416.649.4542  
Email: [info@harvestportfolios.com](mailto:info@harvestportfolios.com)

**CAUTION REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This document may contain forward-looking statements relating to anticipated future events, results, circumstances, performance or expectations that are not historical facts but instead represent our beliefs regarding future events. By their nature, forward-looking statements require us to make assumptions and are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties. There is significant risk that predictions and other forward-looking statements will not prove to be accurate. We caution readers of this document not to place undue reliance on our forward-looking statements as a number of factors could cause actual future results, conditions, actions or events to differ materially from the targets, expectations, estimates or intentions expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements. Actual results may differ materially from management expectations as projected in such forward-looking statements for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to market and general economic conditions, interest rates, regulatory and statutory developments, the effects of competition in the geographic and business areas in which the Fund may invest and the risks detailed from time to time in the Fund's prospectus or offering memorandum. We caution that the foregoing list of factors is not exhaustive and that when relying on forward-looking statements to make decisions with respect to investing in the Fund, investors and others should carefully consider these factors, as well as other uncertainties and potential events, and the inherent uncertainty of forward-looking statements. Due to the potential impact of these factors, the Fund does not undertake, and specifically disclaims, any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, unless required by applicable law.