

# CI Yield Enhanced Canada Short-Term Aggregate Bond Index ETF

Management Report of Fund Performance for the period/year ended December 31, 2023

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 Yield Enhanced Canada Short-Term Aggregate Bond Index ETF (the Fund) is to track, to the extent possible, the price and yield performance of the Bloomberg Canadian Short Aggregate Enhanced Yield Index (the Benchmark or the Index) before fees and expenses. The Index is designed to broadly capture the short-term Canadian investment grade fixed income securities market while seeking to enhance yield within desired risk parameters and constraints.

The investment strategy of the Fund is to invest in and hold a proportionate share of the constituent securities of the Index or otherwise invest in a manner intended to track the price and yield performance of the Index. The Fund may also invest in or use certain other securities to obtain exposure to the price and yield performance of the Index.

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 increased by \$3.4 million to \$44.0 million from December 31, 2022 to December 31, 2023. The Fund had net sales of \$2.2 million for the year. The portfolio's performance increased assets by \$2.5 million. The Fund paid distributions totalling \$1.3 million. Non-Hedged units returned 5.2% after fees and expenses for the one-year period ended December 31, 2023. Over the same time period, the Fund's benchmark returned 8.3%. The benchmark is the Bloomberg Canadian Aggregate Short Enhanced Yield Total Return Index (The Benchmark or The Index).

During the year, central banks continued to tighten monetary policy to combat inflation. The Bank of Canada (BoC) raised its overnight rate by 50 basis points (bps) to 5.00%. The U.S. Federal Reserve Board raised the federal funds rate by 150 bps to 5.50%. Yield curves remained inverted. In Canada, bond yields declined somewhat, with the two-, 10- and 30-year yields declining 16 bps, 19 bps and 25 bps, respectively.

Inflation in Canada dropped for the year, from 6.3% to 3.1% (for November 2023). Inflation in the United States showed a similar pattern, down to 3.1% from 6.5%.

Credit spreads (the difference between the yield on corporate bonds over government bonds) on Canadian corporate bonds tightened somewhat, by approximately 30 bps. Credit spreads on provincial bonds were barely changed, down 8 bps in aggregate.

The Fund underperformed its benchmark for the year. The largest individual detractors from the Fund's performance were positions in Province of Ontario 3.6% Mar. 8, 2028, Canada Housing Trust No. 1 2.65% Mar. 15, 2028 and Province of Ontario 2.9% Jun. 2, 2028 bonds.

Top individual contributors to the Fund's performance included holdings in Government of Canada 0.5% Sep. 1, 2025, Canada Housing Trust No. 1 2.35% Jun. 15, 2027 and Canada Housing Trust No. 1 1.9% Sep. 15, 2026 bonds.

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

There is risk of a recession in 2024. An inverted yield curve has proven to be an accurate leading indicator for recession. This would benefit bond yields overall if the BoC began a monetary easing program by lowering the overnight interest rate and could cause the yield curve to revert to a positive slope. However, if a recession were to occur, it would likely cause credit spreads on corporate and provincial bonds to widen, which would result in underperformance of those asset classes relative to federal government bonds. While the timing and severity of a recession is difficult to predict, some analysts are predicting a soft landing, meaning slower economic growth but with no recession.

In Canada for 2024, the Overnight Index Swap (OIS) curve is pricing in interest rate cuts from the BoC totalling 100 bps starting in April. This would take the BoC's overnight rate from 5.00% to end the year at 4.00%. The U.S. OIS curve is showing a similar outlook, with a total of 140 bps in interest rate cuts forecasted to take the federal funds rate to 4.00% by year-end 2024.

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In the Fall Economic Statement, the Dept of Finance estimated that the net federal debt to GDP ratio would continue to rise this year and next, from 41.7% to 42.7%. This projection may prove to be a bit optimistic as it assumes no decrease in spending and (as this government has done since elected in 2015) relies on GDP growth to achieve this lower ratio. While not ideal for bond investors, as it ensures increased supply of government bonds (an additional \$38.4b by their estimate), the amount of added debt is likely to be manageable and absorbed by the bond market.

## **Amendment to the Declaration of Trust**

Effective May 30, 2023, the declaration of trust for the Fund was amended, mainly to conform with current practice within the securities industry and to update the benchmarks names for certain Funds. The amendment does not adversely affect the rights, privileges or interests of the unitholders. For details and more information, please refer to the Fund's profile page on [www.sedarplus.ca](http://www.sedarplus.ca).

## **RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

### **Manager, Investment Advisor and Trustee**

CI Investments Inc. is the Manager, Investment Advisor 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, 2023, for Series/Class or each of the Series/Classes, as applicable, is/are shown below:

	<b>Annual management fee rate (%):</b>
<b>Non-Hedged Units</b>	0.180

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, 2023. 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>Non-Hedged Units</b> <sup>(1)(2)(3)(4)</sup>												
Commencement of operations June 22, 2017												
Listed TSE: CAGS												
Dec. 31, 2023	45.16	1.40	(0.09)	(0.74)	1.81	2.38	(1.22)	-	-	-	(1.22)	46.28
Dec. 31, 2022	48.57	1.18	(0.10)	(3.72)	(0.66)	(3.30)	(1.21)	-	-	-	(1.21)	45.16
Dec. 31, 2021	50.12	1.16	(0.10)	0.04	(1.30)	(0.20)	(1.00)	-	-	-	(1.00)	48.57
Dec. 31, 2020	49.10	1.39	(0.10)	0.66	0.37	2.32	(1.29)	-	-	-	(1.29)	50.12
Dec. 31, 2019	48.45	1.50	(0.10)	0.27	0.36	2.03	(1.39)	-	-	-	(1.39)	49.10

(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	Number of units outstanding	Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions after taxes	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
	\$000's	000's	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	\$
<b>Non-Hedged Units</b> <sup>(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)(6)</sup>										
Commencement of operations June 22, 2017										
Listed TSX: CAGS										
Dec. 31, 2023	43,969	950	0.19	0.18	0.01	0.19	5.50	0.01	85.55	46.23
Dec. 31, 2022	40,648	900	0.19	0.18	0.01	0.19	5.65	0.03	75.42	45.18
Dec. 31, 2021	104,433	2,150	0.19	0.18	0.01	0.19	5.71	0.02	126.31	48.49
Dec. 31, 2020	77,680	1,550	0.19	0.18	0.01	0.19	6.24	-	108.11	50.05
Dec. 31, 2019	103,104	2,100	0.21	n/a <sup>^</sup>	n/a <sup>^</sup>	0.20	n/a <sup>^</sup>	-	50.00	49.15

(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.

<sup>^</sup>Historical information pertaining to HST is not available.

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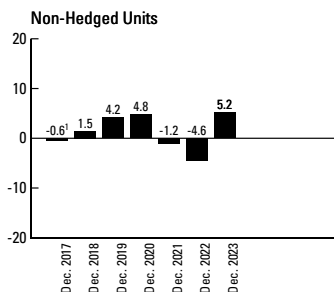
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## PAST PERFORMANCE

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.



<sup>1</sup> 2017 return is for the period from June 22, 2017 to December 31, 2017.

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## Annual Compound Returns

The following table shows the Fund's annual compound returns for each year indicated, compared to the Bloomberg Canadian Short Aggregate Enhanced Yield Index and the Bloomberg Canadian Short Aggregate Composite Index.

The Bloomberg Canadian Short Aggregate Enhanced Yield Index provides exposure to short term investment grade Canadian bonds including Treasury, corporate and ABS/MBS debt. Using a screening process and weighting methodology, the Index reweights the various subgroups to achieve a higher yield compared to its parent Index.

The Bloomberg Canadian Short Aggregate Composite Index is a market-value weighted combination of Treasury, government-related and corporate securities with 1-5 remaining years to 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>Non-Hedged Units</b>	5.2	(0.3)	1.6	n/a	1.4
Bloomberg Canadian Short Aggregate Enhanced Yield Index (USD)	8.3	(0.5)	2.2	n/a	(0.4)
Bloomberg Canadian Short Aggregate Composite Index (USD)	6.6	0.3	2.4	n/a	1.6

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## SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO as at December 31, 2023

Category	% of Net Assets	Category	% of Net Assets	Top 25 Holdings	% of Net Assets
<b>Country allocation</b>		<b>Sector allocation</b>			
Canada .....	94.7	Corporate Bonds .....	61.8	Government of Canada, 0.5%, September 01, 2025 .....	2.3
U.S.A. ....	4.1	Canadian Government Bonds .....	24.0	Government of Canada, 0.25%, March 01, 2026 .....	1.8
Other Net Assets (Liabilities) .....	0.6	Provincial Bonds .....	12.3	Province of Ontario, 2.65%, February 05, 2025 .....	1.7
Australia .....	0.3	Municipal Bonds .....	0.8	Canada Housing Trust No. 1, 1.8%, December 15, 2024 .....	1.7
U.K. ....	0.2	Other Net Assets (Liabilities) .....	0.6	Canada Housing Trust No. 1, Series MAR, 0.95%, June 15, 2025 .....	1.5
Jersey .....	0.1	Foreign Government Bonds .....	0.5	Province of Ontario, 2.6%, June 02, 2025 .....	1.4
Cash & Cash Equivalents .....	0.0	Cash & Cash Equivalents .....	0.0	Canada Housing Trust No. 1, 1.25%, June 15, 2026 .....	1.4
				Canada Housing Trust No. 1, 2.35%, June 15, 2027 .....	1.3
				Canada Housing Trust No. 1, 3.6%, December 15, 2027 .....	1.1
				Canada Housing Trust No. 1, 1.9%, September 15, 2026 .....	1.0
				Government of Canada, 1%, September 01, 2026 .....	1.0
				Government of Canada, 4.5%, November 01, 2025 .....	1.0
				Government of Canada, 3.5%, August 01, 2025 .....	1.0
				Toronto-Dominion Bank (The), 2.67%, April 06, 2033 .....	0.9
				Government of Canada, 1.25%, March 01, 2025 .....	0.9
				Government of Canada, 3.75%, May 01, 2025 .....	0.8
				Province of Ontario, 2.6%, June 02, 2027 .....	0.8
				Government of Canada, 3.75%, February 01, 2025 .....	0.8
				Canada Housing Trust No. 1, 2.55%, March 15, 2025 .....	0.7
				Toronto-Dominion Bank (The), Variable Rate, April 22, 2030 .....	0.7
				Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, 2.75%, March 07, 2025 .....	0.7
				Royal Bank of Canada, 3.37%, March 24, 2025 .....	0.7
				Bank of Montreal, Variable Rate, June 17, 2030 .....	0.7
				Government of Canada, 2.25%, June 01, 2025 .....	0.7
				Government of Canada, 1.5%, June 01, 2026 .....	0.7
				<b>Total Net Assets (in \$000's)</b> .....	<b>\$43,969</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.