June 30, 2024

**Interim Management Report of Fund Performance** 



#### **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 Harvest Equal Weight Global Utilities Income ETF (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.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 in equity securities of companies of utility issuers globally and sells covered call options on up to 33% of its holdings with the investment objective to generate monthly cashflow for unitholders and help lower the volatility of the Fund's overall return. In addition, the Fund provides unitholders with opportunity to participate in capital appreciation.

To achieve its investment objective, the Fund invests, with equal weighting as a percentage of its net asset value, in equity securities of the top 30 global utility issuers ranked by market capitalization and that have an options market that is liquid as determined by the Manager of the Fund. The investment universe from which top 30 utility issuers are selected constitutes issuers with the following characteristics (i) equity securities (excluding limited partnerships and receipts) that are listed on a North American or Western European stock exchange, and (ii) any issuer that has an indicated dividend yield (as calculated by Bloomberg L.P.) that ranks between the 50th & 90th percentile of issuers that are included in the industry group Utilities and Telecommunication Services or in sub-industry Oil & Gas Storage & Transportation of the Global Industry Classification Standards ("GICS") or any successor of GICS.

#### **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 sixmonth period ended June 30, 2024 (the "Period") that affected the overall level of risk of the Fund.

#### **RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

#### **Overall Performance**

The Fund's return by Class compared to the MSCI World Utilities Gross Total Return Index (USD)<sup>±</sup> for the Period is as follows:

	Return %
Class A	4.15
MSCI World Utilities Gross Total Return Index (USD) <sup>±</sup>	6.35

The primary reason for the divergence is that the index is market-capitalization weighted, has larger number of holdings, holds companies that do not have liquid options, and does not use covered calls, compared to the Fund that is equally weighted and has an active covered call option writing strategy.

#### **Factors Affecting Fund Results**

Companies operating in the utilities space often do not have the ability to quickly increase the prices of the services and goods offered when input costs are rising. As inflation continued to be stubbornly high for longer during the Period (but with its growth subsiding), utilities, pipelines, and to a lesser degree telecommunication companies, found it difficult to raise prices to match their input costs. The stickiness of price increases is largely due to high regulated nature of the industry, providing essential services. Further, as interest rates remain at higher levels, this can result in a negative impact for utilities companies as the cost of their debt may go higher. With investors looking for competing investments that provide high cash flows, this may be a source of capital flow from investors seeking alternatives.

However, since the peak in the U.S. Federal Reserve rate hiking cycle back in October 2023, utilities stocks have rebounded strongly, despite those potential headwinds of elevated interest rates. The market has started to anticipate an end to the rising rates, and the potential for the U.S. Federal Reserve to eventually go the other way with rates being cut. This had a positive impact for the portfolio during the Period.

In the Period, the global diversification benefited the Fund with the top performing holdings being U.S. and European holdings. Select positions benefited from the narrative surrounding increased power demand trends in the United States from expected increasing data center capacity growth. There were several changes to the portfolio constituents during the Period, driven by the Fund's passive investment strategy.



#### RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

#### **Potential Impact for the Fund**

In the shorter-term, the macro environment (both economic and geopolitical), while appearing to stabilize, continues to have some uncertainty. Inflationary pressures have subsided and expectations that the Bank of Canada will continue to cut interest rates, while the U.S. Federal Reserve will start cuts in the fall, and that has been a source of bullishness 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, although the markets seemed to be less sensitive to the geopolitical headlines this Period relative to previous periods. Notwithstanding, as the conflicts in Eastern Europe and the Middle East prolong, there remain potential threats to the world economies and the stock markets.

High interest rates over shorter periods can be potentially negative for the utilities sector. Interest rate costs can increase the cost of debt, which tends to be higher in the utilities sector compared to others. Secondly, higher interest rates can be seen as competition for investors seeking to earn steady cash flows. While the interest rate environment appears to be stabilizing and could be headed lower at least in the short-end of the curve – a potential positive for the sector - there is no assurance that the interest rates do not increase further in the future.

#### **Mid-Year Market Review**

For the Period, the broader U.S. equity markets recorded above average returns. This came on back of the momentum from 2023, when the U.S. markets also returned above average performance. This was partly aided by the new tone from the Federal Reserve in the United States (the "Fed") in the fall of 2023, suggesting that a pause in the interest rates hiking was warranted. In addition, the U.S. markets saw a few meaningful corrections in the review Period, unlike the significant market volatility of 2022 and 2023 that was the result of several global events.

During the Period, the above average performance of the equity market was not uniform across sub-sectors nor individual stocks. The leadership role of technology companies and communications companies was once again re-enforced with both posting the best returns out of all sub-sectors for the Period. Even within these sub-sectors, returns were highly concentrated in a few large companies. This was borne out in market capitalization weighted indexes that were heavily influenced by above average performance in a relatively small number of mega-cap stocks, particularly those perceived as beneficiaries of investment on artificial intelligence ("AI") focused infrastructure. While select large companies were a key driver of the overall market performance, given their relatively very strong performance and their sizes, the breadth of participation across stocks and sub-sectors expanded over the course of the Period with 10 out of the 11 main sub-sectors in the U.S. all posting positive returns. Bond prices stabilized following the uptick in rates in April. However, longer dated bond yields remained highly sensitive to daily economic data sets as the Fed transitions from a hiking to easing environment and the market tries to pinpoint more accurately as to when it will eventually start to cut interest rates.

In the Fixed Income market, U.S. Treasury 10-Year Bond Yields moved modestly higher early in the year, seemingly bouncing from over-sold conditions coming into the end of 2023. During April, there were some concerns that the inflationary economic indicators were not subsiding sufficiently to warrant the Fed to pause on raising interest rates. This caused a shorter-term pull-back in both equity and bond prices as longer dated bond yields moved higher. However, for both bonds and equities, the pullback was short lived and prices started to recover as economic data that followed over the course of the following month suggested inflation is subsiding.

In Canada, the broader equity markets posted positive returns for the Period. In part due to the economic growth disparities and structural differences between the two markets, the Canadian equity markets lagged those of the U.S. and within the Canadian market's sub-sectors, just over half ended the Period with positive returns. With economic data moderating more quickly in Canada than the U.S., the Bank of Canada announced an interest rate cut in June, the first in four years and the first G7 country to do so this economic cycle.

Global geopolitical tensions remained elevated during the Period and provided some support to safe-haven assets such as gold and helped to keep global oil prices above where they closed in 2023. However, the markets were less sensitive to these geopolitical headlines (i.e. the wars in the Middle East and Europe, and tensions between U.S. and China) compared to previous years.

#### Other

On June 25, 2024, the Manager announced an increase to the monthly distribution amount from \$0.1166 per unit per month to \$0.1216 per unit per month commencing with distributions declared in July 2024.

#### 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 pays the Manager an annual management fee of 0.50%, plus applicable taxes, based on a percentage of the average daily net asset value ("NAV") of the Fund charged daily and paid monthly.

The Manager may, in its discretion, agree to charge the Fund and/or certain unitholders a reduced management fee as compared with the management fee that it otherwise would be entitled to receive, provided that the amount of the reduced management fee is distributed periodically by the Fund to the unitholder as a management fee distribution. Any reduction will depend on a number of factors, including the amount of account activity. Any tax consequences of a management fee distribution will generally be borne by the unitholder who receives the distribution.

#### **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 \$19,223 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 or expense absorptions 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 June 30, 2024 officers and directors owned 2,175 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.



#### **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 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	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Net assets - beginning of the period <sup>2</sup>	\$ 16.27	\$ 17.31	\$ 19.53	\$ 18.07	\$ 21.89	\$ 20.00
Increase (decrease) from operations						
Total revenue	0.43	0.88	0.83	0.77	0.89	0.86
Total expenses	(0.06)	(0.14)	(0.16)	(0.17)	(0.19)	(0.22)
Realized gains (losses) for the period	(0.17)	(0.18)	(0.63)	0.10	(1.29)	1.02
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	0.47	(0.22)	(1.05)	1.99	(1.56)	1.02
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>1</sup>	\$ 0.67	\$ 0.34	\$ (1.01)	\$ 2.69	\$ (2.15)	\$ 2.68
Distributions <sup>3</sup>						
From net investment income (excluding dividends)	(0.41)	(0.47)	(0.46)	(0.42)	(0.49)	(0.26)
From dividends	-	(0.21)	(0.17)	(0.13)	(0.16)	(0.10)
From capital gains	-	-	-	-	-	(0.49)
Return of capital	(0.29)	(0.72)	(0.77)	(0.85)	(0.76)	(0.32)
Total annual distributions <sup>3</sup>	\$ (0.70)	\$ (1.40)	\$ (1.40)	\$ (1.40)	\$ (1.41)	\$ (1.17)
Net assets - end of the period <sup>1</sup>	\$ 16.23	\$ 16.27	\$ 17.31	\$ 19.53	\$ 18.07	\$ 21.89

RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Total net asset value (000's)	\$ 203,297	\$ 177,755	\$ 148,412	\$ 82,022	\$ 30,723	\$ 18,608
Number of units outstanding (000's)	12,525	10,925	8,575	4,200	1,700	850
Management expense ratio <sup>4</sup>	0.68%	0.70%	0.75%	0.79%	0.79%	0.97%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions <sup>4</sup>	0.68%	0.70%	0.75%	0.85%	1.25%	2.39%
Trading expense ratio <sup>5</sup>	0.29%	0.23%	0.32%	0.29%	0.45%	0.40%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>6</sup>	46.49%	61.81%	75.34%	56.88%	79.92%	93.87%
Net asset value per unit	\$ 16.23	\$ 16.27	\$ 17.31	\$ 19.53	\$ 18.07	\$ 21.89
Closing market price (HUTL)	\$ 16.28	\$ 16.34	\$ 17.30	\$ 19.53	\$ 18.11	\$ 21.86

#### **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 10, 2019 was \$20.00.
- 3. Distributions, if any, are paid in cash. 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) 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. In 2020 the calculation was modified to include certain transaction costs charged by the custodian. The trading expense ratio in prior periods was not re-stated.
- 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.



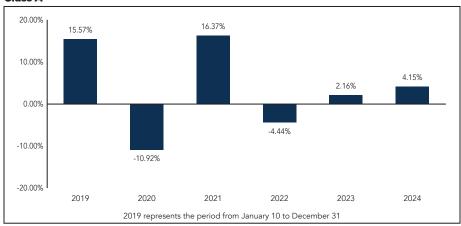
#### **PAST PERFORMANCE**

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 chart presents 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 2024 which represents the Period.

#### Class A





#### **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, 2024

Top 25 Holdings	% of Net Asset Value
AT&T Inc.	3.6
BT Group PLC	3.6
The Williams Companies, Inc.	3.6
Pembina Pipeline Corporation	3.5
Verizon Communications Inc.	3.5
Kinder Morgan, Inc., Class P	3.5
Swisscom AG	3.4
Koninklijke KPN NV	3.4
ONEOK, Inc.	3.4
Avangrid, Inc.	3.4
Pinnacle West Capital Corporation	3.3
Edison International	3.3
FirstEnergy Corp.	3.3
Enbridge Inc.	3.3
Evergy, Inc.	3.3
Iberdrola, S.A.	3.3
Eversource Energy	3.3
Emera Incorporated	3.2
SSE PLC	3.2
TELUS Corporation	3.2
Dominion Energy, Inc.	3.2
Endesa, S.A.	3.2
Telenor ASA	3.2
Telefonica, S.A.	3.1
VERBUND AG, Class A	3.1
Total	83.4

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**.

#### **SECTOR ALLOCATION**

Sector	% of Net Asset Value
Electric Utilities	35.9
Diversified Telecommunication Services	29.9
Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels	17.3
Multi-Utilities	8.6
Independent Power and Renewable Electricity Producers	3.1
Gas Utilities	2.6
Cash and other assets and liabilities	1.5
Money Market ETF	1.1
Foreign currency forward contracts	0.3
Options	(0.3)
Total	100.0



### GEOGRAPHIC ALLOCATION

Country of Risk	% of Net Asset Value
United States	43.8
Canada	14.3
Spain	12.2
United Kingdom	9.3
France	5.8
Switzerland	3.4
Netherlands	3.4
Norway	3.2
Austria	3.1
Cash and other assets and liabilities	1.5
Foreign currency forward contracts	0.3
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 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.

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