

# Harvest Diversified Equity Income ETF

December 31, 2023

Management Report of Fund Performance



# Harvest Diversified Equity Income ETF

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Unitholder Letter March 2024

#### Dear Valued Investor,

Thank you for placing your trust and confidence in Harvest's investment products through 2023. We follow a philosophy that held strong in our ETFs and Funds in the past year, and one we will remain committed to going forward.

Harvest Portfolios Group Inc. and its growing group of Harvest ETFs have remained steadfast in making equity investments since our launch in 2009. This is by design to take advantage of the long-term growth in capital markets, the growth of industries and the growth of well-positioned and well-managed companies. We couple that philosophy with a finely tuned proprietary cover call option writing strategy that has proven to generate steady and attractive levels of consistent monthly cashflows for unitholders. We are proud to say that in the coming year we will surpass 10 years of option writing as part of our strategy.

In late September 2023 we added a new category to our product line up with the launch of the Harvest Premium Yield Treasury ETF (TSX: HPYT). This launch into the fixed income arena is due to what we believe is a topping of the interest rate cycle which pairs well with our option writing strategy to generate additional income. Investing in large and mega cap U.S. Treasury Bond ETFs enables us to capitalize on our option writing strategy on those securities.

The year was tough to navigate as rates pushed ever higher and markets reacted negatively. Other than cash assets, it was difficult for assets to get through the year unscathed. Throughout the year we continued to write options, which helped us manage through some choppy waters. Defensive areas like healthcare and utilities were hit harder than expected while some areas - like technology - did very well. As we rolled into the final months of 2023, the markets began to rebound as the US Federal Reserve softened their language on interest rates.

On a brighter note, Harvest Tech Achievers Growth & Income ETF (Class U) was named "**Best Sector Equity Fund over 5 years**" by Refinitiv Lipper Funds Awards Canada for the second year in a row (the Class A version of the ETF was also a winner last year). This was on top of a distribution increase, the third in that ETFs history.

As we look ahead to 2024, we remain steadfast in our philosophy of choosing long term growth industries or mega-trends. Our outlook on these industries is framed by our orientation towards high quality companies and long-term trends.

As an investment fund manager, we make investment decisions based on industry and business fundamentals. We do not let shorter-term economic indicators influence our view of a company and why it is in the portfolio. We choose the industry first, choose where we think the puck is going, then drill down and start to find the standout businesses that can expand in those industries.

Investing is not static, and we have to fine tune and make changes from time to time. In general, when we take a position, it is to hold for the longer term. That could mean holding a position for five years or more, especially in our equity income ETFs. Using this prudent and tactical approach helps us stick to our investment philosophy and deliver returns for unitholders in our ETFs and Funds.

Let me again thank you for your support and confidence in the Harvest team and our products. Let me assure you that we will remain steadfast in our management and development of products to meet the needs of investors for both income and growth.

Sincerely,

*Signed "Michael Kovacs"*

Michael Kovacs,

President and Chief Executive Officer

# Harvest Diversified Equity Income ETF

## 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 annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete annual financial statements of the Harvest Diversified Equity Income ETF (the "Fund"). You can get a copy of the annual 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](http://www.harvestetfs.com); or on SEDAR+ at [www.sedarplus.ca](http://www.sedarplus.ca).

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 primarily in equity income ETFs managed by the Manager ("Underlying ETFs") with the investment objective of providing unitholders with high monthly cash distribution and opportunity for long-term capital appreciation from access to a diversified portfolio of ETFs.

To achieve its investment objective, the Fund invests primarily in a portfolio of exchange traded mutual funds managed by Harvest that are listed on a recognized Canadian stock exchange and engage in covered call strategies.

## 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 from April 6, 2023 to December 31, 2023 (the "Period") that affected the overall level of risk of the Fund.

## RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

### Overall Performance

The Fund initially launched with 200,000 Class A units at \$15.00 for proceeds of \$3,000,000 and began trading following the listing of its units on April 12, 2023. Performance information is not available for periods less than one year.

### Factors Affecting Fund Results

The Fund began the Period initially invested in six ETFs managed by the Manager. Towards the middle of the year, the Harvest Travel & Leisure Income ETF was added to the Fund. Given no overlap in underlying holdings between the ETF and the other holdings in the Fund, its inclusion provides additional diversification and exposure to an area of the market that is positioned to benefit from the longer-term growth dynamics in the travel related sectors. The addition had a positive impact on the Fund's performance. Towards the end of the Period, a relatively small position was added in the Harvest Premium Yield Treasury ETF, providing additional income diversification and had a modest positive impact to the Funds performance. At the end of the Period, the Fund was invested in eight ETFs managed by the Manager.

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

### Potential Impact for the Fund

In the shorter-term, the macro environment (both economic and geopolitical), while appearing to be stabilizing, continues to have some uncertainty. Inflationary pressures appear to be subsiding and expectations that central banks will not increase rates further have continued to be a source of reprieve for the broader markets. Nonetheless, inflationary pressures and potential for interest rate increases can change quickly based on economic data.

Global geopolitical tensions remain elevated through the end of the Period and remain as a source of uncertainty for broader markets. The conflict in Eastern Europe following the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 continued during the Period. Also, in October of 2023, a Hamas led Palestinian militant group attacked Israel triggering a major and ongoing conflict that continued through the end of the Period.

Regardless of the shorter-term macro environment outlook, the portfolio remains well diversified across multiple ETFs and underlying holdings.

### 2023 Market Review

To combat inflation, central banks around the world aggressively started raising interest rates in 2022 to rates well above what the markets were expecting. This along with the geopolitical instability that occurred during the Period, resulted in the significant negative returns that the broader global and U.S. equity markets experienced in the previous year, 2022.

At the turn of 2023, the US equity markets offered some initial reprieve and ultimately finished 2023 with strong positive returns. During this Period, the market was significantly volatile and saw returns highly concentrated in a few large companies. The latter did not bode well for diversified investors and sometimes gave the feeling of a bear market. While select large companies were a key driver of the overall market performance given their relatively very strong performance, the breadth of participation across stocks and sub-sectors expanded over the course of the Period with the overall market returns finishing above average.

The significant volatility experienced by markets came from a wide variety of economic and geopolitical factors as well as sector specific turmoil within the banking sector. Notably, there were two short periods in which returns for the S&P 500 fell by double digits.

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The first happened in March when depositors of Silicon Valley Bank (“SVB”) began withdrawing their funds forcing the bank to realize significant losses on its investments in securities and together set off further withdrawals. This eventually led to the failure of SVB and triggered a flurry of withdrawals at another large regional bank, Signature Bank of New York (SBNY). Investors became altered to the risk of contagion, which produced much uncertainty and pressured the stock returns of both banks and insurance companies throughout the remainder of the Period, with some modest reprieve toward the end.

There were echoes of the Great Financial Crisis of the past that temporarily depressed sentiment in the broader markets through March. This later retreated as investor excitement over the promise of artificial intelligence (“AI”) abounded. Notably, ChatGPT-3 became a topic of focus among investors and media alike. A string of new “generative AI” focused product announcements from several major software companies and culminating with a strong earnings reports ignited a buying frenzy for stocks of companies perceived to be beneficiaries of the AI theme. This marked a pivot for sentiment in the broader equity markets and inspired optimism for technology and more consumer growth focused areas, such as travel related companies, that generally continued through the Period.

The second period of meaningful volatility occurred towards the end of the summer period as concerns around persistent inflation resurfaced. Concerns about headline inflation remaining elevated fueled interest rate increases globally by central banks and specifically the Federal Reserve in the United States (the “Fed”) and resulted in accelerated rises in government bond yields across maturities. Despite many leading indicators, such as supply chain congestion indicators, suggesting that the trend was towards normalizing inflation levels, longer dated U.S. Treasury bond yields continued to move higher amidst speculation that the inflation was not yet under control. During this Period, longer dated U.S. Treasury Bond yields gapped higher through 5% in a very short period, causing what appeared to be some dislocation in the fixed income markets, and that flowed through to causing uncertainty around how high rates may go and served as a further catalyst for equity market volatility.

During the Fall, the tone of the Fed on carrying out further interest increases shifted as economic data including inflation, showed signs that the previous interest hikes in the past 18 months began to take effect. The Fed’s new tone suggested a pause was warranted given the economic data. This caused the broader equity markets to stabilize and start to recover through the end of the Period. Treasury bond yields halted the seemingly unstoppable upward trajectory and started to retrace lower, providing much needed reprieve to the dislocated fixed income markets.

Some of the sectors that outperformed during the bear market of 2022, such as Utilities and Health Care, lagged during the Period with investors continuing to shift back towards higher growth areas of the market. The Energy sector also saw negative returns during the Period as signs of slowing global economic growth and fading headlines about energy security due to the war in Ukraine led to a fall in oil prices. Geopolitical tensions continued to escalate in the latter part of the year, resulting in new threats of potential supply disruptions; commodity prices reversing course; and a slowdown in demand fundamentals that seemingly outweighed potential supply disruptions. Other sectors such as Information Technology, on the other hand, significantly outperformed the market during the Period.

## RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS AND OTHER EXPENSES

### Management 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 ETFs held by the Fund will pay management fees and incur operating and trading expenses. The Fund invests in ETFs that are managed by the Manager. With respect to such investments, no management fees or incentive fees are payable by the Fund that, to a reasonable person, would duplicate a fee payable by such Underlying ETFs for the same service. The Underlying ETFs 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 classes of each applicable fund. These expenses were \$853 for the Period and are included in the unitholder reporting costs on the Statement 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. The Manager absorbed \$64,406 of expenses of the Fund for the Period. The Manager may cease doing so at any time without notice to unitholders.

The Manager absorbed \$812,016 of expenses of the Underlying ETFs for the Period.

### Other transactions

Officers, directors and related entities of the Manager invest in units of the Fund from time to time in the normal course of business and on the same basis as arm’s length investors. As at December 31, 2023 officers and directors owned 1,000 units 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.

## RECOMMENDATIONS OR REPORTS BY THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW COMMITTEE

The IRC tabled no special reports and made no extraordinary material recommendations to management of the Fund during the Period.

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## 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. This information is derived from the Fund's annual audited financial statements.

THE FUND'S NET ASSETS PER UNIT	2023
<b>Net assets - beginning of the period<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$ 15.00</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations</b>	
Total revenue	0.24
Total expenses	(0.02)
Realized gains (losses) for the period	0.15
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	1.14
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$ 1.51</b>
<b>Distributions<sup>3</sup></b>	
From net investment income (excluding dividends)	(0.13)
From dividends	(0.08)
From capital gains	(0.03)
Return of capital	(0.56)
<b>Total annual distributions<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>\$ (0.80)</b>
<b>Net assets - end of the period<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$ 15.32</b>

RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA	2023
<b>Total net asset value (000's)</b>	<b>\$ 8,044</b>
Number of units outstanding (000's)	525
Management expense ratio <sup>4</sup>	0.95%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions <sup>4</sup>	2.84%
Trading expense ratio <sup>5</sup>	0.23%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>6</sup>	34.07%
<b>Net asset value per unit</b>	<b>\$ 15.32</b>
<b>Closing market price (HRIF)</b>	<b>\$ 15.32</b>

### 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 April 6, 2023 was \$15.00.
3. 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 ETFs' 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.

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## 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 Instrument 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.

### Annual Compound Returns

The Fund's performance is not shown as National Instrument 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 annual audited financial statements.

### As at December 31, 2023

Top Holdings	% of Net Asset Value
Harvest Brand Leaders Plus Income ETF, Class A Units	14.9
Harvest Canadian Equity Income Leaders ETF, Class A Units	14.7
Harvest US Bank Leaders Income ETF, Class A Units	14.5
Harvest Travel & Leisure Income ETF, Class A Units	13.8
Harvest Equal Weight Global Utilities Income ETF, Class A Units	13.7
Harvest Healthcare Leaders Income ETF, Class A Units	13.3
Harvest Tech Achievers Growth & Income ETF, Class A Units	12.1
Harvest Premium Yield Treasury ETF, Class A Units	2.6
Cash and other assets and liabilities	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</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 at [www.harvestetfs.com](http://www.harvestetfs.com).

The prospectus and other information about the Underlying ETFs are available at [www.harvestetfs.com](http://www.harvestetfs.com) or [www.sedarplus.ca](http://www.sedarplus.ca).

## SECTOR ALLOCATION

Sector	% of Net Asset Value
Diversified	43.4
US Banks	14.5
Utilities	13.7
Health Care	13.3
Information Technology	12.1
Government Bonds	2.6
Cash and other assets and liabilities	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>

# Harvest Diversified Equity Income ETF

## 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 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 a 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.

## 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@HarvestETFs.com](mailto:info@HarvestETFs.com)



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