



# **BRIDGEHOUSE**

*Independent Platform*

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**Brandes Greystone Lazard Sionna Morningstar**

2017 Annual Management Report  
of Fund Performance

Morningstar Strategic Canadian Equity Fund





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## MORNINGSTAR STRATEGIC CANADIAN EQUITY FUND

*This annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete annual financial statements of the Fund. The annual financial statements are in a separate booklet. You may obtain a copy of the annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling toll-free 1.888.861.9998, by writing to us at Bridgehouse Asset Managers, 33 Yonge Street, Suite 300, Toronto, ON, M5E 1G4, or by visiting our website: [www.bridgehousecanada.com](http://www.bridgehousecanada.com) or the SEDAR website: [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).*

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

### MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION OF FUND PERFORMANCE

#### Investment Objective and Strategies

The objective of the Fund is to achieve long-term capital growth by investing primarily in the equity securities of Canadian issuers.

Morningstar Associates, Inc. ("Morningstar") invests in liquid Canadian companies across the market capitalization spectrum using a disciplined rules-based process based on a combination of diversified factors such as value, quality, reasonable risk and momentum.

The Fund will invest in Canadian companies with allocations limited to 5% at time of purchase, and with a typical exposure of up to 30% in any one Global Industry Classification Standard ("GICS") sector.

#### Risk

As an investor in this Fund, you should be prepared for short-term performance fluctuations, and be a patient, long-term holder.

There were no significant changes to the level or type of risk you would expect from the Fund over the course of the year. It continues to have a medium risk level. Refer to the Fund's simplified prospectus for a complete list of all risks.

#### Results of Operations from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017

##### **Markets & Effect**

Equity markets delivered positive returns in 2017 with the S&P/TSX Composite Index returning 9.1% for the year and the MSCI AC World Index – ex Canada returning 16.1%. Fixed income markets were more muted during the year with the FTSE TMX Canada Universe Bond Index returning 2.5% and the Citi WGBI Index returning 0.4%.

As valuation-driven, contrarian investors, Morningstar has allocated capital to focus on both capital preservation and in asset classes where they believe valuations are attractive for long-term returns. For example, valuations in the United States continue to remain higher relative to other regions of the world and as such, the Fund remains underweight to U.S. equities relative to the benchmark. Morningstar remains confident that their selection of investment managers and ETFs are positioned well for a challenging environment of high valuations in many equity markets and the threat of rising interest rates in fixed income.

##### **Performance**

The Fund's Series A Units outperformed its benchmark, gaining 13.4% versus a gain of 9.1% for the S&P/TSX Composite Index (the "Index").

Over the course of the year, the biggest contributors to the Fund's positive performance versus the benchmark was a zero or minimal weighting in the energy sector, and successful stock selection within the materials sector, through holding several wood products companies.

##### **Asset Mix**

At December 31, 2017, equities made up 96.5%, and approximately 3.5% was in cash and other net assets.

The Fund's most significant industry exposure change was an decrease in holdings in containers & packaging to 2.7% from 8.4% at December 31, 2016.

### **Flows & Fees**

The Fund's Net Asset Value increased to \$16.2 million at December 31, 2017, from \$3.9 million at December 31, 2016. Of this change, an increase of \$1.1 million was due to positive performance (net of investment income) and an increase of \$11.2 million was due to inflows.

For Series A units, the annualized management expense ratio ("MER") at December 31, 2017 is 1.96%, compared to 1.98% at December 31, 2016.

### **Recent Developments**

There are no known changes at this time to the strategic positioning of the Fund, the manager, or portfolio sub-advisor.

### **International Financial Reporting Standards**

IFRS 9, "Financial Instruments" ("IFRS 9")—The International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) issued IFRS 9 to replace IAS 39, "Financial Instruments—Recognition and Measurement". IFRS 9 introduces a model for classification and measurement, a single, forward-looking 'expected loss' impairment model and a substantially reformed approach to hedge accounting. The new single, principle based approach for determining the classification of financial assets is driven by cash flow characteristics and the business model in which an asset is held. The new model also results in a single impairment model being applied to all financial instruments, which will require more timely recognition of expected credit losses. It also includes changes in respect of own credit risk in measuring liabilities elected to be measured at fair value, so that gains caused by the deterioration of an entity's own credit risk on such liabilities are no longer recognized in profit or loss.

The new standard is effective for the Fund's for its fiscal year beginning January 1, 2018. On adoption of IFRS 9 the Fund's investment portfolio will continue to be classified as fair value through profit or loss. Other financial assets which are held for collection will continue to be measured at amortised cost with no material impact expected from application of the new impairment model. As a result, the adoption of IFRS 9 is not expected to have a material impact on the Fund's financial statements."

### **Related Party Transactions**

#### **Manager and Portfolio Sub-Advisor**

The Fund is managed and advised by Brandes Investment Partners & Co., operating as Bridgehouse Asset Managers ("Bridgehouse") which provides (or arranges for) investment management, distribution, marketing and promotion of the Fund. Bridgehouse receives a monthly management fee based on the daily average net assets of each class of the Fund. In addition, Bridgehouse is entitled to be reimbursed by the Fund for certain operating expenses.

Bridgehouse has retained Morningstar Associates, Inc. ("Morningstar") as the portfolio sub-advisor to the Fund. Bridgehouse pays Morningstar an investment management fee to provide the Fund with investment management services.

#### **Forward-Looking Statements**

This document may contain forward-looking statements relating to anticipated future events, results, performance, decisions, circumstances, opportunities, risks or other matters. Forward-looking statements are statements that are predictive in nature, depend upon or refer to future events or conditions, or that include words such as "may", "will", "should", "could", "expect", "anticipate", "intend", "plan", "believe", or "estimate" or other similar expressions. These statements require us to make assumptions and are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties. Our predictions and other forward-looking statements may not prove to be accurate, or a number of factors could cause actual events, results, performance, etc. to differ materially from the targets, expectations, estimates or intentions expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements. These factors could include, among others, market and general economic conditions, interest rates, regulatory and statutory developments, the effects of competition in the geographic and business areas in which the Fund may invest, and the risks detailed from time to time in the Fund's simplified prospectus. Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance. For these reasons, it is important that readers do not place undue reliance on our forward-looking statements and should be aware that the Fund may not update any forward-looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

### **Benchmark Index**

**S&P/TSX Composite Index:** This index tracks the performance of some of the largest and most widely held Canadian stocks listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

FOR PERIODS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013 TO 2017

The following tables show selected key financial information about the Fund and are intended to help you understand the Fund's financial performance for the past five periods ended December 31 or, if shorter, the period since the inception of the Fund. In the year a fund or series is established, 'period' represents inception to December 31 of that year. In all other cases, 'period' represents year ended December 31. Inception date for Series A, D, F and I is December 20, 2016.

### The Fund's Net Assets per Unit (\$) (note 1)

		Net assets, beginning of period (\$)	Increase (decrease) from operations					Distributions				Net assets, end of period (\$)	
			Total revenue (\$)	Total expenses (\$)	Realized gains (losses) for the period (\$)	Unrealized gains (losses) for the period (\$)	Total increase (decrease) from operations (\$) (note 2)	From net investment income excluding dividends (\$)	From dividends (\$)	From capital gains (\$)	Return of capital (\$)		Total annual distribution (\$) (note 3)
Series A	2017	10.51	0.30	(0.22)	(0.11)	1.49	1.46	-	-	-	-	-	11.92
	2016	10.00	0.07	(0.05)	(0.04)	0.76	0.74	-	-	-	-	-	10.51
Series D	2017	10.53	0.27	(0.11)	(0.14)	1.47	1.49	-	(0.10)	-	-	(0.10)	11.95
	2016	10.00	0.07	(0.03)	(0.06)	0.54	0.52	-	-	-	-	-	10.53
Series F	2017	10.51	0.29	(0.10)	(0.12)	1.44	1.51	-	(0.05)	-	-	(0.05)	12.00
	2016	10.00	0.07	(0.02)	(0.04)	0.42	0.43	-	-	-	-	-	10.51
Series I	2017	10.54	0.27	-	(0.14)	1.51	1.64	-	(0.24)	-	-	(0.24)	11.94
	2016	10.00	0.07	-	(0.05)	0.54	0.56	-	(0.03)	-	-	(0.03)	10.54

- The financial information presented in the Net Assets per Unit table is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements.
- Net Assets and distributions are per Unit of a series are based on the actual number of units outstanding for that series at the relevant time. The Increase (Decrease) from Operations per Unit of a series is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding for that series during the financial period.
- Distributions per Unit of a series are based on the number of units outstanding for the series on the record dates for the distributions. Distributions were paid in cash/reinvested in additional units of the Fund or both.

## Ratios and Supplemental Data

		Total net asset value (\$000) (note 4)	Number of units outstanding (000) (note 4)	Management expense ratio (MER) (%) (note 5)	MER before waivers or absorption (%) (note 5)	Portfolio turnover rate (%) (note 6)	Trading expense ratio (%) (note 7)	Net asset value per unit (\$)
Series A	2017	5,041	423	1.96	2.41	25.68	0.09	11.92
	2016	469	45	1.98	4.09	3.97	0.33	10.51
Series D	2017	247	21	1.02	1.39	-	-	11.95
	2016	164	16	1.02	2.64	-	-	10.53
Series F	2017	10,719	893	0.85	1.22	-	-	12.00
	2016	3,071	292	0.85	2.57	-	-	10.51
Series I	2017	182	15	0.00	0.00	-	-	11.94
	2016	157	15	0.00	0.00	-	-	10.54

- The financial information presented in the Ratios and Supplemental Data table is derived from the Fund's Net Asset Value and is provided as at December 31 of the previous years shown.
- The management expense ratio ("MER") is calculated as the total management fees and operating expenses paid by each series of the Fund, including GST/HST and interest and excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs, and is expressed as a percentage of the average daily Net Asset Value of each series of the Fund on an annualized basis. Any management fee distributions paid by a series of the fund that effectively reduced management fees payable by some unitholders are not deducted from expenses to determine the overall MER of that series. The Manager, at its sole discretion, waives management fees or absorbs expenses. Such waivers and absorptions can be terminated at any time. The MERs of the Fund are shown both with and without the waiver and absorptions.
- Portfolio turnover rate is calculated at the Fund level based on the lesser of purchases or proceeds of sales of securities for the period, excluding cash, short term notes and bonds having maturity dates at acquisition of one year or less, divided by the average value of the portfolio securities for the period. 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 year. The higher a Fund's portfolio turnover rate in a year, the greater the trading costs payable by the Fund in the year, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the year. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a Fund.
- The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average Net Asset Value of the Fund. The trading expense ratio is calculated at the Fund level and applies to all series of the Fund.

## MANAGEMENT FEES

Bridgehouse Asset Managers, the Manager, provides or arranges for investment management, distribution, marketing and promotion of the Fund. In consideration for the services provided, Bridgehouse Asset Managers receives a monthly management fee based on the daily average Net Asset Value of Series A, Series D and Series F. Management fees for Series I are negotiated and paid directly by the unitholders of Series I, not by the Fund.

For the year ended December 31, 2017, the Fund paid Bridgehouse Asset Managers management fees of \$73,430. Bridgehouse uses these management fees to pay for commission payments to registered brokers and dealers and general investment management expenses. The breakdown (commission payments / investment management, administration and other) as a proportion of the management fee for each Series are:

- Series A (61% / 39%)
- Series D (21% / 79%)
- Series F (0% / 100%)
- Series I (0% / 100%)

Commission payments represent cash commissions paid by Bridgehouse Asset Managers to registered brokers and dealers during the period and includes upfront deferred sales charge and trailing commissions. This amount may, in certain circumstances, exceed 100% of the fees earned by the Bridgehouse Asset Managers during the period. For new Funds or Series the amount presented may not be indicative of longer term operating periods.

## PAST PERFORMANCE

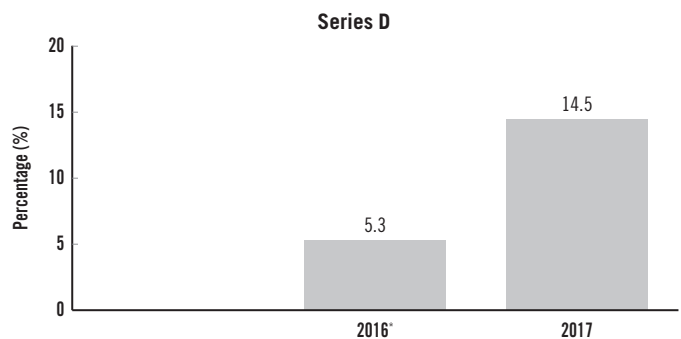
This section shows the historical performance for each series of the Fund for the periods ended December 31. Historical performance is based on the change in Net Asset Value per unit, assuming reinvestment of all distributions. Management fees and operating expenses have been taken into account before calculating performance, except in the case of Series I units where the management fee is calculated outside of the Fund. Historical performance does not take into account the potential impact on returns of purchases, redemptions, distribution fees or other optional charges or income taxes payable by an investor. Keep in mind that past performance does not necessarily indicate how the Fund will perform in the future.

### Year-by-Year Returns (%)

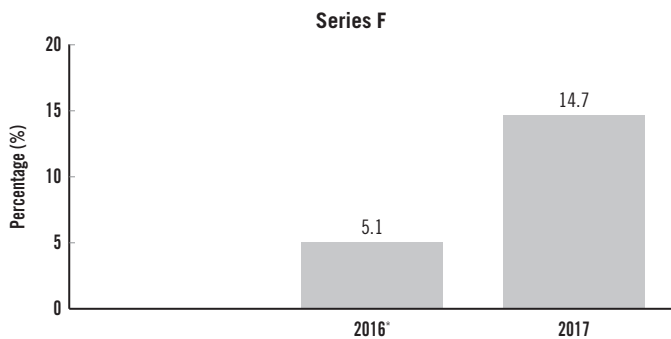
The bar chart shows the Fund's annual performance for each of the years shown. The bar chart shows how the performance of each series of the Fund has changed from year to year. It illustrates in percentage terms how much an investment in each series of the Fund made on January 1 of each year, or on the inception dates, would have grown or decreased by the last day of each financial year.



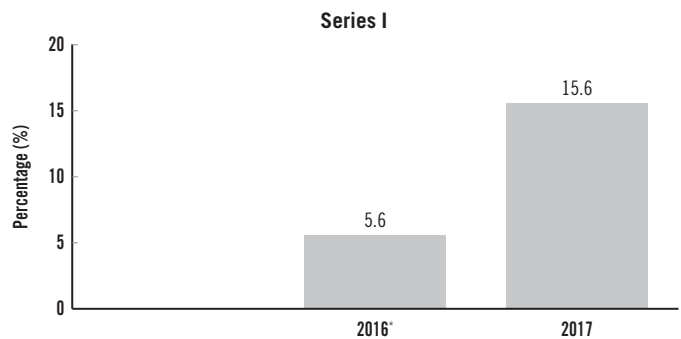
\*2016 Series A returns are from September 16, 2016



\*2016 Series D returns are from September 16, 2016



\*2016 Series F returns are from September 16, 2016



\*2016 Series I returns are from September 16, 2016



## Annual Compound Returns (%)

The table shows the historical annual compound total return for each series of the Fund as compared to the benchmarks listed below. The returns are for periods ended December 31, 2017. For a discussion of the relative performance of the Fund as compared to the index, please refer to the “Results of Operations” section in the “Management Discussion of Fund Performance”.

	1 year	Since Inception
Series A	13.42	14.55
Series D	14.45	15.53
Series F	14.67	15.56
Series I	15.62	16.70
S&P/TSX Composite Index <sup>1</sup>	9.10	12.16

<sup>1</sup>“Since inception” corresponds to inception date for Series A, D, F and I of September 16, 2016

## SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2017

### Top 25 Positions

The portfolio does not contain any short positions. The investment portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the investment fund. An updated listing is available on a quarterly basis.

Security	Fund (%)
1. Open Text Corporation	3.0
2. Great Canadian Gaming Corporation	2.9
3. Linamar Corporation	2.8
4. First National Financial Corporation	2.8
5. The Toronto-Dominion Bank	2.8
6. CAE Inc.	2.8
7. CI Financial Corp.	2.8
8. Toromont Industries, Ltd.	2.8
9. Dollarama Inc.	2.8
10. George Weston Limited	2.8
11. Royal Bank of Canada	2.8
12. Canadian Tire Corporation, Limited Cl. A	2.8
13. Canadian National Railway Company	2.8
14. Rogers Sugar, Inc.	2.8
15. Bank of Montreal	2.8
16. TMX Group Limited	2.8
17. Quebecor Inc. Cl. B	2.7
18. New Flyer Industries Inc.	2.7
19. Maple Leaf Foods Inc.	2.7
20. The North West Company Inc.	2.7
21. Constellation Software Inc.	2.7
22. SNC-Lavalin Group Inc.	2.7
23. CCL Industries Inc. Cl. B	2.7
24. Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce	2.7
25. National Bank of Canada	2.7
<b>% of Fund</b>	<b>69.4</b>
<b>Total Number of Companies</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Total Net Asset Value (\$MM)</b>	<b>\$16</b>

### Asset Mix

Asset Class	Fund (%)
Canadian Equity	96.5
Cash & Cash Equivalent	1.6
Other Net Assets	1.9
<b>% of Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Industry Exposure

Industry	Fund (%)
Commercial Banks	13.8
Diversified Financial Services	11.1
Food Products	8.3
Paper & Forest Products	8.2
Machinery	5.5
Multiline Retail	5.5
Auto Components	5.5
Media	5.4
Internet Software & Services	3.0
Hotels, Restaurants & Leisure	2.9
Aerospace & Defense	2.8
Food & Staples Retailing	2.8
Road & Rail	2.8
Software	2.7
Construction & Engineering	2.7
Containers & Packaging	2.7
Textiles, Apparel & Luxury Goods	2.7
Airlines	2.7
Electronic Equipment, Instruments & Components	2.7
Commercial Services & Supplies	2.7
Cash & Cash Equivalent	1.6
Other Net Assets	1.9
<b>% of Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total Number of Sectors</b>	<b>20</b>

### Country Exposure

Country	Fund (%)
Canada	96.5
Cash & Cash Equivalent	1.6
Other Net Assets	1.9
<b>% of Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total Number of Countries</b>	<b>1</b>

Note: Rounding to one decimal place may result in individual figures totalling more or less than 100%





Bridgehouse Funds are managed by Bridgehouse Asset Managers® and are available through registered dealers.

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