

# INTERIM MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE

# **Harvest Tech Achievers Growth & Income 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 three investment criteria:

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

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 Harvest Tech Achievers Growth & Income ETF (the "Fund") investment objectives are to provide unitholders with the opportunity for capital appreciation, monthly cash distributions and lower overall volatility of Portfolio¹ returns than would otherwise be experienced by owning Equity Securities¹ of the Technology Achievers¹ directly. As part of the investment strategy, the Fund will invest in an equally weighted portfolio of Equity Securities of 20 Technology Issuers¹ from the Technology Achievers Investable Universe¹ that have a market capitalization of at least US\$10 billion at the time of investment and have options in respect of their Equity Securities listed on a recognized options exchange.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As defined in the Fund's prospectus dated June 14, 2019.



#### 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 has been created to invest in a portfolio (the "Portfolio") of 20 equally weighted Equity Securities of Technology Issuers chosen from the Technology Achievers Investable Universe that at the time of investment and immediately following each quarterly reconstitution and rebalancing (i) have a market capitalization of at least US\$10 billion, and (ii) have options in respect of their Equity Securities listed on a recognized options exchange (the "Technology Achievers").

The Fund's investment objectives are to provide unitholders with (i) the opportunity for capital appreciation; (ii) monthly cash distributions; and (iii) lower overall volatility of the Portfolio returns than would otherwise be experienced by owning Equity Securities of the Technology Achievers directly.

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 have the following investment characteristics:

- **Quality –** An average 3-year Return on Equity greater than the average for the Technology Achievers Investable Universe;
- **Value –** An average current year Forward Price-to-Earnings Ratio that is less than the average for the Technology Achievers Investable Universe; and
- **Growth –** An average PEG Ratio that is less than the average for the Technology Achievers Investable Universe.

#### **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 18.27% for Series A and 18.68% for Series U compared to the S&P 500 Information Technology Total Return Index return of 27.13% for the period ended June 30, 2019. One of the reasons for the divergence is the Fund's equal weight strategy versus the benchmark index being concentrated with over 40% representing the top 4 holdings in the Index in addition to foregoing some upside in return for income earned on the covered call strategy.

The Information Technology sector proved to be volatile throughout the latter part of 2018, posting a modest negative return for the year after falling nearly 20% from the October highs. Uncertainty surrounding global trade, interest rate policies and diverging views about the pace at which the global economies were slowing were the primary cause for the pull back in late December. However, as 2019 emerged, there was a renewed confidence that monetary policy would remain accommodative, trade rhetoric would moderate combined with a robust Q1 earnings season, with many companies meeting and beating profit forecasts with upward revisions for 2019. This resulted in the broader market rebounding quickly and the S&P 500 Index touching an all-time high by early May. The Information Technology sub-sectors were a direct beneficiary of the shift in sentiment with the sector in a leadership position as the top performing sub-sector for the first half of 2019.

In 2018, the fund's benchmark was materially redefined by the index provider. These changes ultimately resulted in an increase in the concentration of the index with two constituents, Apple Inc. and Microsoft Corp., now representing approximately 30%+ of the index. Two of the key names that were removed from the benchmark, Facebook Inc. & Alphabet Inc. (formerly known as Google) continued to be held in the portfolio at the end of the period.

The Fund remained invested in 20 technology leaders and sold call options on underlying holdings held in the Portfolio during the period in order to meet its investment and income objectives.



#### RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

There were no 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**

The Manager is responsible for managing the Fund's overall business and operations and provides key management personnel to the Fund. The Manager is entitled to an annual management fee of 0.85% of the average daily NAV, plus applicable taxes, per annum of the Fund and paid monthly in arrears.

#### 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 \$27,702 for the period ended June 30, 2019 (2018 - \$30,322) 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 or expense absorptions for the period ended June 30, 2019 or 2018. 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 and past annual periods. This information is derived from the Fund's interim financial statements and past annual audited financial statements.

#### Series A

THE FUND'S NET ASSETS PER UNIT	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Net assets - beginning of the period <sup>2</sup>	\$ 9.20	\$ 9.87	\$ 8.13	\$ 8.26	\$ 9.31
Increase (decrease) from operations					
Total revenue	0.06	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.31
Total expenses	(0.07)	(0.15)	(0.15)	(0.14)	(0.10)
Realized gains (losses) for the period	0.17	0.46	1.66	(0.20)	(0.93)
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	 1.48	(0.66)	0.88	0.75	0.03
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>1</sup>	\$ 1.64	\$ (0.23)	\$ 2.51	\$ 0.53	\$ (0.69)
Distributions <sup>3</sup>					
From income	(0.35)	-	-	-	(0.10)
Return of capital	 -	(0.70)	(0.70)	(0.70)	(0.31)
Total annual distributions <sup>3</sup>	\$ (0.35)	\$ (0.70)	\$ (0.70)	\$ (0.70)	\$ (0.41)
Net assets - end of the period <sup>1</sup>	\$ 10.51	\$ 9.20	\$ 9.87	\$ 8.13	\$ 8.26

RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Total net asset value	\$ 66,256,377	\$ 52,678,452	\$ 40,475,252	\$ 40,796,512	\$ 42,995,300
Number of units outstanding	6,301,707	5,726,707	4,101,707	5,020,422	5,202,122
Management expense ratio <sup>4</sup>	1.35%	1.39%	1.53%	1.65%	9.96%
Management expense ratio before					
waivers or absorptions <sup>4</sup>	1.35%	1.43%	1.66%	1.65%	9.96%
Trading expense ratio <sup>5</sup>	0.15%	0.11%	0.15%	0.11%	0.34%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>6</sup>	34.35%	61.78%	91.56%	40.45%	78.97%
Net asset value per unit	\$ 10.51	\$ 9.20	\$ 9.87	\$ 8.13	\$ 8.26
Closing market price (HTA)*	\$ 10.50	\$ 9.18	\$ 9.90	\$ 8.10	\$ 7.68

<sup>\*</sup> On conversion to an ETF, Series A traded under the symbol HTA. Prior to conversion, Series A traded under the symbol HTA.UN as a closed end fund.



#### Series U (CAD)

THE FUND'S NET ASSETS PER UNIT	2019	2018	2017
Net assets - beginning of the period <sup>2</sup>	\$ 12.49	\$ 12.21	\$ 11.88
Increase (decrease) from operations			
Total revenue	0.08	0.16	0.07
Total expenses	(0.10)	(0.19)	(0.10)
Realized gains (losses) for the period	0.49	1.10	0.35
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	1.24	0.01	0.39
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>1</sup>	\$ 1.71	\$ 1.08	\$ 0.71
Distributions <sup>3</sup>			
From income	(0.47)	-	-
Return of capital	-	(0.91)	(0.44)
Total annual distributions <sup>3</sup>	\$ (0.47)	\$ (0.91)	\$ (0.44)
Net assets - end of the period <sup>1, 7</sup>	\$ 13.74	\$ 12.49	\$ 12.21

RATIOS AND			
SUPPLEMENTAL DATA	2019	2018	2017
Total net asset value	\$ 4,807,503	\$ 4,058,261	\$ 4,272,583
Number of units outstanding	350,000	325,000	350,000
Management expense ratio <sup>4</sup>	1.35%	1.39%	1.46%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions <sup>4</sup>	1.35%	1.43%	1.59%
Trading expense ratio <sup>5</sup>	0.15%	0.11%	0.27%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>6</sup>	34.35%	61.78%	91.56%
Net asset value per unit	\$ 13.74	\$ 12.49	\$ 12.21
Closing market price - USD			
(HTA.U)	\$ 10.45	\$ 9.09	\$ 9.78

#### **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 May 26, 2015 was \$9.31, net of agents' commissions and issuance costs of \$0.69 per unit. Series U commenced operation on June 19, 2017 with a net asset value of \$11.88 (\$9.00 USD).
- 3. Distributions were paid in cash or reinvested in additional units of the Fund.
- 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. The MER for 2015, the year of inception, includes agents' fees of \$2,887,500 and issue costs of \$825,000 for Series A, which were treated as one-time expenses and therefore were not annualized. The MER without these costs is 1.96% for Series A.
- 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.
- 7. The USD amount of the net assets at the end of the period was \$10.49 USD.



#### **Past Performance**

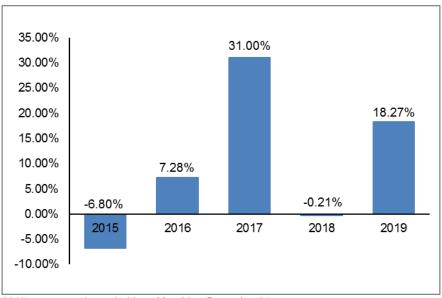
The performance information presented herein assumes all dividends of the Fund during the periods presented were reinvested in additional securities of the Fund. The performance information does not take into account sales, redemptions, or other charges that would have reduced returns or affected performance. 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 and illustrate how the Fund's performance varied for Series A and Series U. 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.

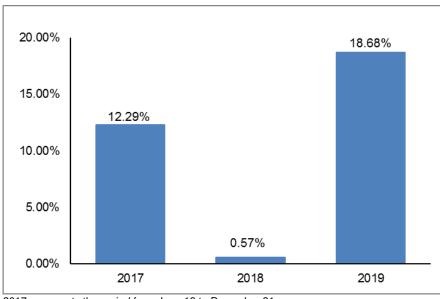
#### **Fund Performance**

#### Series A



2015 represents the period from May 26 to December 31

#### Series U (USD)



2017 represents the period from June 19 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 Holdings	% of Net Asset Value
Advanced Micro Devices, Inc.	5.5
Visa Inc., Class A	5.2
Adobe Inc.	5.2
Accenture PLC, Class A	5.1
Oracle Corporation	5.1
Automatic Data Processing, Inc.	5.1
Intuit Inc.	5.0
Facebook, Inc., Class A	5.0
International Business Machines Corporation	5.0
Texas Instruments Incorporated	5.0
Cisco Systems, Inc.	4.9
Apple Inc.	4.9
Red Hat, Inc.	4.7
Microsoft Corporation	4.7
Intel Corporation	4.7
Broadcom Inc.	4.6
NVIDIA Corporation	4.6
salesforce.com, inc.	4.6
Alphabet Inc., Class A	4.3
Fortinet, Inc.	4.2
Foreign currency forward contracts	2.2
Cash and other assets and liabilities	0.8
Options	(0.4)
Total	100.0

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
Software	33.5
Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment	24.4
IT Services	20.4
Interactive Media & Services	9.3
Communications Equipment	4.9
Technology Hardware, Storage & Peripherals	4.9
Foreign currency forward contracts	2.2
Cash and other assets and liabilities	0.8
Options	(0.4)
Total	100.0

## **GEOGRAPHIC ALLOCATION**

Sector	% of Net Asset Value
United States	97.4
Foreign currency forward contracts	2.2
Cash and other assets and liabilities	0.8
Options	(0.4)
Total	100.0





## **Head Office**

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## 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.

