

# CI 1-5 Year Laddered Government Strip Bond Index ETF

Management Report of Fund Performance for the period/year ended December 31, 2024

This annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete annual financial statements of the investment fund. You can get a copy of the annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling 1-800-792-9355, by writing to us at CI Investments Inc., 15 York Street, Second Floor, Toronto, ON, M5J 0A3 or by visiting our website at [www.ci.com](http://www.ci.com) or SEDAR+ at [www.sedarplus.ca](http://www.sedarplus.ca).

Securityholders may also contact us using one of these methods to request a copy of the investment fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosure.

## INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE AND STRATEGIES

The investment objective of the CI 1-5 Year Laddered Government Strip Bond Index ETF (the Fund) is to replicate, to the extent possible, the performance of FTSE Canada 1-5 year Laddered Government Strip Bond Index™ (the Benchmark or the Index), net of expenses. The Fund invests primarily in strip bonds, both coupons and residuals, derived from Canadian federal and provincial government bonds issued domestically in Canada and denominated in Canadian dollars.

For a complete discussion of the Fund's investment objective and strategies, please refer to the Fund's most recently filed simplified prospectus.

## RISK

No changes affecting the overall level of risk associated with investing in the Fund were made during the period/year. The risks of the Fund remain as discussed in the Fund's most recently filed simplified prospectus or its amendments. The Manager reviews the risk rating for the Fund on an annual basis, at a minimum, based on the methodology mandated by the Canadian Securities Administrators to determine the risk level of the Fund. Any change to the risk rating made during the period/year was as a result of such review and was not a result of any change to the investment objective, strategies or management of the Fund.

## RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The Fund's net assets decreased by \$45.2 million to \$31.3 million from December 31, 2023 to December 31, 2024. The Fund had net redemptions of \$45.4 million for the year. The portfolio's performance increased assets by \$1.5 million. The Fund paid distributions totalling \$1.3 million. Common Units returned 5.1% after fees and expenses for the one-year period ended December 31, 2024. Over the same time period, the Fund's benchmark returned 5.3%. The benchmark is the FTSE Canada 1-5 Year Laddered Government Strip Bond Index (TR) (the Benchmark or the Index).

During the year, equity markets rebounded, with the S&P 500 Index rising 25%, hitting an all-time high. Performance was led by communication services and information technology stocks. Financials also performed well as the U.S. Federal Reserve Board (Fed) cut interest rates. The Fed cut its federal funds rate by 100 basis points (bps) over the year, taking the federal funds rate from 5.50% to 4.50%.

Canadian equities, as measured by the S&P/TSX Composite Index, hit an all-time high in 2024, rising 21.7% for the year. The information technology, financials and energy sectors led performance. The Bank of Canada (BoC) brought its overnight lending rate down by 175 bps, from 5.00% to 3.25%, over the course of the year.

Canadian two-year and five-year bond yields fell 96 bps and 21 bps, to 2.93% and 2.97%, respectively. Conversely, 10-year and 30-year yields rose 13 bps and 31 bps, to 3.21% and 3.31%, respectively. Yield curves reverted to a positive slope as interest rate cuts pulled down front-end yields.

In November, corporate credit spreads (the difference in yields between corporate bonds and government bonds of similar maturity) narrowed to all-time lows in the United States, signalling investor optimism for corporate earnings and the U.S. economy.

Inflation in Canada declined significantly, from 3.4% to 1.9%. In the United States, inflation declined from 3.4% to 2.7%, still well above the Fed's 2% target.

The Fund slightly underperformed its benchmark for the year. There were no holdings that detracted from the Fund's performance, but the holdings that contributed the least to the Fund's performance were Government of Canada 0.0% Jun. 1, 2025, Hydro-Québec 0.0% Feb. 15, 2025 and Province of Ontario 0.0% Jun. 2, 2025 bonds.

Exposure to government bonds contributed to the Fund's performance. Top individual contributors to the Fund's performance included holdings in Hydro-Québec 0.0% Aug. 15, 2028, Province of Ontario 0.0% Dec. 2, 2028 and Province of Ontario 0.0% Jun. 2, 2029 bonds.

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*Management Report of Fund Performance for the period/year ended December 31, 2024*

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## **RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

In the United States, the Overnight Index Swap market is pricing in only 35 bps total in interest rate cuts in 2025, with no cuts until June. In Canada, 67 bps in interest rate cuts have been priced in for next year, anticipating a 25-bp cut in both January and June.

Donald Trump's economic plan appears to combine corporate tax cuts with massive tariff increases. If enacted, it could create massive budget deficits (US\$5.8 trillion over 10 years) and would likely result in even higher bond yields due to the higher supply of government bonds issued to finance it. Trump's protectionist plans for raising tariffs would likely generate retaliatory tariffs, which could drive U.S. inflation higher and could seriously damage the Canadian economy. This would be detrimental to both government bonds and corporate bonds and equities.

Slower economic activity than expected would hurt equities and could widen out corporate spreads from historic lows, causing corporate bonds to underperform versus government bonds.

### **Privatization**

On November 25, 2024, CI Financial Corp. announced that it had entered into a definitive agreement with an affiliate of Mubadala Capital, the alternative asset management arm of Mubadala Investment Company, to acquire all issued and outstanding common shares of CI Financial Corp., other than shares held by members of senior management of CI Financial Corp. who enter into equity rollover agreements. Subject to court and shareholder approvals, regulatory clearances and other customary closing conditions, the transaction is expected to close in the second quarter of 2025. The Manager does not expect the transaction to impact it or the Fund's business, operations or affairs at this time.

### **Merger**

On November 18, 2024, CI Global Asset Management (CI GAM) announced a proposal for CI Short Term Government Bond Index Class ETF to be merged into CI 1-5 Year Laddered Government Strip Bond Index ETF. If approved, the Merger will take place on or after April 4, 2025.

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## RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

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

CI Investments Inc. is the Manager, Portfolio Manager and Trustee of the Fund. CI Investments Inc. is a subsidiary of CI Financial Corp. The Manager, in consideration of management fees, provided management services required in the day-to-day operations of the Fund.

Management fee rate/rates as at December 31, 2024, for Series/Class or each of the Series/Classes, as applicable, is/are shown below:

	<b>Annual management fee rate (%):</b>
<b>Common Units</b>	0.200

The Manager received \$0.1 million in management fees for the year.

### **Management Fees**

100% of total management fees were used to pay for investment management and other general administration.

### **Independent Review Committee**

The Manager, in respect of the Fund, received the following standing instructions from the Independent Review Committee (IRC) with respect to related party transactions:

The applicable standing instructions require, amongst others, that related party transactions be conducted in accordance with the Manager's policies and procedures and applicable law and that the Manager reports related party transactions periodically to the IRC and advise the IRC of any material breach of such policies. The Manager's policies and procedures require that investment decisions in respect of related party transactions (a) are free from any influence by an entity related to the Manager and without taking into account any consideration relevant to an entity related to the Manager; (b) represent the business judgment of the Manager, uninfluenced by considerations other than the best interests of the Fund; (c) do not exceed the limitations of the applicable legislation; and (d) achieve a fair and reasonable result for the Fund.

Except as otherwise noted above under Related Party Transactions section, the Fund was not a party to any related party transactions during the period/year ended December 31, 2024. If the Fund invested in related party transactions, it relied on the IRC's standing instructions regarding related party transactions during this reporting period/year.

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## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The following table/tables shows/show selected key financial information about the Fund and is/are intended to help you understand the Fund's financial performance for the past five period(s)/year(s), as applicable.

Net Assets per Unit (\$)	Increase (decrease) from operations:					Distributions:					Net assets at the end of the period/year shown	
	Net assets at the beginning of period/year	Total revenue	Total expenses (excluding distributions)	Realized gains (losses) for the period/year	Unrealized gains (losses) for the period/year	Total increase (decrease) from operations	From net investment income (excluding dividends)	From dividends	From capital gains	Return of capital		Total distributions
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Common Units</b> <sup>(1)(2)(3)(4)</sup>												
Commencement of operations June 05, 2013												
Listed TSX: BXF												
Dec. 31, 2024	9.94	0.32	(0.02)	(0.25)	0.31	0.36	(0.31)	-	-	(0.02)	(0.33)	10.10
Dec. 31, 2023	9.76	0.27	(0.02)	(0.22)	0.42	0.45	(0.25)	-	-	(0.01)	(0.26)	9.94
Dec. 31, 2022	10.32	0.19	(0.02)	(0.17)	(0.40)	(0.40)	(0.16)	-	-	-	(0.16)	9.76
Dec. 31, 2021	10.58	0.17	(0.02)	0.02	(0.29)	(0.12)	(0.14)	-	-	-	(0.14)	10.32
Dec. 31, 2020	10.23	0.20	(0.02)	0.15	0.25	0.58	(0.18)	-	-	-	(0.18)	10.58

(1) This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements.

(2) Net assets per unit and distributions per unit are based on the actual number of units outstanding for the relevant Series/Class at the relevant time. The increase (decrease) in net assets from operations per unit is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding for the relevant Series/Class over the fiscal period/year.

(3) Distributions are automatically reinvested in additional units of the Fund.

(4) This information is provided for the period(s)/year(s) ended December 31.

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## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS (cont'd)

### Ratios and Supplemental Data

	Total net assets \$000's	Number of units outstanding 000's	Management expense ratio before taxes %	Harmonized sales tax %	Management expense ratio after taxes %	Effective HST rate for the period/ year %	Trading expense ratio %	Portfolio turnover rate %	Closing market price \$
<b>Common Units</b> <small>(13252846500)</small>									
Commencement of operations June 05, 2013									
Listed TSX: BXF									
Dec. 31, 2024	31,325	3,100	0.20	0.02	0.22	8.63	-	28.60	10.11
Dec. 31, 2023	76,516	7,700	0.20	0.02	0.22	11.43	-	43.77	9.97
Dec. 31, 2022	106,853	10,950	0.20	0.02	0.22	11.16	0.01	41.96	9.77
Dec. 31, 2021	133,614	12,950	0.20	0.02	0.22	11.09	0.01	26.49	10.32
Dec. 31, 2020	113,760	10,750	0.20	0.02	0.22	10.78	-	37.31	10.59

(1) This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements.

(2) Management expense ratio is calculated based on expenses charged to the Fund (excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs) and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net assets for the period/year, including the Fund's proportionate share of any underlying fund(s) expenses, if applicable. The Effective HST tax rate is calculated using the attribution percentage for each province based on unitholder residency and can be different from 13%.

(3) The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net assets during the period/year, including the Fund's proportionate share of such expenses of any underlying fund(s), if applicable.

(4) The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio advisor manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the fiscal period/year. The higher a Fund's portfolio turnover rate in a period/year, the greater the trading costs payable by the Fund in the period/year, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the period/year. There is not necessarily a relationship between a higher turnover rate and the performance of a Fund. Portfolio turnover rate is calculated by dividing the lesser of the cost of purchases and the proceeds of sales of portfolio securities for the period/year, and excluding cash and short-term investments maturing in less than one year, and before assets acquired from a merger, if applicable, by the average of the monthly fair value of investments during the period/year.

(5) This information is provided for the period(s)/year(s) ended December 31.

(6) Closing market price.

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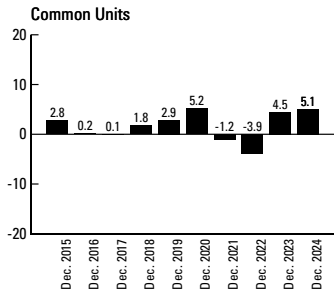
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## PAST PERFORMANCE

This section describes how the Fund has performed in the past. Remember, past returns do not indicate how the Fund will perform in the future. The information shown assumes that distributions made by the Fund in the period(s)/year(s) shown were reinvested in additional units of the Fund or relevant Series/Class of the Fund, as applicable. In addition, the information does not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or other optional charges that would have reduced returns or performance.

### Year-by-Year Returns

The following chart/charts shows/show the Fund's annual performance for each of the period(s)/year(s) shown and illustrates/illustrate how the Fund's performance has changed from period/year to period/year. In percentage terms, the chart/charts shows/show how much an investment made on the first day of each financial period/year would have grown or decreased by the last day of each financial period/year, except where noted.



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## Annual Compound Returns

The following table shows the Fund's annual compound returns for each year indicated, compared to the ICE BofA Diversified Canada Government Bond Index (TR) and the FTSE Canada 1-5 Year Laddered Government Strip Bond Index (TR).

The ICE BofA Diversified Canada Government Bond Index encompasses Canadian dollar-denominated investment grade government bonds, including sovereign and quasi-government debt.

The FTSE Canada 1-5 Year Laddered Government Strip Bond Index measures potential returns of a portfolio of strip bonds, both coupons and residuals, derived from bonds issued by the Government of Canada (including Crown Corporations) and Canadian provincial bonds (including provincially guaranteed debt securities) issued domestically in Canada and denominated in Canadian dollars based upon five distinct annual groupings of maturity.

A discussion of the performance of the Fund as compared to the benchmark is found in the Results of Operations section of this report.

	One Year (%)	Three Years (%)	Five Years (%)	Ten Years (%)	Since Inception (%)
<b>Common Units</b>	5.1	1.8	1.9	1.7	n/a
ICE BofA Diversified Canada Government Bond Index (TR)	3.4	(1.6)	0.2	1.9	n/a
FTSE Canada 1-5 Year Laddered Government Strip Bond Index (TR)	5.3	2.0	2.1	n/a*	n/a

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\*FTSE Canada 1-5 Year Laddered Government Strip Bond Index (TR) data is not available.

The ETF is not sponsored, endorsed, sold or promoted by FTSE Global Debt Capital Markets Inc. ("FTDCM"), FTSE International Limited ("FTSE"), the London Stock Exchange Group companies (the "Exchange") or TSX Inc. (together with FTDCM, FTSE and the Exchange the "Licensor Parties"). The Licensor Parties make no warranty or representation whatsoever, expressly or impliedly, either as to the results to be obtained from the use of the FTSE Canada 1-5 Year Laddered Government Bond Index™ (the "Index") and/or the figure at which the said Index stands at any particular time on any given day or otherwise. The Index is compiled and calculated by FTDCM and all copyright in the Index values and constituent lists vests in FTDCM. The Licensor Parties shall not be liable (whether in negligence or otherwise) to any person for any error in the Index and the Licensor Parties shall not be under any obligation to advise any person of any error therein. "FTSE Canada 1-5 Year Laddered Government Bond Index™" is a trademark of FTSE Global Debt Capital Markets Inc., incorporating "FTSE®" under license. "FTSE®" is a trademark of the London Stock Exchange Group companies and is used by FTDCM under license.

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## SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO as at December 31, 2024

Category	% of Net Assets	Category	% of Net Assets	Category	% of Net Assets
<b>Country allocation</b>		<b>Sector allocation</b>		<b>Asset allocation</b>	
Canada .....	100.0	Provincial Bonds .....	80.3	Provincial Bonds .....	80.3
Cash & Cash Equivalents .....	0.0	Canadian Government Bonds .....	19.7	Canadian Government Bonds .....	19.7
Other Net Assets (Liabilities) .....	0.0	Cash & Cash Equivalents .....	0.0	Cash & Cash Equivalents .....	0.0
		Other Net Assets (Liabilities) .....	0.0	Other Net Assets (Liabilities) .....	0.0

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The summary of investment portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund and updates will be available on a quarterly basis.



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## SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO as at December 31, 2024 (cont'd)

Top 25 Holdings	% of Net Assets
Hydro-Quebec, Zero Coupon, August 15, 2028 .....	4.7
Province of Ontario, Zero Coupon, June 02, 2029 .....	4.7
Province of Ontario, Zero Coupon, December 02, 2028 .....	4.6
Hydro-Quebec, Zero Coupon, February 15, 2029 .....	4.6
Government of Canada, Zero Coupon, June 01, 2029 .....	4.6
Hydro-Quebec, Coupon Strip, February 15, 2030 .....	4.1
Province of Ontario, Coupon Strip, December 02, 2029 .....	4.1
Hydro-Quebec, Coupon Strip, August 15, 2029 .....	4.1
Province of Ontario, Coupon Strip, June 02, 2030 .....	4.1
Government of Canada, Coupon Strip, June 01, 2030 .....	4.1
Hydro-Quebec, Coupon Strip, February 15, 2028 .....	4.1
Province of Ontario, Coupon Strip, June 02, 2028 .....	4.0
Province of Ontario, Coupon Strip, December 02, 2027 .....	4.0
Hydro-Quebec, Coupon Strip, August 15, 2027 .....	4.0
Government of Canada, Coupon Strip, June 01, 2028 .....	3.9
Hydro-Quebec, Coupon Strip, August 15, 2026 .....	3.8
Province of Ontario, Coupon Strip, June 02, 2027 .....	3.8
Hydro-Quebec, Coupon Strip, February 15, 2027 .....	3.7
Province of Ontario, Coupon Strip, December 02, 2026 .....	3.7
Government of Canada, Coupon Strip, June 01, 2027 .....	3.7
Hydro-Quebec, Coupon Strip, August 15, 2025 .....	3.6
Province of Ontario, Coupon Strip, December 02, 2025 .....	3.6
Hydro-Quebec, Coupon Strip, February 15, 2026 .....	3.6
Province of Ontario, Coupon Strip, June 02, 2026 .....	3.5
Government of Canada, Coupon Strip, June 01, 2026 .....	3.4
<b>Total Net Assets (in \$000's)</b>	<b>\$31,325</b>

The summary of investment portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund and updates will be available on a quarterly basis.

### A NOTE ON FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This report may contain forward-looking statements about the Fund, its future performance, strategies or prospects, and possible future Fund action. The words "may," "could," "should," "would," "suspect," "outlook," "believe," "plan," "anticipate," "estimate," "expect," "intend," "forecast," "objective," and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance. Forward-looking statements involve inherent risks and uncertainties, both about the Fund and general economic factors, so it is possible that predictions, forecasts, projections and other forward-looking statements will not be achieved. We caution you not to place undue reliance on these statements as a number of important factors could cause actual events or results to differ materially from those expressed or implied in any forward-looking statement made by the Fund. These factors include, but are not limited to, general economic, political and market factors in Canada, the United States and internationally, interest and foreign exchanges rates, global equity and capital markets, business competition, technological changes, changes in laws and regulations, judicial or regulatory judgments, legal proceedings and catastrophic events.

The above list of important factors that may affect future results is not exhaustive. Before making any investment decisions, we encourage you to consider these and other factors carefully. All opinions contained in forward-looking statements are subject to change without notice and are provided in good faith but without legal responsibility.