

# INTERIM MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE

## **Harvest Global Resource Leaders ETF**

June 30, 2019



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; or on SEDAR at www.sedar.com.

#### **CORPORATE OVERVIEW**

Harvest Portfolios Group Inc. ("Harvest" or the "Manager") is a Canadian Investment Manager founded in 2009. Harvest is focused on developing investment products that follow the investment philosophy of:

- 1. Clear investment objectives
- 2. Transparency
- 3. Consistent income and growth

Harvest endeavors 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 Harvest Global Resource Leaders ETF (the "Fund") invests in an equally weighted portfolio of Equity Securities¹ of not less than 20 Global Resource Leaders¹ and not more than 30 Global Resource Leaders, chosen from the Global Resource Leaders Investable Universe¹ that, immediately following each quarterly reconstitution, have a market capitalization that is at least US\$2 billion as determined at the time of investment.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As defined in the Fund's prospectus dated January 7, 2019.



1

#### MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION OF FUND PERFORMANCE

The interim management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete interim financial statements of the Fund. For your reference, the interim financial statements of the Fund are attached to the interim 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; or on SEDAR at 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 invests in an equally weighted portfolio of Equity Securities of not less than 20 Global Resource Leaders and not more than 30 Global Resource Leaders, chosen from the Global Resource Leaders Investable Universe that, immediately following each quarterly reconstitution, have a market capitalization that is at least US\$2 billion as determined at the time of investment.

The Manager selects the Equity Securities for the portfolio and at a minimum will review and reconstitute and rebalance the portfolio quarterly (within 30 days following the last business day of January, April, July and October). If, in the opinion of the Manager, there are not 20 Global Resource Leaders that meet the investment criteria of the Fund, the Manager may invest in fewer than 20 Global Resource Leaders. At the time of the initial investment and immediately following each quarterly reconstitution, the Manager will review and give consideration to select investment characteristics that may include:

Diversification: Geographic, sub-sector and commodity price outlooks

Value: Price-to-Earnings Ratio, Price-to-Book Value Ratio, Priceto-Cash Flow Ratio and Yield Quality: Return-on-Equity, Debt-to-Equity, Debt-to-Cash Flow Ratio and debt maturity profile

Growth: Long term earnings and dividend per share growth

The Fund's investment objectives are to provide unitholders with:

- quarterly cash distributions; and
- (ii) the opportunity for capital appreciation;

To achieve lower overall volatility of portfolio returns, the Fund will selectively write covered call options on up to 33% of the portfolio securities. The level of covered call option writing may vary based on market volatility and other factors.

## **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 Fund returned 8.59% for the period ended June 30, 2019 versus the MSCI Daily TR World Gross Materials of 17.21%.

The "Trade War" tensions between China and the US heightened through the end of 2018, and continue throughout 2019, despite hopes they would be resolved by now. In the fourth quarter of 2018, resources came under significant pressure as oversupply came to the fore once again and the intensification of the "Trade War" saw reduced global demand expectations. However, in early 2019 resources rebounded off the fourth quarter low, as market sentiment improved and hopes that trade tensions could find some resolution. Resources continue to exhibit wide, volatile swings.

The Fund offers diversified exposure across the industrial metals, chemicals, strategic resources and other materials-related sub-sectors, while deviating from the benchmark, which has much greater concentrations in specific sub-sectors, such as chemical related issuers, and is heavily weighted in select issuers. The Fund witnessed a healthy rebound from the 2018 lows, however as per the Investment Objectives its lack of holdings in precious metals which were boosted by Fed Rate cut talk, contributed to some underperformance vs the Benchmark.

China is the largest country in terms of both absolute demand and growth of demand for many of these specific materials, and thus the fears of a slowdown driven by the trade tensions had outsized impacts on stocks exposed to these areas. Additionally, a major catastrophe at a dam in Brazil impacted negatively on the performance of our holding in Vale S.A., while the supply implications for the iron ore market on the whole saw a sharp increase in prices, which benefitted the large Benchmark Index weightings for BHP Group PLC and Rio Tinto PLC. While the Fund did have select exposure to the resource-centric chemicals sub-industries, the broader materials benchmark tends to have relatively high weights to



Chemicals in general and are often in more consumer-focused specialty chemical companies that performed relatively well during the period. This also contributed to some lag in performance for the Fund as compared to the Benchmark. The Fund's exposure in the Metals-focused area was more of a performance positive offset.

The Fund was invested in 29 Resource Issuers at the end of the period and is well positioned to benefit from a recovery in the underlying positions that had been under pressure during the period. The Fund selectively sold call options during the period in accordance with its investment objectives.

#### RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

State Street Trust Company Canada will replace CIBC Mellon Trust Company as the custodian of the Fund. CIBC Mellon Global Security Services Company, who currently provides accounting services in respect of the Fund will be replaced by State Street Fund Services Toronto Inc. as the valuation agent of the Fund. Both of these changes are expected to take effect on or about September 23, 2019.

There were no other recent developments during the reporting period.

## **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

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 Fund pays the Manager an annual management fee of 0.75%, plus applicable taxes, based on a percentage of the average daily net asset value ("NAV") of the Fund.

### 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 and benefits; 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 \$4,378 for the period ended June 30, 2019 (2018 - \$3,902) and are included in the unitholder reporting costs on the Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss) in the financial statements.

## Waivers and absorptions

At its sole discretion, the Manager may waive management fees or absorb expenses of the Fund. There were no management fee waivers for the period ended June 30, 2019. The Manager absorbed \$44,354 of expenses of the Fund for the period ended June 30, 2019 (2018 - \$22,640). The management expense ratios of the Fund with and without the waivers and absorptions are reported in the Ratios and Supplemental Data table below.

## 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 period ended June 30, 2019.



#### **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 period ended June 30, 2019. This information is derived from the Fund's interim financial statements and past annual audited financial statements.

THE FUND'S NET ASSETS		
PER UNIT	2019	2018
Net assets - beginning of the period <sup>2</sup>	\$ 13.85	\$ 20.00
Increase (decrease) from operations		
Total revenue	0.29	0.50
Total expenses	(0.16)	(0.38)
Realized gains (losses) for the period	(2.03)	(1.15)
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	3.19	(4.72)
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>1</sup>	\$ 1.29	\$ (5.75)
Distributions <sup>3</sup>		
From income	(0.40)	(0.15)
From dividends	-	(0.01)
Return of capital	-	(0.56)
Total annual distributions <sup>3</sup>	\$ (0.40)	\$ (0.72)
Net assets - end of the period <sup>1</sup>	\$ 14.63	\$ 13.85

RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA	2019	2018
Total net asset value	\$ 9,511,671	\$ 11,076,768
Number of units outstanding	650,000	800,000
Management expense ratio <sup>4</sup>	1.67%	1.50%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions <sup>4</sup>	2.54%	2.13%
Trading expense ratio <sup>5</sup>	0.34%	0.56%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>6</sup>	33.60%	65.08%
Net asset value per unit	\$ 14.63	\$ 13.85
Closing market price (HRES)	\$ 14.61	\$ 13.75

## **Explanatory Notes:**

- 1. 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.
- 2. Net assets, at the commencement of operations on January 31, 2018 was \$20.00.
- 3. Distributions were paid in cash.
- 4. 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 the daily average net asset value during the period.
- 5. 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.
- 6. 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.



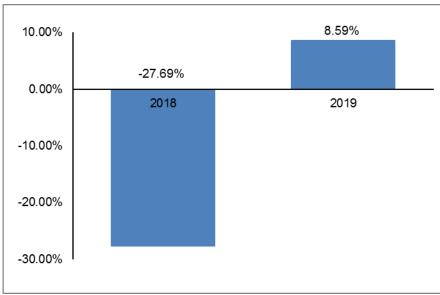
#### **Past Performance**

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 except for 2019 which represents the interim period.

#### **Fund Performance**



2018 represents the period from January 31 to December 31



## **SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO**

The major portfolio categories and top holdings of the Fund at the end of the period are indicated in the following tables. A detailed breakdown of the Fund's holdings is available in the "Schedule of Investments" section of the Fund's interim financial statements.

## As at June 30, 2019

Top 25 Holdings	% of Net Asset Value
Lundin Mining Corporation	3.8
Anglo American PLC	3.6
Iluka Resources Limited	3.6
Sika AG	3.6
Antofagasta PLC	3.6
Cobalt 27 Capital Corp.	3.5
ArcelorMittal	3.5
Teck Resources Limited, Class B	3.5
Shin-Etsu Chemical Co., Ltd.	3.5
BHP Group PLC	3.5
BASF SE	3.4
Boliden AB	3.4
Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.	3.4
Mondi PLC	3.3
HeidelbergCement AG	3.3
SSAB AB	3.3
Vale S.A., ADR	3.3
Linde PLC	3.3
Celanese Corporation, Class A	3.3
Glencore PLC	3.3
Rio Tinto PLC	3.2
VanEck Vectors Rare Earth/Strategic Metals ETF	3.2
CRH PLC	3.2
Croda International PLC	3.1
Cash and other assets and liabilities	3.1
Total	84.8

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 <a href="https://www.harvestportfolios.com">www.harvestportfolios.com</a>.



## **SECTOR ALLOCATION**

Sector	% of Net Asset Value
Materials	93.0
Materials – Funds	3.2
Cash and other assets and liabilities	3.1
Foreign currency forward contracts	1.1
Options	(0.4)
Total	100.0

## **GEOGRAPHIC ALLOCATION**

Country of Risk	% of Net Asset Value
Australia	13.3
United States	12.4
Chile	10.3
Canada	10.0
United Kingdom	9.7
Switzerland	6.9
Germany	6.7
Sweden	6.7
South Africa	3.6
Luxembourg	3.5
Japan	3.5
Brazil	3.3
Ireland	3.2
Cash and other assets and liabilities	3.1
Denmark	3.1
Foreign currency forward contracts	1.1
Options	(0.4)
Total	100.0





## **Head Office**

710 Dorval Drive, Suite 209 Oakville, Ontario L6K 3V7 Phone Number: 416.649.4541

Toll Free: 866.998.8298 Fax Number: 416.649.4542

Email: 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.

