

# SMAX

Hamilton U.S.  
Equity YIELD  
MAXIMIZER™ ETF



## Hamilton U.S. Equity YIELD MAXIMIZER™ ETF

(formerly *Hamilton U.S. Equity Yield Maximizer ETF*)  
(SMAX:TSX)



HAMILTON ETFs

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## MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE

This annual management report of fund performance for Hamilton U.S. Equity YIELD MAXIMIZER™ ETF (formerly Hamilton U.S. Equity Yield Maximizer ETF) ("SMAX" or the "ETF") contains financial highlights and is included with the audited annual financial statements for the investment fund. You may request a copy of the investment fund's audited annual financial statements, interim financial report, annual or interim management report of fund performance, current proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record or quarterly portfolio disclosures, at no cost, by calling (416) 941-9888, by writing to Hamilton Capital Partners Inc. ("Hamilton ETFs" or the "Manager"), at 70 York Street, Suite 1520, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 1S9, by visiting our website at [www.hamiltonetfs.com](http://www.hamiltonetfs.com) or through SEDAR+ at [www.sedarplus.ca](http://www.sedarplus.ca).

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 ETF may invest and the risks detailed from time to time in the ETF's prospectus. New risk factors emerge from time to time and it is not possible for management to predict all such risk factors. 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 ETF, 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 Manager 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.

## Management Discussion of Fund Performance

### Investment Objective and Strategy

The investment objective of SMAX is to deliver attractive monthly income, while providing exposure to a portfolio of primarily large-cap U.S. equity securities. To supplement dividend income earned on the equity holdings, mitigate risk and reduce volatility, SMAX will employ a covered call option writing program. The ETF is offered for sale on a continuous basis by its prospectus in class E units ("Class E"), which trade on the Toronto Stock Exchange ("TSX") under the symbol SMAX.

SMAX seeks to achieve its investment objective by investing in a portfolio of U.S. large-cap equities through the use of a "stratified sampling" strategy. Under a stratified sampling strategy, SMAX will hold a portfolio of securities that the portfolio adviser believes to be representative of the sector mix of the U.S. equity market. As an alternative to, or in conjunction with directly investing in and holding equity securities, SMAX may also invest in other securities, including Other Funds (as defined herein) to obtain direct or indirect exposure to other such securities in a manner that is consistent with SMAX's investment objective. SMAX may also hold cash and cash equivalents or other money market instruments in order to meet its obligations.

The portfolio adviser reviews the portfolio holdings on an ongoing basis for possible additions, removals, or substitutions that in its discretion would be beneficial to SMAX and its Unitholders. The issuers included in the portfolio will largely be based on market capitalization, however the rationale for additions, removals, or substitutions may include, but not be



## Management Discussion of Fund Performance (continued)

limited to: (i) its view on the liquidity of an issuer; (ii) the availability and liquidity of an issuer's options; and (iii) dividend yield. Changes to the portfolio holdings may occur at the portfolio adviser's discretion, and the entire portfolio will be rebalanced to approximate the U.S. equity market sector mix at least semiannually.

To mitigate downside risk and generate income, the portfolio adviser actively manages a covered call strategy of SMAX that will generally write at or slightly out of the money call options, at its discretion, on up to 100% of the value of SMAX's portfolio. Notwithstanding the foregoing, SMAX may write covered call options on a lesser percentage of the portfolio, from time to time, at the discretion of the portfolio adviser.

### Risk

Investments in the units of the ETF can be speculative, involve a degree of risk and are suitable only for persons who are able to assume the risk of losing their entire investment. The risks of investing are disclosed in the ETF's prospectus and there have been no significant changes during the year that affected the overall level of risk associated with the ETF.

**Prospective investors should read the ETF's prospectus and consider the full description of the risks contained therein before purchasing units.** The prospectus is available at [www.hamiltonetfs.com](http://www.hamiltonetfs.com) or from [www.sedarplus.ca](http://www.sedarplus.ca), or by contacting Hamilton Capital Partners Inc. directly via the contact information on the back page of this document.

### Results of Operations

For the year ended December 31, 2024, Class E units of the ETF returned 34.60%, when including distributions paid to unitholders. By comparison, the Cboe S&P 500 Half BuyWrite Index, which returned 33.61% in Canadian dollars, for the same period, on a total return basis. To supplement dividend income earned on the equity holdings, mitigate risk and reduce volatility, SMAX employs a covered call option writing program.

The Cboe S&P 500 Half BuyWrite Index is a benchmark index designed to track the performance of a hypothetical covered call strategy. The Index consists of holding a portfolio indexed to the S&P 500, and selling a succession of one-month at-the-money S&P 500 (SPX) call options on half of the portfolio.

### Market Review

Global financial markets were significantly influenced by central banks' efforts to combat inflation and the demonstrated resilience of economies during the first half of 2024. While inflation globally slowed throughout first half of 2024, these trends began to diverge across different economies in the second half, as some regions experienced varying degrees of inflationary pressures. The latter half of 2024 also saw geopolitical events significantly impact markets, led by uncertainties regarding the political landscapes in France, Germany, and Canada, and threats of tariffs by the U.S. following its presidential election in November.

Interest rate expectations saw initial projections of six to seven rate cuts in the U.S. Federal Funds Rate for 2024. Ultimately, the Federal Reserve cut just 100 basis points, as the U.S. economy proved more resilient than anticipated.

U.S. stock markets performed well in 2024, where Technology, Consumer Discretionary, and Financials emerged as the best-performing sectors, driven by the rapid development and integration of AI technologies and robust economic growth. The Materials and Healthcare sectors lagged, weighed down by geopolitical uncertainties and regulatory changes anticipated with the new income U.S. administration. This divergence underscores the varying impacts of macroeconomic and political dynamics across sectors.



## Management Discussion of Fund Performance (continued)

Broad U.S. market volatility, as measured by the CBOE Volatility Index or VIX, increased in 2024, led by uncertain surrounding the U.S. presidential election and the Federal Reserve's interest rate trajectory, both of which heightened market fluctuations. The technology sector, as the largest sector within the U.S. market, continues to impact volatility with valuations nearing record levels.

### **Portfolio Review**

The ETF invests in a sample of the largest blue-chip companies in the United States for which an active exchange-traded options market exists, aiming for a sector mix similar to that of the S&P 500. The holdings are equally weighted, rebalanced semi-annually and the ETF does not seek to hedge its foreign currency exposure. In the first rebalance, the ETF exited three names, Costco Wholesale Corporation, Union Pacific Corp. and Cisco Systems Inc. replacing them in the portfolio with, Advanced Micro Devices Inc., Caterpillar Inc., New Linde PLC. In the second half, Home Depot Inc. was removed for Oracle Corp. at the rebalance.

With the strong market performance in 2024, the majority of the ETF's positions were positive contributors to the ETF, with many of the top performers achieving all time high prices during the year. Following mixed stock performance in the first half of the year, Tesla Inc. came storming back, driven by solid financials, growing product demand and increasing investor confidence, leading the stock to end as the top contributor to the ETF in 2024. NVIDIA Corp. and Broadcom Inc. also had significant contributions, with the semiconductor subsector seeing surging demand for microchips, driven by the growing importance of Artificial Intelligence within the market. The largest detractors to the ETF's performance during the year were Advanced Micro Devices Inc., Adobe Inc. and Prologis Inc.

The elevated market volatility, especially in the technology sector, supported the option premiums in the ETF through the year, as the Manager was able to make changes to the ETF's coverage ratio to generate the required premium.

### **Outlook**

The 2025 outlook is optimistic, with an increased likelihood of the U.S. economy avoiding a recession. Expectations of sustainable GDP growth, paired with further moderation in inflation, create a favourable environment for markets. The ongoing development and integration of artificial intelligence continue to drive the technology sector, and semiconductors, more specifically. The current geopolitical backdrop and uncertainty around future rate cuts could continue to provide support for volatility levels. Options premiums will continue to be monitored to apply appropriate call option coverage to the ETF's portfolio.

### **Other Operating Items and Changes in Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Redeemable Units**

For the year ended December 31, 2024, the ETF generated net investment income from investments and derivatives (which includes changes in the fair value of the ETF's portfolio) of \$125,956,539. This compares to \$2,567,557 for the period ended December 31, 2023. The ETF incurred management, operating and transaction expenses of \$4,394,126 (2023 – \$242,817) of which \$0 (2023 – \$10,136) was either paid or absorbed by the Manager on behalf of the ETF. The waiving and/or absorption of such fees and/or expenses by the Manager may be terminated at any time, without notice, or continued indefinitely, at the discretion of the Manager.

The ETF distributed \$47,767,080 to unitholders during the year (2023 – \$3,044,008).



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## Management Discussion of Fund Performance (continued)

### ***Presentation***

The attached financial statements have been prepared in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards ("IFRS"). Any mention of total net assets, net assets, net asset value or increase (decrease) in net assets in the financial statements and/or management report of fund performance is referring to net assets or increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units as reported under IFRS.

### **Recent Developments**

Other than indicated below, there are no recent industry, management or ETF-related developments that are pertinent to the present and future of the ETF.

### ***Name Change***

On June 5th, 2024, the Manager announced a name change to Hamilton U.S. Equity YIELD MAXIMIZER™ ETF.

### ***Independent Review Committee ("IRC") Appointments & Resignations***

Effective December 31, 2024, R. Warren Law ceased to be a member of the IRC.

Effective January 1, 2025, Leslie Wood was appointed as a member of the IRC.

Effective March 11, 2025, Bruce Friesen ceased to be a member of the IRC.

### **Related Party Transactions**

Certain services have been provided to the ETF by related parties and those relationships are described below.

### ***Manager, Trustee and Portfolio Adviser***

The manager, trustee and portfolio adviser of the ETF is Hamilton Capital Partners Inc., 70 York Street, Suite 1520, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 1S9, a corporation incorporated under the laws of the Province of Ontario.

Any management fees paid to the Manager (described in detail on page 9) are related party transactions, as the Manager is considered to be a related party to the ETF. Fees paid to the Independent Review Committee are also considered to be related party transactions. Both the management fees and fees paid to the Independent Review Committee are disclosed in the statements of comprehensive income in the attached financial statements of the ETF. The management fees payable by the ETF as at December 31, 2024 and 2023, are disclosed in the statements of financial position.



## Financial Highlights

The following tables show selected key financial information about the ETF and are intended to help you understand the ETF's financial performance since it effectively began operations on October 25, 2023. This information is derived from the ETF's audited annual financial statements. Please see the first page for information on how you may obtain the annual or interim financial statements.

### The ETF's Net Assets per Unit

Year/Period <sup>(1)</sup>	2024	2023
<b>Net assets per unit, beginning of year/period</b>	\$ 16.66	16.00
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>		
Total revenue	0.23	0.08
Total expenses	(0.19)	(0.04)
Realized gains (losses) for the year/period	0.89	(0.19)
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year/period	4.39	0.53
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>(2)</sup></b>	5.32	0.38
<b>Distributions:</b>		
From net investment income (excluding dividends)	(0.04)	(0.01)
From net realized capital gains	(0.70)	(0.13)
From return of capital	(1.29)	(0.18)
<b>Total distributions <sup>(3)</sup></b>	(2.03)	(0.32)
<b>Net assets per unit, end of year/period <sup>(4)</sup></b>	\$ 20.13	16.66

1. This information is derived from the ETF's audited annual financial statements.

2. Net assets per unit 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 financial period.

3. Income, dividend and/or return of capital distributions, if any, are paid in cash, reinvested in additional units of the ETF, or both. Capital gains distributions, if any, may or may not be paid in cash. Non-cash capital gains distributions are reinvested in additional units of the ETF and subsequently consolidated. They are reported as taxable distributions and increase each unitholder's adjusted cost base for their units. Neither the number of units held by the unitholder, nor the net asset per unit of the ETF change as a result of any non-cash capital gains distributions. Distributions classified as return of capital, if any, decrease each unitholder's adjusted cost base for their units.

4. The Financial Highlights are not intended to act as a continuity of the opening and closing net assets per unit.



**Financial Highlights** (continued)**Ratios and Supplemental Data**

<b>Year/Period</b> <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Net asset value (000's)	\$ 607,232	232,671
Number of units outstanding (000's)	30,171	13,963
Management expense ratio <sup>(2)</sup>	0.78%	0.78%
Management expense ratio before waivers and absorptions <sup>(3)</sup>	0.79%	0.83%
Trading expense ratio <sup>(4)</sup>	0.07%	0.05%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(5)</sup>	57.25%	13.22%
Net asset value per unit, end of year/period	\$ 20.13	16.66
Closing market price	\$ 20.12	16.67

1. This information is provided as at December 31 of the year/period shown.
2. Management expense ratio is based on total expenses, including sales tax, (excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs) for the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the year/period. Out of its management fees, and waivers and absorptions, as applicable, the Manager pays for such services to the ETF as portfolio manager compensation, service fees and marketing.
3. The Manager, at its discretion, may waive and/or absorb a portion of the fees and/or expenses otherwise payable by the ETF. The waiving and/or absorption of such fees and/or expenses by the Manager may be terminated at any time, without notice, or continued indefinitely, at its discretion.
4. 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 year/period.
5. The ETF's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively its portfolio investments are traded. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the ETF buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. Generally, the higher the portfolio turnover rate in a year, the greater the trading costs payable by the ETF in the year, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the year/period. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of the ETF.



## Financial Highlights (continued)

### Management Fees

The Manager provides, or oversees the provision of, administrative services required by the ETF including, but not limited to: negotiating contracts with certain third-party service providers, such as custodians, registrars, transfer agents, auditors and printers; authorizing the payment of operating expenses incurred on behalf of the ETF; arranging for the maintenance of accounting records for the ETF; preparing reports to unitholders and to the applicable securities regulatory authorities; calculating the amount and determining the frequency of distributions by the ETF; preparing financial statements, income tax returns and financial and accounting information as required by the ETF; ensuring that unitholders are provided with financial statements and other reports as are required from time to time by applicable law; ensuring that the ETF complies with all other regulatory requirements, including the continuous disclosure obligations of the ETF under applicable securities laws; administering purchases, redemptions and other transactions in units of the ETF; and dealing and communicating with unitholders of the ETF. The Manager provides office facilities and personnel to carry out these services, if not otherwise furnished by any other service provider to the ETF. The Manager also monitors the investment strategies of the ETF to ensure that the ETF complies with its investment objectives, investment strategies and investment restrictions and practices.

In consideration for the provision of these services, the Manager receives a monthly management fee at the annual rate of 0.65%, plus applicable sales taxes, of the net asset value of the ETF, calculated and accrued daily and payable monthly in arrears.

Any expenses of the ETF that are waived or absorbed by the Manager are paid out of the management fees received by the Manager.

The table below details, in percentage terms, the services received by the ETF from the Manager in consideration of the management fees paid during the year.

<b>Portfolio management fees, general administrative costs, marketing, and profit</b>	<b>Waived/absorbed expenses of the ETF</b>
99%	1%

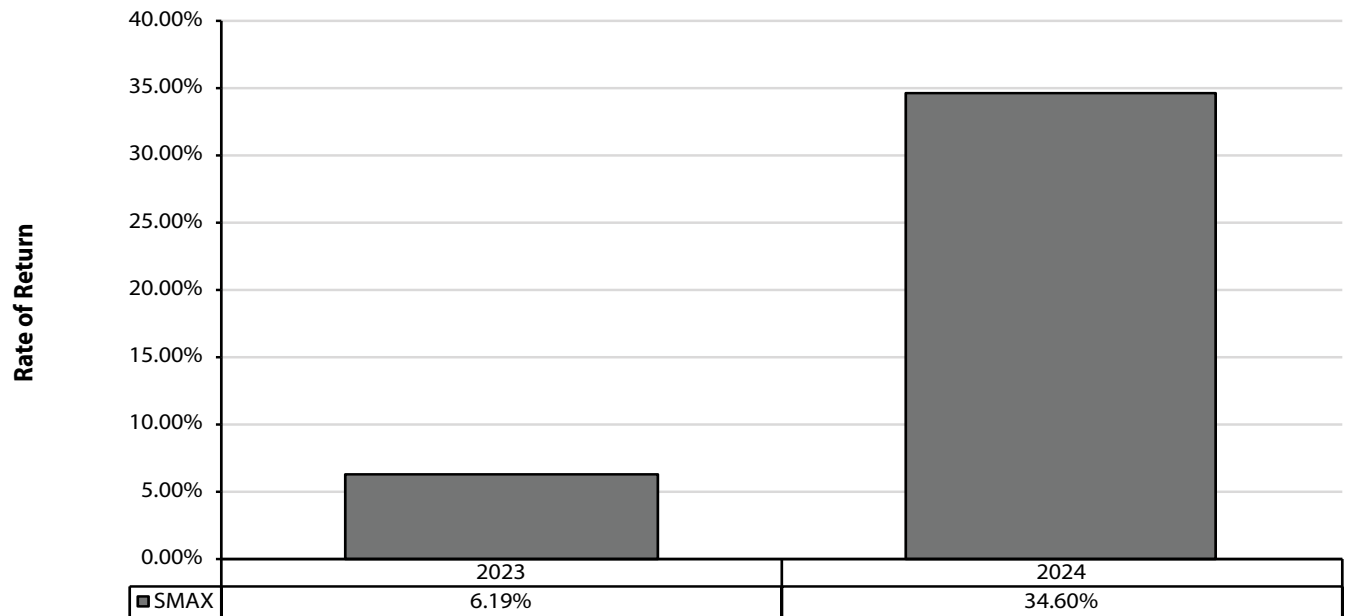


## Past Performance

Commissions, management fees, expenses and applicable sales taxes all may be associated with an investment in the ETF. Please read the prospectus before investing. The indicated rates of return are the historical total returns including changes in unit value and reinvestment of all distributions, and do not take into account sales, redemptions, distributions or optional charges or income taxes payable by any investor that would have reduced returns. An investment in the ETF is not guaranteed. Its value changes frequently and past performance may not be repeated. The ETF's performance numbers assume that all distributions, if any, are reinvested in additional units of the ETF. If you hold this ETF outside of a registered plan, income and capital gains distributions that are paid to you increase your income for tax purposes whether paid to you in cash or reinvested in additional units. The amount of the reinvested taxable distributions is added to the adjusted cost base of the units that you own. This would decrease your capital gain or increase your capital loss when you later redeem from the ETF, thereby ensuring that you are not taxed on this amount again. Please consult your tax advisor regarding your personal tax situation.

## Year-by-Year Returns

The following chart presents the ETF's performance for the year/period shown, and illustrates how the performance has changed from period to period. In percentage terms, the chart shows how much an investment made on the first day of the financial period would have grown or decreased by the last day of the financial period.



The ETF effectively began operations on October 25, 2023

## Past Performance (continued)

### Annual Compound Returns

The following table presents the ETF's annual compound total return since inception to December 31, 2024, along with a comparable market index. The table is used only to illustrate the effects of the compound growth rate and is not intended to reflect future values of the ETF or future returns on investments in the ETF.

	<b>1 Year</b>	<b>Since Inception</b>
Hamilton U.S. Equity YIELD MAXIMIZER™ ETF	34.60%	35.17%
Cboe S&P 500 Half BuyWrite Index	33.61%	33.33%

The ETF effectively began operations on October 25, 2023

**Summary of Investment Portfolio**

As at December 31, 2024

<b>Asset Mix</b>	<b>Net Asset Value</b>	<b>% of ETF's Net Asset Value</b>
<b>Long Positions</b>		
U.S. Equities	\$ 593,748,635	97.78%
Global Equities	21,312,754	3.51%
Cash and Cash Equivalents	506,481	0.08%
Other Assets less Liabilities	(4,039,277)	-0.66%
<b>Short Positions</b>		
Equity Call Options	(4,297,050)	-0.71%
	<b>\$ 607,231,543</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

<b>Sector Mix</b>	<b>Net Asset Value</b>	<b>% of ETF's Net Asset Value</b>
<b>Long Positions</b>		
Information Technology	202,858,212	33.40%
Financials	97,662,879	16.08%
Consumer Discretionary	64,962,973	10.70%
Health Care	63,317,323	10.43%
Communication Services	53,484,673	8.81%
Industrials	45,175,336	7.44%
Consumer Staples	23,353,231	3.85%
Energy	22,354,971	3.68%
Materials	21,312,754	3.51%
Utilities	20,579,037	3.39%
Cash and Cash Equivalents	506,481	0.08%
Other Assets less Liabilities	(4,039,277)	-0.66%
<b>Short Positions</b>		
Equity Call Options	(4,297,050)	-0.71%
	<b>\$ 607,231,543</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Summary of Investment Portfolio** (continued)

As at December 31, 2024

<b>Top 25 Holdings</b>	<b>% of ETF's Net Asset Value</b>
Tesla Inc.	6.17%
Broadcom Inc.	5.39%
Salesforce Inc.	4.94%
Alphabet Inc.	4.66%
Amazon.com Inc.	4.53%
Apple Inc.	4.43%
Visa Inc.	4.39%
JPMorgan Chase & Co.	4.35%
NVIDIA Corp.	4.27%
Meta Platforms Inc.	4.15%
Oracle Corp.	4.03%
Berkshire Hathaway Inc.	3.99%
Caterpillar Inc.	3.91%
Microsoft Corp.	3.88%
Procter & Gamble Co. (The)	3.85%
Exxon Mobil Corp.	3.68%
Johnson & Johnson	3.56%
General Electric Co.	3.53%
UnitedHealth Group Inc.	3.52%
Linde PLC	3.51%
NextEra Energy Inc.	3.39%
Adobe Inc.	3.36%
Eli Lilly and Co.	3.35%
Prologis Inc.	3.35%
Advanced Micro Devices Inc.	3.10%

The summary of investment portfolio may change due to the ongoing portfolio transactions of the ETF. The most recent financial statements are available at no cost by calling (416) 941-9888, by writing to us at 70 York Street, Suite 1520, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 1S9, by visiting our website at [www.hamiltonetfs.com](http://www.hamiltonetfs.com) or through SEDAR+ at [www.sedarplus.ca](http://www.sedarplus.ca).



### MANAGER'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING

The accompanying audited annual financial statements of Hamilton U.S. Equity YIELD MAXIMIZER™ ETF (formerly *Hamilton U.S. Equity Yield Maximizer ETF*) (the "ETF") are the responsibility of the manager and trustee to the ETF, Hamilton Capital Partners Inc. (the "Manager"). They have been prepared in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards ("IFRS") using information available and include certain amounts that are based on the Manager's best estimates and judgements.

The Manager has developed and maintains a system of internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that all assets are safeguarded and to produce relevant, reliable and timely financial information, including the accompanying financial statements.

These financial statements have been approved by the Board of Directors of the Manager and have been audited by KPMG LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants, on behalf of unitholders. The independent auditor's report outlines the scope of their audit and their opinion on the financial statements.

For the year ended December 31, 2024, the fees paid to KPMG LLP for the audit of the financial statements of all the ETFs being audited by them on behalf of Hamilton ETFs are as follows: Audit: \$444,123 (2023 - \$301,428), Non-audit: \$102,995 (2023 - \$77,415).

Robert Wessel  
Director  
Hamilton Capital Partners Inc.

Jennifer Mersereau  
Director  
Hamilton Capital Partners Inc.



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### To the Unitholders of Hamilton U.S. Equity YIELD MAXIMIZER™ ETF (the "ETF")

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of the ETF, which comprise the statements of financial position as at December 31, 2024 and December 31, 2023, the statements of comprehensive income, changes in financial position and cash flows for the year ended December 31, 2024 and the period from inception on September 8, 2023 to December 31, 2023, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of material accounting policy information (hereinafter referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the ETF as at December 31, 2024 and December 31, 2023, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year ended December 31, 2024 and the period from inception on September 8, 2023 to December 31, 2023, in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards ("IFRS").

#### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements" section of our auditor's report.

We are independent of the ETF in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Other Information**

Management is responsible for the other information. Other information comprises:

- the information included in the Management Report of Fund Performance filed with the relevant Canadian Securities Commissions.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not and will not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit and remain alert for indications that the other information appears to be materially misstated.

We obtained the information included in the Management Report of Fund Performance filed with the relevant Canadian Securities Commissions as at the date of this auditor's report. If, based on the work we have performed on this other information, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact in the auditor's report.

We have nothing to report in this regard.





### ***Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards ("IFRS"), and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the ETF's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the ETF or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the ETF's financial reporting process.

### ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.  
  
The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the ETF's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ETF's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the ETF to cease to continue as a going concern.



- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.
- Provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

*KPMG LLP*

Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this auditor's report is Paula M. Foster.

Toronto, Canada

March 14, 2025

## Statements of Financial Position

December 31, 2024 and 2023

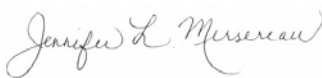
	2024	2023
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 506,481	\$ 637,007
Investments (note 6)	615,061,389	236,639,570
Amounts receivable relating to accrued income	60,253	186,447
Amounts receivable relating to portfolio assets sold	1,533,441	–
Amounts receivable relating to securities issued	1,509,421	–
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>618,670,985</b>	<b>237,463,024</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accrued management fees (note 9)	376,411	104,978
Accrued operating expenses	45,921	12,465
Amounts payable for portfolio assets purchased	1,513,392	–
Distribution payable	5,206,668	2,234,008
Derivative liabilities (note 13)	4,297,050	2,440,404
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>11,439,442</b>	<b>4,791,855</b>
<b>Net assets (note 2)</b>	<b>\$ 607,231,543</b>	<b>\$ 232,671,169</b>
Number of redeemable units outstanding (note 8)	30,171,349	13,962,553
Net assets per unit	\$ 20.13	\$ 16.66

(See accompanying notes to financial statements)

Approved on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Manager:



Robert Wessel  
Director



Jennifer Mersereau  
Director

**Statements of Comprehensive Income**

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024 and

For the Period from Inception on September 8, 2023 to December 31, 2023

	2024	2023
<b>Income</b>		
Dividend income	\$ 5,209,087	\$ 480,113
Interest income for distribution purposes	1	–
Securities lending income (note 7)	1,090	–
Net realized gain (loss) on sale of investments and derivatives	20,381,608	(1,115,125)
Net realized gain (loss) on foreign exchange	18,914	(47,970)
Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments and derivatives	100,346,652	3,249,934
Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of foreign exchange	(813)	605
	<b>125,956,539</b>	<b>2,567,557</b>
<b>Expenses (note 9)</b>		
Management fees	3,082,405	150,480
Audit fees	23,493	–
Independent Review Committee fees	5,674	–
Custodial and fund valuation fees	183,074	–
Legal fees	14,498	–
Securityholder reporting costs	31,787	9,571
Administration fees	40,095	565
Transaction costs	280,012	9,749
Withholding taxes	752,719	72,452
Other expenses	134	–
	<b>4,413,891</b>	<b>242,817</b>
Amounts that were payable by the investment fund that were paid or absorbed by the Manager	(19,765)	(10,136)
	<b>4,394,126</b>	<b>232,681</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) in net assets for the year/period</b>	<b>\$ 121,562,413</b>	<b>\$ 2,334,876</b>
Increase (decrease) in net assets per unit	\$ 5.32	\$ 0.38

(See accompanying notes to financial statements)

**Statements of Changes in Financial Position**

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024 and

For the Period from Inception on September 8, 2023 to December 31, 2023

	<b>2024</b>		<b>2023</b>	
<b>Net assets at the beginning of the year/period</b>	\$	232,671,169	\$	–
<b>Increase (decrease) in net assets</b>		121,562,413		2,334,876
<b>Redeemable unit transactions</b>				
Proceeds from the issuance of units of the ETF		344,225,954		235,468,666
Aggregate amounts paid on redemption of units of the ETF		(43,627,279)		(2,089,253)
Securities issued on reinvestment of distributions		166,366		888
Distributions:				
From net investment income		(902,634)		(96,259)
From net realized capital gains		(16,603,840)		(1,259,855)
Return of capital		(30,260,606)		(1,687,894)
<b>Net assets at the end of the year/period</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>607,231,543</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>232,671,169</b>

(See accompanying notes to financial statements)

## Statements of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024 and

For the Period from Inception on September 8, 2023 to December 31, 2023

	2024	2023
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>		
Increase (decrease) in net assets for the year/period	\$ 121,562,413	\$ 2,334,876
Adjustments for:		
Net realized (gain) loss on sale of investments and derivatives	(20,381,608)	1,115,125
Net change in unrealized (appreciation) depreciation of investments and derivatives	(100,346,652)	(3,249,934)
Net change in unrealized (appreciation) depreciation of foreign exchange	(2)	–
Purchase of investments	(173,324,693)	(14,419,103)
Proceeds from the sale of investments	203,802,718	12,776,982
Amounts receivable relating to accrued income	126,194	(186,447)
Accrued expenses	304,889	117,443
<b>Net cash from (used in) operating activities</b>	<b>31,743,259</b>	<b>(1,511,058)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities:</b>		
Amount received from the issuance of units	12,825,738	2,970,600
Amount paid on redemptions of units	(71,471)	(13,423)
Distributions paid to unitholders	(44,628,054)	(809,112)
<b>Net cash from (used in) financing activities</b>	<b>(31,873,787)</b>	<b>2,148,065</b>
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents during the year/period</b>	<b>(130,528)</b>	<b>637,007</b>
Effect of exchange rate fluctuations on cash and cash equivalents	2	–
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year/period</b>	<b>637,007</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year/period</b>	<b>\$ 506,481</b>	<b>\$ 637,007</b>
Interest received, net of withholding taxes	\$ 1	\$ –
Dividends received, net of withholding taxes	\$ 4,582,563	\$ 221,214
Interest paid	\$ (134)	\$ –

(See accompanying notes to financial statements)

**Schedule of Investments**

As at December 31, 2024

Security	Shares/ Contracts	Average Cost	Fair Value
<b>U.S. EQUITIES (97.78%)</b>			
<b>Information Technology (33.40%)</b>			
Adobe Inc.*	31,924	\$ 24,175,143	\$ 20,405,989
Advanced Micro Devices Inc.*	108,296	25,151,018	18,803,390
Apple Inc.*	74,782	20,313,559	26,918,994
Broadcom Inc.*	98,313	17,315,249	32,763,634
Microsoft Corp.*	38,913	21,208,457	23,576,810
NVIDIA Corp.*	134,457	14,609,572	25,954,929
Oracle Corp.	102,116	23,296,428	24,460,526
Salesforce Inc.*	62,370	22,824,212	29,973,940
		168,893,638	202,858,212
<b>Financials (16.08%)</b>			
Berkshire Hathaway Inc., Class 'B'*	37,239	20,306,063	24,263,716
JPMorgan Chase & Co.*	76,686	19,114,472	26,423,783
Prologis Inc.*	133,776	21,974,811	20,325,720
Visa Inc., Class 'A'*	58,662	21,708,975	26,649,660
		83,104,321	97,662,879
<b>Consumer Discretionary (10.70%)</b>			
Amazon.com Inc.*	87,164	19,920,687	27,488,227
Tesla Inc.*	64,556	19,870,085	37,474,746
		39,790,772	64,962,973
<b>Health Care (10.43%)</b>			
Eli Lilly and Co.*	18,357	17,607,080	20,370,972
Johnson & Johnson*	103,842	21,975,530	21,587,092
UnitedHealth Group Inc.*	29,374	21,369,670	21,359,259
		60,952,280	63,317,323
<b>Communication Services (8.81%)</b>			
Alphabet Inc., Class 'A'*	103,963	21,370,304	28,289,298
Meta Platforms Inc., Class 'A'*	29,936	17,766,412	25,195,375
		39,136,716	53,484,673
<b>Industrials (7.44%)</b>			
Caterpillar Inc.	45,476	22,125,359	23,713,431
General Electric Co.	89,517	16,381,422	21,461,905
		38,506,781	45,175,336
<b>Consumer Staples (3.85%)</b>			
Procter & Gamble Co. (The)	96,906	20,814,545	23,353,231
<b>Energy (3.68%)</b>			
Exxon Mobil Corp.*	144,574	21,174,847	22,354,971



**Schedule of Investments** (continued)

As at December 31, 2024

Security	Shares/ Contracts	Average Cost	Fair Value
<b>Utilities (3.39%)</b>			
NextEra Energy Inc.	199,698	17,733,804	20,579,037
<b>TOTAL U.S. EQUITIES</b>		<b>490,107,704</b>	<b>593,748,635</b>
<b>GLOBAL EQUITIES (3.51%)</b>			
<b>Materials (3.51%)</b>			
Linde PLC	35,414	22,280,427	21,312,754
<b>TOTAL GLOBAL EQUITIES</b>		<b>22,280,427</b>	<b>21,312,754</b>
<b>DERIVATIVES (-0.71%)</b>			
<b>SHORT POSITIONS (-0.71%)</b>			
<b>Equity Call Options (-0.71%)</b>			
Adobe Inc., January 2025, \$445.00 USD	(89)	(168,429)	(165,673)
Advanced Micro Devices Inc., January 2025, \$123.00 USD	(149)	(107,787)	(70,679)
Advanced Micro Devices Inc., January 2025, \$126.00 USD	(150)	(121,916)	(47,651)
Alphabet Inc., Class 'A', January 2025, \$190.00 USD	(260)	(303,037)	(252,272)
Amazon.com Inc., January 2025, \$220.00 USD	(222)	(319,400)	(264,865)
Apple Inc., January 2025, \$250.00 USD	(187)	(306,452)	(213,699)
Berkshire Hathaway Inc., January 2025, \$452.50 USD	(104)	(98,502)	(112,495)
Broadcom Inc., January 2025, \$220.00 USD	(264)	(491,372)	(614,769)
Eli Lilly and Co., January 2025, \$770.00 USD	(51)	(196,652)	(205,818)
Exxon Mobil Corp., January 2025, \$106.00 USD	(402)	(173,081)	(258,590)
Johnson & Johnson, January 2025, \$145.00 USD	(290)	(124,271)	(148,819)
JPMorgan Chase & Co., January 2025, \$240.00 USD	(214)	(202,454)	(203,025)
Meta Platforms Inc., Class 'A', January 2025, \$595.00 USD	(73)	(320,869)	(264,958)
Microsoft Corp., January 2025, \$430.00 USD	(105)	(211,765)	(147,536)
NVIDIA Corp., January 2025, \$135.00 USD	(375)	(401,037)	(382,721)
Prologis Inc., January 2025, \$105.00 USD	(374)	(149,988)	(134,402)
Salesforce Inc., January 2025, \$350.00 USD	(128)	(244,481)	(43,607)
Tesla Inc., January 2025, \$440.00 USD	(174)	(919,404)	(524,619)
UnitedHealth Group Inc., January 2025, \$510.00 USD	(82)	(192,108)	(165,903)
Visa Inc., Class 'A', January 2025, \$320.00 USD	(158)	(113,981)	(74,949)
		(5,166,986)	(4,297,050)
<b>TOTAL DERIVATIVES</b>		<b>(5,166,986)</b>	<b>(4,297,050)</b>
Transaction Costs		(53,393)	

**Schedule of Investments** (continued)

As at December 31, 2024

<b>Security</b>	<b>Shares/ Contracts</b>	<b>Average Cost</b>	<b>Fair Value</b>
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO (100.58%)</b>		<b>\$ 507,167,752</b>	<b>\$ 610,764,339</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents (0.08%)</b>			506,481
<b>Other assets less liabilities (-0.66%)</b>			(4,039,277)
<b>NET ASSETS (100.00%)</b>			<b>\$ 607,231,543</b>

\*Partially pledged as collateral for written covered call option contracts.

(See accompanying notes to financial statements)

## Notes to Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024 and

For the Period from Inception on September 8, 2023 to December 31, 2023

### 1. REPORTING ENTITY

Hamilton U.S. Equity YIELD MAXIMIZER™ ETF (formerly Hamilton U.S. Equity Yield Maximizer ETF) ("SMAX" or the "ETF") is an investment trust established under the laws of the Province of Ontario by Declaration of Trust on September 8, 2023. The ETF effectively began operations on October 25, 2023. The address of the ETF's registered office is: c/o Hamilton Capital Partners Inc., 70 York Street, Suite 1520, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 1S9.

The ETF is offered for sale on a continuous basis by its prospectus in class E units ("Class E") which trade on the Toronto Stock Exchange ("TSX") in Canadian dollars under the symbol SMAX. An investor may buy or sell units of the ETF on the TSX only through a registered broker or dealer in the province or territory where the investor resides. Investors are able to trade units of the ETF in the same way as other securities traded on the TSX, including by using market orders and limit orders and may incur customary brokerage commissions when buying or selling units.

The investment objective of SMAX is to deliver attractive monthly income, while providing exposure to a portfolio of primarily large-cap U.S. equity securities. To supplement dividend income earned on the equity holdings, mitigate risk and reduce volatility, SMAX will employ a covered call option writing program.

Hamilton Capital Partners Inc. ("Hamilton ETFs" or the "Manager") is the manager, trustee and portfolio adviser of the ETF. The Manager is responsible for implementing the ETF's investment strategies.

### 2. BASIS OF PREPARATION

#### (i) Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards ("IFRS"). Any mention of total net assets, net assets, net asset value or increase (decrease) in net assets is referring to net assets or increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units as reported under IFRS.

These financial statements were authorized for issue on March 14, 2025, by the Board of Directors of the Manager.

#### (ii) Basis of measurement

The financial statements have been prepared on a historical cost basis except for financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss, which are measured at fair value.

#### (iii) Functional and presentation currency

The financial statements are presented in Canadian dollars, which is the ETF's functional currency.

### 3. MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICY INFORMATION

The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements.

**Notes to Financial Statements** (continued)

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024 and

For the Period from Inception on September 8, 2023 to December 31, 2023

**(a) Financial instruments*****(i) Recognition, initial measurement and classification***

The ETF is subject to IFRS 9, Financial Instruments ("IFRS 9") for the classification and measurement requirements for financial instruments, including impairment on financial assets and hedge accounting.

This standard requires assets to be classified based on the ETF's business model for managing the financial assets and contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial assets. The standard includes three principal classification categories for financial assets: measured at amortized cost, fair value through other comprehensive income, and fair value through profit and loss ("FVTPL"). IFRS 9 requires classification of debt instruments, if any, based solely on payments of principal and interest and business model tests.

The ETF's financial assets and financial liabilities are managed and its performance is evaluated on a fair value basis. The contractual cash flows of the ETF's debt securities, if any, consist solely of principal and interest, however, these securities are neither held in held-to-collect, or held-to-collect-and-sell business models in IFRS 9.

Financial assets and financial liabilities at FVTPL are initially recognized on the trade date, at fair value (see below), with transaction costs recognized in the statements of comprehensive income. Other financial assets and financial liabilities are recognized on the date on which they are originated at fair value.

The ETF classifies financial assets and financial liabilities into the following categories:

- Financial assets mandatorily classified at fair value through profit or loss: debt securities, equity investments and derivative financial instruments
- Financial assets at amortized cost: all other financial assets
- Financial liabilities classified at fair value through profit or loss: derivative financial instruments and securities sold short, if any
- Financial liabilities at amortized cost: all other financial liabilities

***(ii) Fair value measurement***

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date in the principal or, in its absence, the most advantageous market to which the ETF has access at that date. The fair value of a liability reflects its non-performance risk.

Investments are valued at fair value as of the close of business on each day upon which a session of the TSX is held ("Valuation Date") and based on external pricing sources to the extent possible. Investments held that are traded in an active market through recognized public stock exchanges, over-the-counter markets, or through recognized investment dealers, are valued at their closing sale price. However, such prices may be adjusted if a more accurate value can be obtained from recent trading activity or by incorporating other relevant information that may not have been reflected in pricing obtained from external sources. Short-term investments, including notes and money market instruments, are valued at amortized cost which approximates fair value.

**Notes to Financial Statements** (continued)

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024 and

For the Period from Inception on September 8, 2023 to December 31, 2023

Investments held that are not traded in an active market, including some derivative financial instruments, are valued using observable market inputs where possible, on such basis and in such manner as established by the Manager. Derivative financial instruments are recorded in the statements of financial position according to the gain or loss that would be realized if the contracts were closed out on the Valuation Date. Margin deposits, if any, are included in the schedule of investments as margin deposits. See also, the summary of fair value measurements in note 6.

Fair value policies used for financial reporting purposes are the same as those used to measure the net asset value ("NAV") for transactions with unitholders.

The fair value of other financial assets and liabilities approximates their carrying values due to the short-term nature of these instruments.

**(iii) Offsetting**

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount presented in the statements of financial position when there is a legally enforceable right to offset the recognized amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis, or to realize the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Income and expenses are presented on a net basis for gains and losses from financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss and foreign exchange gains and losses.

**(iv) Specific instruments****Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash on deposit and short-term, interest bearing notes with a term to maturity of less than three months from the date of purchase.

**Forward foreign exchange contracts**

Forward foreign exchange contracts, if any, are valued at the current market value thereof on the Valuation Date. The value of these forward contracts is the gain or loss that would be realized if, on the Valuation Date, the positions were to be closed out and recorded as derivative assets and/or liabilities in the statements of financial position and as a net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments and derivatives in the statements of comprehensive income. When the forward contracts are closed out or mature, realized gains or losses on forward contracts are recognized and are included in the statements of comprehensive income in net realized gain (loss) on sale of investments and derivatives. The Canadian dollar value of forward foreign exchange contracts is determined using forward currency exchange rates supplied by an independent service provider.

**Redeemable units**

The redeemable units are measured at the present value of the redemption amounts and are considered a residual amount of the net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units. They are classified as financial liabilities as a result of the ETF's requirement to distribute, at the option of the unitholder, net income and capital gains in cash.

**Notes to Financial Statements** (continued)

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024 and

For the Period from Inception on September 8, 2023 to December 31, 2023

**Options**

As part of the ETF's investment strategy, call options are written on the equities in the ETF's portfolio. The premium received from writing a call option is recorded as a derivative liability in the statements of financial position. These call options are valued at the current market value thereof on the Valuation Date. The difference between the premium received when the option was written and its current market value is recorded as a net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments and derivatives in the statements of comprehensive income.

When a written call option expires, the ETF will realize a gain equal to the premium received. When a written option is bought back, the ETF will realize a gain or loss equal to the difference between the cost at which the contract was re-purchased and the premium received. When a written call option is exercised, the premium received is added to the proceeds from the sale of the underlying investments to determine the realized gain or loss. In all three cases, the gains or losses realized on call option premiums written is recorded as a net realized gain (loss) on sale of investments and derivatives in the statements of comprehensive income.

Covered call options give the holder the right to buy the securities from the ETF at a stated exercise price during the option period. During this period, these underlying securities held by the ETF are pledged as collateral. Securities so pledged are identified in the Schedule of Investment Portfolio as at December 31, 2024. The total fair value of collateral pledged as at December 31, 2024 is \$127,359,670.

**(b) Investment income**

Investment transactions are accounted for as of the trade date. Realized gains and losses from investment transactions are calculated on a weighted average cost basis. The difference between fair value and average cost, as recorded in the financial statements, is included in the statements of comprehensive income as part of the net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments and derivatives. Interest income for distribution purposes from investments in bonds and short-term investments, if any, represents the coupon interest received by the ETF accounted for on an accrual basis. Dividend income is recognized on the ex-dividend date. Distribution income from investments in other funds or ETFs is recognized when earned.

Income from derivatives is shown in the statements of comprehensive income as net realized gain (loss) on sale of investments and derivatives; net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments and derivatives; and, interest income for distribution purposes, in accordance with its nature.

Income from securities lending, if any, is included in "Securities lending income" on the statements of comprehensive income and is recognized when earned. Any securities on loan continue to be displayed in the schedule of investments and the market value of the securities loaned and collateral held is determined daily (see note 7).

If the ETF incurs withholding taxes imposed by certain countries on investment income and capital gains, such income and gains are recorded on a gross basis and the related withholding taxes are shown as a separate expense in the statements of comprehensive income.

**(c) Foreign currency**

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into the ETF's reporting currency using the exchange rate prevailing on the trade date. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the reporting date are translated at the year-end exchange rate. Foreign exchange gains and losses are presented as "Net realized gain (loss) on foreign

**Notes to Financial Statements** (continued)

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024 and

For the Period from Inception on September 8, 2023 to December 31, 2023

exchange", except for those arising from financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss, which are recognized as a component within "Net realized gain (loss) on sale of investments and derivatives" and "Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments and derivatives" in the statements of comprehensive income.

**(d) Cost basis**

The cost of portfolio investments is determined on an average cost basis.

**(e) Increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units per unit**

The increase (decrease) in net assets per unit in the statements of comprehensive income represents the change in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units from operations divided by the weighted average number of units of the ETF outstanding during the reporting year. For management fees please refer to note 9.

**(f) Unitholder transactions**

The value at which units are issued or redeemed is determined by dividing the net asset value of the class by the total number of units outstanding of that class on the Valuation Date. Amounts received on the issuance of units and amounts paid on the redemption of units are included in the statements of changes in financial position.

**(g) Amounts receivable (payable) relating to portfolio assets sold (purchased)**

In accordance with the ETF's policy of trade date accounting for sale and purchase transactions, sales/purchase transactions awaiting settlement, if any, represent amounts receivable/payable for securities sold/purchased, but not yet settled as at the reporting date.

**(h) Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units per unit**

Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units per unit is calculated by dividing the ETF's net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units by the number of units of the ETF outstanding on the Valuation Date.

**(i) Transaction costs**

Transaction costs are incremental costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition, issue or disposal of an investment, which include fees and commissions paid to agents, advisors, brokers and dealers, levies by regulatory agencies and securities exchanges, and any applicable transfer taxes and duties. Transaction costs are expensed and are included in "Transaction costs" in the statements of comprehensive income.

**(j) Changes in accounting policies**

The Fund adopted Disclosure of Accounting Policies (Amendments to IAS 1 and IFRS Practice Statements 2) from January 1, 2023. Although the amendments did not result in any changes to the accounting policies themselves, they impacted the accounting policy information disclosed in the financial statements.



**Notes to Financial Statements** (continued)

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024 and

For the Period from Inception on September 8, 2023 to December 31, 2023

The amendments require the disclosure of 'material' rather than 'significant' accounting policies. The amendments also provide guidance on the application of materiality to disclosure of accounting policies, assisting entities to provide useful, entity-specific accounting policy information that users need to understand other information in the financial statements.

The Manager reviewed the accounting policies and made updates to the information disclosed in note 3 in certain instances in line with the amendments.

**4. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS**

In preparing these financial statements, the Manager has made judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. Actual results may differ from these estimates. Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to estimates are recognized prospectively.

The ETF may hold financial instruments that are not quoted in active markets, including derivatives. The determination of the fair value of these instruments is the area with the most significant accounting judgements and estimates that the ETF has made in preparing the financial statements. See note 6 for more information on the fair value measurement of the ETF's financial instruments.

**5. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS RISK**

In the normal course of business, the ETF's investment activities expose it to a variety of financial risks. The Manager seeks to minimize potential adverse effects of these risks for the ETF's performance by employing professional, experienced portfolio advisers, by daily monitoring of the ETF's positions and market events, and periodically may use derivatives to hedge certain risk exposures. To assist in managing risks, the Manager maintains a governance structure that oversees the ETF's investment activities and monitors compliance with the ETF's stated investment strategies, internal guidelines and securities regulations.

Please refer to the most recent prospectus for a complete discussion of the risks attributed to an investment in the units of the ETF. Significant financial instrument risks that are relevant to the ETF, and analysis thereof, are presented below.

**(a) Market risk**

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices, such as interest rates, equity prices, foreign exchange rates and credit spreads (not relating to changes in the obligor's/issuer's credit standing) will affect the ETF's income or the fair value of its holdings of financial instruments. The objective of market risk management is to manage and control market risk exposures within acceptable parameters, while optimizing the return.

**(i) Currency risk**

Currency risk is the risk that financial instruments which are denominated in currencies other than the ETF's reporting currency, the Canadian dollar, will fluctuate due to changes in exchange rates and adversely impact the ETF's income, cash flows or fair values of its investment holdings. The ETF may reduce its foreign currency exposure through the use of derivative arrangements such as foreign exchange forward contracts or futures contracts. The following table indicates the foreign currencies to which the ETF had significant exposure as at December 31, 2024 and 2023, in Canadian dollar terms and the potential impact on the ETF's net assets (including the underlying principal amount of future or forward currency contracts, if any), as a result of a 1% change in these currencies relative to the Canadian dollar:

**Notes to Financial Statements** (continued)

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024 and

For the Period from Inception on September 8, 2023 to December 31, 2023

December 31, 2024	Financial Instruments	Currency Forward and/ or Futures Contracts	Total	Impact on Net Asset Value
Currency	(\$000's)	(\$000's)	(\$000's)	(\$000's)
U.S. Dollar	611,224	–	611,224	6,112
Total	611,224	–	611,224	6,112
As % of Net Asset Value	100.7%	–	100.7%	1.0%

December 31, 2023	Financial Instruments	Currency Forward and/ or Futures Contracts	Total	Impact on Net Asset Value
Currency	(\$000's)	(\$000's)	(\$000's)	(\$000's)
U.S. Dollar	234,631	–	234,631	2,346
Total	234,631	–	234,631	2,346
As % of Net Asset Value	100.8%	–	100.8%	1.0%

**(ii) Interest rate risk**

The ETF may be exposed to the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of its financial instruments will fluctuate as a result of changes in market interest rates. In general, the value of interest-bearing financial instruments will rise if interest rates fall, and conversely, will generally fall if interest rates rise. There is minimal sensitivity to interest rate fluctuation on cash and cash equivalents invested at short-term market rates since those securities are usually held to maturity and are short term in nature.

As at December 31, 2024 and 2023, the ETF did not hold any long-term debt instruments and did not have any exposure to interest rate risk.

**(iii) Other market risk**

Other market risk is the risk that the value of financial instruments will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or currency risk), whether caused by factors specific to an individual investment, its issuer, or all factors affecting all instruments traded in a market or market segment. The Manager has implemented internal risk management controls on the ETF which are intended to limit the loss on its trading activities.

The table below shows the estimated impact on the ETF of a 1% increase or decrease in the comparative index, based on historical correlation, with all other factors remaining constant, as at the dates shown. In practice, actual results may differ from this sensitivity analysis and the difference could be material. The historical correlation may not be representative of future correlation.

Comparative Index	December 31, 2024	December 31, 2023
Cboe S&P 500 Half BuyWrite Index	\$5,259,076	\$1,660,543

**Notes to Financial Statements** (continued)

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024 and

For the Period from Inception on September 8, 2023 to December 31, 2023

**(b) Credit risk**

Credit risk on financial instruments is the risk of a financial loss occurring as a result of the default of a counterparty on its obligation to the ETF. It arises principally from debt securities held, and also from derivative financial assets, cash and cash equivalents, and other receivables. The ETF's maximum credit risk exposure as at the reporting date is represented by the respective carrying amounts of any debt instruments, derivative assets, plus any receivables, including accrued income receivable in the statements of financial position. The ETF's credit risk policy is to minimize its exposure to counterparties with perceived higher risk of default by dealing only with counterparties that meet the credit standards set out in the ETF's prospectus and, when necessary, receiving acceptable collateral.

As at December 31, 2024 and 2023, due to the nature of its portfolio investments, the ETF did not have any material credit risk exposure.

**(c) Liquidity risk**

Liquidity risk is the risk that the ETF will encounter difficulty in meeting the obligations associated with its financial liabilities that are settled by delivering cash or another financial asset. The ETF's policy and the Manager's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure, as far as possible, that it will always have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when due, under both normal and stress conditions, including estimated redemptions of units, without incurring unacceptable losses or risking damage to the ETF's reputation. Generally, liabilities of the ETF are due within 90 days. Liquidity risk is managed by investing the majority of the ETF's assets in investments that are traded in an active market and can be readily disposed. The ETF aims to retain sufficient cash and cash equivalent positions to maintain liquidity; therefore, the liquidity risk for the ETF is considered minimal.

**6. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT**

Below is a classification of fair value measurements of the ETF's investments based on a three level fair value hierarchy and a reconciliation of transactions and transfers within that hierarchy. The hierarchy of fair valuation inputs is summarized as follows:

- Level 1: securities that are valued based on quoted prices in active markets.
- Level 2: securities that are valued based on inputs other than quoted prices that are observable, either directly as prices, or indirectly as derived from prices.
- Level 3: securities that are valued with significant unobservable market data.

**Notes to Financial Statements** (continued)

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024 and

For the Period from Inception on September 8, 2023 to December 31, 2023

Changes in valuation methods may result in transfers into or out of an investment's assigned level. The following is a summary of the inputs used as at December 31, 2024 and 2023, in valuing the ETF's investments and derivatives carried at fair values:

	December 31, 2024			December 31, 2023		
	Level 1 (\$)	Level 2 (\$)	Level 3 (\$)	Level 1 (\$)	Level 2 (\$)	Level 3 (\$)
<b>Financial Assets</b>						
Equities	615,061,389	–	–	236,639,570	–	–
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>615,061,389</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>236,639,570</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>						
Options	(4,297,050)	–	–	(2,440,404)	–	–
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>	<b>(4,297,050)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(2,440,404)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Net Financial Assets and Liabilities</b>	<b>610,764,339</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>234,199,166</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>

There were no significant transfers made between Levels 1 and 2 as a result of changes in the availability of quoted market prices or observable market inputs during the years shown. In addition, there were no investments classified in Level 3 for the year ended December 31, 2024 and period ended December 31, 2023.

**7. SECURITIES LENDING**

In order to generate additional returns, the ETF is authorized to enter into securities lending agreements with borrowers deemed acceptable in accordance with National Instrument 81-102 – *Investment Funds* ("NI 81-102"). Under a securities lending agreement, the borrower must pay the ETF a negotiated securities lending fee, provide compensation to the ETF equal to any distributions received by the borrower on the securities borrowed, and the ETF must receive an acceptable form of collateral in excess of the value of the securities loaned. Although such collateral is marked to market, the ETF may be exposed to the risk of loss should a borrower default on its obligations to return the borrowed securities and the collateral is insufficient to reconstitute the portfolio of loaned securities. Revenue, if any, earned on securities lending transactions during the period is disclosed in the ETF's statements of comprehensive income.

As at December 31, 2024 and December 31, 2023, the ETF was not participating in any securities lending transactions.

The table below presents a reconciliation of the securities lending income as presented in the statements of comprehensive income for the year ended December 31, 2024 and period ended December 31, 2023. It shows the gross amount of securities lending revenues generated from the securities lending transactions of the ETF, less any taxes withheld and amounts earned by parties entitled to receive payments out of the gross amount as part of any securities lending agreements.

For the year/period ended	December 31, 2024	% of Gross Income	December 31, 2023	% of Gross Income
Gross securities lending income	\$1,677		\$0	
Lending Agent's fees:				
Bank of New York Mellon	(587)	(35.00%)	–	0.00%
<b>Net securities lending income paid to the ETF</b>	<b>\$1,090</b>	<b>65.00%</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

**Notes to Financial Statements** (continued)

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024 and

For the Period from Inception on September 8, 2023 to December 31, 2023

**8. REDEEMABLE UNITS**

The ETF is authorized to issue an unlimited number of redeemable, transferable Class E units each of which represents an equal, undivided interest in the net assets of the ETF. Each unit entitles the owner to one vote at meetings of unitholders. Each unit is entitled to participate equally with all other units with respect to all payments made to unitholders, other than management fee distributions, whether by way of income or capital distributions and, on liquidation, to participate equally in the net assets of the ETF remaining after satisfaction of any outstanding liabilities that are attributable to units of the ETF. All units will be fully paid and non-assessable, with no liability for future assessments, when issued and will not be transferable except by operation of law.

The redeemable units issued by the ETF provide an investor with the right to require redemption for cash at a value proportionate to the investor's share in the ETF's net assets at each redemption date and are classified as liabilities as a result of the ETF's requirement to distribute net income and capital gains to unitholders. The ETF's objectives in managing the redeemable units are to meet the ETF's investment objective, and to manage liquidity risk arising from redemptions. The ETF's management of liquidity risk arising from redeemable units is discussed in note 5.

On any Valuation Date, unitholders of the ETF may (i) redeem units of the ETF for cash at a redemption price per unit equal to 95% of the closing price for units of the ETF on the TSX on the effective day of the redemption, where the units being redeemed are not equal to a prescribed number of units ("PNU") or a multiple PNU; or (ii) redeem, less any applicable redemption charge as determined by the Manager in its sole discretion from time to time, a PNU or a multiple PNU of the ETF for cash equal to the net asset value of that number of units.

Units of the ETF are issued or redeemed on a daily basis at the net asset value per security that is determined as at 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) each Valuation Date. Purchase and redemption orders are subject to a 3:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) cutoff time on Valuation Date.

The ETF is required to distribute all of its income (including net realized capital gains) that it has earned in the year to such an extent that the ETF will not be liable for ordinary income tax thereon. Income earned by the ETF is distributed to unitholders at least once per year, if necessary, and any such amount distributed by the ETF will be paid as a "reinvested distribution". Reinvested distributions on units of the ETF will be reinvested automatically in additional units of the ETF at a price equal to the net asset value per unit of the ETF on such day and the units of the ETF will be immediately consolidated such that the number of outstanding units of the ETF held by each unitholder on such day following the distribution will equal the number of units of the ETF held by the unitholder prior to the distribution. Reinvested distributions are reported as taxable distributions and used to increase each unitholder's adjusted cost base for the ETF. Distributions paid to holders of redeemable units, if any, are recognized in the statements of changes in financial position.

Please consult the ETF's most recent prospectus for a full description of the subscription and redemption features of the ETF's units.

For the year ended December 31, 2024 and the period ended December 31, 2023, the number of units issued by subscription, the number of units redeemed, the total and average number of units outstanding was as follows:

Year/Period	Beginning Units Outstanding	Units Issued	Units Redeemed	Ending Units Outstanding	Average Units Outstanding
2024	13,962,553	18,508,796	(2,300,000)	30,171,349	22,839,375
2023	–	14,087,554	(125,001)	13,962,553	6,197,445

**Notes to Financial Statements** (continued)

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024 and

For the Period from Inception on September 8, 2023 to December 31, 2023

**9. EXPENSES AND OTHER RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS****Management fees**

The Manager provides, or oversees the provision of, administrative services required by the ETF including, but not limited to: negotiating contracts with certain third-party service providers, such as portfolio managers, custodians, registrars, transfer agents, auditors and printers; authorizing the payment of operating expenses incurred on behalf of the ETF; arranging for the maintenance of accounting records for the ETF; preparing reports to unitholders and to the applicable securities regulatory authorities; calculating the amount and determining the frequency of distributions by the ETF; preparing financial statements, income tax returns and financial and accounting information as required by the ETF; ensuring that unitholders are provided with financial statements and other reports as are required from time to time by applicable law; ensuring that the ETF complies with all other regulatory requirements, including the continuous disclosure obligations of the ETF under applicable securities laws; administering purchases, redemptions and other transactions in units of the ETF; and dealing and communicating with unitholders of the ETF. The Manager provides office facilities and personnel to carry out these services, if not otherwise furnished by any other service provider to the ETF. The Manager also monitors the investment strategies of the ETF to ensure that the ETF complies with its investment objectives, investment strategies and investment restrictions and practices.

In consideration for the provision of these services, the Manager receives a monthly management fee at the annual rate of 0.65%, plus applicable sales taxes, of the net asset value of the ETF, calculated and accrued daily and payable monthly in arrears.

Any expenses of the ETF that are waived or absorbed by the Manager are paid out of the management fees received by the Manager.

**Other expenses**

In addition to the management fees, unless otherwise waived or absorbed by the Manager, the ETF pays all of its operating expenses, including but not limited to: audit fees; trustee and custodial expenses; administration costs; valuation, accounting and record keeping costs; legal expenses; permitted prospectus preparation and filing expenses; costs associated with delivering documents to unitholders; listing and annual stock exchange fees; CDS Clearing and Depository Services Inc. fees; bank related fees and interest charges; extraordinary expenses; unitholder reports and servicing costs; registrar and transfer agent fees; costs associated with the Independent Review Committee; income taxes; sales taxes; brokerage expenses and commissions; and withholding taxes.

The Manager, at its discretion, may waive and/or absorb a portion of the fees and/or expenses otherwise payable by the ETF. The waiving and/or absorption of such fees and/or expenses by the Manager may be terminated at any time, without notice, or continued indefinitely, at the discretion of the Manager.

**10. BROKER COMMISSIONS, SOFT DOLLARS AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

Brokerage commissions paid on securities transactions may include amounts paid to related parties of the Manager for brokerage services provided to the ETF.

Research and system usage related services received in return for commissions generated with specific dealers are generally referred to as soft dollars.

**Notes to Financial Statements** (continued)

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024 and

For the Period from Inception on September 8, 2023 to December 31, 2023

Total brokerage commissions paid to dealers in connection with investment portfolio transactions, soft dollar transactions incurred and amounts paid to related parties of the Manager, if any, for the year ended December 31, 2024 and the period ended December 31, 2023, were as follows:

Year/Period Ended	Brokerage Commissions Paid	Soft Dollar Transactions	Amount Paid to Related Parties
December 31, 2024	\$138,721	\$nil	\$nil
December 31, 2023	\$9,749	\$nil	\$nil

In addition to the information contained in the table above, the management fees paid to the Manager described in note 9 are related party transactions, as the Manager is considered to be a related party to the ETF. Fees paid to the Independent Review Committee are also considered to be related party transactions. Both fees are disclosed in the statements of comprehensive income. The management fees payable by the ETF as at December 31, 2024 and 2023, are disclosed in the statements of financial position.

The ETF may invest in other ETFs managed by the Manager or its affiliates, in accordance with the ETF's investment objectives and strategies. Such investments, if any, are disclosed in the schedule of investments.

**11. INCOME TAX**

The ETF has qualified as a mutual fund trust under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) (the "Tax Act") and accordingly, is not taxed on the portion of taxable income that is paid or allocated to unitholders. As well, tax refunds (based on redemptions and realized and unrealized gains during the year) may be available that would make it possible to retain some net capital gains in the ETF without incurring any income taxes.

**12. TAX LOSSES CARRIED FORWARD**

Capital losses for income tax purposes may be carried forward indefinitely and applied against capital gains realized in future years. Non-capital losses carried forwards may be applied against future years' taxable income. Non-capital losses that are realized in the current taxation period may be carried forward for 20 years. As at December 31, 2024, the ETF had no net capital or non-capital losses available.

**13. OFFSETTING OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

In the normal course of business, the ETF may enter into various master netting arrangements or other similar agreements that do not meet the criteria for offsetting in the statements of financial position but still allow for the related amounts to be set off in certain circumstances, such as bankruptcy or termination of the contracts. As at December 31, 2024 and 2023, the ETF did not have any financial instruments eligible for offsetting.

**14. INTERESTS IN SUBSIDIARIES, ASSOCIATES AND UNCONSOLIDATED STRUCTURED ENTITIES**

The ETF may invest in units of other ETFs as part of its investment strategies ("Investee ETF(s)"). The nature and purpose of these Investee ETFs generally, is to manage assets on behalf of third party investors in accordance with their investment objectives, and are financed through the issue of units to investors. At no time, would the ETF provide financial or other support to any Investee ETF, including assisting any Investee ETF in obtaining financial support.



**Notes to Financial Statements** (continued)

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024 and

For the Period from Inception on September 8, 2023 to December 31, 2023

In determining whether the ETF has control or significant influence over an Investee ETF, the ETF assesses voting rights, the exposure to variable returns, and its ability to use the voting rights to affect the amount of the returns. In instances where the ETF has control over an Investee ETF, the ETF qualifies as an investment entity under IFRS 10 – Consolidated Financial Statements, and therefore accounts for investments it controls at fair value through profit and loss. The ETF's primary purpose is defined by its investment objectives and uses the investment strategies available to it as defined in the ETF's prospectus to meet those objectives. The ETF also measures and evaluates the performance of any Investee ETFs on a fair value basis.

Investee ETFs over which the ETF has control or significant influence are categorized as subsidiaries and associates, respectively. All other Investee ETFs are categorized as unconsolidated structured entities. Investee ETFs may be managed by the Manager, its affiliates, or by third-party managers.

Investments in Investee ETFs are susceptible to market price risk arising from uncertainty about future values of those Investee ETFs. The maximum exposure to loss from interests in Investee ETFs is equal to the total fair value of the investment in those respective Investee ETFs at any given point in time. The fair value of Investee ETFs, if any, are disclosed in investments in the statements of financial position and listed in the schedule of investments. As at December 31, 2024, and December 31, 2023, the ETF did not have material exposure to subsidiaries, associates or unconsolidated structured entities.

Manager

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