# **Semi-Annual Management Report of Fund Performance**

As at June 30, 2023

# Lysander-Slater Preferred Share ActivETF





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#### **A Note About Forward Looking Statements**

This semi-annual Management Report of Fund Performance includes certain statements that are "forward looking statements". All statements, other than statements of historical fact, included in this Management Report of Fund Performance that address activities, events or developments that the Fund expects or anticipates will or may occur in the future, including such things as anticipated financial performance, are forward looking statements. The words "may", "could", "would", "should", "believe", "plan", "anticipate", "expect", "intend", "forecast", "objective" and similar expressions are intended to identify forward looking statements.

These forward looking statements are subject to various risks and uncertainties, including the risks described in the prospectus of the Fund, which could cause actual financial performance and expectations to differ materially from the anticipated performance or other expectations expressed.

Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward looking statements. All opinions contained in forward looking statements are subject to change without notice and are provided in good faith but without legal responsibility.

The Fund has no specific intention of updating any forward looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by securities legislation. Certain research and information about specific holdings in the Fund, including any opinion, is based upon various sources believed to be reliable, but it cannot be guaranteed to be current, accurate or complete. It is for information only, and is subject to change without notice.

#### **About This Report**

This semi-annual Management Report of Fund Performance of Lysander-Slater Preferred Share ActivETF (the "Fund") contains financial highlights for the period ended June 30, 2023 but does not contain the complete financial statements of the Fund. This report should be read in conjunction with the interim financial statements of the Fund for the period ended June 30, 2023. Lysander Funds Limited (the "Manager") is the manager of the Fund. You can get a copy of the financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling toll-free 1 877 308 6979, by writing to Lysander Funds Limited, 3080 Yonge St., Suite 3037, Toronto, Ontario, M4N 3N1, by visiting our website at www.lysanderfunds.com or at SEDAR at www.sedar.com.

Unitholders may also contact Lysander Funds Limited using one of these methods to obtain a copy of the Fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosure.

#### Investment objective

The Fund seeks to generate income while preserving investor capital by investing primarily in preferred shares in Canadian entities that are listed on a Canadian stock exchange.

#### **Investment Strategies**

The Fund's portfolio manager is Slater Asset Management Inc. ("Portfolio Manager" or "Slater"). The Fund's portfolio will primarily be invested in preferred shares of Canadian issuers listed in Canada, using fundamental and credit research. The Fund will not be leveraged. More details are contained in the Fund's prospectus.

#### **Risks**

The risks of this Fund remain as discussed in the Fund's most recent prospectus.

#### **Results of Operations**

For the six-month period ended June 30, 2023, the S&P/TSX Preferred Share Index return was 0.15% and the Lysander-Slater Preferred Share ActivETF return was 1.45%.

The net assets of the Fund were approximately \$72.0 million at June 30, 2023 from approximately \$74.6 million at the beginning of the period. This was primarily due to net redemptions of \$2.1 million, cash distributions of \$1.7 million and net operating income of approximately \$1.2 million during the period.

Persistent high inflation continued to worry the Bank of Canada "BOC" as inflation continues to remain above the 2% target and came in at 3.4% in May (though coming down from the peak high of 8.1% last summer). However, this was not enough to stop the BOC from raising the overnight rate twice which now sits at 4.75% (As of June 30, 2023). Projections for monetary policy resulted in high interest rate volatility throughout the first half. For instance, the 5-year Canada bond yield (the benchmark for fixed-reset Preferred Shares) fluctuated between 2.8% and 3.86%, and finished at 3.68% by the end of June. High interest rate volatility coupled with many other macroeconomic uncertainties (i.e. debt ceiling, bank failures, etc.) lead to relatively high price volatility in the Preferred Share market.

As a result, Slater decided to reposition the portfolio into cash & cash equivalents citing market risk. At a certain point, with short-term treasuries yielding as high as 5.0%, investors had plenty of attractive risk-free fixed income alternatives to choose

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from. Slater used this as an opportunity to increase it's cash and equivalent positions up to approximately 30% by the end of May, mainly using Canada T-bills. Due to the uncertainty in interest rates and fears of a potential recession on the horizon, Slater decided to reduce longer duration fixed rate resets which have reset dates in 2025 & 2026.

Due to the uncertainty in interest rates, and growing anticipation of a potential recession on the horizon, Slater decided to reduce longer duration fixed rate resets which have reset dates in 2025 and 2026.

There were no unusual changes to the components of revenue and expenses of the Fund and there were no unusual events or transactions, economic changes or market conditions that affected performance beyond what would be reasonably expected or as described below.

The Fund did not borrow money during the period except for immaterial short-term cash overdrafts.

#### **Recent Developments**

Slater's view is that the Canadian Preferred Share market is undervalued relative to other high-yielding asset classes, especially if the 5-year Canada bond yield can hold above 2.5%. The risk to this outlook is that a severe recession would result in extreme downward pressure on bond yields. With this in mind, as of mid-June, Slater reduced some of it's cash and equivalent positions in favour of discounted fixed resets with reset dates in late-2023 and early-to-mid 2024. At current prices, issues rated in the P2 category offer yields-to-reset in the 8%-10% range; issues in the P3 category offer yields-to-reset above 10%. Slater believe today's historically wide yield spreads will eventually result in upward price movement for the sector.

There have been no changes to the Manager or Portfolio Manager, or change of control of the Manager, or of the Fund. There have been no actual or planned reorganizations, mergers or similar transactions involving the Fund.

There were no changes to the membership of the Fund's Independent Review Committee ("IRC").

#### **Related Party Transactions**

The Manager provides or arranges to provide for the provision of all general management and administrative services required by the Fund in its day-to-day operations, including but not limited to, calculating and reporting the net asset value of the Fund and its series, preparing all offering documents, unitholder recordkeeping and other administrative services. The Manager receives a management fee for these services. The fee is

calculated based on a percentage of the net asset value of the Fund as disclosed in the prospectus.

The Fund paid \$242,476 (excluding HST) in management fees to the Manager for the period ended June 30, 2023 (June 30, 2022-\$303,408).

The Portfolio Manager is responsible for all investment advice provided to the Fund including providing investment analysis and recommendations, making investment decisions and arranging for the acquisition and disposition of portfolio investments. Fees for providing these services are included in the management fee. Portfolio management fees for the Portfolio Manager's services are paid from the management fee.

The Manager paid \$136,999 (including HST) to the Portfolio Manager for the period ended June 30, 2023 (June 30, 2022 - \$171,425).

The Manager relied, or may rely on standing instructions from the IRC in respect of securities traded amongst mutual funds, closed end funds, managed accounts or pooled funds managed by the Manager or an affiliate of the Manager. In such cases the Manager is required to comply with the Manager's written policies and procedures presented to the IRC and provide periodic reports to the IRC in accordance with National Instrument 81-107.

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#### **Financial Highlights**

Period ended	3	30-Jun-2023	31-Dec-2022	31-Dec-2021	31-Dec-2020	31-Dec-2019	31-Dec-2018
Net assets per unit <sup>1</sup>							
Net assets, beginning of period	\$	8.08	\$ 10.32	\$ 8.35	\$ 8.83	\$ 9.06	\$ 10.61
Operations:							
Total revenue		0.23	0.43	0.44	0.44	0.48	0.47
Total expenses		(0.05)	(0.11)	(0.14)	(0.12)	(0.10)	(0.14)
Realized gains (losses)		(0.73)	(0.14)	1.27	(1.33)	(1.05)	0.06
Unrealized gains (losses)		0.68	(2.04)	0.69	0.71	0.77	(1.62)
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>2</sup>	\$	0.13	\$ (1.86)	\$ 2.26	\$ (0.30)	\$ 0.10	\$ (1.23)
Distributions:							
From income (excluding dividends)	\$	(0.19)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
From dividends		-	(0.34)	(0.30)	(0.36)	(0.37)	(0.32)
From capital gains		-	-	-	-	-	(0.06)
Return of capital		-	(0.04)	(0.10)	(0.04)	(0.04)	(0.07)
Total distributions <sup>2 3</sup>	\$	(0.19)	\$ (0.38)	\$ (0.40)	\$ (0.40)	\$ (0.41)	\$ (0.45)
Net assets, end of period <sup>2 3</sup>	\$	8.01	\$ 8.08	\$ 10.32	\$ 8.35	\$ 8.83	\$ 9.06

Ratios and supplemental data												
Net asset value <sup>4</sup>	\$	72,072,083	\$	74,696,833	\$	100,836,205	\$	64,876,122	\$	84,454,128	\$	97,590,059
Units outstanding		8,993,150		9,243,150		9,769,000		7,769,000		9,569,000		10,769,000
Management expense ratio <sup>5</sup>	%	0.93	%	0.90	%	0.99	%	1.03	%	0.81	%	1.03
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorption		0.93		0.90		0.99		1.03		0.81		1.03
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>6</sup>		53		95		140		164		107		120
Trading expense ratio <sup>7</sup>		0.36		0.24		0.42		0.60		0.35		0.37
Net asset value per unit, end of period		8.01		8.08		10.32		8.35		8.83		9.06
Closing market price per unit <sup>4</sup>	\$	7.99	\$	8.07	\$	10.29	\$	8.33	\$	8.80	\$	9.08

#### Notes

- 1 The information is derived from the Fund's unaudited semi-annual and/or audited annual financial statements. All per unit figures presented are referenced to net assets determined in accordance to IFRS.
- 2 Net assets and distributions are based on the actual numbers 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. This table is not intended to be a reconciliation of beginning to ending net assets per unit.
- 3 Distributions were paid in cash.
- 4 This information is provided at the end of the period shown.
- 5 The management expense ratio is based on the total expenses of the period ended and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset values during the period.
- 6 The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio manager manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate 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 in a period, the greater the trading costs payable by the fund in the period, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the period. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a fund. The portfolio turnover rate is calculated based on the lesser of purchases or sales of securities divided by the weighted average market value of portfolio securities, excluding short term securities.
- 7 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.

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#### **Management Fees**

The Manager provides or arranges the provision of all general management and administrative services required by the Fund, and as described in the section "Related Party Transactions" above.

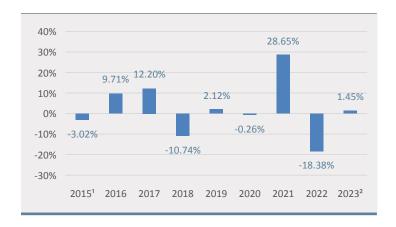
In consideration for such services, the Manager receives a management fee, based on the net asset value of the fund, calculated daily and payable monthly. The Fund pays a management fee at a rate of 0.65% per annum.

#### **Past Performance**

The Fund's commenced operations on August 10, 2015. Accordingly, returns are shown for the relevant years/periods as indicated below.

The following charts and table show the past performance of the Fund. Past performance does not necessarily indicate how the Fund will perform in the future. The information shown assumes that cash distributions made by the Fund in the periods shown were reinvested in additional units of the Fund.

#### **Year-by-Year Returns**



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#### **Summary of Investment Portfolio**

Sun Life Financial Inc.

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce

Transalta Corp.

Total

		% of NAV
Top 25 Issuers		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	%	18.5
Enbridge Inc.		9.2
Purpose High Interest Savings		7.3
Bank Of Montreal (Debt)		4.9
Pembina Pipeline Corp.		4.6
Power Financial Corp.		4.5
Canadian Utilities Ltd		4.2
TC Energy Corp.		4.2
Fortis Inc.		3.9
Great-West Lifeco Inc.		3.7
Fairfax Finl Hldgs Ltd		3.7
Toronto-Dominion Bank (Debt)		3.4
Toronto-Dominion Bank		3.3
BCE Inc.		3.3
Bank Of Montreal		3.1
Cenovus Energy Inc.		2.5
Royal Bank Of Canada (Debt)		2.4
Emera Inc.		2.3
Altagas Ltd		2.1
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (Debt)		2.0
Royal Bank Of Canada		2.0
Capital Power Corp.		1.5

		% of NAV
Asset Mix		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	%	18.5
Equities		8.2
Fixed Income		12.7
Other Assets less Liabilities		(1.4)
Preferred Shares		62.0
Total	%	100.0
Sector		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	%	18.5
Communication Services		3.6
Communication Services Consumer Staples		3.6 0.2
Consumer Staples		0.2
Consumer Staples Energy		0.2 20.5
Consumer Staples Energy Financials		0.2 20.5 43.3

8.0

8.0

0.7

98.9

%



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