



**Horizons Emerging Markets Equity Index ETF**  
**(HXEM:TSX)**



**HORIZONS** ETFs  
by Mirae Asset

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## **A Message from the CEO**

Following the end of a turbulent 2020, it is worthwhile to reflect on the successes that Horizons ETFs and the broader Canadian ETF industry have achieved in the face of unprecedented challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic during the year.

Despite the economic challenges and volatility posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Canadian ETF industry has grown in 2020 to new levels with record inflows of more than \$40 billion. The number of ETFs available in Canada has also eclipsed more than 1,000, which is a testament to the increasing confidence in, and demand for, ETFs as the investment vehicle of choice for investors.

Horizons ETFs also hit a major milestone in 2020, with its assets under management surpassing \$16 billion. This achievement reflects a record 55% increase in assets in 2020 alone – the highest proportional growth rate amongst Canada's top 5 ETF providers by assets.

As one of Canada's original and oldest ETF providers, we are proud of our history of product innovation and the track records of our ETFs. In 2020, 7 of our 94 funds celebrated 10-year anniversaries – a significant accomplishment in Canada's relatively young ETF industry. That includes the Horizons S&P/TSX 60™ Index ETF (HXT), as well the Horizons S&P 500® Index ETF (HXS), which have offered investors tax-efficiency unique to the Canadian marketplace for more than a decade.

There are reasons for optimism as we look ahead to 2021. As countries around the world begin implementing major COVID-19 vaccination efforts, we truly hope that we will see an easing of lockdown restrictions that could set the stage for a greater global economic recovery. Other trends, like the continued efforts at market expansion and deregulation of cannabis at state and federal levels in the United States, promises to transform the marijuana sector into one of the most important sectors to watch in 2021. This growing opportunity is highlighted by the popularity we have seen with our Horizons US Marijuana Index ETF (HMUS) and Horizons Marijuana Life Sciences Index ETF (HMMJ).

Recently, we announced an exciting development: Barry Allan, founder of DMAT Capital Management Inc. and a fixed income manager with nearly 40 years of experience, is working with us as the sub-advisor on our Horizons Active High Yield Bond ETF (HYI) and newly launched Horizons Tactical Absolute Return Bond ETF (HARB). We are excited to begin this partnership and offer these active solutions to this low-yield marketplace.

The hardships of this past year, both in the markets and in our daily lives, cannot be understated. However, we should take pride in the remarkable resilience of our markets and our country in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We thank you for your continued support, and hope you are staying safe and healthy with your families. Wishing you good fortune with all of your investing in 2021!

Sincerely,



Steven J. Hawkins  
President & CEO of Horizons ETFs Management (Canada) Inc.

## MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE

This annual management report of fund performance for Horizons Emerging Markets Equity Index ETF (“HXEM” or the “ETF”), a corporate class of shares (a “Corporate Class”) of Horizons ETF Corp. (the “Company”), contains financial highlights and is included with the audited annual consolidated financial statements (“financial statements” or “annual financial statements”) for the investment fund. You may request a copy of the investment fund’s unaudited interim or audited annual financial statements, interim or annual management report of fund performance, current proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record or quarterly portfolio disclosures, at no cost, by calling (toll free) 1-866-641-5739, or (416) 933-5745, by writing to Horizons ETFs Management (Canada) Inc. (“Horizons Management” or the “Manager”), at 55 University Avenue, Suite 800, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 2H7, by visiting our website at [www.horizonsetfs.com](http://www.horizonsetfs.com) or through SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

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 simplified 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

HXEM seeks to replicate, to the extent possible, the performance of the Horizons Emerging Markets Futures Roll Index (Total Return) (the “Underlying Index”; Bloomberg ticker: CMDYHXEM), net of expenses. The Horizons Emerging Markets Futures Roll Index (Total Return) is designed to measure the performance of large and mid-cap securities across 26 emerging markets countries.

To achieve the ETF’s investment objective and obtain direct or indirect exposure to securities of its Underlying Index’s constituent issuers, the ETF may use equity securities and derivatives, including swap agreements (see *Swap Agreements* below), provided that the use of such derivative instruments is in compliance with National Instrument 81-102 (“NI 81-102”) and is consistent with the investment objective of the ETF.

The ETF may also invest in and hold the securities of the issuers contained in its Underlying Index in substantially the same proportion as they are reflected in the Underlying Index or the ETF may invest in and hold index participation shares of exchange traded funds that are based on its Underlying Index. The ETF will remain fully invested in or exposed to the markets at all times. The ETF may also invest in futures contracts and forward agreements in order to provide market exposure for other cash held by the ETF and may also hold money market instruments, securities of money market funds or cash to meet its current obligations.

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**Management Discussion of Fund Performance** (continued)

The Investment Manager does not invest the assets of the ETF on a discretionary basis or select securities based on the Investment Manager's view of the investment merit of a particular security or company, nor does it conduct conventional stock research or analysis, or forecast stock market movement or trends in managing the assets of the ETF.

***About the Underlying Index***

The Horizons Emerging Markets Futures Roll Index (Total Return) is an index provided by Horizons that is designed to reflect the returns generated over time through long notional investments in a series of MSCI Emerging Markets Index Futures that are in turn based on the performance of the MSCI Emerging Markets Index Futures. The MSCI Emerging Markets Index Futures are listed on the Intercontinental Exchange. The Underlying Index is designed to represent the performance of large and mid-cap securities across 26 emerging markets. The Underlying Index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country. As noted above, the Horizons Emerging Markets Futures Roll Index (Total Return) is based in whole, or in part, on the MSCI Emerging Markets Index Futures owned by ICE Data LLP.

The notional portfolio of the Underlying Index is invested into the first nearby contract of the MSCI Emerging Markets Index Futures, and then rolled into the next nearby contract over a four day period in each of March, June, September and December. The roll from the first nearby contract to the next nearby contract begins on the third trading day prior to the last trading day of the first nearby contract on the Intercontinental Exchange.

**Risk**

The Manager performs a review of the ETF's risk rating at least annually, as well as when there is a material change in the ETF's investment objective or investment strategies. The current risk rating for the ETF is: medium.

Risk ratings are determined based on the historical volatility of the ETF as measured by the standard deviation of its performance against its mean. The risk categorization of the ETF may change over time and historical volatility is not indicative of future volatility. Generally, a risk rating is assigned to the ETF based on a rolling 10-year standard deviation of its returns, the return of its Underlying Index, or of an applicable proxy. In cases where the Manager believes that this methodology produces a result that is not indicative of the ETF's future volatility, the risk rating may be determined by the ETF's category. Risk ratings are not intended for use as a substitute for undertaking a proper and complete suitability or financial assessment by an investment advisor.

The Manager, as a summary for existing investors, is providing the list below of the risks to which an investment in the ETF may be subject. Prospective investors should read the ETF's most recent prospectus and consider the full description of the risks contained therein before purchasing shares.

## Management Discussion of Fund Performance (continued)

The risks to which an investment in the ETF is subject are listed below and have not changed from the list of risks found in the ETF's most recent prospectus. A full description of each risk listed below may also be found in the most recent prospectus. The most recent prospectus is available at [www.horizonsetfs.com](http://www.horizonsetfs.com) or from [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com), or by calling Horizons ETFs Management (Canada) Inc. at (toll free) 1-866-641-5739, or at (416) 933-5745.

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inability to achieve investment objective</li> <li>• Risks relating to index replication strategies</li> <li>• Liquidity risk</li> <li>• Borrowing risk</li> <li>• General risks of investing in HXEM</li> <li>• General risks of investing in an index fund and passive investment risk</li> <li>• Exchange traded products risk</li> <li>• Risks relating to use of derivatives</li> <li>• Changes to the Underlying Index</li> <li>• Designated broker/dealer risk</li> <li>• Counterparty risk</li> <li>• Reliance on key personnel</li> <li>• Issuer concentration risk</li> <li>• Cyber security risk</li> <li>• Purpose of the Underlying Index and replication strategy</li> <li>• Tax-related risks</li> <li>• Foreign security risk</li> <li>• Currency price fluctuations</li> <li>• General risks of equity investments</li> <li>• Voting of index securities risk</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income trust investments risks</li> <li>• Interest rate risk</li> <li>• Political, economic and social risk</li> <li>• Market disruptions risk</li> <li>• Significant redemptions</li> <li>• Exchange risk</li> <li>• Cease trading of securities risk</li> <li>• Early closing risk</li> <li>• Price limit risk</li> <li>• Conflicts of interest</li> <li>• Business and regulatory risks of alternative investment strategies</li> <li>• Change in legislation</li> <li>• No ownership interest</li> <li>• Securities lending risk</li> <li>• Emerging market equities risk</li> <li>• Fund corporation and multi-class/series structure risk</li> <li>• Fluctuations in NAV and market price of the ETF shares risk</li> <li>• Absence of an active market for the ETF shares and lack of operating history risk</li> </ul> |
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## Results of Operations

The ETF effectively began operations on August 4, 2020, at a net asset value ("NAV") of \$25.00 per share, and finished the period on December 31, 2020, at a NAV of \$29.61 per share. This compares to a return of 13.39% for the Underlying Index for the same period. The above figures are adjusted for distributions, if any. Generally, the difference in performance between the ETF and the Underlying Index is due to expenses payable by the ETF, which include management fees and swap fees plus applicable sales taxes.

The Horizons Emerging Markets Futures Roll Index (Total Return) is an index that is designed to reflect the returns generated over time through long notional investments in a series of MSCI Emerging Markets Index Futures that are in turn based on the performance of the MSCI Emerging Markets Index. The MSCI Emerging Markets Index captures large and mid-cap representation across 26 emerging market countries. With 1,397 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country. For the period from when the ETF effectively began operations on August 4, 2020, to December 31, 2020, the top performers in the MSCI Emerging Markets Index were Delta Electronics (Thailand) PCL, Evergreen Marine Corp Taiwan Ltd. and Nio Inc., gaining 328.19%, 266.67% and 257.33%, respectively. The worst performers in the MSCI Emerging Markets Index for the period were Hebei Construction Group Corp. Ltd., Walvax Biotechnology Co. Ltd. and Kossan Rubber Industries Bhd, returning -60.09%, -53.77% and -51.99%, respectively.

## Management Discussion of Fund Performance (continued)

Horizons Management does not endeavour to predict market direction generally, or the changes that may occur in global fiscal and monetary policies, the effect of additional geopolitical concerns or unforeseen other crises. Horizons Management and the ETF are agnostic as to their impact on global equity, fixed income, currency, and commodity markets generally, and the international equity market specifically. They are only of concern to the ETF in so much as there is some minimal risk they could affect its ability to meet its investment objective. Please refer to the risk factors section in the ETF's prospectus for more detailed information.

The ETF may, at times, have very large purchase and redemption activity. However, the performance of the ETF is primarily affected by the performance of its swap which is marked-to-market daily and is tied to the performance of the ETF's Underlying Index. The performance and liquidity of the ETF is unaffected by the asset size of the ETF, or by purchase and redemption activity, as these transactions are taken into account, as applicable, with adjustments to the notional value of the Swap.

The annualized volatility of each of the Underlying Index and the ETF was 11.01% and 9.24%, respectively, for the period ended December 31, 2020.

### Swap Agreements

As a means to achieving its investment objective, the ETF has entered into one or more swap agreements (each a "Swap") with one or more bank counterparties (each a "Counterparty") to gain exposure to the Underlying Index. Each Swap is a total return swap under which the ETF pays the Counterparty a floating amount based upon prevailing short-term market interest rates computed upon an agreed notional amount and an equity amount based upon any decline in value of a notional investment in a notional number of shares the value of each of which will equal the value of the Underlying Index. In return, the Counterparty will pay the ETF an equity amount based upon any increase in value of the Underlying Index. The total return will be comprised of notional income which would be earned on a notional investment in the reference assets (which, by virtue of the operation of the Swap, will be notionally reinvested in further reference assets) plus any notional appreciation in the value of the Underlying Index or, as the case may be, minus any reduction in the value of the Underlying Index. The ETF also invests the net proceeds of share subscriptions in cash and/or short-term debt obligations to earn short-term market interest rates. The terms of each Swap require the ETF to pledge its cash and/or short-term debt obligations to the Counterparty to secure the payment of the ETF's payment obligations under the Swap. The income earned on the cash and/or short-term debt obligations is anticipated to be sufficient to fund the required floating payments by the ETF under the Swap. The ETF may replace a Counterparty or engage additional counterparties at any time.

The Counterparty may hedge its exposure under the Swap to index securities. There is no assurance that the Counterparty will maintain a hedge or will do so with respect to the full amount or term of the Swap.

In addition to assisting in the pursuit of the ETF's investment objective, total return swap agreements may be entered into as a substitute for investing directly in securities or to hedge a position.

Since Swaps, like most swap agreements, may settle the obligations of each party on a net basis, the exposure of the ETF to the credit risk of any one Counterparty is limited to the positive mark-to-market of the Swaps entered into with that Counterparty, if any, which is calculated and accrued on a daily basis.

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## Management Discussion of Fund Performance (continued)

### Recent Developments

Other than indicated below, there have been no recent market developments of particular note, aside from the normal fluctuations of the markets, that are expected to have an undue influence on the portfolio of the ETF when compared to its benchmark.

#### *Impact of COVID-19*

The full extent of the impact that the COVID-19 epidemic will have on the Canadian and U.S. economies and the ETF's business remains uncertain and difficult to predict at this time. By their very nature, the estimates and/or judgements the Manager makes for the purposes of preparing the ETF's financial statements relate to matters that are inherently uncertain. However, the Manager maintains detailed policies and internal controls that are intended to ensure that these estimates and judgements are well controlled, and that they are consistently applied from period to period. It is the Manager's opinion that any estimates and/or judgements used in the preparation of these financial statements are appropriate as at December 31, 2020.

### Presentation

The attached financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting 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 shares as reported under IFRS.

### Related Party Transactions

There were no related party portfolio transactions during the current reporting period. Certain services have been provided to the ETF by related parties, and those relationships are described below.

#### *Manager and Investment Manager*

The manager and investment manager of the Company and of the ETF is Horizons ETFs Management (Canada) Inc., 55 University Avenue, Suite 800, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 2H7, a corporation incorporated under the laws of Ontario.

Any management fees paid to the Manager (described in detail on page 7) are related party transactions, as the Manager is considered to be a related party to the ETF. The management fees are disclosed in the statement of comprehensive income in the attached financial statements of the ETF. The management fees payable by the ETF as at December 31, 2020, are disclosed in the statement 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 August 4, 2020. This information is derived from the ETF's annual audited financial statements. Please see the front page for information on how you may obtain the ETF's annual or interim financial statements.

### The ETF's Net Assets per Share

Period <sup>(1)</sup>	2020
<b>Net assets, beginning of period</b>	\$ 25.00
<b>Increase from operations:</b>	
Total revenue	0.01
Total expenses	(0.06)
Realized gains for the period	–
Unrealized gains for the period	7.45
<b>Total increase from operations <sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>7.40</b>
<b>Total distributions <sup>(3)</sup></b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Net assets, end of period (US\$ shares) <sup>(4)</sup></b>	<b>\$ 29.61</b>
<b>Net assets, end of period (Cdn\$ shares) <sup>(4)</sup></b>	<b>\$ 37.69</b>

1. This information is derived from the ETF's audited annual financial statements.
2. Net assets per share and distributions are based on the actual number of shares outstanding at the relevant time. The increase (decrease) from operations is based on the weighted average number of shares outstanding over the financial period.
3. Distributions, if any, were paid in cash, reinvested in additional shares of the ETF, or both.
4. The Financial Highlights are not intended to act as a continuity of the opening and closing net assets per share.

**Financial Highlights** (continued)

**Ratios and Supplemental Data**

Period <sup>(1)</sup>	2020
Total net asset value (000's)	\$ 476,821
Number of shares outstanding (000's)	16,105
Management expense ratio <sup>(2)</sup>	0.28%
Management expense ratio before waivers and absorptions <sup>(2)</sup>	0.28%
Trading expense ratio <sup>(3)</sup>	0.31%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(4)</sup>	0.00%
Net asset value per share, end of period (US\$ shares)	\$ 29.61
Net asset value per share, end of period (Cdn\$ shares)	\$ 37.69
Closing market price (Cdn\$ shares)	\$ 37.62

1. This information is provided as at December 31, 2020.
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 period. The constating documents of the ETF require that the Manager pay all the expenses of the ETF other than the management fee and any sales taxes on the management fee.
3. 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.
4. The ETF's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the ETF trades its portfolio investments. 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 a year. The higher an ETF's portfolio turnover rate in a year, the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the year. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of an ETF.

**Management Fees**

In consideration for management services and investment advice provided to the ETF, the Manager is entitled to a management fee. The management fee, inclusive of sales tax, is applied on a daily basis to the net asset value of the ETF. The management fees, exclusive of sales tax, are charged at the annual rate of 0.25%. Approximately 100% of management fees were used for management, investment management, operating costs of the ETF, other general administration and profit.

From the management fee, the Manager has paid substantially all of the costs and expenses relating to the operation of the business and affairs of the ETF including investment management, administration, legal, accounting, custody, audit, registrar and transfer agency fees, and taxes as well as expenses associated with advertising, marketing, sponsoring and promoting the sale of shares of the ETF.

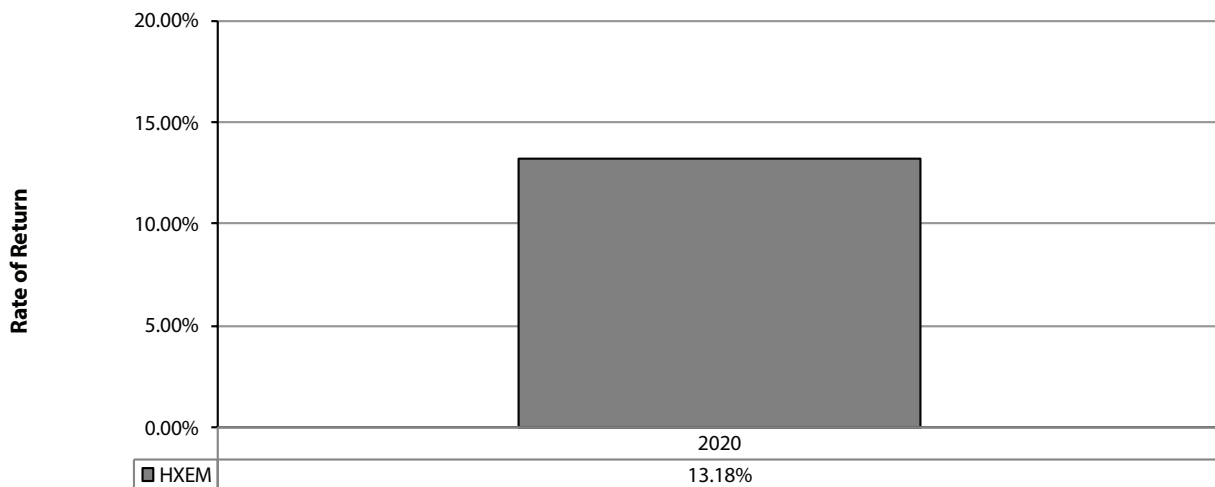
The constating documents of the ETF require that the Manager pay all the expenses of the ETF other than the management fee and any sales taxes on the management fee and any swap fees as may be applicable. As a result, the ETF does not have any other expenses.

## Past Performance

Sales commissions, management fees 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 returns including changes in share value and reinvestment of all distributions and do not take into account sales, redemption, distribution 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 shares 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 shares. The amount of the reinvested taxable distributions is added to the adjusted cost base of the shares 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 period shown. 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 August 4, 2020.

### Annual Compound Returns

The following table presents the ETF's total return since inception to December 31, 2020, compared with the ETF's applicable benchmark. 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.

	Since Inception
Horizons Emerging Markets Equity Index ETF	13.18%
Horizons Emerging Markets Futures Roll Index (Total Return) in CAD	13.39%
Horizons Emerging Markets Futures Roll Index (Total Return) in USD	18.71%

The ETF effectively began operations on August 4, 2020.

## Summary of Investment Portfolio

As at December 31, 2020

<b>Asset Mix</b>	<b>Net Asset Value</b>	<b>% of ETF's Net Asset Value</b>
International Equity Exposure through Index Swaps	\$ 476,454,688	99.93%
Cash - Other	435,675	0.09%
Other Assets less Liabilities	(69,293)	-0.02%
	<b>\$ 476,821,070</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

<b>Top Holdings</b>	<b>% of ETF's Net Asset Value</b>
Cash held for Collateral	88.95%
Fair Value of Index Swaps (notional value US\$424,454,573) <sup>(1)</sup>	10.98%
Cash - Other	0.09%

<b>Top 25 Securities In the MSCI Emerging Markets Index*</b>	<b>% Weighting</b>
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. Ltd.	5.87%
Alibaba Group Holding Ltd., ADR	5.57%
Tencent Holdings Ltd.	5.28%
Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd.	4.50%
Meituan Dianping	1.73%
Naspers Ltd.	1.13%
Reliance Industries Ltd.	0.98%
JD.com Inc., ADR	0.96%
China Construction Bank Corp.	0.92%
Ping An Insurance Group Co. of China Ltd.	0.92%
Pinduoduo Inc., ADR	0.85%
NIO Inc.	0.79%
Vale SA	0.79%
Xiaomi Corp.	0.77%
Housing Development Finance Corp. Ltd.	0.75%
SK Hynix Inc.	0.75%
Baidu Inc., ADR	0.74%
Infosys Ltd.	0.74%
Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd., Preferred	0.70%
WuXi Biologics (Cayman) Inc.	0.51%
MediaTek Inc.	0.51%
Hon Hai Precision Industry Co. Ltd.	0.51%
NetEase Inc., ADR	0.50%
Sberbank of Russia PJSC	0.50%
Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd.	0.49%

<sup>(1)</sup> The fair value of index swap(s) represents the amount receivable/(payable) from/(to) the counterparty of the ETF's total return swap agreement(s) as at the date of this report.

\*These positions represent the top 25 constituents of the Underlying Index. The ETF is exposed to the performance of the Underlying Index on a total return basis through a total return swap agreement.

The summary of investment portfolio may change due to the ongoing portfolio transactions of the ETF. The most recent interim and annual reports are available at no cost by calling toll free 1-866-641-5739, or (416) 933-5745, by writing to us at Horizons ETFs Management (Canada) Inc., 55 University Avenue, Suite 800, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 2H7, or by visiting our website at [www.horizonsetfs.com](http://www.horizonsetfs.com) or through SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

### **MANAGER'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING**

The accompanying audited annual consolidated financial statements ("financial statements") of Horizons Emerging Markets Equity Index ETF (the "ETF") are the responsibility of the manager to the ETF, Horizons ETFs Management (Canada) Inc. (the "Manager"). They have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards 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 by the Board of Directors of Horizons ETF Corp., and have been audited by KPMG LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants, on behalf of shareholders. The independent auditors' report outlines the scope of their audit and their opinion on the financial statements.



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Steven J. Hawkins  
Director  
Horizons ETFs Management (Canada) Inc.



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Thomas Park  
Director  
Horizons ETFs Management (Canada) Inc.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

### To the Shareholders of Horizons Emerging Markets Equity Index ETF (the "ETF")

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of the ETF, which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 2020, the consolidated statements of comprehensive income, changes in financial position and cash flows for the period from inception on June 22, 2020, to December 31, 2020, and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies (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, 2020, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the period from inception on June 22, 2020, to December 31, 2020, in accordance with International Financial Reporting 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 "Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements" section of our auditors' 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 auditors' 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 auditors' 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 International Financial Reporting 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.

### **Auditors' 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 auditors' 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 auditors' 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 auditors' 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.



Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants  
The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this auditors' report is Ziad Said.  
Toronto, Canada  
March 12, 2021



## Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31, 2020

**2020**
**Assets**

Cash held for collateral	\$ 424,114,985
Cash - other	435,675
Amounts receivable relating to accrued income	39,278
Derivative assets (note 3)	52,339,703

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**Total Assets** **476,929,641**


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**Liabilities**

Accrued management fees	108,571
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**Total Liabilities** **108,571**


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**Total net assets (note 2)** **\$ 476,821,070**


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Number of redeemable shares outstanding (note 9)	16,104,520
Total net assets per share (US\$ shares) (note 1)	\$ 29.61
Total net assets per share (Cdn\$ shares) (note 1)	\$ 37.69

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(See accompanying notes to financial statements)

Approved on behalf of the Board of Directors of Horizons ETF Corp.:




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 Steven J. Hawkins  
 Director




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 Kevin S. Beatson  
 Director

## Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the Period from Inception on June 22 to December 31, 2020

**2020**

### Income

Interest income for distribution purposes	\$ 39,141
Net realized gain on foreign exchange	18
Net change in unrealized appreciation of investments and derivatives	52,339,703

**52,378,862**

### Expenses (note 10)

Management fees	222,831
Transaction costs	170,006

**392,837**

**Increase in net assets for the period** **\$ 51,986,025**

Increase in net assets per share \$ 7.40

(See accompanying notes to financial statements)

## Consolidated Statement of Changes in Financial Position

For the Period from Inception on June 22 to December 31, 2020

**2020**

<b>Total net assets at the beginning of the period</b>	\$	–
<b>Increase in net assets</b>		51,986,025
<b>Redeemable share transactions</b>		
Proceeds from the issuance of securities of the investment fund		424,835,045
<b>Total net assets at the end of the period</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>476,821,070</b>

(See accompanying notes to financial statements)

## Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

For the Period from Inception on June 22 to December 31, 2020

**2020**
**Cash flows from operating activities:**

Increase in net assets for the period	\$ 51,986,025
Adjustments for:	
Net change in unrealized appreciation of investments and derivatives	(52,339,703)
Amounts receivable relating to accrued income	(39,278)
Accrued expenses	108,571

<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>	<b>(284,385)</b>
----------------------------------------------	------------------

**Cash flows from financing activities:**

Amount received from the issuance of shares	424,835,045
---------------------------------------------	-------------

<b>Net cash from financing activities</b>	<b>424,835,045</b>
-------------------------------------------	--------------------

<b>Net increase in cash for the period</b>	<b>424,550,660</b>
--------------------------------------------	--------------------

<b>Cash at beginning of period</b>	<b>–</b>
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<b>Cash at end of period</b>	<b>\$ 424,550,660</b>
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Interest paid	\$ (137)
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**Total Cash are composed of**

Cash held for collateral	\$ 424,114,985
Cash - other	435,675

<b>Cash at end of period</b>	<b>\$ 424,550,660</b>
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(See accompanying notes to financial statements)

## Schedule of Investments

As at December 31, 2020

Security	Notional Value (US\$)	Fair Value
<b>INDEX SWAPS (10.98%)</b>		
Horizons Emerging Markets Futures Roll Index Swaps, Payment Date November 4, 2025	\$ 424,454,573	\$ 52,339,703
<b>TOTAL INDEX SWAPS</b>		<b>52,339,703</b>
<b>CASH HELD FOR COLLATERAL (88.95%)</b>		<b>424,114,985</b>
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO (99.93%) (note 7)</b>		<b>\$ 476,454,688</b>
<b>Cash - other (0.09%)</b>		435,675
<b>Other assets less liabilities (-0.02%)</b>		(69,293)
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS (100.00%)</b>		<b>\$ 476,821,070</b>

(See accompanying notes to financial statements)

## Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements - ETF Specific Information

For the Period from Inception on June 22 to December 31, 2020

### A. ETF INFORMATION (NOTE 1)

The following table lists specific information about the ETF, the tickers under which the Cdn\$ Shares and US\$ Shares (if applicable), as described in note 1, trade on the Toronto Stock Exchange (the "TSX"), the functional and presentation currency of the ETF in either Canadian ("CAD") or U.S. ("USD") dollars, and the effective start of operations of the ETF.

ETF Name	TSX Ticker(s)	Reporting Currency	Effective Start of Operations
Horizons Emerging Markets Equity Index ETF	HXEM	USD	August 4, 2020

#### *Investment Objective*

HXEM seeks to replicate, to the extent possible, the performance of the Horizons Emerging Markets Futures Roll Index (Total Return) (the "Underlying Index"; Bloomberg ticker: CMDYHXEM), net of expenses. The Horizons Emerging Markets Futures Roll Index (Total Return) is designed to measure the performance of large and mid-cap securities across 26 emerging markets countries.

### B. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS RISK (NOTE 5)

#### (a) Market risks

##### *(i) Currency risk*

The ETF has no exposure to foreign currencies.

##### *(ii) Interest rate risk*

The ETF does not hold any long term debt instruments to which it would have interest rate risk exposure.

##### *(iii) Market price risk*

The ETF effectively begin operations on August 4, 2020, at a net asset value ("NAV") of \$25.00 per share, and finished the period on December 31, 2020, at a NAV of \$29.61 per share. This compares to a return of 13.39% for the Underlying Index for the same period. The above figures are adjusted for distributions, if any.

Generally, the difference in performance between the ETF and the Underlying Index is due to expenses payable by the ETF, which include management fees and swap fees plus applicable sales taxes.

The table below shows the estimated impact on the ETF of a 1% increase or decrease in the Underlying 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.

Underlying Index	December 31, 2020
Horizons Emerging Markets Futures Roll Index (Total Return)	\$4,768,209

**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements - ETF Specific Information** (continued)

For the Period from Inception on June 22 to December 31, 2020

**(b) Credit risk**

The table below shows the notional exposure of the ETF to Derivative Agreements (as described in note 7) as at December 31, 2020. In addition, designated ratings for any Counterparties at each reporting date are presented, as is the credit risk exposure (see note 5) of derivative assets as shown in the statement of financial position.

As at	Counter-party <sup>(1)</sup>	Notional Exposure	Credit Risk	DBRS Rating	Fitch Rating	Moody's Rating	S&P Rating
Dec. 31, 2020	NBC	US\$424,454,573	\$52,339,703	AA (low)	A+	Aa3	A

<sup>(1)</sup> NBC refers to National Bank of Canada

**C. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT (NOTE 6)**

The following is a summary of the inputs used as at December 31, 2020, in valuing the ETF's investments and derivatives carried at fair values:

	December 31, 2020		
	Level 1 (\$)	Level 2 (\$)	Level 3 (\$)
<b>Financial Assets</b>			
Swaps	–	52,339,703	–
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	–	<b>52,339,703</b>	–
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>	–	–	–
<b>Net Financial Assets &amp; Liabilities</b>	–	<b>52,339,703</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 period. In addition, there were no investments or transactions classified in Level 3 for the period ended December 31, 2020.

**D. SECURITIES LENDING (NOTE 8)**

As at December 31, 2020, the ETF was not participating in any securities lending transactions. The ETF did not earn any income from securities lending transactions for the period ended December 31, 2020.

**E. REDEEMABLE SHARES (NOTE 9)**

For the period ended December 31, 2020, the number of ETF Shares issued by subscription, the number of ETF Shares redeemed, the total and average number of ETF Shares outstanding was as follows:

Period	Beginning Shares Outstanding	Shares Issued	Shares Redeemed	Ending Shares Outstanding	Average Shares Outstanding
2020	–	16,104,520	–	16,104,520	7,029,731

**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements - ETF Specific Information** (continued)

For the Period from Inception on June 22 to December 31, 2020

**F. OFFSETTING OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (NOTE 13)**

The following table shows financial instruments that may be eligible for offset, if such conditions were to arise, as at December 31, 2020. The "Net" column displays what the net impact would be on the ETF's statement of financial position if all amounts were set-off. "Financial Instruments" may include non-cash collateral pledged by the ETF.

Financial Assets and Liabilities as at December 31, 2020	Amounts Offset (\$)			Amounts Not Offset (\$)		Net (\$)
	Gross Assets (Liabilities)	Gross Assets (Liabilities) Offset	Net Amounts	Financial Instruments	Cash Collateral Pledged	
Derivative assets	52,339,703	–	52,339,703	–	–	52,339,703
Derivative liabilities	–	–	–	–	–	–



## Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

For the Period from Inception on June 22 to December 31, 2020

### 1. REPORTING ENTITY

Horizons ETF Corp. (the “Company”) is a mutual fund corporation established on October 10, 2019, under the federal laws of Canada. The authorized capital of the Company includes an unlimited number of non-cumulative, redeemable, non-voting classes of shares (each, a “Corporate Class” or “ETF”), issuable in an unlimited number of series, and one class of voting shares designated as “Class J Shares”. Each Corporate Class is a separate investment fund having specific investment objectives and is specifically referable to a separate portfolio of investments. These consolidated financial statements (the “financial statements”) as at and for the period ended December 31, 2020, comprise the Company and its wholly-owned entities and are presented on the basis outlined below. ETF-specific information and the investment objectives for each ETF in the Company are disclosed in the ETF-specific notes information to the consolidated financial statements of each ETF. Each ETF is a separate Corporate Class and currently consists of a single series of exchange traded fund shares (“ETF Shares”) of the applicable Corporate Class of the Company.

Each ETF is offered for sale on a continuous basis by the Company’s prospectus in ETF Shares which trade on the Toronto Stock Exchange (“TSX”) in Canadian dollars (“Cdn\$ Shares”) and, where applicable, in U.S. dollars (“US\$ Shares”). Subscriptions for US\$ Shares can be made in either U.S. or Canadian dollars. An investor may buy or sell shares of the ETF on the TSX through a registered broker or dealer in the province or territory where the investor resides. Investors are able to trade shares 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 shares.

Horizons ETFs Management (Canada) Inc. (“Horizons Management” or the “Manager” or the “Investment Manager”) is the manager and investment manager of the Company and of each Corporate Class. The Investment Manager is responsible for implementing each ETF’s investment strategies. The address of the Company’s registered office is: c/o Horizons ETFs Management (Canada) Inc., 55 University Avenue, Suite 800, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 2H7.

#### Investment Objective

The purpose of each ETF is to invest the net assets attributable to that ETF in accordance with its investment objectives, as defined in the Company’s prospectus. The investment objective for each ETF is set out in note A in the ETF-specific notes information.

### 2. BASIS OF PREPARATION

#### (i) *Statement of compliance*

The ETF’s financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting 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 shares as reported under IFRS.

These financial statements were authorized for issue on March 12, 2021, by the Board of Directors of the Company.

#### (ii) *Basis of measurement*

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

## Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

For the Period from Inception on June 22 to December 31, 2020

### 3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

#### (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 of financial assets and hedge accounting.

IFRS 9 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 or loss (“FVTPL”). IFRS9 requires classification of debt instruments, if any, based solely on payment 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 statement 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 FVTPL: debt securities, equity investments and derivative financial instruments
- Financial assets at amortized cost: All other financial assets
- Financial liabilities classified at FVTPL: 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 valuation date, as defined in the ETF’s prospectus (“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 Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

For the Period from Inception on June 22 to December 31, 2020

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 statement 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 shareholders.

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 statement 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 FVTPL and foreign exchange gains and losses.

### ***(iv) Specific instruments***

#### **Cash**

Cash consists of cash on deposit. Cash held for collateral consists of cash posted as collateral to the derivative agreements as described in note 7.

#### **Redeemable shares**

The Company has made significant judgments when determining the classification of each ETF’s redeemable securities as financial liabilities in accordance with IAS 32 – Financial Instruments – Presentation (“IAS 32”).

Each ETF’s redeemable shares are classes in the Company. The classes will not participate pro rata in the residual net assets of the Company in the event of the Company’s liquidation and they do not have identical features. Consequently, each ETF’s outstanding redeemable shares are classified as financial liabilities in accordance with the requirements of IAS 32.

#### **Derivative agreements**

In order to achieve its investment objective, the ETF may enter into derivative agreements (the “Derivative Agreements”) (see note 7) with one or more bank counterparties (each a “Counterparty”). The value of these derivative agreements is the gain or loss that would be realized if, on the Valuation Date, the agreements were to be closed out. That value is recorded as a derivative asset and/or derivative liability in the statement of financial position and included in the net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments and derivatives in the statement of comprehensive income.

**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements** (continued)

For the Period from Inception on June 22 to December 31, 2020

When these derivative contracts are closed out or mature, realized gains or losses on the derivative agreements are recognized and are included in the statement of comprehensive income in net realized gain (loss) on sale of investments and derivatives.

**(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 statement 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, if any, is recognized on the ex-dividend date. Distribution income from investments in other funds or ETFs, if any, is recognized when earned.

Income from derivatives is shown in the statement 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 statement 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 8).

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 statement of comprehensive income.

**(c) Foreign currency**

Transactions in foreign currencies, if any, 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 period-end exchange rate. Foreign exchange gains and losses, if any, are presented as "Net realized gain (loss) on foreign 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 statement 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 shares per share**

The increase (decrease) in net assets per share in the statement of comprehensive income represents the change in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable shares from operations divided by the weighted average number of shares of the ETF outstanding during the reporting period.

**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements** (continued)

For the Period from Inception on June 22 to December 31, 2020

**(f) Shareholder transactions**

The value at which shares of the ETF are issued or redeemed is determined by dividing the net asset value of the ETF by the total number of shares outstanding of the ETF on the applicable Valuation Date. Amounts received on the issuance of shares and amounts paid on the redemption of shares are included in the statement of changes in financial position. Orders for subscriptions or redemptions are only permissible on valid trading days, as defined in the ETF's prospectus.

**(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 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 shares per share**

Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable shares per share is calculated by dividing the ETF's net assets attributable to holders of redeemable shares by the number of shares 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, fees incurred in conjunction with the ETF's derivative agreements, 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 statement of comprehensive income.

**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 full extent of the impact that the COVID-19 epidemic will have on the Canadian and U.S. economies and the ETF's business remains uncertain and difficult to predict at this time. By their very nature, the estimates and/or judgements the Manager makes for the purposes of preparing the ETF's financial statements relate to matters that are inherently uncertain. However, the Manager maintains detailed policies and internal controls that are intended to ensure that these estimates and judgements are well controlled, and that they are consistently applied from period to period. It is the Manager's opinion that any estimates and/or judgements used in the preparation of these financial statements are appropriate as at December 31, 2020 and 2019.

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.

## Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

For the Period from Inception on June 22 to December 31, 2020

### 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 advisors, 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 Company's most recent prospectus for a complete discussion of the risks attributed to an investment in the shares of the ETF. Significant financial instrument risks that are relevant to the ETF are discussed below and an analysis thereof is included in note B of the ETF-specific notes information.

#### (a) Market risks

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 will fluctuate due to changes in exchange rates and adversely impact the ETF's income, cash flows or fair values of its investment holdings.

##### (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.

##### (iii) *Market price risk*

Other market price 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 ETF is subject to other market risks that will affect the value of its investments, including general economic and market conditions, as well as developments that impact specific economic sectors, industries or companies. The ETF will normally lose value on days when the securities comprising the Underlying Index declines. The ETF intends to remain fully invested regardless of market conditions.

**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements** (continued)

For the Period from Inception on June 22 to December 31, 2020

**(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 the financial assets in the statement of financial position, including any positive mark-to-market of the ETF's Derivative Agreement(s). This amount is included in "Derivative assets" (if any) in the statement of financial position. The credit risk related to any one Derivative Agreement is concentrated in the Counterparty to that particular Derivative Agreement.

Credit risk is managed by dealing with counterparties the Manager believes to be creditworthy and which meet the designated rating requirements of National Instrument 81-102 ("NI 81-102"), see note 7. Collateral for any Derivative Agreements is received in the form of cash and is reflected as "Cash held for collateral" on the statement of financial position.

**(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 may, at times, have very large purchase and redemption activity. However, the performance of the ETF is primarily affected by the performance of its Derivative Agreements, which are tied to the performance of the ETF's Underlying Index. The performance and liquidity of the ETF is unaffected by the asset size of the ETF, purchases or redemptions as these transactions are taken into account, as applicable, with adjustments to the notional value of the Derivative Agreements. Generally, liabilities of the ETF are due within 90 days.

**6. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT**

IFRS 13, Fair Value Measurement ("IFRS 13") requires 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.

Changes in valuation methods may result in transfers into or out of an investment's assigned level. The fair value hierarchy classification of the ETF's assets and liabilities and additional disclosures relating to transfers between levels is included in note C in the ETF-specific notes information.

**7. DERIVATIVE AGREEMENTS AND COLLATERAL PLEDGED****(a) Swap Agreements**

In order to achieve its investment objective, the type of Derivative Agreements the ETF has entered into are total return swap agreements (each a "Swap" or "Swap Agreement") with one or more bank Counterparties to gain exposure to the Underlying Index. Under the terms of each Swap, the ETF pays the Counterparty a floating amount based upon prevail-

**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements** (continued)

For the Period from Inception on June 22 to December 31, 2020

ing short-term market interest rates computed upon an agreed notional amount and an equity amount based upon any decline in value of a notional investment in a notional number of shares the value of each of which will equal the value of the Underlying Index. In return, the Counterparty will pay the ETF an equity amount based upon any increase in value of the Underlying Index. The total return will be comprised of notional income which would be earned on a notional investment in the reference assets (which, by virtue of the operation of the Swap, will be notionally reinvested in further reference assets) plus any notional appreciation in the value of the Underlying Index or, as the case may be, minus any reduction in the value of the Underlying Index. The ETF also invests the net proceeds of share subscriptions in cash and/or short-term debt obligations to earn short-term market interest rates. The terms of each Swap require the ETF to pledge its cash and/or short-term debt obligations to the Counterparty to secure the payment of the ETF's payment obligations under the Swap. The income earned on the cash and/or short-term debt obligations is anticipated to be sufficient to fund the required floating payments by the ETF under the Swap. The ETF may replace a Counterparty or engage additional counterparties at any time.

The Counterparty may hedge its exposure under the Swap to index securities. There is no assurance that the Counterparty will maintain a hedge or will do so with respect to the full amount or term of the Swap.

In addition to assisting in the pursuit of the ETF's investment objective, total return swap agreements may be entered into as a substitute for investing directly in securities or to hedge a position.

Since the Swaps, like most swap agreements, may settle the obligations of each party on a net basis, the exposure of the ETF to the credit risk of any one Counterparty is limited to the positive mark-to-market value of the Swaps entered into with that Counterparty, if any, which is calculated and accrued on a daily basis.

**(b) Counterparty Restrictions**

The Counterparty to any Derivative Agreements entered into by the ETF must be a chartered Canadian bank or an affiliate of a chartered Canadian bank whose obligations are guaranteed by a chartered Canadian bank, and has a designated rating. The ETF's exposure to Derivative Agreements by Counterparty is disclosed in the credit risk section of note B of the ETF-specific notes information.

In respect of short-term securities or instruments (where the maturity date of the security or instrument is less than one year), Counterparties must have a designated rating for Commercial Paper/Short-Term Debt no lower than (a) Dominion Bond Rating Service Limited ("DBRS") - "R-1(low)"; (b) Fitch Ratings ("Fitch") - "F1"; (c) Moody's Investors Service ("Moody's") - "P-1"; and (d) Standard & Poor's ("S&P") - "A-1(Low)".

In respect of long-term securities or instruments (where the maturity date of the security or instrument is equal to or greater than one year), Counterparties must have a designated rating for Long-Term Debt no lower than (a) DBRS - "A"; (b) Fitch - "A"; (c) Moody's - "A2"; and (d) S&P - "A".

Counterparties are subject to the applicable short-term or long-term designated ratings restrictions listed above. The Counterparties to the ETF's Derivative Agreements meet those designated ratings requirements.

Each Derivative Agreement has a remaining term to maturity at any point in time of less than five years which, with the consent of the ETF and the applicable Counterparty, will be extended annually for a fixed number of years and, provided no default or event of default and no unresolved hedging event or disruption event has occurred and is continuing, the ETF has the ability to request the termination of its exposure under its Derivative Agreements, in whole or in part, at any time.



## Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

For the Period from Inception on June 22 to December 31, 2020

### 8. 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 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 statement of comprehensive income.

The aggregate closing market value of securities loaned and collateral received, if any, as at December 31, 2020, and a reconciliation of the securities lending income for the period then ended, if any, as presented in the statement of comprehensive income are presented in note D of the ETF-specific notes information.

### 9. REDEEMABLE SHARES

The authorized capital of the Company includes an unlimited number of non-cumulative, redeemable, non-voting Corporate Classes, issuable in an unlimited number of series, including the ETF Shares, and one class of voting shares designated as "Class J Shares". Each Corporate Class is a separate investment fund having specific investment objectives and is specifically referable to a separate portfolio of investments. Each ETF of the Company is a separate Corporate Class.

Each ETF Share entitles the owner to one vote at meetings of shareholders of the applicable Corporate Class to which they are entitled to vote. Each shareholder is entitled to participate equally with all other shares of the same Corporate Class or series of Corporate Class with respect to all payments made to shareholders, other than management fee rebates, including dividends and distributions and, on liquidation, to participate equally in the net assets of the applicable Corporate Class remaining after satisfaction of any outstanding liabilities that are attributable to ETF Shares of the Corporate Class.

The redeemable shares 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. The ETF's objectives in managing the redeemable shares are to meet the ETF's investment objective, and to manage liquidity risk arising from redemptions. The ETF's liquidity risk arising from redeemable shares is discussed in note 5.

On any valid trading day, as defined in the ETF's prospectus, shareholders of the ETF may redeem: (i) ETF Shares for cash at a redemption price per ETF Share equal to 95% of the closing price for the ETF Shares in the applicable currency on the TSX on the effective day of the redemption, subject to a maximum redemption price per ETF Share equal to the net asset value per ETF Share on the effective day of redemption; or (ii) at the sole discretion of the Manager, a prescribed number of shares ("PNS") or a whole multiple PNS for cash in the applicable currency equal to the net asset value of that number of ETF Shares in such currency next determined following the receipt of the redemption request, less any applicable redemption charge as determined by the Manager in its sole discretion; or (iii) at the sole discretion of the Manager, a PNS or a whole multiple PNS in exchange for securities and cash in the applicable currency equal to the net asset value of that number of ETF Shares in such currency following the receipt of the redemption request, provided that a securities redemption may be subject to redemption charges at the sole discretion of the Manager.

Shares of the ETF are issued or redeemed on a daily basis at the net asset value per share that is determined as at 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) each business day.

## Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

For the Period from Inception on June 22 to December 31, 2020

If, in any taxation year, the Company would otherwise be liable for tax on net realized capital gains, the Company intends to pay, to the extent possible, by the last day of that year, a special capital gains dividend to ensure that the Company will not be liable for income tax on such amounts under the Tax Act (after taking into account all available deductions, credits and refunds). Such distributions may be paid in the form of ETF Shares of the relevant ETF and/or cash which is automatically reinvested in ETF Shares of the relevant ETF. Any such distributions payable in ETF Shares or reinvested in ETF Shares of the relevant ETF will increase the aggregate adjusted cost base of a shareholder's ETF Shares of that ETF. Immediately following payment of such a special distribution in ETF Shares or reinvestment in ETF Shares, the number of ETF Shares of that ETF outstanding will be automatically consolidated such that the number of ETF Shares of that ETF outstanding after such distribution will be equal to the number of ETF Shares of that ETF outstanding immediately prior to such distribution, except where there are non-resident shareholders to the extent tax is required to be withheld in respect of the distribution.

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

A summary table of the number of shares issued by subscription, the number of shares redeemed, the total and average number of shares outstanding during the relevant reporting periods is disclosed in note E of the ETF-specific notes information.

### 10. EXPENSES AND OTHER RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

#### Management fees

In consideration for management services and investment advice provided to the ETF, the Manager is entitled to a management fee. The management fee, inclusive of sales tax, is applied on a daily basis to the net asset value of the ETF. The management fees, exclusive of sales tax, are charged at the annual rate of 0.25%. Approximately 100% of management fees were used for management, investment management, operating costs of the ETF, other general administration and profit.

From the management fee, the Manager has paid substantially all of the costs and expenses relating to the operation of the business and affairs of the ETF including investment management, administration, legal, accounting, custody, audit, registrar and transfer agency fees, and applicable sales taxes as well as expenses associated with advertising, marketing, sponsoring and promoting the sale of securities of the ETF.

The ETF's constating documents require that the Manager pay all the expenses of the ETF other than the management fees and sales tax on the management fee and any swap fees as may be applicable. As a result, the ETF does not have any other expenses.

The management fees paid to the Manager are considered related party transactions, as the Manager is a related party to the ETF. The management fees paid to the Manager are disclosed in the statement of comprehensive income. The management fees payable by the ETF as at December 31, 2020, are disclosed in the statement of financial position.

**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements** (continued)

For the Period from Inception on June 22 to December 31, 2020

**11. INCOME TAX**

The Company qualifies and intends at all relevant times to qualify as a “mutual fund corporation” as defined in the Tax Act. Although the Company may issue any number of classes, in any number of series, it will be required (like any other mutual fund corporation with a multi-class structure) to compute its income and net capital gains for tax purposes as a single entity. All of the Company’s revenues, deductible expenses, non-capital losses, capital gains and capital losses in connection with all of its investment portfolios, and other items relevant to its tax position (including the tax attributes of all of its assets), will be taken into account in determining the income (and taxable income) or loss of the Company and applicable taxes payable by the Company as a whole.

As a mutual fund corporation, the Company is entitled, in certain circumstances, to a refund of tax paid by it in respect of its net realized capital gains determined on a formula basis that is based in part on the redemption of the ETF Shares. Also, as a mutual fund corporation, the Company will be entitled to maintain a capital gains dividend account in respect of its net realized capital gains and from which it may elect to pay dividends which are treated as capital gains in the hands of shareholders.

To the extent that the Company earns net income (other than dividends from taxable Canadian corporations and certain taxable capital gains and after available deductions), including in respect of derivative transactions (including in respect of the ETF’s Derivative Agreements described in note 7), interest and income paid or made payable to it by a trust resident in Canada, the Company will be subject to income tax on such net income and no refund will be available in respect thereof.

The Company may, at its option, pay special year-end dividends to shareholders in the form of a capital gains dividend where the Company has net taxable capital gains upon which it would otherwise be subject to tax, or in order to recover refundable tax not otherwise recoverable upon payment of regular cash distributions.

The Company will establish a policy to determine how it will allocate income and capital gains in a tax-efficient manner among its Corporate Classes in a way that it believes is fair, consistent and reasonable for all shareholders. The amount of dividends, if any, paid to shareholders will be based on this tax allocation policy, which will be approved by the Company’s board of directors.

**12. TAX LOSSES CARRIED FORWARD**

Where the Company has realized a net capital loss in a taxation year, such capital loss cannot be allocated to shareholders but the Company may carry such capital loss back three years or forward indefinitely to offset capital gains realized by the Company. Non-capital losses incurred by the Company in a taxation year cannot be allocated to shareholders of the Company, but may be carried back three years or carried forward twenty years to offset income (including taxable capital gains).

**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements** (continued)

For the Period from Inception on June 22 to December 31, 2020

As at December 31, 2020, the Company and its wholly-owned entities had net capital losses and/or non-capital losses, with the year of expiry of the non-capital losses as follows:

<b>Net Capital Losses</b>	<b>Non-Capital Losses</b>	<b>Year of Expiry of the Non-Capital Losses</b>
\$1,272,452,068	\$126,121	2028
	\$1,961,149	2029
	\$5,668,871	2030
	\$3,237,571	2031
	\$3,138,653	2032
	\$153,021,428	2033
	\$230,454,838	2034
	\$447,405,094	2035
	\$74,326,117	2036
	\$266,066,173	2037
	\$118,767,474	2038
	\$225,583,319	2039
	\$2,509,007,967	2040

**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 statement 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. Amounts eligible for offset, if any, are disclosed in note F of the ETF-specific notes information.

Manager

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