

# NDX Growth & Income Fund Annual Report 2017



## Letter to Unitholders

We are pleased to present the 2017 annual report containing the management report of fund performance and the audited financial statements for NDX Growth & Income Fund (the "Fund").

2017 was a very strong year for global equity markets with most indices making new all-time highs. After being one of the strongest markets in 2016, the S&P/TSX Composite Index in Canada lagged most other indices but still generated a total return of 9.1 percent, primarily led by strength in the Health Care and Consumer Discretionary sectors. In the U.S., the broad market S&P 500 Index rose 21.8 percent while the technology centric NASDAQ Composite Index had a total return of 29.7 percent. Despite various events throughout the year that caused uncertainty for investors, such as President Trump being unable to repeal the Affordable Care Act, not once but twice, and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un launching a missile over Japan, the global synchronized recovery drove stock returns with forward looking economic indicators contributing to earnings upside across markets. The passage of the U.S. Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in late 2017 is expected to benefit earnings further. The Bank of Canada raised the overnight lending rate twice in 2017, lifting it to 1.00 percent, while the U.S. Federal Reserve raised the Federal Funds rate 25 basis points on three separate occasions to now sit at 1.50 percent. With the Bank of Canada starting to follow the U.S. Federal Reserve's path to normalizing interest rates, along with strength in the price of oil and other commodities, the Canadian dollar rose by 7.3 percent to end the year at US\$0.80 per U.S. dollar.

During the year ended December 31, 2017, the Fund paid cash distributions of C\$0.60 per Class A unit and US\$0.60 per Class U unit. The Class A units are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol NGI.UN and closed on December 29, 2017 at C\$8.81 per unit. The Class U units are denominated in U.S. dollar currency and do not trade on an exchange. The net asset value ("NAV") per Class A unit increased 18.8 percent from C\$7.51 at December 31, 2016 to C\$8.92 at December 31, 2017 and the NAV per Class U unit increased 22.3 percent from US\$7.66 on December 31, 2016 to US\$9.37 at December 31, 2017. The total return of the Fund, including reinvestment of distributions, for the year ended December 31, 2017 was 27.4 percent for the Class A units and 31.0 percent for the Class U units. The net realized gain on options attributable to Strathbridge Selective Overwriting strategy (see "The Fund") amounted to C\$0.24 per unit in 2017 as compared to a net realized gain on options of C\$0.08 per unit in 2016. For a more detailed review of the operations of the Fund, please see the Results of Operations and the Portfolio Manager Report sections.

We thank all unitholders for their continued support and encourage unitholders to review the detailed information contained within the annual report.

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John P. Mulvihill Chairman & CEO Strathbridge Asset Management Inc.

## The Fund

The Fund is a closed-end investment trust designed to provide stable quarterly cash distributions and the opportunity for capital appreciation. The Class A units are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol NGI.UN. The Class U units are denominated in U.S. dollar currency and do not trade on an exchange.

To accomplish its objectives, the Fund invests in an actively managed portfolio consisting of securities included in the NASDAQ-100 Index<sup>5M</sup>. The Fund may also invest in public investment funds including exchange-traded funds and other Strathbridge Funds (provided that no more than 15 percent of the net asset value of the Fund may be invested in securities of other Strathbridge Funds) that provide exposure to such equity securities. In addition, the Fund may have short exposure for non-hedging purposes but only up to 10 percent of the Fund's net asset value.

The Fund employs a proprietary investment strategy, Strathbridge Selective Overwriting ("SSO"), to enhance the income generated by the portfolio and to reduce volatility. The Fund will strategically write covered call options from time to time in respect of any securities held in its portfolio. In addition, the Fund may write cash-covered put options in respect of securities in which it is permitted to invest.

The SSO strategy is a quantitative, technical based methodology that identifies appropriate times to write and/or close out option positions compared to writing continuously and rolling options every thirty days. This proprietary process has been developed over many years through various market cycles. The Manager believes the primary benefit to investors is to maximize the total return of the Fund while reducing the level of volatility of the portfolio, thereby increasing the risk-adjusted return.

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#### **Management Report of Fund Performance**

This annual management report of fund performance contains the financial highlights for the year ended December 31, 2017 of NDX Growth & Income Fund (the "Fund"). The annual financial statements of the Fund are attached.

Copies of the Fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record and quarterly portfolio disclosure may be obtained by calling 1-800-725-7172 toll free, by writing to the Fund at Investor Relations, 121 King Street West, Suite 2600, P.O. Box 113, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 3T9, by email at info@strathbridge.com or by visiting our website at www.strathbridge.com. You can also request an annual report at no cost using one of the above methods.

#### **Investment Objectives and Strategies**

The Fund's investment objectives are to provide unitholders with:

- (1) stable quarterly cash distributions; and
- (2) the opportunity for capital appreciation.

To achieve its objectives, the Fund invests in an actively managed portfolio consisting of securities in the NASDAQ-100 Index<sup>SM</sup> (the "NASDAQ 100"). The Fund may also invest in public investment funds including exchange-traded funds and other Strathbridge Funds (provided that no more than 15 percent of the net asset value of the Fund may be invested in securities of other Strathbridge Funds) that provide exposure to such equity securities. In addition, the Fund may have short exposure for non-hedging purposes but only up to 10 percent of the Fund's net asset value.

The NASDAQ 100 includes 100 of the largest U.S. domestic and international non-financial securities listed on The NASDAQ Stock Market based on market capitalization. Each security issuer held in the Portfolio shall, at the time of purchase, have a weighting of no more than 10 percent of the Fund's net asset value.

The Fund employs a proprietary investment strategy, Strathbridge Selective Overwriting ("SSO"), to enhance the income generated by the portfolio and to reduce volatility. The Fund will strategically write covered call options from time to time in respect of any securities held in its portfolio. In addition, the Fund may write cash-covered put options in respect of securities in which it is permitted to invest.

The SSO strategy is a quantitative, technical based methodology that identifies appropriate times to write and/or close out option positions compared to writing continuously and rolling options every thirty days. This proprietary process has been developed over many years through various market cycles. The Manager believes the primary benefit to investors is to maximize the total return of the Fund while reducing the level of volatility of the portfolio, thereby increasing the risk-adjusted return.

#### Risk

Risks associated with an investment in the securities of the Fund are discussed in the Fund's 2017 annual information form, which is available on the Fund's website at www.strathbridge.com or on SEDAR at www.sedar.com. There were no changes to the Fund over the year that materially affected the risks associated with an investment in the securities of the Fund.

#### **Results of Operations**

#### Distributions

For the year ended December 31, 2017, the Fund paid cash distributions of C\$0.60 per Class A unit and US\$0.60 per Class U unit.

Since the inception of the Fund in December 2013, the Fund has paid total cash distributions of C\$2.42 per Class A unit and US\$2.42 per Class U unit.

#### **Revenue and Expenses**

For the year ended December 31, 2017, the Fund's total revenue was C\$0.07 per Class A unit and US\$0.08 per Class U unit and total expenses were C\$0.25 per Class A unit and US\$0.26 per Class U unit. For the same period last year, the Fund's total revenue was C\$0.12 per Class A unit and US\$0.12 per Class U unit and total expenses were C\$0.24 per Class A unit and US\$0.25 per Class U unit. The Fund had net realized and unrealized gain of C\$2.18 per Class A unit and net realized and unrealized gain of US\$2.44 per Class U unit in 2017 as compared to net realized and unrealized loss of C\$0.04 per Class A unit and net realized and unrealized gain of US\$0.03 per Class U unit a year earlier.

#### Net Asset Value

The net asset value per Class A unit of the Fund increased 18.8 percent from C\$7.51 at December 31, 2016 to C\$8.92 at December 31, 2017. The net asset value per Class U unit of the Fund increased 22.3 percent from US\$7.66 at December 31, 2016 to US\$9.37 at December 31, 2017. The total net asset value of the Fund increased C\$1.91 million from C\$11.94 million at December 31, 2016 to C\$13.85 million at December 31, 2017, reflecting an increase in net assets attributable to holders of Class A and Class U units of C\$3.12 million, partially offset by unit redemptions of C\$0.26 million and cash distributions of C\$0.95 million.

## **Recent Developments**

There were no recent developments pertaining to the Fund during the year ended December 31, 2017.

## **Related Party Transactions**

Strathbridge Asset Management Inc. ("Strathbridge"), as the Investment Manager of the Fund, manages the Fund's investment portfolio in a manner consistent with the investment objectives, strategy and criteria of the Fund pursuant to an Investment Management Agreement made between the Fund and Strathbridge dated November 28, 2013.

Strathbridge is the Manager of the Fund pursuant to a Trust Agreement made between the Fund and Strathbridge dated November 28, 2013. As such, Strathbridge is responsible for providing or arranging for required administrative services to the Fund.

Strathbridge is paid the fees described under the Management Fees section of this report.

During the year, no recommendations or approvals were required to be sought from the Independent Review Committee ("IRC") concerning related party transactions.

#### **Independent Review Committee**

National Instrument 81-107 - Independent Review Committee for Investment Funds ("NI 81-107") requires all publicly offered investment funds to establish an IRC to whom the Manager must refer conflict of interest matters for review or approval. NI 81-107 also imposes obligations upon the Manager to establish written policies and procedures for dealing with conflict of interest matters, maintaining records in respect of these matters and providing assistance to the IRC in carrying out its functions. The Chief Compliance Officer, designated by the Manager, is in charge of facilitating the fulfillment of these obligations.

The IRC will prepare, for each financial year, a report to securityholders that describes the IRC and its activities during such financial year and includes, if known, a description of each instance when the Manager acted in a conflict of interest matter for which the IRC did not give a positive recommendation or for which a condition, imposed by the IRC, was not met in its recommendation or approval. Members of the IRC are Robert W. Korthals, Michael M. Koerner and Robert G. Bertram.

## **Financial Highlights**

The following tables show selected key financial information about the Fund and are intended to help you understand the Fund's financial performance from its inception on December 19, 2013. This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements.

		2017		2016			2015			2014				2013 <sup>(3)</sup>						
Periods ended December 31	Cl	ass A	C	lass U	C	lass A	C	lass U	C	lass A	C	lass U	С	lass A	C	lass U	CI	ass A	Cl	lass U
NET ASSETS PER UNIT																				
Net Assets, beginning of period <sup>(1)</sup>	C\$	7.51	US\$	7.66	C\$	8.32	US\$	8.02	C\$	9.79	US\$	9.74	C\$	9.44	US\$	9.44	C\$	9.32 <sup>(4)</sup>	US\$	9.33 <sup>(4)</sup>
INCREASE (DECREASE) FROM OPERATIONS																				
Total revenue		0.07		0.08		0.12		0.12		0.22		0.22		0.42		0.42		-		-
Total expenses	(	(0.25)		(0.26)		(0.24)		(0.25)		(0.25)		(0.25)		(0.27)		(0.27)		(0.01)		(0.01)
Realized gain (loss) for the period		2.04		1.96		0.71		0.98		(0.94)		0.49		0.25		0.83		(0.01)		(0.01)
Unrealized gain (loss) for the period		0.14		0.48		(0.75)		(0.95)		0.10		(1.08)		0.59		(0.11)		0.13		0.14
Total Increase (Decrease) from Operations <sup>(2)</sup>		2.00		2.26		(0.16)		(0.10)		(0.87)		(0.62)		0.99		0.87		0.11		0.12
DISTRIBUTIONS																				
From net investment income		_		_		_		_		_		_		(0.04)		_		_		_
From capital gains		-		-		-		-		-		-		(0.48)		(0.62)		-		-
Non-taxable distributions	(	(0.60)		(0.60)		(0.60)		(0.60)		(0.60)		(0.60)		(0.10)		-		-		-
Total Distributions <sup>(5)</sup>	(	(0.60)		(0.60)		(0.60)		(0.60)		(0.60)		(0.60)		(0.62)		(0.62)		_		_
Net Assets, end of period <sup>(1)</sup>	C\$	8.92	US\$	9.37	C\$	7.51	US\$	7.66	C\$	8.32	US\$	8.02	C\$	9.79	US\$	9.74	C\$	9.44	US\$	9.44

(1) All per unit figures presented are derived from the Fund's audited financial statements for the years ended December 31. Net Assets per unit is the difference between the aggregate value of the assets and the aggregate value of the liabilities, divided by the number of units then outstanding.

(2) Total increase (decrease) from operations consists of interest and dividend revenue, realized and unrealized gain (loss), less expenses and is calculated based on the weighted average number of units outstanding during the period. The schedule is not intended to total to the ending net assets as calculations are based on the weighted average number of units outstanding during the period.

(3) For the period from inception on December 19, 2013 to December 31, 2013.

(4) Initial issue price, net of agent fees and issue costs.

(5) Distributions to unitholders are based on the number of units outstanding on the record date for each distribution.

## **Financial Highlights**

	2	2017		016	20	15	2014	2013 <sup>(7)</sup>
Periods ended December 31	Class	A Class U	Class A	Class U	Class A	Class U	Class A Class U	Class A Class U
RATIOS/SUPPLEMENT	AL DATA							
Net Asset Value (\$millions) <sup>(1)</sup>	C\$ 12.8	8 US\$ 0.77	C\$ 10.95	US\$ 0.74	C\$ 12.16	US\$ 1.28	C\$ 29.80 US\$ 2.51	C\$ 26.43 US\$ 2.82
Number of units outstanding <sup>(1)</sup>	1,445,06	6 82,525	1,457,062	96,225	1,460,644	159,925	3,043,229 257,225	2,800,000 298,425
Management expense ratio <sup>(2)</sup>	2.729	<b>6 2.76</b> %	2.85%	2.87%	2.38%	2.39%	2.50% 2.53%	2.50% <sup>(5)</sup> 2.53% <sup>(5)</sup>
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(3)</sup>	317.909	6 <b>317.90</b> %	408.71%	408.71%	293.01%	293.01%	207.16% 207.16%	n/a n/a
Trading expense ratio <sup>(4)</sup>	0.269	6 <b>0.26</b> %	0.42%	0.41%	0.41%	0.41%	0.28% 0.29%	0.03% <sup>(5)</sup> 0.03% <sup>(5)</sup>
Net Asset Value per unit <sup>(6)</sup>	C\$ 8.9	2 US\$ 9.37	C\$ 7.51	US\$ 7.66	C\$ 8.32	US\$ 8.02	C\$ 9.79 US\$ 9.74	C\$ 9.44 US\$ 9.44
Closing market price	C\$ 8.8	1	C\$ 7.58		C\$ 7.95		C\$ 9.58	C\$ 9.96

(1) This information is provided as at December 31.

(2) The management expense ratio ("MER") is the sum of all fees and expenses for the stated period, including harmonized sales tax and withholding taxes but excluding transaction fees, divided by the average net asset value. Generally, the MER increases when the Fund becomes smaller in size due to redemptions. The MER for 2015 and 2014 includes the special resolution expense. The MER for 2015 and 2014 excluding the special resolution expense is 2.17% and 2.44% respectively for Class A units and 2.17% and 2.47% respectively for Class U units. The MER for 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014 and 2013 for Class A units, excluding withholding taxes, is 2.61%, 2.62%, 2.10%, 1.93%, and 2.47% respectively. The MER for 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014 and 2013 for Class U units, excluding withholding taxes, is 2.64%, 2.64%, 2.10%, 1.95%, and 2.45% respectively.

(3) Portfolio turnover rate is calculated based on the lesser of purchases or sales of investments, excluding short-term investments, divided by the average value of the portfolio securities. The Fund employs an option overlay strategy which can result in higher portfolio turnover by virtue of option exercises, when compared to a conventional equity mutual fund.

(4) Trading expense ratio represents total commissions expressed as a percentage of the daily average net asset value during the period.

(5) Annualized.

(6) Net Asset Value per unit is the difference between the aggregate value of the assets including the valuation of securities at closing prices and the aggregate value of the liabilities divided by the number of units then outstanding.

(7) For the period from inception on December 19, 2013 to December 31, 2013.

## **Management Fees**

Strathbridge, as the Investment Manager and Manager of the Fund, is entitled to fees under the Investment Management Agreement and Trust Agreement calculated monthly as 1/12 of 1.00 percent of the net asset value of the Fund at each month end. Services received under the Investment Management Agreement include the making of all investment decisions and writing of covered call options in accordance with the investment objectives, strategy and criteria of the Fund. Strathbridge also makes all decisions as to the purchase and sale of securities in the Fund's portfolio and as to the execution of all portfolio and other transactions. Services received under the Trust Agreement include providing or arranging for required administrative services to the Fund.

#### **Past Performance**

The following chart sets out the Fund's year-by-year past performance. It is important to note that the:

- (1) information shown assumes that all distributions made by the Fund during these periods were reinvested in Class A units or Class U units of the Fund,
- (2) information does not take into account sales, redemptions, distributions or other optional charges that would have reduced returns, and
- (3) past performance of the Fund does not necessarily indicate how it will perform in the future.

#### Year-By-Year Returns

The following bar chart illustrates how the Fund's total return varied from year to year for each of the past five years. The chart also shows, in percentage terms, how much an investment made on January 1 or the date of inception on December 19, 2013 would have increased or decreased by the end of the fiscal year.



## **Annual Total Return**

#### **Annual Compound Returns**

The following table shows the Fund's historical annual compound return (net of expenses) for the periods ended December 31, 2017 as compared to the performance of the NASDAQ-100 Equal Weighted Index.

(In U.S. Dollars unless otherwise noted)	One Year	Three Years	Since Inception <sup>(1)</sup>
NDX Growth & Income Fund - Class A (C\$)	27.42%	4.33%	6.14%
NDX Growth & Income Fund - Class U	30.95%	6.11%	7.35%
NASDAQ-100 Equal Weighted Index <sup>(2)</sup>	26.78%	11.98%	14.51%

<sup>(1)</sup> From date of inception on December 19, 2013.

<sup>(2)</sup> The NASDAQ-100 Equal Weighted Index is the equal weighted version of the NASDAQ-100 Index which includes 100 of the largest non-financial securities listed on The NASDAQ Stock Market based on market capitalization. The Index contains the same securities as the NASDAQ-100 Index, but each of the securities is initially set at a weight of 1.00% of the Index which is rebalanced quarterly.

Commencing in 2015, the NASDAQ-100 Index<sup>™</sup> was superseded by the NASDAQ-100 Equal Weighted Index as the performance benchmark of the Fund. Use of the NASDAQ-100 Equal Weighted Index is deemed to be more appropriate as it has broader diversification across industries with more diversified performance contribution from individual companies and sectors within the index.

The equity performance benchmark shown here provide an approximate indication of how the Fund's returns compare to a public market index for similar securities. It is important to note that the Fund is not managed in order to match or exceed this index; rather, its objectives are to pay out quarterly distributions and return the original invested amount at the termination date. As a result, the Fund has, from time to time, maintained cash balances in an effort to provide greater net asset value stability and employs a covered option writing strategy to enhance the income generated by the portfolio and reduce volatility.

The Manager believes that in a flat or downward trending market, a portfolio that is subject to covered call option writing will generally provide higher relative returns and lower volatility than one on which no options are written. However, in a rising market, the use of options may have the effect of limiting or reducing the total returns of the Fund since the premiums associated with writing covered call options may be outweighed by the foregone opportunity of remaining fully invested in the securities comprising the portfolio.

## Portfolio Manager Report

2017 was a very strong year for global equity markets with most indices making new all-time highs. After being one of the strongest markets in 2016, the S&P/TSX Composite Index in Canada lagged most other indices but still generated a total return of 9.1 percent, primarily led by strength in the Health Care and Consumer Discretionary sectors. In the U.S., the broad market S&P 500 Index rose 21.8 percent while the technology centric NASDAQ Composite Index had a total return of 29.7 percent. Despite various events throughout the year that caused uncertainty for investors, such as President Trump being unable to repeal the Affordable Care Act, not once but twice, and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un launching a missile over Japan, the global synchronized recovery drove stock returns with forward looking economic indicators contributing to earnings upside across markets. The passage of the U.S. Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in late 2017 is expected to benefit earnings further. The Bank of Canada raised the overnight lending rate twice in 2017, lifting it to 1.00 percent, while the U.S. Federal Reserve raised the Federal Funds rate 25 basis points on three separate occasions to now sit at 1.50 percent. With the Bank of Canada starting to follow the U.S. Federal Reserve's path to normalizing interest rates, along with strength in the price of oil and other commodities, the Canadian dollar rose by 7.3 percent to end the year at US\$0.80 per U.S. dollar.

On December 29, 2017 the net asset value per Class A unit was C\$8.92 and the net asset value per Class U unit was U\$\$9.37 compared to C\$7.51 per Class A unit and US\$7.66 per Class U unit at December 30, 2016. Unitholders of the Class A units received cash distributions of C\$0.60 per unit during the year while unitholders of the Class U units received cash distribution of US\$0.60 per unit. The Fund's Class A units listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange as NGI.UN, closed on December 29, 2017 at C\$8.81, which represents a 1.2 percent discount to the net asset value of the Class A unit. The Fund's Class U units are not listed on any exchange.

The annual total return of the Fund, including reinvestment of distributions, was 27.4 percent for the Class A units and 31.0 percent for the Class U units for the year ended December 30, 2017. This compares to a total return of 26.9 percent for the NASDAQ-100 Equal Weighted Index. The best performing stocks within the portfolio were Micron Technology, Inc., NVIDIA Corporation and Activision Blizzard, Inc. and the laggards were Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc., The Kraft Heinz Company and Henry Schein Inc.

Volatility remained subdued throughout 2017, peaking in August 2017 at 16. Since then, volatility has been trending lower in a typical inverse relation to the price movement and the low point was set in November 2017. Volatility has been below long-term average levels for the past few years which adds to the challenge of overwriting. However, this low level of volatility and the Manager's positive view on the market provided an opportunity to purchase call options on select names. The Fund ended 2017 with none of the portfolio subject to covered calls. The average level of overwriting activity in the Fund was approximately 6.1 percent of the portfolio over the year.

The Fund's U.S. dollar exposure was actively hedged back into Canadian dollars throughout the year and ended 2017 with 100 percent of the U.S. dollar exposure hedged

## Summary of Investment Portfolio

The composition of the portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund. A quarterly portfolio summary, which includes the percentage of net asset value for each holding, and a monthly portfolio list are available on our website at www.strathbridge.com.

#### **Asset Mix**

December 31, 2017

	% OF NET ASSET VALUE
Information Technology	47.2%
Consumer Discretionary	36.2%
Consumer Staples	5.0%
Cash	4.6%
Industrials	3.0%
Exchange-Traded Funds	3.0%
Health Care	0.9%
Other Assets (Liabilities)	0.1%
	100.0%

#### Top 25 Holdings

December 31, 2017

	% OF NET ASSET VALUE
Amazon.com, Inc.	6.0%
Ross Stores, Inc.	6.0%
Alphabet Inc.	6.0%
Apple Inc.	5.7%
Cisco Systems, Inc.	5.5%
Wynn Resorts, Limited	5.2%
Marriott International, Inc.	5.2%
Facebook, Inc.	5.1%
Microsoft Corporation	5.0%
Monster Beverage Corporation	5.0%
Liberty Interactive Corporation	5.0%
Dollar Tree, Inc.	4.9%
Cash	4.6%
MercadoLibre, Inc.	4.6%
Twenty-First Century Fox, Inc.	3.9%
NVIDIA Corporation	3.7%
PayPal Holdings, Inc.	3.1%
Micron Technology, Inc.	3.0%
Cintas Corporation	3.0%
Powershares QQQ	3.0%
Lam Research Corporation	2.0%
Intel Corporation	1.5%
Microchip Technology Incorporated	1.0%
Cognizant Technology Solutions Corporation	1.0%
Amgen Inc.	0.9%

#### Forward-Looking Statements

This report may contain forward-looking statements about the Fund. Forward-looking statements include statements that are predictive in nature, that depend upon or refer to future events or conditions, or that include words such as "expects", "anticipates", "intends", "plans", "bleives", "estimates" or negative versions thereof and similar expressions. In addition, any statement that may be made concerning future performance, strategies or prospects, and possible future Fund action, is also forward-looking, Forward-looking statements are based on current expectations and projections about future events and are inherently subject to, among other things, risks, uncertainties and asonation about the Fund and economic factors.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance, and actual events and results could differ materially from those expressed or implied in any forward-looking statements made by the Fund. Any number of important factors could contribute to any divergence between what is anticipated and what actually occurs, including, but not limited to, general economic, political and market factors, interest and foreign exchange rates, global equity and capital markets, business competition, technology change, changes in government regulations, unexpected judicial or regulatory proceedings, and catastrophic events.

The above-mentioned list of important factors is not exhaustive. You should consider these and other factors carefully before making any investment decisions and you should avoid placing undue reliance on forward-looking statements. While the Fund currently anticipates that subsequent events and developments may cause the Fund's views to change, the Fund does not undertake to update any forward-looking statements.

## Management's Responsibility for Financial Reporting

The accompanying financial statements of NDX Growth & Income Fund (the "Fund") and all the information in this annual report are the responsibility of the management of Strathbridge Asset Management Inc. (the "Manager"), and have been approved by the Fund's Board of Advisors (the "Board").

The financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and include certain amounts that are based on estimates and judgments. Management has ensured that the other financial information presented in this annual report is consistent with the financial statements. The significant accounting policies which management believes are appropriate for the Fund are described in Note 3 of the annual financial statements.

The Manager is also responsible for maintaining a system of internal controls designed to provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded and that accounting systems provide timely, accurate and reliable financial information.

The Board meets periodically with management and the independent auditor to discuss internal controls, the financial reporting process, various auditing and financial reporting issues, and to review the annual report, the financial statements and the independent auditor's report. Deloitte LLP, the Fund's independent auditor, has full and unrestricted access to the Board.

Joh Marin.

John P. Mulvihill Director Strathbridge Asset Management Inc. March 2, 2018

Joh #

John D. Germain Director Strathbridge Asset Management Inc.



## To the Unitholders of NDX Growth & Income Fund

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of NDX Growth & Income Fund, which comprise the statements of financial position as at December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016, and the statements of comprehensive income, statements of changes in net assets attributable to holders of Class A and Class U units and statements of cash flows for the years then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

#### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, 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.

#### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements 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 entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

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

#### Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of NDX Growth & Income Fund as at December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

Delotte LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants Licensed Public Accountants March 2, 2018 Toronto, Ontario

## Statements of Financial Position

## As at December 31

#### (In Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted)

	Note		2017		2016
ASSETS					
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	6,7		\$ 13,193,728		\$ 12,425,639
Derivative assets	6,7		258,154		7,131
Dividends receivable			21,274		26,333
Cash			639,646		298,539
TOTAL ASSETS			14,112,802		12,757,642
LIABILITIES					
Redemptions payable			213,972		667,587
Accrued liabilities			35,592		36,738
Accrued management fees	9		11,260		10,458
Derivative liabilities	6,7		-		106,749
TOTAL LIABILITIES			260,824		821,532
NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HOLDERS OF CLASS A AND CLASS U UNITS			\$ 13,851,978		\$ 11,936,110
NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HOLDERS OF CLASS A UNITS			\$ 12,883,488		\$ 10,946,877
NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HOLDERS OF CLASS U UNITS		(US\$772,971)	\$ 968,490	(US\$736,830)	\$ 989,233
NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HOLDERS OF CLASS A UNITS PER CLASS A UNIT			\$ 8.9155		\$ 7.5130
NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HOLDERS OF CLASS U UNITS PER CLASS U UNIT		(US\$9.3665)	\$ 11.7357	(US\$7.6574)	\$ 10.2804

On behalf of the Manager, Strathbridge Asset Management Inc.

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John P. Mulvihill, Director

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John D. Germain, Director

## Statements of Comprehensive Income

For the years ended December 31

(In Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted)	
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	Note	2017	2016
INCOME			
Dividend income		\$ 113,931	\$ 207,673
Interest income		2,405	-
Net realized gain on investments at fair value through profit or loss	7	2,589,969	1,512,491
Net realized gain on options at fair value through profit or loss	7	390,852	148,280
Net realized gain/(loss) on forward exchange contracts at fair value through profit or los	5 7	233,985	(435,200)
Net change in unrealized gain/loss on investments at fair value through profit or loss	7	189,427	(1,355,238)
FOTAL INCOME, NET		3,520,569	78,006
EXPENSES			
Management fees	9	132,643	124,340
Administrative and other expenses		65,303	43,898
Transaction fees	10	34,781	52,187
Custodian fees		49,640	60,848
Audit fees		28,439	27,744
Advisory board fees	9	19,500	19,500
ndependent review committee fees	9	7,500	6,898
Legal fees		2,038	10,228
Unitholder reporting costs		11,193	10,218
Harmonized sales tax		27,977	22,039
Withholding taxes	3	16,171	30,037
TOTAL EXPENSES		395,185	407,937
NCREASE/(DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HOLDERS OF			
CLASS A AND CLASS U UNITS	11	\$ 3,125,384	\$ (329,931)
INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HOLDERS OF CLASS A UNITS PER UNIT	11	\$ 2.0025	\$ (0.1616)
INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HOLDERS OF CLASS U UNITS PER UNIT	11	\$ 2.1418	\$ (0.7340)

## Statements of Changes in Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Class A and Class U Units

For the years ended December 31 (In Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted)

(in canadian dollars unless otherwise noted)		
	 2017	 2016
NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HOLDERS OF CLASS A AND CLASS U UNITS, BEGINNING OF YEAR		
Class A	\$ 10,946,877	\$ 12,155,513
Class U	 989,233	 1,781,203
	11,936,110	13,936,716
ncrease/(Decrease) in Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Class A and Class U Units		
Class A	2,939,258	(245,787)
Class U	186,126	(84,144)
	 3,125,384	(329,931)
Jnit Transactions		
/alue for Units Redeemed		
Class A	(213,972)	(617,343)
Class U	(48,118)	(50,244)
	(262,090)	(667,587)
Conversions		
Class A	92,235	572,440
Class U	(92,235)	(572,440)
	 -	-
Distributions		
Class A		
Non-taxable distributions	(880,910)	(917,946)
Class U		
Non-taxable distributions	 (66,516)	(85,142)
	(947,426)	(1,003,088)
Changes in Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Class A and Class U Units during the Year	4.000 ( 444	(1, 200, (2, ()
Class A Class U	1,936,611 (20,743)	(1,208,636)
	 	 (791,970)
	 1,915,868	 (2,000,606)
NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HOLDERS OF CLASS A AND CLASS U UNITS, END OF YEAR		
Class A	\$ 12,883,488	\$ 10,946,877
Class U	968,490	 989,233
	\$ 13,851,978	\$ 11,936,110

## **Statements of Cash Flows**

For the years ended December 31 (In Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted)

		2017	2016
CASH, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$	298,539	\$ 795,440
Cash Flows Provided by/(Used In) Operating Activities			
Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Class A and Class U Units		3,125,384	(329,931)
Adjustments to Reconcile Net Cash Provided by (Used In) Operating Activities			
Net realized gain on investments at fair value through profit or loss		(2,589,969)	(1,512,491)
Net realized gain on options at fair value through profit or loss		(390,852)	(148,280)
Net realized (gain)/loss on forward exchange contracts at fair value through profit or loss		(233,985)	435,200
Net change in unrealized gain/loss on investments at fair value through profit or loss		(189,427)	1,355,238
Net change in unrealized gain/loss on foreign cash		(12,055)	(3,220)
Increase in dividends receivable		5,059	2,640
Decrease in accrued liabilities and accrued management fees		(344)	(42,462)
Purchase of investment securities		(39,758,043)	(47,797,558)
Proceeds from disposition of investment securities		42,048,470	62,666,029
		(1,121,146)	14,955,096
Cash Flows Used In Financing Activities			
Class A unit distributions		(880,910)	(917,946)
Class U unit distributions		(66,516)	(85,142)
Class A unit redemptions		(617,343)	(13,846,676)
Class U unit redemptions	_	(98,362)	(272,302)
		(1,663,131)	(15,122,066)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash during the Year		341,107	(496,901)
CASH, END OF YEAR	\$	639,646	\$ 298,539
Dividends received, net of withholding taxes	\$	102,819	\$ 180,276
Interest received	\$	2,405	\$ -
			 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

## Schedule of Investments

As at December 31, 2017 (In Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted)

(In Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted)	Number of		Average		Fair	% of Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Class A
	Shares		Cost		Value	and Class U Units
INVESTMENTS						
United States Common Shares						
Consumer Discretionary						
Amazon.com, Inc.	570	\$	785,925	\$	835,211	
Dollar Tree, Inc.	5,000		508,380		672,268	
Liberty Interactive Corporation	22,500		706,221		688,430	
Marriott International, Inc.	4,200		504,132		714,261	
Ross Stores, Inc.	8,300		622,389		834,555	
Twenty-First Century Fox, Inc.	12,600		483,309		545,129	
Wynn Resorts, Limited	3,400	_	638,976		718,195	
Total Consumer Discretionary			4,249,332		5,008,049	36.2%
Consumer Staples						
Monster Beverage Corporation	8,700		696,924		689,900	5.0%
Health Care	(00		125 000		120 722	0.00/
Amgen Inc.	600		135,089		130,732	0.9%
Industrials Sister Comparation	2 1 0 0		207.00/		(10.017	2.00/
Cintas Corporation	2,100		387,094		410,017	3.0%
Information Technology	(2.2		000 457		004 503	
Alphabet Inc.	630		823,157		831,507	
Apple Inc.	3,700		808,128		784,532	
Cisco Systems, Inc.	16,000		659,917		767,804	
Cognizant Technology Solutions Corporation	1,600		141,508		142,375	
Facebook, Inc.	3,200		659,064		707,503	
Intel Corporation	3,600		214,696		208,209	
Lam Research Corporation	1,200		201,381		276,755	
MercadoLibre, Inc.	1,600		560,048		630,802	
Microchip Technology Incorporated	1,300		143,103		143,141	
Micron Technology, Inc.	8,200		294,765		422,473	
Microsoft Corporation	6,500		601,244		696,650	
NVIDIA Corporation PayPal Holdings, Inc.	2,100 4,600		572,027 285,293		509,134 424,312	
Total Information Technology	4,000	_	5,964,331		6,545,197	47.2%
			· · ·			
Total United States Common Shares		\$	11,432,770	\$	12,783,895	92.3%
Exchanged-Traded Funds						
Powershares QQQ	2,100	\$	421,568	\$	409,833	3.0%
Forward Exchange Contracts						
Sold USD \$2,555,000, Bought CAD \$3,241,222 @ 0.78828 - January 10, 2018				\$	40,514	
Sold USD \$2,400,000, Bought CAD \$3,056,280 @ 0.78527 - January 10, 2018	3				49,737	
Sold USD \$5,500,000, Bought CAD \$7,056,500 @ 0.77942 - January 24, 2018	3				167,903	
Total Forward Exchange Contracts				\$	258,154	1.9%
Adjustment for transaction fees			(3,694)			
TOTAL INVESTMENTS		\$	11,850,644	\$	13,451,882	97.2%
OTHER NET ASSETS					400,096	2.8%
NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HOLDERS OF CLASS A AND				¢	12 051 070	100.00/
CLASS U UNITS				\$	13,851,978	100.0%

#### **1. Fund Information**

NDX Growth & Income Fund (the "Fund") is an investment trust established under the laws of the Province of Ontario on November 28, 2013. The Fund began operations on December 19, 2013. The address of the Fund's registered office is 121 King Street West, Suite 2600, Toronto, Ontario.

Strathbridge Asset Management Inc. ("Strathbridge") is the Manager as well as the Investment Manager of the Fund. RBC Investor Services Trust is the Custodian of the Fund.

The Fund is a closed-end investment trust designed to provide stable quarterly cash distributions and the opportunity for capital appreciation. The Class A units are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol NGI.UN. The Class U units are denominated in U.S. dollar currency and do not trade on an exchange.

The Fund invests in an actively managed portfolio consisting of securities included in the NASDAQ-100 Index<sup>SM</sup> or public investment funds including exchange-traded funds and other Strathbridge Funds (provided that no more than 15 percent of the net asset value of the Fund may be invested in securities of other Strathbridge Funds) that provide exposure to such equity securities. In addition, the Fund may have short exposure for non-hedging purposes but only up to 10 percent of the Fund's net asset value.

The Fund employs a proprietary investment strategy, Strathbridge Selective Overwriting ("SSO"), to enhance the income generated by the portfolio and to reduce volatility. The Fund will strategically write covered call options from time to time in respect of any securities held in its portfolio. In addition, the Fund may write cash-covered put options in respect of securities in which it is permitted to invest.

The SSO strategy is a quantitative, technical based methodology that identifies appropriate times to write and/or close out option positions compared to writing continuously and rolling options every thirty days. This proprietary process has been developed over many years through various market cycles. The Manager believes the primary benefit to investors is to maximize the total return of the Fund while reducing the level of volatility of the portfolio, thereby increasing the risk-adjusted return.

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Advisors on March 2, 2018.

#### 2. Basis of Presentation

The annual financial statements for the Fund have been prepared in compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") as adopted by the International Accounting Standards Board.

All financial numbers contained in the notes to the financial statements are in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted.

#### 3. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### **Functional and Presentation Currency**

Items included in the financial statements of the Fund are measured in the currency of the primary economic environment in which the Fund operates (the "functional currency"). Despite investments and related income being primarily in U.S. currency, the Manager has determined that the Canadian dollar is the functional currency as the Fund incurs its expenses, measures its performance and issues and redeems units primarily in Canadian dollars. The financial statements of the Fund are presented in Canadian dollars which is the Fund's presentation currency.

#### **Financial Instruments**

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis except for the fair valuation of certain financial instruments. Historical cost is generally based on the fair value of the consideration given in exchange for assets. Under International Accounting Standard ("IAS") 39, Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement ("IAS 39"), the Fund's equity investments are designated at fair value through profit or loss ("FVTPL") at inception and derivative investments are classified as held for trading and measured at FVTPL.

#### 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. The fair value of financial assets and liabilities traded in active markets are based on quoted market prices at the close of trading on the reporting date. The Fund uses the last traded market price as its valuation input for financial assets and liabilities if the last traded price falls within the bid-ask spread. In other circumstances where the last traded price is not within the bid-ask spread, the Manager determines the point within the bid-ask spread that is most representative of fair value for financial reporting purposes.

The fair value of financial assets and liabilities that are not traded in an active market is determined by valuation techniques as described in Note 4.

#### **Investment Transactions and Income**

Investment transactions are accounted for on a trade date basis. Net realized gain/(loss) on investments at fair value through profit or loss and net change in unrealized gain/loss on investments at fair value through profit or loss are determined on an average cost basis. Realized gains and losses related to options are included in net realized gain/ (loss) on options at fair value through profit or loss. Realized gains and losses relating to written options may arise from:

- (i) Expiration of written options whereby realized gains are equivalent to the premium received,
- (ii) Exercise of written covered call options whereby realized gains or losses are equivalent to the premium received in addition to the realized gain or loss from disposition of the related investments at the exercise price of the option, and
- (iii) Closing of written options whereby realized gains or losses are equivalent to the cost of purchasing options to close the positions, net of any premium received.

Realized gains and losses relating to purchased put options may arise from:

- (i) Expiration of purchased put options whereby realized losses are equivalent to the premium paid,
- (ii) Exercise of purchased put options whereby realized gains or losses are equivalent to the realized gain or loss from disposition of the related investments at the exercise price of the option less the premium paid, and
- (iii) Sale of purchased put options whereby realized gains or losses are equivalent to the sale proceeds, net of any premium paid.

Option premiums received are reflected as deferred credits in investments so long as the options are outstanding. Any difference resulting from revaluation is included in the net change in unrealized gain/loss on investments at fair value through profit or loss. The premiums received on written put options that are exercised are included in the cost of the security purchased.

Dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend date.

Interest income is measured using the effective interest method and recorded on a daily basis.

#### Foreign Currency Translation

Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into Canadian dollars at the prevailing rate of exchange on each valuation date. Purchases and sales of investments, and income derived from investments are translated at the rate of exchange prevailing on the respective dates of such transactions.

Foreign exchange gains (losses) on short-term investments are reflected as interest income. Realized gains (losses) relating to forward exchange contracts are included in net realized gain/(loss) on forward exchange contracts at fair value through profit or loss. Other foreign exchange gains (losses) are recorded as net realized or unrealized gain/ (loss) on investments at fair value through profit or loss, as appropriate.

#### **Short-Term Investments**

Short-term investments are held for investment purposes and consist primarily of money market instruments with original maturities of 90 days or less.

#### **Class A and Class U Units**

IAS 32, Financial Instruments: Presentation ("IAS 32") requires that the Class A and Class U units (the "units") (which are puttable instruments) be classified as financial liabilities unless all the criteria outlined in IAS 32 paragraph 16A are met. The Fund's units do not meet the definition of IAS 32 paragraph 16A to be classified as equity.

## Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Class A and Class U Units per Unit

The increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of Class A and Class U units per unit is calculated by dividing the increase/ (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of Class A and Class U units by the weighted average number of Class A and Class U units outstanding during the year. Please refer to Note 11 for the calculation.

#### **Taxation**

The Fund is a "mutual fund trust" as defined in the Income Tax Act (Canada) (the "Act"). The Fund is subject to tax in each taxation year under Part I of the Act on the amount of its income for the year, including net realized taxable capital gains, less the portion thereof that it claims in respect of the amount paid or payable to unitholders in the year. Income tax paid by the Fund on any net realized capital gains not paid or payable to unitholders is recoverable by the Fund to the extent and in the circumstances provided in the Act.

Given the investment and distribution policies of the Fund and taking into account expenses, the Fund does not expect to bear any non-refundable income tax.

The Fund currently incurs withholding taxes imposed by certain foreign countries on investment income. Such foreign income is recorded gross of withholding taxes, and the withholding taxes are presented as an expense item in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

#### **IAS 1 Disclosure Initiative**

The Fund has applied amendments to IAS 1 Disclosure Initiative for the first time in the current year. The amendments clarify that an entity need not provide a specific disclosure required by an IFRS if the information resulting from that disclosure is not material, and give guidance on the basis of aggregating and disaggregating information for disclosure purposes. In addition, the amendments reiterate that an entity should consider providing additional disclosures when compliance with the specific requirements in IFRS is insufficient to enable users of financial statements to understand the impact of particular transactions, events and conditions on the Fund's financial position and financial performance.

The application of these amendments has not resulted in any impact on the financial performance, the financial position or disclosures of the Fund.

#### **IAS 7 Statement of Cash Flows**

IAS 7 Statement of Cash Flows ('IAS 7") requires disclosures related to changes in liabilities arising from financing activities for annual periods beginning on or after January 1, 2017. Class A and Class U units issued by the Fund are classified as financial liabilities in accordance with IAS 32, as they do not meet the definition of puttable instruments to be classified as equity in accordance with IAS 32 for financial reporting purposes.

A reconciliation between the opening and closing balances of the Class A and Class U units of the Fund is presented in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Class A and Class U units, including changes from cash flows and non-cash changes.

#### 4. Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

The preparation of financial statements requires the Manager to use judgment in applying accounting policies and to make estimates and assumptions about the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The following discusses the most significant accounting judgments and estimates that the Fund has made in preparing the financial statements.

The Manager considers the currency of the primary economic environment in which the Fund operates to be Canadian dollars as this is the currency which in their opinion most faithfully represents the economic effects of underlying transactions, events and conditions. The financial statements of the Fund are presented in Canadian dollars as the Fund's presentation currency.

In classifying and measuring the financial instruments held by the Fund, the Manager has applied the fair value option for financial assets and liabilities under IAS 39. The fair value option was used as: (i) fair value is readily available via market quotation; (ii) it eliminates or significantly reduces an accounting mismatch; and (iii) financial instruments designated at FVTPL is part of an investment portfolio managed on a fair value basis. As a result, the Fund's equity investments have been designated at FVTPL at inception and the derivative investments have been classified as held for trading by nature and valued at FVTPL.

The Fund may, from time to time, hold financial instruments that are not quoted in active markets. Fair values of such instruments are determined by using valuation models and techniques generally recognized as standard within the investment industry. These valuation methods use observable data as practicable as possible. Observable market data are readily available and supplied by independent sources actively involved in the relevant market. However, areas such as credit risk (both own and counterparty) and its correlations require the Manager to make estimates. Significant changes in assumptions about these factors could adversely affect the reported fair values of financial instruments. Please refer to Note 6 for a further analysis of risks associated with financial instruments.

#### 5. Capital Disclosures

IAS 1, Presentation of Financial Statements ("IAS 1"), requires the disclosure of: (i) an entity's objectives, policies and processes for managing capital; (ii) quantitative data and qualitative information about what the entity regards as capital; (iii) whether the entity has complied with any capital requirements; and (iv) if it has not complied, the consequences of such non-compliance. The Fund's objectives, policies and processes are described in Note 1, information on the Fund's units is described in Note 8 and the Fund does not have any externally imposed capital requirements.

#### 6. Risks Associated with Financial Instruments

The Fund is exposed to various types of risks that are associated with its investment strategies, financial instruments and markets in which the Fund invests. The most important risks include credit risk, liquidity risk, market risk (including currency risk, interest rate risk, and price risk), concentration risk and capital risk management.

#### **Credit Risk**

The Fund is subject to the credit risk that its counterparty (whether a clearing corporation, in the case of exchange traded instruments, or other third party, in the case of over-the-counter instruments) may be unable to meet its obligations. The Fund manages these risks through the use of various risk limits and trading strategies.

The Fund is also exposed to counterparty credit risk on derivative financial instruments. The counterparty credit risk for derivative financial instruments is managed by dealing with counterparties that have a credit rating that is not below the level of approved credit ratings as set out in National Instrument 81-102. During the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, the counterparties to the Fund's derivative financial instruments had a credit rating of A-1 or higher from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services.

The Fund's derivative instruments are subject to offsetting, enforceable netting arrangements and similar agreements. The Fund and its counterparty have elected to settle all transactions on a gross basis; however, each party has the option to settle all open contracts on a net basis in the event of default of the other party. All outstanding derivatives have been presented on a gross basis on the Statement of Financial Position as derivative assets or derivative liabilities, as they do not meet the criteria for offsetting in IAS 32 paragraph 42.

#### **Liquidity Risk**

Liquidity risk is the possibility that investments in the Fund cannot be readily converted into cash when required. To manage this risk, the Fund invests the majority of its assets in investments that are traded in an active market and which can be easily disposed. In addition, the Fund aims to retain sufficient cash and short-term investments to maintain liquidity and to meet its obligations when due.

Cash is required to fund redemptions. Unitholders must surrender units at least 10 business days prior to the last day of the month and receive payment on or before 15 calendar days following the month end valuation date. Therefore the Fund has a maximum of 21 business days to generate sufficient cash to fund redemptions mitigating liquidity issues.

#### The amounts in the table are the contractual undiscounted cash flows:

	As at December Financial Lia On Dema	bilities	< 3 months		Total
Redemptions payable	\$	-	\$ 213,972	\$	213,972
Accrued liabilities		-	35,592		35,592
Accrued management fees		-	11,260		11,260
Class A units	12,8	83,488	-	1	2,883,488
Class U units	9	68,490	-		968,490
	\$ 13,8	51,978	\$ 260,824	\$ 1	4,112,802

	As at December Financial Lia				
	On Dema	ind	< 3 months		Total
Redemptions payable	\$	-	\$ 667,587	\$	667,587
Derivative liabilities		-	106,749		106,749
Accrued liabilities		-	36,738		36,738
Accrued management fees		-	10,458		10,458
Class A units	10,9	46,877	-	1	10,946,877
Class U units	9	89,233	-		989,233
	\$ 11,9	36,110	\$ 821,532	\$ :	12,757,642

The Fund's investments are subject to market risk which is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in the market prices. The following include sensitivity analyses that show how the net assets attributable to holders of Class A and Class U units would have been affected by a reasonably possible change in the relevant risk variable at each reporting date. In practice, the actual results may differ and the differences could be material.

#### (a) Currency Risk

Currency risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. The portfolio includes securities and options denominated in foreign currencies. The net asset value of the Fund and the value of the dividends and option premiums received by the Fund will be affected by fluctuations in the value of the foreign currencies relative to the Canadian dollar. The Fund uses foreign exchange contracts, from time to time, to actively hedge all or part of the majority of its foreign currency exposure.

The table below indicates the foreign currencies to which the Fund had significant exposure to as at December 31, 2017 and 2016 in Canadian dollar terms, and the notional amounts of forward exchange contracts. The table also illustrates the potential impact on the net assets attributable to Class A and Class U units if the Canadian dollar had strengthened or weakened by 5 percent in relation to each of the other currencies, with all other variables held constant.

			mber 31, 2017 ency Exposure			
					Assets Attributab ss A and Class U U	
	Monetary	Non-Monetary	Total	Monetary	Non-Monetary	Total
	\$ (12,732,138)	\$ 13,193,728	\$ 461,590	\$ (636,607)	\$ 659,686	\$ 23,079
% of Net Assets Attributor Holders of Class A						
and Class U Units	(92)%	95%	3%	(5)%	5%	0%
			mber 31, 2016 ency Exposure			
					Assets Attributab ss A and Class U U	
	Monetary	Non-Monetary	Total	Monetary	Non-Monetary	Total
	\$ (5,686,494)	\$ 12,397,975	\$ 6,711,481	\$ (284,325)	\$ 619,899	\$ 335,574
% of Net Assets Attributor Holders of Class A						
and Class U Units	(48)%	104%	56%	(2)%	5%	3%

#### (b) Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of a financial instrument. The financial instruments which potentially expose the Fund to interest rate risk are the short-term fixed income securities. The Fund has minimal sensitivity to changes in rates since securities are usually held to maturity and are short-term in nature.

#### (c) Price Risk

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 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 segment. The Fund's most significant exposure to price risk arises from its investments in equity securities. Net assets per unit varies as the value of the securities in the Fund varies. The Fund has no control over the factors that affect the value of the securities in the Fund, including factors that affect all the constituents of the NASDAQ-100 Index<sup>SM</sup>. The Fund's price risk is managed by taking a long-term perspective and utilizing an option writing program, as well as by the use of purchased put options. Approximately 95 percent (2016 - 104 percent) of the Fund's net assets attributable to holders of Class A and Class U units held at December 31, 2017 were publicly traded equities. If equity prices on the exchange increased or decreased by 5 percent as at December 31, 2017, the net assets attributable to holders of Class A and Class U units would have increased or decreased by \$0.7 million (2016 - \$0.6 million) respectively or 4.8 percent (2016 - 5.2 percent) of the net assets attributable to holders of Class U units with all other factors remaining constant. In practice, actual trading results may differ and the difference could be material.

The Manager believes that a portfolio that is subject to covered call option writing or purchased put options should provide a degree of protection against falling share prices in a downward trending market.

#### **Concentration Risk**

Concentration risk arises as a result of the concentration of exposures with the same category, whether it is geographical location, product type, industry sector or counterparty type. The following is a summary of the Fund's concentration risk:

	Dec. 31, 2017	Dec. 31, 2016
Information Technology	49.6%	54.4%
Consumer Discretionary	38.0%	26.5%
Consumer Staples	5.2%	3.9%
Industrials	3.1%	13.1%
Exchange-Traded Funds	3.1%	-
Health Care	1.0%	-
Telecommunication Services	-	2.1%
	100.0%	100.0%

#### **Capital Risk Management**

Units surrendered for redemption on or before the first business day of December of any year (the "Annual Redemption Deadline") will be redeemed on the Annual Redemption Date corresponding to such Annual Redemption Deadline. Units surrendered for redemption at least ten business days prior to a Monthly Redemption Date other than December (the "Monthly Redemption Deadline') will be redeemed on the Monthly Redemption Date corresponding to such Monthly Redemption Deadline.

Unitholders whose units are redeemed on an Annual Redemption Date will be entitled to receive a redemption price per unit of a class equal to the net asset value per unit of such class determined as of such date. For unitholders whose Class A units are redeemed on a Monthly Redemption Date, the redemption price per Class A unit (the "Class A Monthly Redemption Price") will be the Canadian dollar amount equal to the lesser of: (i) 95 percent of the Market Price; and (ii) 100 percent of the Closing Market Price of the Class A units on the applicable Redemption Date, minus an amount equal to the aggregate of all brokerage fees, commissions and other costs incurred by the Fund in connection with such payment, including, but not limited to, costs incurred in liquidating securities held in the Portfolio.

For such purposes, "Market Price" is the weighted average trading price of the Class A units on the stock exchange on which the Class A units are listed for the ten trading days immediately preceding the applicable Redemption Date, and "Closing Market Price" means the closing price of the Class A units on the stock exchange on which the Class A units are listed or, if there was no trade on the relevant date, the average of the last bid and the last asking prices of the Class A units on the stock exchange on which the Class A units on the stock exchange on which the Class A units are listed. For unitholders whose Class U units are redeemed on a Monthly Redemption Date, the Redemption Price per Class U unit will be the U.S. dollar amount calculated as the Class A Monthly Redemption Price (converted to U.S. dollars on the Monthly Redemption Date) multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the net asset value per Class A unit and the denominator of which is the net asset value per Class A unit (converted to U.S. dollars on the Monthly Redemption Date).

#### Fair Value Measurement

The Fund classifies fair value of measurement within a hierarchy which gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are:

- Level 1: Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities
- Level 2: Inputs, other than quoted prices in Level 1, that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (i.e. as prices) or indirectly (i.e. derived from prices), and
- Level 3: Inputs that are based on unobservable market data.

The classification of an item into the above levels is based on the lowest level of the inputs used that has a significant effect on the fair value measurement of the item. Transfers of items between levels are recognized in the period they occur. The following table illustrates the classification of the Fund's assets and liabilities measured at fair value within the fair value hierarchy as at December 31, 2017 and 2016.

	As at December 31, 2017								
	Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		Total		
United States Common Shares	\$ 12,783,895	\$	-	\$	-	\$	12,783,895		
Exchange-Traded Funds	409,833		-		-		409,833		
Forward Exchange Contracts	-		258,154		-		258,154		
	\$ 13,193,728	\$	258,154	\$	-	\$	13,451,882		

	As at Decemb			
	Level 1	Level 2	 Level 3	Total
United States Common Shares	\$ 12,425,639	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,425,639
Forward Exchange Contracts	-	(71,954)	-	(71,954)
Options	(27,664)	-	-	(27,664)
	\$ 12,397,975	\$ (71,954)	\$ -	\$ 12,326,021

The carrying values of cash, dividends receivable, accrued liabilities, accrued management fees, redemptions payable, and the Fund's obligation for net assets attributable to holders of Class A and Class U units approximate their fair values due to their short-term nature.

#### (a) Equities

The Fund's equity positions are classified as Level 1 as equity securities are actively traded and a reliable quoted price is observable.

#### (b) Short-Term Investments

Short-term investments are valued at cost plus accrued interest which approximates fair value. The inputs are observable and therefore short-term investments are classified as Level 2.

#### (c) Derivative Assets and Liabilities

Derivative assets and liabilities consist of forward exchange contracts and option contracts.

Listed options are classified as Level 1 as the security is traded in a recognized exchange and a reliable price is readily observable.

Fair value of over-the-counter options is determined using the Black-Scholes Model with observable market data as inputs. Forward exchange contracts are valued on the gain or loss that would be realized if, on the valuation date, the position in the forward exchange contract, as the case may be, was to be closed out. Over-the-counter option and forward exchange contracts for which the credit risks are determined not to be significant to fair value, have been classified as Level 2.

There were no transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 and the Fund did not hold any financial instruments within Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy during 2017 and 2016.

#### 7. Financial Instruments by Category

The following tables present the carrying amounts of the Fund's financial instruments by category as at December 31, 2017 and 2016.

		As at Decen Financial Instrum	ents	at FVTPL		ncial Instrument	S	
Desi	gnat	ed at Inception	He	ld for Trading	at /	Amortized Cost		Total
Assets								
Non-derivative financial assets	\$	13,193,728	\$	-	\$	-	\$	13,193,728
Derivative assets		-		258,154		-		258,154
Dividends receivable		-		-		21,274		21,274
Cash		-		-		639,646		639,646
	\$	13,193,728	\$	258,154	\$	660,920	\$	14,112,802
Liabilities								
Redemptions payable	\$	-	\$	-	\$	213,972	\$	213,972
Accrued liabilities		-		-		35,592		35,592
Accrued management fees		-		-		11,260		11,260
Class A units		-		-		12,883,488		12,883,488
Class U units		-		-		968,490		968,490
	\$	-	\$	-	\$	14,112,802	\$	14,112,802

	F	As at Decen Financial Instrum		1 C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C	Fina	ncial Instrumen	ts	
Des	ignat	ed at Inception	Hel	d for Trading	at	Amortized Cost		Total
Assets								
Non-derivative financial assets	\$	12,425,639	\$	-	\$	-	\$	12,425,639
Derivative assets				7,131		-		7,131
Dividends receivable		-		-		26,333		26,333
Cash		-		-		298,539		298,539
	\$	12,425,639	\$	7,131	\$	324,872	\$	12,757,642
Liabilities								
Redemptions payable	\$	-	\$	-	\$	667,587	\$	667,587
Derivative liabilities		-		106,749		-		106,749
Accrued liabilities		-				36,738		36,738
Accrued management fees		-		-		10,458		10,458
Class A units		-		-		10,946,877		10,946,877
Class U units		-		-		989,233		989,233
	\$	-	\$	106,749	\$	12,650,893	\$	12,757,642

The following table presents the net gain/(loss) on financial instruments at FVTPL by category for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016.

Net Realized Gain/(Loss) on Financial Instruments at FVTPL		Dec. 31, 2017	Dec. 31, 2016
Designated at Inception	\$	2,589,969	\$ 1,512,491
Held for Trading		624,837	(286,920)
		3,214,806	1,225,571
Net Change in Unrealized Gain/Loss on Financial Instrument	nts a	t FVTPL	
Designated at Inception		(140,909)	(1,714,560)
Held for Trading		330,336	359,322
		189,427	(1,355,238)
Net Gain/(Loss) on Financial Instruments at FVTPL	\$	3,404,233	\$ (129,667)

#### 8. Class A and Class U Units

The Fund's authorized capital includes an unlimited number of Class A units and an unlimited number of Class U units. On November 28, 2013, the Fund issued one Class A unit for \$10.00 cash.

The Fund intends to pay equal quarterly cash distributions on the last business day of the months of March, June, September and December in an amount targeted to be 6.0 percent per annum of the issue price of the Class A and Class U units in their respective currencies.

For the year ended December 31, 2017, cash distributions paid to Class A units were \$880,910 (2016 - \$917,946) representing a payment

of \$0.60 (2016 - \$0.60) per Class A unit and cash distributions to Class U units were US\$51,390 (2016 - US\$65,085) representing a payment of US\$0.60 (2016 - US\$0.60) per Class U unit.

During the year ended December 31, 2017, 24,000 (2016 - 82,170) Class A units and 5,000 (2016 - 5,000) Class U units were redeemed with a total retraction of \$213,972 (2016 - \$617,343) and US\$39,524 (2016 - US\$38,287) respectively.

During the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, unit transactions are as follows:

2017 57,062	2016
	1,460,644
12,004	78,588
24,000)	(82,170)
45,066	1,457,062
96,225	159,925
(8,700)	(58,700)
(5,000)	(5,000)
	96,225
	· · · ·

#### 9. Related Party Transactions

Parties are considered to be related if one party has the ability to control the other party or exercise significant influence over the other party in making financial or operational decisions.

#### (a) Management Fees

Strathbridge, as the Investment Manager and Manager under the terms of the Investment Management Agreement and Trust Agreement, receives fees payable at annual rates of 1.00 percent of the net asset value of the Fund, calculated and payable monthly, plus applicable taxes. The Fund is responsible for all ongoing custodian, manager, legal, accounting and audit fees as well as all other expenses incurred by the Custodian and Manager in the ordinary course of business relating to the Fund's operations. Total management fees for the year ended December 31, 2017 was \$132,643 (2016 - \$124,340) of which \$11,260 (2016 - \$10,458) was unpaid at year-end.

#### (b) Advisory Board Fees

Total advisory board fees paid to the external members of the Board of Advisors for year ended December 31, 2017 was \$19,500 (2016 - \$19,500).

#### (c) Independent Review Committee Fees

Total remuneration paid to the external members of the Independent Review Committee for year ended December 31, 2017 was \$7,500 (2016 - \$6,898).

#### **10. Brokerage Commissions and Soft Dollars**

The Manager may select brokerages who charge a commission in soft dollars if they determine in good faith that the commission is reasonable in relation to the order execution and research services utilized. The ascertainable soft dollar value received as a percentage of total transaction fees paid during the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 is disclosed below:

	Dec. 31, 2017	l	Dec. 31, 2016
Soft Dollars	\$ 12,634	\$	8,953
Percentage of Total Transaction Fees	36.3%		17.2%

#### 11. Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Class A and Class U Units per Unit

The increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of Class A and Class U units per unit for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 is calculated as follows:

		c. 3 017	·	Dec. 31, 2016			
	Class A		Class U		Class A		Class U
Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Units	\$ 2,939,258	\$	186,126	\$	(245,787)	\$	(84,144)
Weighted Average Number of Units Outstanding during the Year	1,467,793		86,901		1,521,301		114,636
Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Units per Unit	\$ 2.0025	\$	2.1418	\$	(0.1616)	\$	(0.7340)

#### 12. Income Taxes

No amount is payable on account of income taxes in 2017 or 2016.

Accumulated non-capital losses of approximately \$0.49 million (2016 - \$0.49 million) and accumulated capital losses of approximately \$1.77 million (2016 - \$3.39 million) are available for utilization against realized gains on sale of investments in future years. The capital losses can be carried forward indefinitely. The non-capital losses expire as follows:

(in \$millions)
\$0.04
0.35
0.10
\$0.49

Issue costs of approximately \$0.43 million (2016 - \$0.88 million) remain undeducted for tax purposes at year-end.

#### **13. Future Accounting Policy Changes**

IFRS 9 Financial Instruments ("IFRS 9") issued in July 2014, replaces the existing guidance in IAS 39. It includes revised guidance on classification and measurement of financial instruments, a new expected credit loss model for calculating impairment on financial assets and new general hedge accounting requirements. It also carries forward the guidance on recognition and derecognition of financial instruments from IAS 39. It is effective for annual periods beginning on or after January 1, 2018. The Fund plans to adopt the new standard the date it becomes effective.

## Classification and Measurement of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities

Under IFRS 9, classification and measurement of financial assets will be driven by the Fund's business model for managing them and their contractual cash flows. Classification and measurement categories under IFRS 9 are amortized cost, fair value through other comprehensive income ("FVOCI") and fair value through profit or loss ("FVTPL").

IFRS 9 largely retains the existing requirements for classification and measurement of financial liabilities. However, unlike IAS 39 where all fair value changes of liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss are recognized in profit or loss, under IFRS 9, fair value changes related to changes in the issuer's own credit risk will be presented in other comprehensive income.

Based on the Fund's initial assessment, IFRS 9 is not expected to have a material impact on classification and measurement of financial instruments, since the Fund makes decisions based on the assets' fair values and manages the assets to realize those fair values. As such the majority of the Fund's financial assets will continue to be measured at FVTPL. In addition, derivatives will continue to be measured at FVTPL.

#### **Impairment of Financial Assets**

IFRS 9 also introduces the expected credit loss ("ECL") model for impairment of financial assets measured at amortized cost and debt instruments measured at FVOCI. The ECL impairment model will not have a material impact to the Fund's financial assets given that the majority of the Fund's financial assets will continue to be measured at FVTPL.

#### **Hedge Accounting**

The Fund does not apply hedge accounting, therefore, IFRS 9 hedge accounting related changes do not have an impact on the Fund's financial statements.

Based on the Fund's initial assessment, IFRS 9 is not expected to have a material impact to the Fund's financial statements.

## **Board of Advisors**

John P. Mulvihill Chairman & CEO Strathbridge Asset Management Inc.

John D. Germain Senior Vice-President & Chief Financial Officer Strathbridge Asset Management Inc.

Michael M. Koerner<sup>1</sup> Corporate Director

Robert W. Korthals<sup>1</sup> Corporate Director

Robert G. Bertram<sup>1</sup> Corporate Director

<sup>1</sup> Independent Review Committee Member

#### Information

Independent Auditor: Deloitte LLP Bay Adelaide Centre, East Tower 8 Adelaide Street West, Suite 200 Toronto, Ontario M5H 0A9

Transfer Agent: Computershare Investor Services Inc. 100 University Avenue, 8th Floor Toronto, Ontario M5J 2Y1

Units Listed: Toronto Stock Exchange trading under NGI.UN

Custodian: RBC Investor Services Trust RBC Centre 155 Wellington Street West, 2nd Floor Toronto, Ontario M5V 3L3

Visit our website at www.strathbridge.com for additional information on all Strathbridge Investment Funds.

Investment Funds Managed by Strathbridge Asset Management Inc.

## **UNIT TRUSTS**

Canadian Utilities & Telecom Income Fund (UTE.UN) Core Canadian Dividend Trust (CDD.UN) Low Volatility U.S. Equity Income Fund (LVU.UN) NDX Growth & Income Fund (NGI.UN) Top 10 Canadian Financial Trust (TCT.UN) U.S. Financials Income Fund (USF.UN)

#### **SPLIT SHARES**

Premium Income Corporation (PIC.PR.A/PIC.A) S Split Corp. (SBN.PR.A/SBN) Top 10 Split Trust (TXT.PR.A/TXT.UN) World Financial Split Corp. (WFS.PR.A/WFS)

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