



# PORTLAND GLOBAL ARISTOCRATS PLUS FUND



**PORTLAND**  
INVESTMENT COUNSEL™

OWNERS. OPERATORS. AND INVESTORS.

(as at March 31, 2018)

	Series Start Date	Net Asset Value Per Unit (as at March 31, 2018)	PERFORMANCE (as at March 31, 2018)				
			1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	Since Inception
Portland Global Aristocrats Plus Fund – Series A	Jun. 30, 2016	\$53.9328	(0.1%)	(3.8%)	(1.1%)	1.8%	8.4%
Portland Global Aristocrats Plus Fund – Series F	Jun. 30, 2016	\$54.1342	(0.0%)	(3.5%)	(0.5%)	2.9%	9.6%
MSCI World Total Return Index	-	-	(1.6%)	1.6%	7.6%	10.1%	15.3%

## INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE AND STRATEGIES

The investment objective of the Portland Global Aristocrats Plus Fund is to provide income and achieve, over the long term, preservation of capital and a satisfactory return.

To achieve this investment objective, the Fund will employ the following core techniques:

1. Time in the Market: investing in a diversified portfolio of securities focused on growing dividends; and
2. Timing the Market: prudent use of leverage by purchasing securities on margin.

## KEY REASONS TO INVEST

### Time in the Market

- The power of dividend investing combined with the benefits of global investing and asset class diversification for the potential to reduce volatility
- Monthly distributions, targeting 5.0% per annum for Series F and 4.0% per annum for Series A based on the opening price of \$50 - intended to be fully funded, plus potential for capital appreciation<sup>4</sup>

### Timing the Market

- Use of leverage to enhance the power of dividends
- Embedded product leverage is non-recourse to individual investors

## HOW THE FUND IS MANAGED

- Common shares of large global companies with attractive dividend-payout ratios and a history of rising dividends over the long term, selected primarily from the members of the S&P Europe 350 Dividend Aristocrats, the S&P 500® Dividend Aristocrats and the S&P/TSX Dividend Aristocrats
- Primarily investment grade preferred shares of North American companies
- Partially hedging the Fund's non-Canadian Dollar exposures
- Utilizing low cost borrowing to purchase securities on margin and facilitate opportunistic investments during market volatility and irrational market valuations

## FUND FACTS

<b>Introduction Date</b>	June 30, 2016
<b>Fund type</b>	Alternative Strategies
<b>Offer document</b>	Offering Memorandum
<b>Legal type</b>	Unit Trust
<b>Eligible for registered plans</b>	Yes
<b>Eligible for PAC plans</b>	Yes, monthly minimum of \$500
<b>Purchases and redemptions</b>	Monthly
<b>Valuation Frequency</b>	Available daily on Portland's website
<b>Minimum investment term</b>	None
<b>Notice period for redemptions</b>	None
<b>Redemption fee</b>	None
<b>Transaction processing</b>	Fundserv
<b>Administrator</b>	CIBC Mellon Global Securities Services Company
<b>Prime broker</b>	RBC Dominion Securities Inc.
<b>Auditor</b>	PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
<b>Legal counsel</b>	Borden Ladner Gervais LLP

Series	A	F <sup>1</sup>
Min. initial investment, accredited investors <sup>2</sup>	\$2,500	\$2,500
Min. initial investment, non-individuals	\$150,000	\$150,000
Min. subsequent investment <sup>3</sup>	\$500	\$500
Management fee	2.00%	1.00%
Fundserv code	PTL720	PTL725

## PORTFOLIO MANAGER

**Chris Wain-Lowe**, BA, MBA  
Chief Investment Officer, Executive Vice-President  
and Portfolio Manager



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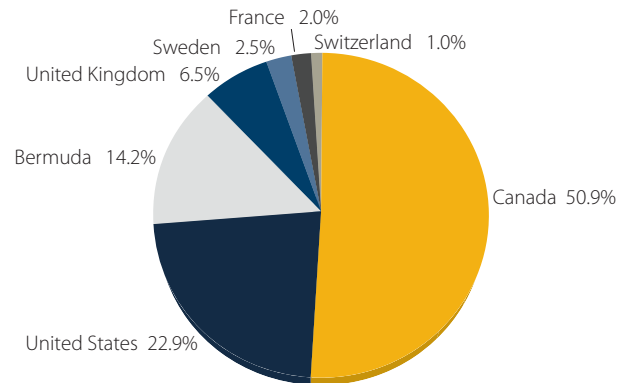
## Top Holdings (as a % of total assets)

Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc.	4.7%
ECN Capital Corp., 6.25% June 30, 2022	4.3%
AT&T Inc.	4.2%
SPDR S&P Global Dividend ETF	4.0%
Royal Dutch Shell PLC	3.7%
Brookfield Property Partners L.P.	3.6%
TransAlta Renewables Inc.	3.2%
iShares MSCI World ETF	3.1%
BHP Billiton PLC	2.8%
Oaktree Strategic Income Corporation	2.8%
Fortis Inc.	2.5%
Nordea Bank AB	2.5%
Westcoast Energy Inc., Preferred, Series 12, Fixed-Reset	2.4%
The Bank of Nova Scotia, Preferred, Series 38, Fixed-Reset	2.4%
TransCanada Corporation, Preferred, Series 15, Fixed-Reset	2.4%
Bank of Montreal, Preferred, Series 38, Fixed-Reset	2.4%
Brookfield Infrastructure Partners L.P., Preferred, Series 5, Fixed-Reset	2.3%
Capital Power Corp, Preferred, Series 9, Fixed-Reset	2.3%
AltaGas Ltd. Preferred, Series K, Fixed-Reset	2.3%
Brookfield Asset Management Inc., Preferred, Series 46, Fixed-Reset	2.3%
The Toronto-Dominion Bank, Preferred, Series 16, Fixed-Reset	2.3%
Enbridge Inc., Preferred, Series 17, Fixed-Reset	2.3%
Kinder Morgan Canada Ltd, Preferred, Series 1, Fixed-Reset	2.3%
Pembina Pipeline Corporation, Preferred, Series 21, Fixed-Reset	2.3%
Brookfield Renewable Partners L.P., Preferred, Series 11, Fixed-Reset	2.3%

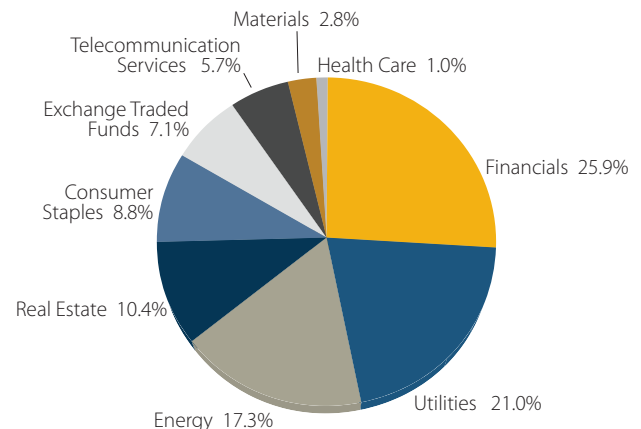
## Asset Mix (as a % of net asset value)

Preferred Equities	72.4%
Equities	60.9%
Other Net Assets (Liabilities) <sup>5</sup>	-1.0%
Cash	-32.3%
<hr/>	
Leverage Ratio <sup>6</sup>	24.9%

## Geographic Mix (as a % of total assets)



## Sector Mix (as a % of total assets)



## FUND COMMENTARY (As at March 31, 2018)

For the period September 30, 2017 to March 31, 2018, while the Series F units of the Fund fell (0.5%), the Fund's broad-based benchmark, the MSCI World Total Return Index rose 7.6%. For the full period since the launch of the Fund on June 30, 2016 to March 31, 2018, the MSCI World Total Return Index rose 15.3%. For the same period, the Fund's Series F units had a return of 9.6%.

During the period, the Fund's preferred share component contributed to performance whereas the equity component detracted. The Fund's exposure to materials and energy were the top equity contributors (notably BHP Billiton PLC and Royal Dutch Shell PLC) whereas being underweight in information technology and exposure to financials and real estate detracted (notably Nordea Bank AB and Brookfield Property Partners L.P.).

The Fund hedges its U.S. dollar exposure by funding its U.S. dollar purchases through borrowing U.S. dollars. As at March 31, 2018, the Fund was borrowing U.S. dollars and Canadian dollars, and its leverage ratio (i.e. debt/portfolio of investments) was 25% based on settlement date activity. The current cost of



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borrowing in U.S. dollars is 2.81% per annum and in Canadian dollar is 2.23% per annum.

The Fund's equity component (61% of the total assets of the Fund) is to comprise mostly large companies and members of the dividend aristocrats indices, exhibiting we believe, attractive dividend policies. These large companies should benefit more than others when global growth accelerates.

The Fund has a target of a 5% distribution per annum based on the opening net asset value of \$50.00 per unit which it has met since inception. The earnings from dividends, derivatives and net realized gains exceed the paid distributions. Indicators that the Fund may continue to reach its 5% distribution target include the dividend yield (a financial ratio that shows how much a company pays out in dividends relative to its share price) of the equities of the Fund and current yields (a financial ratio that shows annual income [interest or dividends] divided by the current share price) of the preferred shares and fixed income securities. Sourced from Thomson Reuters and Bloomberg these component yields are as follows:

- equity's trailing weighted average dividend yield was 5.0%.
- preferred share's trailing weighted average current yield was 4.8%.
- The unlevered portfolio yield is 4.9%. The levered portfolio dividend yield is 5.7%.

During the period, the Fund grew in size receiving subscriptions and only modest redemptions, and is primarily invested in Canadian preferred shares and global equities through the ETFs, with representation across all industry sectors.

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

As the west's Central Bankers begin to withdraw the liquidity measures which eased their economies through the global financial crisis, we appear, at a glacial pace, to be returning to more normalized economies where rising interest rates are applied to slow gently the pace of growth but seek to maintain modest levels of inflation mostly targeted at around 2%. We have been in a low but increasing inflationary environment and inflation expectations are rising, particularly re oil and food. However, wage inflation in the U.S. has now returned and this, together with tax reductions, could spur growth in consumer spending.

We believe the U.S. has engaged in a long-term recovery plan and its economic prospects for the medium term remain bright. For the U.K. and Eurozone, we are hopeful that the U.K. decision to exit the E.U. will be the catalyst that starts the E.U. on a path of implementing the structural reforms that are so vital if it is to break out of the cycle of consistently poor economic performance that stretches back many years. However, divorces generally tend to be expensive and as such we continue to believe the impact of 'Brexit' will create uncertainties and quite possibly a period of recession as the U.K. adjusts to amended trading relationships and banks domiciled in the U.K. determine how best to do business in the rest of the E.U. Globally, we

hope mature companies adopt bolder agendas to assimilate and integrate workforces around large-scale investment and infrastructure and initiate dramatic reforms of education and training. Energy prices and geopolitical events may engender elevated levels of volatility.

This period since the Great Recession is one of the longest stretches of rising markets. Cyclically and inflationary adjusted earnings over the last ten years compared to prices suggests in our view that the current market is fully valued. Therefore, while we do not see a near-term catalyst to initiate a market correction, such as recession or weakening confidence, such a correction is, at least statistically, due in our view and vulnerable to geopolitical events. At such times, we believe a pivot towards 'value' rather than 'growth' criteria is likely to predominate as investors seek businesses that are attractively or reasonably priced particularly in a reflationary environment.

The Fund's focus is on value and stable growing companies – those firms able to deliver more consistent and visible (albeit slower) earnings and cash flows. While this theme has recently lagged the overall market, we believe it should reassert leadership and that overall, the Fund is currently well positioned to meet its investment objective for the medium to long term. We will continue to evaluate opportunities that we believe may generate income, enhance returns and/or reduce risk wherever possible.

## POTENTIAL RISKS

The Manager believes the following risks may impact the performance of the Fund: leverage, highly volatile markets, interest rate changes, equity risk, and currency and exchange rate risk. Please read the "Risk Factors" section in the Offering Memorandum for a more detailed description of all the relevant risks.



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<sup>1</sup> Generally available through dealers who have entered into a Portland Series F Dealer Agreement.

<sup>2</sup> Accredited Investors as defined under National Instrument 45-106.

<sup>3</sup> For investors who are not Accredited Investors, the additional investment must be in an amount that is not less than \$500 if the investor initially acquired Units for an acquisition cost of not less than \$150,000 and, at the time of the additional investment, the Units then held by the investor have an acquisition cost or a net asset value equal to at least \$150,000, or another exemption is available.

<sup>4</sup> The Manager reserves the right to change the targeted annual distributions at its discretion.

<sup>5</sup> Other Net Assets (Liabilities) refers to all other assets and liabilities in the Fund excluding portfolio investments and cash.

<sup>6</sup> Leverage ratio is calculated as the total borrowing divided by the fair value of securities and does not take into account other Net Assets (Liabilities) as defined above.

Commissions, trailing commissions, management fees and expenses all may be associated with investments. The indicated rates of return are the historical annual compounded total returns including changes in unit value and reinvestment of all distributions and does not take into account sales, redemptions, distributions or optional charges or income taxes payable by any securityholder in respect of a participating fund that would have reduced returns. Funds are not guaranteed, their values change frequently and past performance may not be repeated.

The PORTLAND GLOBAL ARISTOCRATS PLUS FUND (the "Fund") is not publicly offered. It is only available under Offering Memorandum and other exemptions to investors who meet certain eligibility or minimum purchase requirements such as "accredited investors". Information herein pertaining to the Fund is solely for the purpose of providing information and is not to be construed as a public offering in any jurisdiction of Canada. The offering of Units of the Fund is made pursuant to an Offering Memorandum and the information contained herein is a summary only and is qualified by the more detailed information in the Offering Memorandum.

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