

# INTERIM MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE

Harvest Healthcare Leaders Enhanced Income ETF

June 30, 2023

#### CORPORATE OVERVIEW

Harvest Portfolios Group Inc. ("Harvest" or the "Manager") manages the Harvest ETFs and is a Canadian Investment Manager founded in 2009. Harvest is focused on developing investment products that follow three investment criteria.

We (i) endeavor to develop investment products that are clear in their mandate and easy for investors to understand, (ii) strive to be transparent so that our investors can review their financial reports and know exactly what they own and (iii) seek to provide investors with consistent monthly or quarterly income by investing the fund portfolios in well managed companies that have a steady cash flow and dividend-paying history.

#### 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. You can get a copy of the interim financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling toll free at 1-866-998-8298; by writing to us at Harvest ETFs, 610 Chartwell Rd, Suite 204, Oakville, Ontario, L6J 4A5; or by visiting our website at www.harvestetfs.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's investment objectives are to provide unitholders with high monthly cash distributions and the opportunity for capital appreciation by investing, on a levered basis, in Harvest Healthcare Leaders Income ETF ("Underlying ETF" or "HHL") an exchange traded mutual fund managed by the Manager that is listed on a recognized Canadian stock exchange and that engages in covered call strategies.

HHL's investment objective is to provide unitholders with (i) the opportunity for capital appreciation; (ii) monthly cash distributions; and (iii) lower overall volatility of portfolio returns than would otherwise be experienced by owning Equity Securities of the Healthcare Leaders directly. To achieve lower overall volatility of portfolio returns, HHL will generally 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.

The Fund is considered an alternative mutual fund within the meaning of NI 81-102 and is permitted to invest in asset classes or use investment strategies that are not permitted for other types of mutual funds. As an alternative mutual fund, under NI 81-102, the Fund is permitted to use strategies generally prohibited by conventional mutual funds, including the ability to invest in other alternative mutual funds, borrow cash to use for investment purposes and increased ability to invest in commodities. While these specific strategies will be used in accordance with the Fund's investment objectives and strategies, during certain market conditions they may accelerate the pace at which an investment decreases in value.

Further information including defined terms can be found in the Fund's most recent prospectus which is located at **www.harvestetfs.com**; or on SEDAR at **www.sedar.com**.

#### 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 began trading following the listing of its units on October 25, 2022 consisting of 100,000 units at \$10.00 for proceeds of \$1,000,000. Performance information is not available for periods less than one year.

Below is a discussion of the result of operations of HHL during the six-month period.

HHL was invested in 20 Healthcare Leaders during the six-month period and remains positioned for a recovery in sentiment within the sector. There were no material changes to the sub-sector allocations during the period and remains diversified across Health Care Equipment & Supplies, Pharmaceuticals, Life Sciences Tools & Services, Biotechnology, and Health Care Providers & Services.

In the calendar year 2022, broader global and U.S. equity markets posted significant negative returns, due in part to persistent inflation and geopolitical instability. To combat inflation, central banks around the world aggressively started raising interest rates in 2022 well above what the markets were expecting, this added to the negative returns during 2022.

Health Care is generally considered a superior good with relatively clear visibility into demand for the established products irrespective of the economic cycle, and therefore is often considered relatively defensive during times of economic uncertainty. Such was the case in 2022, where Healthcare performed with strength compared to many other sectors that are more economically sensitive.

During the first six months of 2023, the broader U.S. stock market posted positive returns. Many of the issues that dominated headlines and that had caused investor concerns through 2022 continued to persist during the first half of the year. However, early indications that inflation pressures may have peaked and therefore the expectations that interest rate increases may soon plateau, coupled with less headlines and escalation surrounding the war in Ukraine, inspired some reprieve in areas that were most impacted by these issues in 2022.

The reprieve in the market during the first half of 2023 was not uniform. A near shock to the broader economic system occurred midway through the six-month period as select regional U.S. banks were faced with significant cash withdrawals in a very short period that put their operations under pressure and very quickly resulted in bankruptcies and forced asset sales.



This caused significant volatility in equity markets, with spikes up and down in a short period across stocks as concerns that the regional bank failures would inspire contagion across the banking sector and potentially lead to a broader financial crisis. The contagion risk was quickly subdued as the U.S. government intervened to ensure financial stability within the banking sector. This did, however, result in a significant bifurcation of sectoral performance again as U.S. bank stocks were under significant pressures and did not recover while other sectors more exposed to a broader economic recovery, such as many large capitalization technology stocks that had underperformed in 2022.

Large capitalization technology stocks were key drivers of the overall broader equity market performance for the first half of 2023. Other more defensive areas, such as large capitalization healthcare stocks also moved higher from the low prices of the year seen in early March 2023, albeit behind the broader U.S. stock markets following the relative outperformance during the more negative period in 2022.

The difference between the top and bottom performers however has also been very wide within sectors and individual stocks. For example, within HHL during the first six months of the year, both the top performing stock and bottom performing stock were within the pharmaceutical sectors. Advancements and clinical success in the treatments for diabetes and expectations for promising results for the same drug class to treat the large unmet need in obesity, drove Eli Lilly and Company's stock meaningfully higher during the six-month period. A rolling off of COVID-19 vaccine revenues amongst other clinical and corporate activities put Pfizer Inc. in the negative and worst performing group during the six-month period.

Similarly, following a slowdown in surgical procedures due to COVID-19, procedures appeared to be normalizing back to pre-pandemic levels during the first six months of 2023. This, coupled with guidance from companies for further increases in near term surgical procedures, had a positive impact medical devices companies in HHL with exposure to surgical equipment during the period. Conversely, there was some offset with negative performance from the managed care companies, that among other activities are considered the payors of medical costs and with rising surgeries, may see shorter term headwinds in costs.

In the shorter-term, the macroeconomic environment, while appearing to be stabilizing, continues to have some uncertainty. Regardless of the shorter-term macroeconomic outlook, the primary long-term drivers for the Health Care sector over the medium-longer term remain intact: global aging populations, developing markets, and technological innovation (devices and drugs). These medium- to longer-term drivers form the basis of our positive view on the sector while it is also well positioned to withstand some of the shorter-term macro uncertainty that may persist.

HHL sold call options on the underlying holdings during the six-month period to meet its investment and income objectives.

#### **RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine have had significant impacts to the global economy over the last few years and have contributed to the current inflationary pressures. The significant increase in interest rates globally by central banks to address inflation has increased the likelihood of a global recession impacting financial markets and global economies which may impact the financial performance of the Fund's investments. The Fund's future investment results may be materially adversely affected as a result.

#### **RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

There were no related party transactions during the six-month 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 Fund does not pay management fees directly to the Manager. However, the Underlying ETF held by the Fund will pay management fees and incur operating and trading expenses. The Fund invests in an ETF that is managed by the Manager. With respect to such investment, no management fees or incentive fees are payable by the Fund that, to a reasonable person, would duplicate a fee payable by such Underlying ETF for the same service. The Underlying ETF in which the Fund invests will pay applicable management fees. As a result, the actual aggregate management fees indirectly payable to the Manager in respect of an investment in the Fund will be greater than nil.

#### **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; 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 the Harvest Portfolios Group Inc. funds, and series of each applicable fund.

The following expenses are included in the unitholder reporting costs on the Statement of Comprehensive Income (Loss):



For the six-month period ended	Amount (\$)
June 30, 2023	1,295

#### 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 six-month period ended June 30, 2023. The Manager absorbed the following expenses and may cease doing so at any time without notice to unitholders:

For the six-month period ended	Amount (\$)
June 30, 2023	51,485

The Manager also absorbed the following expenses of the Underlying ETF:

For the six-month period ended	Amount (\$)
June 30, 2023	180,563

The management expense ratios of the Fund with and without the waivers and absorptions are reported in the Ratios and Supplemental Data table below.

#### LOAN FACILITY

The Fund has entered into prime broker agreements with two wholly owned subsidiaries of Canadian chartered banks (the "Prime Brokers") in order to facilitate borrowing for the purpose of investing in accordance with its investment strategy. The Fund may borrow against collateral on deposit with the Prime Brokers with such borrowing being repayable on demand. Interest is payable on any borrowings at a variable rate of interest that is calculated daily and payable monthly. The interest incurred during the six-month period is presented as interest expense on the Statement of Comprehensive Income (Loss) in the financial statements.

The table below summarizes the minimum and maximum amount borrowed under the agreement, the interest incurred, and the range of variable rate of interest during the six-month period:

For the six-month period ended	June 30, 2023
Minimum amount borrowed	\$853,555
Maximum amount borrowed	\$4,014,569
Interest expense	\$63,200
Range of variable rate of interest	4.80% - 5.30%

The Fund may borrow up to 33% but intends to borrow approximately 25% of its net asset value at any given time. The amount of borrowing and the percentage of the net asset value of the Fund is as follows:

As at	June 30, 2023	December 31, 2022
Amount of borrowing	\$4,014,569	\$876,093
Amount borrowed as % of net assets	25.1%	27.7%
Market value of Underlying ETF held as collateral at prime broker	\$14,460,800	\$3,454,044

#### 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 six-month period ended June 30, 2023.



#### 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 six-month period ended June 30, 2023 and past annual periods. This information is derived from the Fund's interim financial statements and past annual audited financial statements.

THE FUND'S NET ASSETS PER UNIT	2023	2022
Net assets - beginning of the period <sup>2</sup>	\$ 10.55	\$ 10.00
Increase (decrease) from operations		
Total revenue	0.05	0.02
Total expenses	(0.07)	(0.02)
Realized gains (losses) for the period	0.55	0.04
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	 (0.20)	0.40
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>1</sup>	\$ 0.33	\$ 0.44
Distributions <sup>3</sup>		
From net investment income	(0.01)	-
From capital gains	(0.52)	-
Return of capital	 (0.02)	(0.18)
Total annual distributions <sup>3</sup>	\$ (0.55)	\$ (0.18)
Net assets - end of the period <sup>1</sup>	\$ 10.14	\$ 10.55

RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA	2023	2022
Total net asset value (\$000's)	\$ 15,968	\$ 3,164
Number of units outstanding (000's)	1,575	300
Management expense ratio <sup>4</sup>	2.52%	1.94%
Management expense ratio excluding the costs of financing <sup>4</sup>	1.24%	1.18%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions <sup>4</sup>	3.60%	11.28%
Trading expense ratio <sup>5</sup>	0.09%	0.14%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>6</sup>	23.57%	13.47%
Net asset value per unit	\$ 10.14	\$ 10.55
Closing market price (HHLE)	\$ 10.15	\$ 10.55

#### **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.
- 2. Net assets, at the commencement of operations on October 20, 2022 was \$10.00.
- Distributions, if any, are paid in cash or reinvested in additional units of the Fund. The Fund may pay additional year-end distributions in the form of reinvested units that are subsequently consolidated. There is no impact on NAV per unit, however such reinvested distributions increase the cost base of units held outside of registered plans.
- 4. Management expense ratio ("MER") is based on total expenses (excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs) and the proportionate share of the Underlying ETF's related expenses 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 and the proportionate share of the Underlying ETF's related expenses 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 Fund's performance is not shown as National Instument 81-106, the regulatory guideline for Continuous Disclosure, does not permit reporting of performance for any investment fund that has been in existence less than one year.



#### 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.

Information presented is for the Underlying ETF in which the Fund primarily invests.

#### As at June 30, 2023

Top Holdings	% of Net Asset Value
UnitedHealth Group Incorporated	5.3
Stryker Corporation	5.3
Boston Scientific Corporation	5.2
Intuitive Surgical, Inc.	5.1
Elevance Health, Inc.	5.1
Danaher Corporation	5.0
Abbott Laboratories	5.0
Johnson & Johnson	4.9
Merck & Co., Inc.	4.9
Eli Lilly and Company	4.9
Zoetis Inc., Class A	4.8
Medtronic PLC	4.8
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	4.8
Novartis AG ADR	4.8
Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.	4.7
AstraZeneca PLC ADR	4.7
Amgen Inc.	4.6
Pfizer Inc.	4.6
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	4.6
AbbVie Inc.	4.5
Cash and other assets and liabilities	1.6
Foreign currency forward contracts	1.1
Options	(0.3)
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 www.harvestetfs.com.



#### SECTOR ALLOCATION

Information presented is for the Underlying ETF in which the Fund primarily invests.

Sector	% of Net Asset Value
Health Care	97.6
Cash and other assets and liabilities	1.6
Foreign currency forward contracts	1.1
Options	(0.3)
Total	100.0

#### **GEOGRAPHIC ALLOCATION**

Information presented is for the Underlying ETF in which the Fund primarily invests.

Country of Risk	% of Net Asset Value
United States	88.1
Switzerland	4.8
United Kingdom	4.7
Cash and other assets and liabilities	1.6
Foreign currency forward contracts	1.1
Options	(0.3)
Total	100.0



#### Disclaimers

#### 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 regardign 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, interest rates, regulatory and statutory developments, the effects of competition in the geographic and busines 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 facors is not exhaustive and that when relying on forward-looking statements to make decisions with respect to investing in a Fund, investors and others should carfully 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 oblitation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, unless required by applicable law.





### Head Office

610 Chartwell Rd, Suite 204 Oakville, Ontario L6J 4A5 Phone Number: 416.649.4541 Toll Free: 866.998.8298 Fax Number: 416.649.4542 Email: info@harvestportfolios.com