



**US FINANCIAL 15 SPLIT CORP.**

**2012 Preferred Shares**

**Class A Shares**

**ANNUAL INFORMATION FORM**

**February 23, 2023**

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## NAME, FORMATION AND HISTORY OF THE COMPANY

US Financial 15 Split Corp. (the “Company”) is a mutual fund corporation incorporated under the laws of Ontario by articles of incorporation dated December 17, 2004, as amended January 27, 2005, May 16, 2012, June 14, 2012, June 22, 2012 and December 17, 2018. The principal office address of the Company is 200 Front Street West, Suite 2510, Toronto, ON M5V 3K2.

Quadravest Capital Management Inc. (“Quadravest”) is the manager and investment manager for the Company. Quadravest is the manager and investment manager of 11 other public mutual fund corporations and one public mutual fund trust with total assets under management of approximately \$4.5 billion. The principal office address of Quadravest is at 200 Front Street West, Suite 2510, Toronto, ON M5V 3K2, and its website address is [www.quadravest.com](http://www.quadravest.com).

On February 15, 2005 and March 8, 2005, the Company completed its initial public offering of 4,875,000 preferred shares (the “original preferred shares”) and 4,875,000 class A shares (the “Class A Shares”) pursuant to a prospectus dated January 27, 2005 (the “Initial Prospectus”). The original preferred shares and the Class A Shares were listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (“TSX”) under the symbols FTU.PR.A. and FTU, respectively.

On April 16, 2012, at a special meeting of the holders of the original preferred shares and Class A Shares, shareholders of the Company approved a capital reorganization, through a further amendment of the articles of incorporation of the Company, to, among other things:

- (a) create a class of shares to be designated the 2012 Preferred Shares (referred to in this Annual Information Form as the “Preferred Shares”), such shares to have attached thereto the rights, privileges, restrictions and conditions described herein including, initially, a monthly cumulative preferential cash dividend in an amount equal to 5.25% per annum of the net asset value per Unit (as defined below) calculated as at the end of the preceding month, payable to holders of Preferred Shares of record on the last business day of such month, up to a monthly maximum dividend of \$0.04375 per Preferred Share;
- (b) permit the Company to create warrants (the “Warrants”) of two series, one series designated as the “2013 Warrants” and providing the holders thereof with the right to acquire one Preferred Share and one Class A Share (together a “Unit”) on any business day during the period commencing at market open (local time in Toronto, Ontario) on the day following the conversion date of June 25, 2012 (the “Conversion Date”) and ending at 5:00 p.m. (local time in Toronto, Ontario) on June 3, 2013 unless called prior to such date, for an exercise price of \$5.15, and one series designated as the “2014 Warrants” and providing the holders thereof with the right to acquire one Unit on any business day during the period commencing at market open (local time in Toronto, Ontario) on the day following the Conversion Date and ending at 5:00 p.m. (local time in Toronto, Ontario) on June 2, 2014 unless called prior to such date, for an exercise price of \$5.40, subject to the right to call the Warrants prior to their scheduled expiry date;
- (c) provide that, immediately after the completion of the 2012 Special Retraction Right (as defined below), each existing original preferred share would be exchanged for one Preferred Share, one 2013 Warrant and one 2014 Warrant;
- (d) extend the Termination Date (as defined below) of the Company from December 1, 2012 to, initially, December 1, 2018 and to provide holders of the original preferred shares and the Class A Shares of the Company with a special retraction right in connection with such

extension which allowed shareholders to tender one or both classes of shares and receive a retraction price based on the May 31, 2012 net asset value per Unit (the “2012 Special Retraction Right”);

- (e) decrease the discount to net asset value applicable to monthly redemptions of Preferred Shares or Class A Shares from 4% to 2% and provide for the amount of this reduced discount to be paid to Quadrainvest, and not retained by the Company;
- (f) authorize the Company to reduce Quadrainvest’s total management and administration fees from 0.85% per annum of the net asset value of the Company to 0.75% per annum;
- (g) amend the investment strategy of the Company to remove the requirement that at least 50% of the net asset value of the Company not be exposed to the U.S. dollar and permit Quadrainvest to establish, at its discretion, the amount of currency hedging from time to time;
- (h) provide the Company with a special redemption right in respect of the original preferred shares or Class A Shares in connection with the implementation of the 2012 Special Retraction Right, if necessary or desirable so as to ensure that after such implementation an equal number of original preferred shares and Class A Shares remain outstanding;
- (i) permit the Company to be terminated, in the discretion of Quadrainvest, prior to any scheduled Termination Date if the Preferred Shares or the Class A Shares are delisted on the TSX or if the net asset value of the Company declines to less than \$5,000,000;
- (j) provide for an additional extension of the term of the Company for a six year period beginning on December 1, 2018 if the board of directors of the Company (the “Board of Directors”) so determines, and for further extensions for additional terms of six years each thereafter, and to provide holders of the Preferred Shares and the Class A Shares with a Recurring Special Retraction Right (as defined below) in connection with each such extension;
- (k) provide for a special redemption of the Preferred Shares or Class A Shares in connection with any implementation of a Recurring Special Retraction Right if necessary or desirable to ensure that after any such implementation an equal number of Preferred Shares and Class A Shares remain outstanding;
- (l) amend the dividend entitlement of the Preferred Shares, effective December 1, 2018, if the term of the Company is then extended, so as to provide the Company with the right to establish the rate of cumulative preferential monthly dividends to be paid on the Preferred Shares for the six year renewal period commencing December 1, 2018, and in respect of any subsequent six year renewal term; and
- (m) provide for a subdivision or consolidation of the original preferred shares or the Preferred Shares or the Class A Shares to the extent that Quadrainvest in its discretion considers such subdivision or consolidation necessary or advisable in connection with the implementation of the 2012 Special Retraction Right or a Recurring Special Retraction Right, so as to ensure that after such implementation an equal number of original preferred shares or the Preferred Shares and Class A Shares remain outstanding.

In connection with the 2012 Special Retraction Right, more original preferred shares were tendered for retraction than Class A Shares. Since the Company was required to have an equal number of original preferred shares and Class A Shares outstanding, the Company consolidated the Class A Shares effective June 25, 2012 such that each holder of a Class A Share on such date had such share consolidated into 0.71667425851 Class A Shares, which resulted in the number of outstanding Class A Shares after such share subdivision matching the number of Preferred Shares then outstanding. Holders of original preferred shares who did not exercise the 2012 Special Retraction Right received one Preferred Share, one 2013 Warrant and one 2014 Warrant on June 25, 2012.

Regular monthly dividends on the original preferred shares were suspended for 14 months from February 2009 to March 2010. In connection with the capital reorganization, the amount of these cumulative dividend arrears were retained by the Company and the amount thereof added back to the net asset value of the Company.

A total of 2,207,399 2013 Warrants and 2,207,399 2014 Warrants were issued in the capital reorganization. The 2013 Warrants were called to expire on March 27, 2013, and a total of 1,971,600 Warrants were exercised, resulting in 1,971,600 Preferred Shares and 1,971,600 Class A Shares being issued on March 27, 2013. The 2014 Warrants expired on June 2, 2014 and during the period from December 1, 2013 to June 2, 2014, a total of 2,145,399 2014 Warrants were exercised, resulting in 2,145,399 Preferred Shares and 2,145,399 Class A Shares being issued during such period.

On September 26, 2018, the Company announced that the Board of Directors had extended the Termination Date of the Company from December 1, 2018 to December 1, 2024. As set out above, further extensions for additional terms of six years thereafter may be made in the discretion of the Board of Directors. In connection with each such extension, Shareholders will be provided with a Recurring Special Retraction Right. In connection with the extension of the Termination Date to December 1, 2024, the Company also:

- (a) amended the dividend entitlement of the Preferred Shares effective December 1, 2018 to pay a cumulative preferential monthly cash dividend at an annual rate equivalent to 10.00% of the net asset value per Unit calculated as at the end of the preceding month, payable to holders of Preferred Shares of record on the last business day of such month, up to a monthly maximum dividend of \$0.08333 per Preferred Share (equal to 10.00% of the notional issue price of the Preferred Shares of \$10.00); and
- (b) implemented a Recurring Special Retraction Right which allowed shareholders to tender one or both classes of Shares and receive a retraction price based on the November 30, 2018 net asset value per Unit (the “2018 Recurring Special Retraction Right”).

In connection with the 2018 Recurring Special Retraction Right, more Preferred Shares were tendered for retraction than Class A Shares. Since the Company is required to have an equal number of Preferred Shares and Class A Shares outstanding, the Company consolidated the Class A Shares effective December 21, 2018 such that each holder of a Class A Share on such date had such share consolidated into 0.678090368 Class A Shares, which resulted in the number of outstanding Class A Shares after such share consolidation matching the number of Preferred Shares outstanding.

Preferred Shares and the Class A Shares (collectively, the “Shares”) are issued only on the basis that an equal number of Preferred Shares and Class A Shares will be issued and outstanding at all material times. The Class A Shares and Preferred Shares are listed on the TSX under the symbols FTU and FTU.PR.B, respectively. Holders of Shares as referred to as “Shareholders” as this Annual Information Form.

## INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES

The Company's investment objectives are (i) to provide holders of Preferred Shares with cumulative preferential monthly cash dividends in an amount equal to 10.00% per annum of the net asset value per Unit calculated as at the end of the preceding month, payable to holders of Preferred Shares of record on the last business day of such month, up to a monthly maximum dividend of \$0.08333 per Preferred Share; (ii) to provide holders of Class A Shares with such dividends as the directors of the Company may from time to time determine; (iii) to return the notional issue price of \$10.00 to holders of Preferred Shares at the time of the redemption of such Shares on December 1, 2024 or such other date as the Company may terminate (the "Termination Date"), and (iv) on or about the Termination Date, to pay the holders of the Class A Shares such amounts as remain after paying the holders of the Preferred Shares the amounts owing to them.

The assets of the Company are invested in an actively managed portfolio of common shares (the "Portfolio") of the following 15 U.S. financial services companies (the "Portfolio Companies"), each of whose shares will generally represent no less than 4% and no more than 8% of the net asset value of the Company:

|                               |                                   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| American Express Company      | JPMorgan Chase & Co.              |
| Bank of America Corporation   | Morgan Stanley                    |
| Bank of New York Mellon       | PNC Financial Services Group Inc. |
| Citigroup Inc.                | Regions Financial Corp.           |
| CME Group Inc.                | State Street Corp.                |
| Fifth Third Bancorp           | Truist Financial Corp.            |
| The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. | U.S. Bancorp                      |
|                               | Wells Fargo & Company             |

Up to 20% of the net asset value of the Company may be invested in equity securities of issuers other than the Portfolio Companies. The Company may from time to time, based on Quadravest's assessment of market conditions, liquidity considerations and other considerations, hold short term debt instruments issued by the government of Canada or a province or short term commercial paper issued by Canadian corporations with a rating of at least R-1 (mid) by DBRS Limited ("DBRS") or the equivalent from another rating organization selected by Quadravest ("Permitted Debt Securities").

To supplement the dividends earned on the Portfolio and to reduce risk, the Company will from time to time write covered call options in respect of all or part of the Portfolio. The individual securities within the Portfolio which are subject to call options and the terms of such options will vary from time to time based on Quadravest's assessment of the market. The Company may also write cash covered put options or purchase call options with the effect of closing out existing call options written by the Company and may also purchase put options in order to protect the Company from declines in the market prices of the securities in the Portfolio. The Company may enter into trades to close out positions in such permitted derivatives. The Company may also use derivatives for hedging purposes or otherwise as permitted under National Instrument 81-102 *Investment Funds* ("NI 81-102"). Such permitted derivatives may include exchange traded options, futures contracts or options on futures (subject to Quadravest obtaining any necessary registrations under the *Commodity Futures Act* (Ontario)), over-the-counter options and forward contracts.

In addition to the restrictions and limitations on the Company's investing activities discussed under "*Investment Restrictions*" below, the Company will not invest in or hold:

- (a) any security that is a “taxable Canadian property” as defined in subsection 248(1) of the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) (the “Tax Act”), read without reference to paragraph (b) of such definition, if the total of all amounts each of which is the fair market value of such a property would exceed 10% of the total of all amounts each of which is the fair market value of a property of the Company; or
- (b) (i) a share of, an interest in, or a debt of a non-resident entity, an interest in or a right or option to acquire such a share, interest or debt or an interest in a partnership which holds such a share, option or right, interest or debt that would cause the Company (or partnership) to include amounts in income under section 94.1 of the Tax Act, (ii) securities of a non-resident trust other than an “exempt foreign trust” as defined in subsection 94(1) of the Tax Act, or (iii) an interest in a trust that would require the Company to report income in connection with such interest pursuant to the rules in section 94.2 of the Tax Act.

### **INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS**

The Company is subject to, and its investment portfolio is managed in accordance with, certain standard restrictions and practices prescribed by securities legislation of each of the provinces of Canada, including NI 81-102, and any deviation from these restrictions and practices requires the prior approval of the Canadian Securities Administrators of each of the provinces of Canada. These restrictions and practices are designed, in part, to ensure that the Company’s investments are diversified and relatively liquid and to ensure the proper administration of the Company.

The Company is also subject to certain additional investment restrictions or criteria that, among other things, limit the equity securities and other securities the Company may acquire in the Portfolio. The Company’s investment restrictions and criteria may not be changed without the approval of the holders of the Preferred Shares and the Class A Shares by a two-thirds majority vote at a meeting called for such purpose. See “*Description of the Shares of the Company – Acts Requiring Shareholder Approval*”. In this regard, the Company may not:

- (a) purchase equity securities of an issuer unless:
  - (i) such securities are common shares issued by a Portfolio Company or are securities convertible into or exchangeable for or that carry the right to purchase such common shares, or the purchase is permitted under clause (ii) below,
  - (ii) after such purchase, no more than 20% of the net asset value of the Company is invested in equity securities of issuers other than the Portfolio Companies, and
  - (iii) after such purchase, no more than 10% of the net asset value of the Company is invested in the equity securities of that issuer;
- (b) purchase debt securities unless such securities are Permitted Debt Securities;
- (c) write a call option in respect of any security unless such security is held by the Company at the time the option is written;
- (d) dispose of a security included in the Portfolio that is subject to a call option written by the Company unless that option has either been closed out or has expired; and

- (e) enter into any arrangement (including the acquisition of securities for the Portfolio and the writing of covered call options in respect thereof) where the main reason for entering into the arrangement is to enable the Company to receive a dividend on such securities in circumstances where, under the arrangement, someone other than the Company bears the risk of loss or enjoys the opportunity for gain or profit with respect to such securities in any material respect.

For the purposes of the restrictions set forth in paragraphs (a), (c) and (d) above, any indirect holding of securities of a Portfolio Company is aggregated with the Company's direct holdings and considered to be subject to the same restrictions.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE SHARES OF THE COMPANY**

The Company is authorized to issue an unlimited number of Preferred Shares and Class A Shares and 1,000 Class B Shares, of which as at the date of this Annual Information Form there are issued and outstanding 1,000 Class B Shares, 1,901,817 Preferred Shares and 1,901,817 Class A Shares. The attributes of the Preferred Shares and Class A Shares are described below under “*Description of the Shares of the Company – Certain Provisions of the Preferred Shares*” and “*Description of the Shares of the Company – Certain Provisions of the Class A Shares*”, respectively. The Company is permitted to issue additional Preferred Shares or Class A Shares under the provisions of NI 81-102 so long as such Preferred Shares or Class A Shares are issued at a price (a) which, so far as is reasonably practicable, does not cause dilution of the net asset value per Preferred Share or per Class A Share at the time such Shares are issued, and (b) which is at least equal to the net asset value per Preferred Share or per Class A Share most recently calculated prior to the pricing of the offering of such Shares. The Company will not issue additional Class B Shares.

### **Class B Shares**

The holders of Class B Shares are not entitled to receive dividends. The holders of the Class B Shares are entitled to one vote per share. The Class B Shares are retractable at a price of \$1.00 per share and have a nominal liquidation entitlement of \$1.00 per share. The Class B Shares rank prior to the Preferred Shares and the Class A Shares with respect to such nominal liquidation entitlement on the dissolution, liquidation or winding-up of the Company, which is held for the benefit of the holders of the Preferred Shares and the Class A Shares.

### **Certain Provisions of the Preferred Shares**

#### *Dividends*

Until November 30, 2024, the Company will pay, as and when declared by the Board of Directors, cumulative preferential monthly cash dividends in an amount equal to 10.00% per annum of the net asset value per Unit calculated as at the end of the preceding month, to a monthly maximum dividend of \$0.08333 per Preferred Share, to holders of Preferred Shares of record on the last day of each month (each a “Dividend Record Date”). Based on market conditions and the composition of the Portfolio, it is anticipated that such dividends, if paid, will consist solely of Ordinary Dividends (as defined under “*Canadian Federal Income Tax Considerations – Tax Treatment of the Company*” below).

From and after December 1, 2024, assuming the Termination Date of the Company is then extended beyond December 1, 2024, and in respect of each six year extension, if any, thereafter, the Company shall determine the rate of cumulative preferential monthly dividends to be paid on the Preferred Shares for the ensuing six year period. Such determination shall be made no later than



September 30 (or the first business day thereafter, if September 30 is not a business day) of the year in which the otherwise scheduled Termination Date is extended (the “Extension Year”), failing which the then-applicable dividend rate shall continue to apply. The dividend rate will be announced by press release (which press release will also set out a Shareholder’s entitlement to the Recurring Special Retraction Right in connection with the extension of the term of the Company).

Dividends that are declared by the Board of Directors will be payable to holders of Preferred Shares of record at 5:00 p.m. (local time in Toronto, Ontario) on the applicable Dividend Record Date with payment being made within 15 days thereafter.

Regular monthly dividends were paid to holders of the Preferred Shares for each of the months during the Company’s last fiscal year ended November 30, 2022.

#### *Rating*

The Preferred Shares are not rated.

#### *Retraction Privileges*

Preferred Shares may be surrendered at any time for retraction to Computershare Investor Services Inc. (“Computershare”), the Company’s registrar and transfer agent, but will be retracted only as of the last business day of each month (a “Retraction Date”). Preferred Shares surrendered for retraction by a Shareholder at least 10 business days prior to a Retraction Date will be retracted and the holder will receive payment on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> day following such Retraction Date (the “Retraction Payment Date”). If a holder of Preferred Shares makes such surrender after 5:00 p.m. (local time in Toronto, Ontario) on the 10<sup>th</sup> business day immediately preceding a Retraction Date, the Preferred Shares will be retracted on the Retraction Date in the following month and the holder will receive payment for the retracted Preferred Shares as of the Retraction Payment Date in respect of the Retraction Date in the following month.

Except as noted below, holders of Preferred Shares whose Preferred Shares are surrendered for retraction will be entitled to receive a price per Preferred Share (the “Preferred Share Retraction Price”) equal to the sum of (i) the sum of (A) the lesser of (x) \$10.00 and (y) 98% of the net asset value per Unit determined as of the Retraction Date, less the cost to the Company of the purchase of a Class A Share in the market for cancellation and less any other applicable costs, plus (B) an amount equal to any accrued and unpaid dividends on each Preferred Share to but excluding the applicable Retraction Date, plus (ii) all declared and unpaid dividends (“Dividends Owning”) on a Preferred Share to be retracted to but excluding the applicable Retraction Date. The 2% discount to net asset value per Unit so applied to retractions of Preferred Shares is payable to QuadraVest. See “*Fees and Expenses*”.

For this purpose, the cost of the purchase of a Class A Share includes the purchase price of the Class A Share and commissions and costs, if any (to a maximum of 1% of the net asset value per Unit), related to the liquidation of any portion of the Portfolio to fund the purchase of the Class A Share and the payment of the Preferred Share Retraction Price.

Shareholders also have an annual retraction right under which they may concurrently retract a Preferred Share and a Class A Share on the February Retraction Date in each year. The price paid by the Company for such a concurrent retraction will be equal to the net asset value per Unit calculated as of that date, plus an amount equal to any accrued and unpaid dividends on such Preferred Shares, less any related commissions and other costs (to a maximum of 1% of the net asset value per Unit) related to liquidating the Portfolio to pay such amount (the “Annual Retraction Price”). Holders of Preferred Shares so retracted

shall also be paid any Dividends Owing thereon, and all Dividends Owing on the Class A Shares, so surrendered for retraction in each case to but excluding the applicable Retraction Date. Payment of the Retraction Price and such Dividends Owing, if any, shall be made on or before the applicable Retraction Payment Date.

As disclosed below under “*Description of the Shares of the Company – Resale of Shares Tendered for Retraction*”, if a holder of Preferred Shares tendered for retraction has not withheld his or her consent thereto in the manner provided in the Retraction Notice (as defined below) delivered to CDS Clearing and Depository Services Inc. (“CDS”) through a participant in the CDS book-based system (a “CDS Participant”), the Company may, but is not obligated to, require the Recirculation Agent (as defined below) to use its best efforts to find purchasers for any Preferred Shares tendered for retraction prior to the relevant Retraction Payment Date pursuant to the Recirculation Agreement (as defined below). Holders of Preferred Shares are free to withhold their consent to such treatment and to require the Company to retract their Preferred Shares in accordance with their terms.

Subject to the Company’s right to require the Recirculation Agent to use its best efforts to find purchasers prior to the relevant Retraction Payment Date for any Preferred Shares tendered for retraction, any and all Preferred Shares which have been surrendered to the Company for retraction are deemed to be outstanding until (but not after) the close of business on the relevant Retraction Date, unless the Preferred Share Retraction Price is not paid on the Retraction Payment Date, in which event such Preferred Shares will remain outstanding.

The retraction right must be exercised by causing written notice to be given within the notice periods prescribed herein and in the manner described below under “*Description of the Shares of the Company – Book-Entry Only System*”. Such surrender will be irrevocable upon the delivery of notice to CDS through a CDS Participant, except with respect to those Preferred Shares which are not retracted by the Company on the relevant Retraction Payment Date.

If any Preferred Shares are tendered for retraction and are not resold in the manner described below under “*Description of the Shares of the Company – Resale of Shares Tendered for Retraction*”, the Company will, prior to the Retraction Payment Date, purchase for cancellation that number of Class A Shares which equals the number of Preferred Shares so retracted. Any Class A Shares so purchased for cancellation will be purchased in the market.

Holders of Preferred Shares will also have the Recurring Special Retraction Right in connection with any extension of the Termination Date of the Company beyond December 1, 2024. See “*Description of the Shares of the Company – Term and Termination of the Company*” below.

#### *Priority*

The Preferred Shares rank in priority to the Class A Shares with respect to the payment of dividends (no dividends are payable on the Class B Shares) and in priority to the Class A Shares but subordinate to the Class B Shares (whose nominal redemption entitlement is for the benefit of the holders of the Preferred Shares and Class A Shares) with respect to the repayment of capital on the dissolution, liquidation or winding-up of the Company.

## **Certain Provisions of the Class A Shares**

### *Dividends and Distributions*

The Class A Share conditions provide that the Company may pay monthly distributions on the Class A Shares in such amounts as are determined by the directors in their discretion. Such distributions may consist of Ordinary Dividends, capital gains dividends or non-taxable returns of capital. No regular monthly distributions will be paid on the Class A Shares in any month as long as any dividends on the Preferred Shares are then in arrears. In addition, if any amounts remain available for the payment of dividends, a special year-end dividend of such amount will be payable to holders of Class A Shares of record on the last day of November in each year.

No distributions were made on the Class A Shares during the fiscal year of the Company ended November 30, 2022.

Distributions declared by the Board of Directors will be payable to holders of Class A Shares of record at 5:00 p.m. (local time in Toronto, Ontario) on the applicable Dividend Record Date with payment being made within 15 days thereafter.

### *Retraction Privileges*

Class A Shares may be surrendered at any time for retraction to Computershare, but will be retracted only as of a Retraction Date. Class A Shares surrendered for retraction by a Shareholder at least 10 business days prior to a Retraction Date will be retracted and the holder will receive payment on or before the Retraction Payment Date. If a holder of Class A Shares makes such surrender after 5:00 p.m. (local time in Toronto, Ontario) on the 10<sup>th</sup> business day immediately preceding a Retraction Date, the Class A Shares will be retracted as of the Retraction Date in the following month and the holder will receive payment for the retracted Class A Shares as of the Retraction Payment Date in respect of the Retraction Date in the following month.

Except as noted below, holders of Class A Shares whose Class A Shares are surrendered for retraction will be entitled to receive a retraction price per Class A Share (“Class A Share Retraction Price”) equal to the sum of (i) 98% of the net asset value per Unit determined as of the Retraction Date, less the cost to the Company of the purchase of a Preferred Share in the market for cancellation and less any other applicable costs, plus (ii) all Dividends Owing on the Class A Shares to but excluding the applicable Retraction Date. For this purpose, the cost of the purchase of a Preferred Share will include the purchase price of the Preferred Share and commissions and costs, if any (to a maximum of 1% of the net asset value per Unit), related to the liquidation of any portion of the Portfolio to fund the purchase of the Preferred Share and the payment of the Class A Share Retraction Price. The 2% discount to net asset value per Unit so applied to retractions of Class A Shares is payable to Quadvest. See “*Fees and Expenses*”.

Shareholders also have an annual retraction right under which they may concurrently retract a Preferred Share and a Class A Share on the February Retraction Date in each year. The price paid by the Company for such a concurrent retraction will be equal to the Annual Retraction Price. Holders of Class A Shares so retracted will also be paid any Dividends Owing thereon to but excluding the applicable Retraction Date, and all Dividends Owing on the Preferred Shares so retracted to the same date.

As disclosed below under “*Description of the Shares of the Company – Resale of Shares Tendered for Retraction*”, if the holder of Class A Shares tendered for retraction has not withheld his or her consent thereto in the manner provided in the Retraction Notice delivered to CDS through a CDS

Participant, the Company may, but is not obligated to, require the Recirculation Agent to use its best efforts to find purchasers for any Class A Shares tendered for retraction prior to the relevant Retraction Payment Date pursuant to the Recirculation Agreement. Holders of Class A Shares are free to withhold their consent to such treatment and to require the Company to retract their Class A Shares in accordance with their terms.

Subject to the Company's right to require the Recirculation Agent to use its best efforts to find purchasers prior to the relevant Retraction Payment Date for any Class A Shares tendered for retraction, any and all Class A Shares which have been surrendered to the Company for retraction are deemed to be outstanding until (but not after) the close of business on the relevant Retraction Date, unless the Class A Share Retraction Price is not paid on the Retraction Payment Date, in which event such Class A Shares will remain outstanding.

The retraction right must be exercised by causing written notice to be given within the notice periods prescribed herein and in the manner described below under "*Description of the Shares of the Company – Book-Entry Only System*". Such surrender will be irrevocable upon the delivery of notice to CDS through a CDS Participant, except with respect to those Class A Shares which are not retracted by the Company on the relevant Retraction Date.

If any Class A Shares are tendered for retraction and are not resold in the manner described below under "*Description of the Shares of the Company – Resale of Shares Tendered for Retraction*", the Company will, prior to the Retraction Payment Date, purchase for cancellation that number of Preferred Shares which equals the number of Class A Shares so retracted. Any Preferred Shares so purchased for cancellation will be purchased in the market.

Holders of Class A Shares will also have the Recurring Special Retraction Right in connection with any extension of the Termination Date of the Company beyond December 1, 2024. See "*Description of the Shares of the Company – Term and Termination of the Company*" below.

#### *Priority*

The Class A Shares rank subordinate to the Preferred Shares with respect to the payment of dividends (no dividends are payable on the Class B Shares) and subordinate to the Preferred Shares and the Class B Shares (whose nominal redemption entitlement is for the benefit of the holders of the Preferred Shares and Class A Shares) with respect to the repayment of capital on the dissolution, liquidation or winding-up of the Company.

### **Term and Termination of the Company**

#### *Payments on Termination*

All Preferred Shares and Class A Shares outstanding on the Termination Date will be redeemed by the Company on such date. Immediately prior to the Termination Date, the Company will, to the extent possible, convert the Portfolio to cash and will pay or make adequate provision for all of the Company's liabilities. Except in the case of an early termination following a Liquidation Event (as defined below), the Company will, after receipt of the net cash proceeds of the liquidation of the Portfolio, as soon as practicable after the Termination Date:

- (a) return the initial investment amount of \$1,000 (\$1.00 per Class B Share) to the Trust (as defined below) which holds such shares for the benefit of the holders of the Preferred

Shares and Class A Shares upon the redemption of the Class B Shares on the Termination Date;

- (b) distribute to the holders of the Preferred Shares an amount in respect of each Preferred Share to be redeemed equal to (i) the sum of (A) the lesser of (x) \$10.00 and (y) the net asset value of the Company on the Termination Date, divided by the number of Preferred Shares then outstanding, plus (B) an amount equal to the accrued and unpaid dividends on each Preferred Share to but excluding the Termination Date, plus (ii) all Dividends Owing on the Preferred Shares to but excluding the Termination Date; and
- (c) thereafter distribute to holders of the Class A Shares the remaining assets of the Company, if any, as soon as practicable after the Termination Date.

#### *Early Termination Following a Liquidation Event*

Subject to any applicable law, the Preferred Shares and the Class A Shares may be redeemed by the Company in the discretion of QuadraVest on a date determined by the directors of the Company (the “Liquidation Date”) following a Liquidation Event. For these purposes, a “Liquidation Event” means the receipt by the Company of a notice from the TSX that the Preferred Shares or the Class A Shares are to be delisted by the TSX, or if the net asset value of the Company shall on any date on which such net asset value is calculated be less than \$5,000,000.

In the event a Liquidation Event occurs, the Company will (in addition to any obligation the Company may have under applicable law to issue an immediate press release and file a material change report in respect of such Liquidation Event), not less than 15 business days thereafter, issue an announcement (the “Liquidation Announcement”) referencing such occurrence and stating whether the Company will exercise its discretion to elect early termination of the Company as a result of such Liquidation Event. In the event the Company so elects, the Company will (i) specify in the Liquidation Announcement the Liquidation Date, which shall not be less than 60 days nor more than 90 days following the date the Liquidation Announcement is made, (ii) provide notice to each person who is a registered holder of Preferred Shares or Class A Shares to be redeemed of the intention of the Company to redeem such Preferred Shares and Class A Shares on such Liquidation Date, and (iii) set out the manner and place or places within Canada at which such Preferred Shares and Class A Shares will be redeemed.

In the event the Company elects to redeem all issued and outstanding Preferred Shares and Class A Shares on a Liquidation Date, the Company shall pay:

- (a) an amount in respect of each Preferred Share to be redeemed equal to the sum of (A) the sum of (x) the net asset value per Unit on the Liquidation Date multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the volume weighted average trading price (“VWAP”) of the Preferred Shares calculated over the 20 trading days ending immediately prior to the Liquidation Announcement and the denominator of which is the aggregate VWAP of the Preferred Shares and the Class A Shares calculated over the 20 trading days ending immediately prior to the Liquidation Announcement plus (y) an amount equal to any accrued and unpaid dividends on each Preferred Share to but excluding the Liquidation Date, plus (B) all Dividends Owing on a Preferred Share to be redeemed to but excluding the Liquidation Date; and
- (b) an amount in respect of each Class A Share to be redeemed equal to the sum of (A) the net asset value per Unit on the Liquidation Date multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the VWAP of the Class A Shares calculated over the 20 trading days ending

immediately prior to the Liquidation Announcement and the denominator of which is the aggregate VWAP of the Class A Shares and the Preferred Shares calculated over the 20 trading days ending immediately prior to the Liquidation Announcement, plus (B) all Dividends Owing on a Class A Share to be redeemed to but excluding the Liquidation Date.

#### *Extensions of the Termination Date*

The Termination Date of the Company may be extended after December 1, 2024 for a further period of six years and thereafter for additional successive periods of six years each as determined by the Board of Directors. In the event the Board of Directors elects to so extend the Termination Date, holders of Preferred Shares and Class A Shares shall have the right to retract such Shares by exercising the Recurring Special Retraction Right. Not less than 60 days prior to a scheduled Termination Date, the Company shall provide notice to each person who is a registered holder of Preferred Shares or Class A Shares either of (i) the determination of the Board of Directors to extend the Termination Date for a further six year period, the rights of the holders of such Shares to the Recurring Special Retraction Right, and the rate at which cumulative preferential cash dividends shall be paid on the Preferred Shares for the ensuing six year period; or (ii) the determination of the Board of Directors not to extend the Termination Date for a further six year period, in which event such notice shall set out the Termination Date, and the manner and place or places within Canada on which the Preferred Shares and Class A Shares will be redeemed on that Termination Date. The Company shall also issue a press release providing the same information on the date such notice is given to the registered holder or holders of Preferred Shares and Class A Shares.

#### *Recurring Special Retraction Right*

In the event that the Termination Date is extended in any Extension Year, each holder of Preferred Shares or Class A Shares shall have the right to retract such Preferred Shares or Class A Shares effective December 1 of such Extension Year (the "Recurring Special Retraction Right"). The price payable per Preferred Share so retracted shall be equal to (i) the sum of (A) the lesser of (x) \$10.00 and (y) the net asset value of the Company calculated on November 30 of such Extension Year, divided by the number of Preferred Shares then outstanding, plus (B) an amount equal to the accrued and unpaid dividends on each Preferred Share to but excluding November 30 of such Extension Year, plus (ii) all Dividends Owing thereon to but excluding November 30 of such Extension Year. The price payable per Class A Share so retracted shall be equal to the greater of (i) the net asset value per Unit calculated on November 30 of such Extension Year less \$10.00, and (ii) zero. Holders of Preferred Shares or Class A Shares wishing to take advantage of the Recurring Special Retraction Right must surrender their Preferred Shares or Class A Shares for retraction no later than the close of business on November 1 of such Extension Year (or, if November 1 of such year is not a business day, on the immediately preceding business day). Payment of the retraction price per Preferred Share or Class A Share owing in respect of the exercise of the Recurring Special Retraction Right will be made on or before December 15 of such Extension Year (or, if December 15 of such year is not a business day, on the immediately succeeding business day).

#### *Special Redemption Right*

Following any exercise of the Recurring Special Retraction Right, the Company shall have the right to redeem, on a pro rata basis, as at December 31 of the year in which the Recurring Special Retraction Right is exercised, such number of Preferred Shares (if more Class A Shares than Preferred Shares are tendered for redemption upon any exercise of the Recurring Special Retraction Right) or such number of Class A Shares (if more Preferred Shares than Class A Shares are tendered for redemption

upon any exercise of the Recurring Special Retraction Right) as is required to achieve an equality in the number of outstanding Preferred Shares and Class A Shares (the “Special Redemption Right”) at a price per Preferred Share equal to (i) the sum of (A) the lesser of (x) \$10.00 and (y) the net asset value of the Company calculated on December 31 of the year in which the Recurring Special Retraction Right is exercised, divided by the number of Preferred Shares then outstanding, plus (B) an amount equal to the accrued and unpaid dividends on each Preferred Share to but excluding December 31 of such year, plus (ii) all Dividends Owing thereon to but excluding December 31 of such year; and at a price per Class A Share equal to the greater of (iii) the net asset value per Unit calculated on December 31 of the year in which the Recurring Special Retraction Right is exercised less \$10.00, and (iv) zero (the “Applicable Special Redemption Price”). In connection with any exercise of this Special Redemption Right, the Company shall, at least 15 days prior to December 31 of the year in which the Recurring Special Retraction Right is exercised, provide notice to each person who is a registered holder of Preferred Shares (in the case of a redemption of Preferred Shares) or a registered holder of Class A Shares (in the case of a redemption of Class A Shares) to be redeemed of the intention of the Company to redeem such Preferred Shares or Class A Shares, as the case may be, and of the manner and place or places within Canada at which such Preferred Shares or Class A Shares will be redeemed.

No later than 30 days after December 31 of the year in which the Special Redemption Right is exercised, the Company shall pay or cause to be paid to or to the order of the registered holders of the Preferred Shares or Class A Shares to be redeemed, as the case may be, an amount per Preferred Share or Class A Share equal to the Applicable Special Redemption Price. Payment of the Applicable Special Redemption Price shall be made by cheque(s) of the Company drawn on a Canadian chartered bank or a trust company incorporated under or governed by the laws of Canada or of a Province of Canada and payable to the holders thereof in lawful money of Canada at par at any branch in Canada of such bank or trust company or in any other manner acceptable to the Company and a registered holder of Preferred Shares or Class A Shares, as the case may be. The mailing of such a cheque to a registered holder of Preferred Shares or Class A Shares from the Company’s registered office or the principal office in Toronto of the registrar for the Preferred Shares or Class A Shares shall be deemed to be payment in accordance with this section and shall satisfy and discharge all liability in respect of such Applicable Special Redemption Price to the extent of the amount represented by such cheque, unless such cheque is not paid on due presentation. From and after December 31 of such year, the holders of the Preferred Shares or Class A Shares called for redemption shall cease to be entitled to dividends or to exercise any rights as Shareholders of the Company in respect of such Shares except the right to receive the Applicable Special Redemption Price; provided that if payment of such Applicable Special Redemption Price is not made in accordance with the provisions hereof, then the rights of the holders of the Preferred Shares or Class A Shares shall remain unimpaired.

#### *Subdivision or Consolidation of the Preferred Shares or the Class A Shares*

The Company shall have the right to further amend its articles of incorporation to provide for a subdivision or consolidation of the Preferred Shares or the Class A Shares to the extent that the Manager advises the Company that it considers such subdivision or consolidation necessary or advisable in connection with any implementation of the Recurring Special Retraction Right, so as to ensure that after such implementation an equal number of Preferred Shares and Class A Shares remain outstanding.

#### **Resale of Shares Tendered for Retraction**

The Company has entered into an agreement dated January 27, 2005 with CIBC World Markets Inc. (the “Recirculation Agent”) and Computershare, which agreement was amended and restated June 25, 2012 (the “Recirculation Agreement”), whereby the Recirculation Agent has agreed to use its best efforts to find purchasers for any Preferred Shares or Class A Shares tendered for retraction prior to

the relevant Retraction Payment Date, provided that the holder of the Shares so tendered has not withheld consent thereto. The Company is not obligated to require the Recirculation Agent to seek such purchasers but may elect to do so. In the event that a purchaser for such Shares is found in this manner, the notice of retraction will be deemed to have been withdrawn prior to the relevant Retraction Date and the shares shall remain outstanding. The amount to be paid to the holder of such Shares on the relevant Retraction Payment Date will be an amount equal to the proceeds of the sale of such Shares less any applicable commission. Such amount will not be less than the applicable Preferred Share Retraction Price or the Class A Share Retraction Price, as the case may be. Accordingly, the proceeds of the sale of the tendered securities by the Recirculation Agent must be equal to or exceed the applicable Preferred Share Retraction Price or the Class A Share Retraction Price.

### **Suspension of Retractions or Redemptions**

The Company may suspend the retraction or redemption of Preferred Shares and Class A Shares or payment of retraction or redemption proceeds during any period when normal trading is suspended on one or more stock exchanges on which more than 50% of the equity securities held by the Company are listed or, with the prior permission of the Ontario Securities Commission, for any period not exceeding 120 days during which the Company determines that conditions exist which render impractical the sale of assets of the Company or which impair the ability of the Company to determine the value of the assets of the Company. The suspension may apply to all requests for retraction received prior to the suspension but as to which payment has not been made, as well as to all requests received while the suspension is in effect.

All Shareholders making such requests shall be advised by the Company of the suspension and that the retraction will be effected at a price determined on the first Valuation Date (as defined herein) following the termination of the suspension. All such Shareholders shall have and shall be advised that they have the right to withdraw their requests for retraction. The suspension shall terminate in any event on the first day on which the condition giving rise to the suspension has ceased to exist provided that no other condition under which a suspension is authorized then exists. To the extent not inconsistent with official rules and regulations promulgated by any government body having jurisdiction over the Company, any declaration of suspension made by the Company shall be conclusive.

### **Book-Entry Only System**

Registration of interests in and transfers of the Preferred Shares and Class A Shares will be made only through a book-based system administered by CDS (the “book-entry only system”). Preferred Shares and Class A Shares must be purchased, transferred and surrendered for retraction or redemption through a CDS Participant. All rights of a beneficial owner of Preferred Shares or Class A Shares must be exercised through, and all payments or other property to which such beneficial owner is entitled will be made or delivered by, CDS or the CDS Participant through which the owner holds such Preferred Shares or Class A Shares. Upon purchase of any Preferred Shares or Class A Shares, the beneficial owner will receive only the customary confirmation.

The ability of a beneficial owner of Preferred Shares or Class A Shares to pledge such shares or otherwise take action with respect to such owner’s interest in such shares (other than through a CDS Participant) may be limited due to the lack of a physical certificate.

A beneficial owner of Preferred Shares or Class A Shares who desires to exercise its retraction privileges thereunder must do so by causing a CDS Participant to deliver to CDS (at its office in the City of Toronto) on behalf of the beneficial owner a written notice of the beneficial owner’s intention to retract shares, no later than 5:00 p.m. (local time in Toronto, Ontario) on the relevant notice date. A beneficial



owner who desires to retract Preferred Shares or Class A Shares should ensure that the CDS Participant is provided with notice (the “Retraction Notice”) of its intention to exercise its retraction privilege sufficiently in advance of the relevant notice date so as to permit the CDS Participant to deliver notice to CDS by the required time. The Retraction Notice will be available from a CDS Participant or Computershare, the Company’s transfer agent and registrar. Any expense associated with the preparation and delivery of Retraction Notices will be for the account of the beneficial owner exercising the retraction privilege.

By causing a CDS Participant to deliver to CDS a notice of the beneficial owner’s intention to retract Shares, a beneficial owner shall be deemed to have irrevocably surrendered its shares for retraction and appointed such CDS Participant to act as its exclusive settlement agent with respect to the exercise of the retraction privilege and the receipt of payment in connection with the settlement of obligations arising from such exercise.

Any Retraction Notice which CDS determines to be incomplete, not in proper form or not duly executed shall for all purposes be void and of no effect, and the retraction privilege to which it relates shall be considered for all purposes not to have been exercised thereby. A failure by a CDS Participant to exercise retraction privileges or to give effect to the settlement thereof in accordance with the beneficial owner’s instructions will not give rise to any obligations or liability on the part of the Company to the CDS Participant or the beneficial owner.

The Company has the option to terminate registration of the Preferred Shares or Class A Shares through the book-entry only system, in which case certificates for Preferred Shares or Class A Shares, as the case may be, in fully registered form would be issued to beneficial owners of such Shares, or their nominees.

### **Meetings of Shareholders**

Except as required by law or set out below, holders of Preferred Shares and Class A Shares will not be entitled to receive notice of, to attend or to vote at any meeting of Shareholders of the Company.

### **Acts Requiring Shareholder Approval**

The following matters require the approval of the holders of Preferred Shares and Class A Shares by a two-thirds majority vote (other than matters referred to in paragraphs (c), (l) and (m), which require approval of a simple majority vote) at a meeting called and held for such purpose: (a) a change in the fundamental investment objectives and strategy of the Company; (b) a change in the investment restrictions and criteria of the Company as described under “*Investment Restrictions*”; (c) the entering into by the Company of transactions involving derivatives, other than as described in the Initial Prospectus and other than the use of derivatives as permitted for a mutual fund under NI 81-102; (d) any change in the basis of calculating fees or other expenses that are charged to the Company which could result in an increase in charges to the Company; (e) the introduction of a fee or expense to be charged to the Company or directly to Shareholders by the Company or Quadravest in connection with the holding of securities of the Company that could result in an increase in charges to the Company or its Shareholders; (f) the approval of the appointment of a successor to Quadravest as manager following the resignation of Quadravest unless an affiliate is appointed; (g) the removal of Quadravest as manager and the appointment of a successor in the event Quadravest is insolvent, or is in breach or default of its obligations under the Management Agreement (as defined below) and such breach or default is not cured within 30 days of notice of such breach or default being given to Quadravest; (h) the approval of any other change of manager of the Company unless an affiliate of Quadravest becomes the manager; (i) the approval of the assignment of the Investment Management Agreement (as defined below) by Quadravest,

except to an affiliate; (j) the confirmation of the appointment of a successor to Quadravest as investment manager in the event the Company terminates the Investment Management Agreement unless an affiliate is appointed; (k) the approval of the termination of the Investment Management Agreement by Quadravest, unless the reason for such termination is (i) a material breach or default by the Company of its obligations under the Investment Management Agreement where notice of such breach or default has been provided by Quadravest to the Company and it remains uncured for 30 days, or (ii) there has been a material change to the fundamental investment objectives, strategies or criteria of the Company; (l) a decrease in the frequency of calculating the net asset value of the Company or of the retraction privileges; (m) a change of the auditor of the Company, unless such change does not require Shareholder approval under applicable securities legislation; (n) any merger of the Company for which Shareholder approval under NI 81-102 would be required; (o) an amendment, modification or variation in the provisions or rights attaching to the Preferred Shares, Class A Shares or Class B Shares; and (p) any other change for which the approval of the holders of the Preferred Shares and the Class A Shares is required under the provisions of the *Business Corporations Act* (Ontario).

Each Preferred Share and Class A Share will have one vote at such a meeting and will not vote separately as a class in respect of any vote taken (except for a vote in respect of the matters referred to in paragraphs (a), (b) and (o) above and any other matters referred to above if a class is affected by the matter in a manner different from the other classes of shares of the Company). Ten per cent of the outstanding Preferred Shares and Class A Shares, respectively, represented in person or by proxy at the meeting will constitute a quorum. If no quorum is present, the holders of Preferred Shares and Class A Shares then present will constitute a quorum at an adjourned meeting.

### **Reporting to Shareholders**

The Company will deliver (or, if permitted by law, make available) to each Shareholder annual and semi-annual financial statements of the Company, annual and interim management reports of fund performance and such additional or other statements or reports as may be required by law. Each Shareholder will be mailed annually, no later than February 28, information necessary to enable such Shareholder to complete an income tax return with respect to amounts paid or payable by the Company in respect of the preceding calendar year.

### **VALUATION OF PORTFOLIO SECURITIES**

The net asset value of the Company is calculated by RBC Investor Services Trust (“RBC Trust”) as of each Retraction Date and as of the 15<sup>th</sup> day of each month or if the 15<sup>th</sup> day of each month is not a business day then the immediately preceding business day (each, a “Valuation Date”) by subtracting the aggregate amount of the Company’s liabilities from its total assets. The Company’s assets are valued in accordance with any requirements of law, including National Instrument 81-106 *Investment Fund Continuous Disclosure*, and the following valuation principles and RBC Trust:

- (a) the value of any cash on hand, on deposit or on call, prepaid expenses, cash dividends declared and interest accrued and not yet received, shall be deemed to be the face amount thereof, unless RBC Trust determines that any such deposit or call loan is not worth the face amount thereof, in which event the value thereof shall be deemed to be such value as RBC Trust determines to be the reasonable value thereof;
- (b) the value of any bonds, debentures, and other debt obligations shall be valued by taking the average of the bid and ask prices on a Valuation Date at such times as RBC Trust, in its discretion, deems appropriate. Short-term investments including notes and money market instruments shall be valued at cost plus accrued interest;

- (c) the value of any security, index futures or index options thereon which is listed on any recognized exchange shall be determined by the sale price at the time of valuation or, if there is no sale price, the average between the bid and the asked price on the day on which the net asset value of the Company is being determined, all as reported by any report in common use or authorized as official by a recognized stock exchange; provided that if such stock exchange is not open for trading on that date, then on the last previous date on which such stock exchange was open for trading;
- (d) the value of any security or other asset for which a market quotation is not readily available shall be its fair market value as determined by RBC Trust;
- (e) the value of any security, the resale of which is restricted or limited, shall be the lesser of the value thereof based on reported quotations in common use and that percentage of the market value of securities of the same class, the trading of which is not restricted or limited by reason of any representation, undertaking or agreement or by law, equal to the percentage that the Company's acquisition cost was of the market value of such securities at the time of acquisition; provided that a gradual taking into account of the actual value of the securities may be made where the date on which the restriction will be lifted is known;
- (f) purchased or written clearing corporation options, options on futures, over-the-counter options, debt-like securities and listed warrants shall be valued at the current market value thereof;
- (g) where a covered clearing corporation option, option on futures or over-the-counter option is written, the premium received by the Company shall be reflected as a deferred credit which shall be valued at an amount equal to the current market value of the clearing corporation option, option on futures or over-the-counter option that would have the effect of closing the position. Any difference resulting from revaluation shall be treated as an unrealized gain or loss on investment. The deferred credit shall be deducted in arriving at the net asset value of the Company. The securities, if any, which are the subject of a written clearing corporation option, or over-the-counter option shall be valued at their then current market value;
- (h) the value of a futures contract, or a forward contract, shall be the gain or loss with respect thereto that would be realized if, at the time of valuation, the position in the futures contract, or the forward contract, as the case may be, were to be closed out unless daily limits are in effect in which case fair value shall be based on the current market value of the underlying interest;
- (i) margin paid or deposited in respect of futures contracts and forward contracts shall be reflected as an account receivable and margin consisting of assets other than cash shall be noted as held as margin;
- (j) all assets of the Company valued in a foreign currency and all liabilities and obligations of the Company payable by the Company in foreign currency shall be converted into Canadian funds by applying the rate of exchange obtained from the best available sources to RBC Trust including, but not limited to, RBC Trust or any of its affiliates; and
- (k) all expenses or liabilities (including fees payable to QuadraVest) of the Company shall be calculated on an accrual basis.

The value of any security or property to which, in the opinion of RBC Trust, the above valuation principles cannot be applied (whether because no price or yield equivalent quotations are available as above provided, or for any other reason) shall be the fair value thereof determined in such manner as RBC Trust from time to time provides. Quadravest does not have the discretion to require RBC Trust to deviate from these valuation principles.

### **CALCULATION OF NET ASSET VALUE**

The net asset value per Unit is the amount obtained by dividing the net asset value of the Company as of a particular Valuation Date by the total number of Units outstanding on that date. The net asset value per Unit, as of the most recent mid-month or month-end Valuation Date, will be provided by Quadravest to Shareholders on request and will be available electronically at any time to Shareholders at [www.financial15.com](http://www.financial15.com).

### **PURCHASES AND SWITCHES**

Preferred Shares and Class A Shares are not currently being offered. There are no applicable switch rights.

### **RETRACTIONS AND REDEMPTIONS**

Retraction and redemption rights are discussed above under “*Description of the Shares of the Company – Certain Provisions of the Preferred Shares*”, “*Description of the Shares of the Company – Certain Provisions of the Class A Shares*” and “*Description of the Shares of the Company – Term and Termination of the Company*”.

### **MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPANY**

#### **Directors and Officers of the Company**

The following are the names, municipalities of residence, office and principal occupations of the directors and officers of the Company.

| <b><u>Name and Municipality of Residence</u></b>  | <b><u>Office</u></b>                                      | <b><u>Principal Occupation</u></b>   |
|---|---|--|
| S. WAYNE FINCH <sup>(1)</sup><br>Caledon, Ontario | Chairman, President, Chief Executive Officer and Director | Chief Executive and Chief Investment Officer, Quadravest Capital Management Inc.                         |
| LAURA L. JOHNSON<br>Oakville, Ontario             | Secretary and Director                                    | Chief Investment Strategist, Managing Director and Portfolio Manager, Quadravest Capital Management Inc. |
| PETER F. CRUICKSHANK<br>Oakville, Ontario         | Director  | Managing Director, Quadravest Capital Management Inc.  |
| SILVIA GOMES<br>Mississauga, Ontario              | Chief Financial Officer                                   | Chief Financial Officer and Chief Compliance Officer, Quadravest Capital Management Inc.                 |

| <u>Name and Municipality of Residence</u>           | <u>Office</u> | <u>Principal Occupation</u>                   |
|---|---------------|---|
| MICHAEL W. SHARP <sup>(1)</sup><br>Toronto, Ontario | Director      | Retired Partner, Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP |
| JOHN D. STEEP <sup>(1)</sup><br>Stratford, Ontario  | Director      | President, S Factor Consulting Inc.           |

<sup>(1)</sup> Member of the Audit Committee.

Other than as follows, all of the directors and officers of the Company have held the same principal occupation for the five years preceding the date hereof. Ms. Johnson was appointed Chief Investment Strategist of Quadravest in August 2021; Ms. Gomes was appointed as Chief Compliance Officer of Quadravest in May 2021 and prior to her appointment as Chief Financial Officer of Quadravest in December 2018, Ms. Gomes was Director of Accounting and Finance at Quadravest since 2016; Mr. Cruickshank was Chief Compliance Officer of Quadravest from 2000 until Ms. Gomes' appointment in May 2021 and prior to his resignation in December 2018, he was also Chief Financial Officer of Quadravest since 2000; and prior to his retirement in January 2019, Mr. Sharp was a partner at Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP for over 20 years.

### **The Manager**

Pursuant to an agreement between the Company and Quadravest Inc. dated January 27, 2005, assigned to Quadravest effective June 1, 2010 (the "Management Agreement"), Quadravest is the manager of the Company and, as such, is responsible for providing or arranging for administrative services required by the Company including, without limitation, authorizing the payment of operating expenses incurred on behalf of the Company; preparing financial statements and financial and accounting information as required by the Company; ensuring that Shareholders are provided with financial statements (including semi-annual and annual financial statements) and other reports as are from time to time required by applicable law; ensuring that the Company complies with regulatory requirements and applicable stock exchange listing requirements; preparing the Company's reports to Shareholders and the Canadian Securities Administrators; determining the amount of dividends to be paid by the Company; and negotiating contractual agreements with third-party providers of services, including registrars, transfer agents, auditor and printers.

Quadravest is required to exercise the powers and discharge the duties of its office under the Management Agreement honestly, in good faith and in the best interests of Shareholders, and in connection therewith, to exercise the degree of care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent manager would exercise in similar circumstances.

Quadravest may resign as manager upon 60 days' notice to Shareholders and the Company or such lesser notice as the Company may accept. If Quadravest so resigns it may appoint its successor, but its successor must be approved by Shareholders unless it is an affiliate of Quadravest. If Quadravest commits certain events of bankruptcy or insolvency or is in material breach or default of its obligations under the Management Agreement and such breach or default has not been cured within 30 days after notice of same has been given to Quadravest, the Company shall give notice thereof to Shareholders and the Shareholders may remove Quadravest as manager and appoint a successor. Except as described above, Quadravest cannot be terminated as manager of the Company.

Quadravest is entitled to fees for its services under the Management Agreement as described under “*Fees and Expenses*” and will be reimbursed for all reasonable costs and expenses incurred by it on behalf of the Company. In addition, Quadravest and each of its directors, officers, employees and agents will be indemnified by the Company under the Management Agreement from and against all legal fees, judgments and amounts paid in settlement, actually and reasonably incurred by Quadravest or any of its officers, directors, employees or agents in the exercise of its duties as manager, unless those fees, judgments or amounts paid in settlement were incurred as a result of a breach by Quadravest of the standard of care described above and provided the Company has reasonable grounds to believe that the action or inaction that caused the payment of the fee, judgment or amount paid in settlement was in the best interests of the Company.

The management services of Quadravest under the Management Agreement are not exclusive and nothing in the Management Agreement prevents Quadravest from providing similar management services to other investment funds and other clients (whether or not their investment objectives and policies are similar to those of the Company) or from engaging in other activities. For a list of the directors and officers of Quadravest, see “*Management of the Company – The Investment Manager*”.

### **The Investment Manager**

Quadravest will manage the Company’s investment portfolio in a manner consistent with the investment objectives, strategy and criteria of the Company pursuant to an agreement between the Company and Quadravest dated January 27, 2005, which agreement was amended and restated effective June 25, 2012 (the “Investment Management Agreement”). Investment assets are generally managed by Quadravest to meet specific absolute return objectives rather than taking on the additional risk of targeting relative returns. As a result of the dual focus of absolute returns and capital preservation, Quadravest is able to adopt a more defensive approach in implementing its investment strategies than would be the case if it focused on relative returns. Quadravest relies on fundamental analysis in managing equity portfolios, such that it focuses on a company’s earnings history, relative price - earnings multiple, cash flow, dividend yield, market position and growth prospects.

#### *Directors and Officers of Quadravest*

The name and municipality of residence of each of the directors and officers of Quadravest are as set out below.

| <b><u>Name and Municipality of Residence</u></b> | <b><u>Office</u></b>   |
|--|--|
| S. WAYNE FINCH<br>Caledon, Ontario               | Chairman, President, Secretary, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Investment Officer and Director |
| LAURA L. JOHNSON<br>Oakville, Ontario            | Chief Investment Strategist, Managing Director and Portfolio Manager                           |
| PETER F. CRUICKSHANK<br>Oakville, Ontario        | Managing Director  |
| SILVIA GOMES<br>Mississauga, Ontario             | Chief Financial Officer and Chief Compliance Officer   |

Wayne Finch is the Chairman and Chief Investment Officer of Quadravest. Mr. Finch has over 36 years of experience in designing and managing investment portfolios. Prior to forming Quadravest in

1997, Mr. Finch was Vice-President and a portfolio manager of a number of publicly traded investment vehicles employing investment strategies similar to those of the Company, and prior to that was a portfolio manager in the treasury operations of a major Canadian trust company where he managed a number of common and preferred share portfolios and mutual funds.

Laura L. Johnson is the Chief Investment Strategist, Managing Director and Portfolio Manager of Quadrainvest. Ms. Johnson has over 30 years of experience in the financial services industry, including extensive experience with investment products employing investment strategies similar to those of the Company. Ms. Johnson has significant experience in structured finance, equity, fixed income and option areas.

Peter F. Cruickshank is a Managing Director of Quadrainvest and was the Chief Financial Officer of Quadrainvest from 2000 to 2018. Mr. Cruickshank is a Chartered Professional Accountant, Chartered Accountant who has spent the last 37 years of his career in the investment industry. Prior to joining Quadrainvest, he was a director and the chief financial officer of another investment management firm from 1986 to 1999.

Silvia Gomes is the Chief Financial Officer and Chief Compliance Officer of Quadrainvest. Ms. Gomes is a Chartered Professional Accountant, Chartered Accountant and has been with Quadrainvest since 2016. Prior to her current position, Ms. Gomes was Director of Accounting and Finance at Quadrainvest. Prior to joining Quadrainvest, Ms. Gomes held the role of Director, Accounting Policy at RBC and also worked at PricewaterhouseCoopers from 2005 to 2015, where she held progressive roles including senior manager in the asset management practice.

#### *Investment Management Agreement*

The services to be provided by Quadrainvest pursuant to the Investment Management Agreement will include the making of all investment decisions for the Company and managing the Company's call option writing, all in accordance with the investment objectives, strategy and criteria of the Company. Decisions as to the purchase and sale of securities comprising the Portfolio and as to the execution of all portfolio and other transactions will be made by Quadrainvest. In the purchase and sale of securities for the Company and the writing of option contracts, Quadrainvest will seek to obtain overall services and prompt execution of orders on favourable terms.

Under the Investment Management Agreement, Quadrainvest is required to act at all times on a basis which is fair and reasonable to the Company, to act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Shareholders and, in connection therewith, to exercise the degree of care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent portfolio manager would exercise in comparable circumstances. The Investment Management Agreement provides that Quadrainvest will not be liable in any way for any default, failure or defect in or diminution in the value of any of the securities in the Portfolio if it has satisfied the standard of care, diligence and skill set forth above. Quadrainvest will incur liability for any breach of this standard of care.

The Investment Management Agreement, unless terminated as described below, will continue in effect until the final redemption of the Preferred Shares and Class A Shares on the Termination Date. The Company may terminate the Investment Management Agreement prior to the Termination Date if Quadrainvest has committed certain events of bankruptcy or insolvency or is in material breach or default of the provisions of the agreement and such breach has not been cured within 30 days after notice of the breach has been given to Quadrainvest. Otherwise, Quadrainvest cannot be terminated as investment manager of the Company.

Except as set out below, Quadravest may not terminate the Investment Management Agreement or assign the same except to an affiliate of Quadravest, without Shareholder approval. Quadravest may terminate the Investment Management Agreement if the Company is in material breach or default of the provisions thereof and such breach or default has not been cured within 30 days of notice of the breach or default to the Company or if there is a material change in the fundamental investment objectives, strategy or criteria of the Company.

If the Investment Management Agreement is terminated, the Board of Directors will promptly appoint a successor investment manager to carry out the activities of Quadravest until a meeting of Shareholders of the Company is held to confirm such appointment.

Quadravest is entitled to fees for its services under the Investment Management Agreement as described under “*Fees and Expenses*” and will be reimbursed for all reasonable costs and expenses incurred by it on behalf of the Company. In addition, Quadravest and each of its directors, officers, employees and agents will be indemnified by the Company under the Investment Management Agreement from and against all legal fees, judgments and amounts paid in settlement, actually and reasonably incurred by Quadravest or any of its officers, directors, employees or agents in the exercise of its duties as investment manager, unless those fees, judgments or amounts paid in settlement were incurred as a result of a breach by Quadravest of the standard of care described above and provided the Company has reasonable grounds to believe that the action or inaction that caused the payment of the fee, judgment or amount paid in settlement was in the best interests of the Company.

#### **Registrar, Transfer Agent, Custodian and Auditor**

Pursuant to a Transfer Agent, Registrar and Dividend Disbursing Agreement dated January 27, 2005, Computershare, at its principal office in Toronto, has been appointed the registrar and transfer agent for the Preferred Shares and the Class A Shares and is responsible for assisting the Company in disbursing dividends and other distributions to holders of the Preferred Shares and the Class A Shares.

Pursuant to an agreement (the “Custodian Agreement”) dated January 27, 2005, The Royal Trust Company was appointed as the custodian of the assets of the Company. Such agreement was assigned to RBC Dexia Investor Services Trust (now RBC Trust) effective January 1, 2006. RBC Trust is, in addition to acting as custodian, also responsible for certain aspects of the day-to-day administration of the Company, including processing retractions, calculating net asset value and maintaining the fund valuation books and records of the Company. The address of the RBC Trust is 155 Wellington Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5V 3L3, Attention: International Investment Products. RBC Trust will not have any responsibility or liability for any assets of the Company which it does not directly hold or have control over (including through its sub-custodians), including, without limitation, any assets of the Company pledged to a counterparty pursuant to derivatives transactions entered into by the Company, if any. RBC Trust is entitled to receive fees from the Company and to be reimbursed for all expenses and liabilities which are properly incurred by RBC Trust in connection with the activities of the Company.

The auditor of the Company is PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, PWC Tower, 18 York Street, Suite 2600, Toronto, Ontario M5J 0B2. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP has prepared an independent auditor’s report dated February 16, 2023 in respect of the Company’s financial statements for its fiscal year ended November 30, 2022. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP has advised that it is independent with respect to the Company within the meaning of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario CPA Code of Professional Conduct.



## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

### Principal Holders of Securities

All of the issued and outstanding Class B Shares of the Company are owned by US Financial 15 Split Corp. Holding Trust (the “Trust”), of which S. Wayne Finch is the trustee and the beneficiaries of which include the holders of the Preferred Shares and Class A Shares from time to time. As a result, any amount payable in respect of the redemption of Class B Shares on the Termination Date will be paid to the holders of the Preferred Shares and Class A Shares on such date. The Class B Shares are held in escrow by RBC Trust pursuant to an agreement dated January 27, 2005 (the “Escrow Agreement”) between the Trust, RBC Trust and the Company and will not be disposed of or dealt with in any manner until all the Preferred Shares and Class A Shares have been retracted or redeemed, except in certain circumstances contemplated by the Escrow Agreement.

### Affiliated Entities

Except as disclosed in this Annual Information Form, no affiliated entities provide services to the Company.

### Manager and Investment Manager

Quadravest is engaged in a variety of management, investment management and other business activities. The services of Quadravest under the Management Agreement and Investment Management Agreement are not exclusive and nothing in those agreements prevents Quadravest or any of its affiliates from providing similar services to other investment funds and other clients (whether or not their investment objectives, strategies and policies are similar to those of the Company) or from engaging in other activities. Quadravest’s investment decisions for the Company will be made independently of those made for its other clients and independently of its own investments. However, on occasion, Quadravest may make the same investment for the Company and for one or more of its other clients. If the Company and one or more of the other clients of Quadravest are engaged in the purchase or sale of the same security, the transactions will be effected on an equitable basis.

Quadravest will receive the fees described under “*Fees and Expenses*” for its services to the Company and will be reimbursed by the Company for all expenses incurred in connection with the operation and administration of the Company. S. Wayne Finch controls Quadravest Inc., which in turn owns all of the voting shares of Quadravest.

### Insider Reporting

Quadravest and Quadravest Inc. have each undertaken to file, and have agreed to cause their directors and senior officers to file, insider trading reports as if the Company was not a mutual fund, in accordance with applicable securities legislation in respect of trades made by it or those directors and senior officers in Shares of the Company.

The senior officers and directors of the Company have also undertaken to file insider trading reports, as if the Company was not a mutual fund, in accordance with applicable provincial securities legislation, for themselves. The Company has undertaken that it will not elect or appoint any person in the future as a senior officer or director unless such person undertakes to file insider trading reports as if the Company was not a mutual fund, in accordance with applicable provincial securities legislation and to deliver to the applicable Canadian Securities Administrators an undertaking to file insider trading reports in accordance with applicable provincial securities legislation. The foregoing undertakings shall remain in

full force until such time as, in the case of the undertaking of Quadrainvest and Quadrainvest Inc., the voting shares of the Company are not controlled directly or indirectly by Mr. Finch; in the case of the undertakings of a director or senior officer of the Company, such person ceases to be a director or officer of the Company; or in each case all of the Preferred Shares and Class A Shares have been redeemed or retracted.

### **Brokerage Arrangements**

When the services and prices offered by more than one broker or dealer are comparable and satisfy best execution criteria, Quadrainvest may choose to effect portfolio transactions with brokers and dealers who provide services such as research, statistical data, financial and economic databases and other similar services. The following companies have provided financial information services that Quadrainvest uses as part of its investment decision making process and remuneration for these services was paid through brokerage commissions on trades executed by the Company under “client commissions arrangements” (also known as “soft dollar arrangements”): Dow Jones & Company, Inc., ICE Data Indices LLC, NYSE Market (DE), Inc., Options Price Reporting Authority, and TSX Inc.

### **FEES AND EXPENSES**

Pursuant to the Management Agreement, Quadrainvest is entitled to an administration fee payable monthly in arrears at an annual rate equal to 0.1% of the Company’s net asset value calculated as at the last Valuation Date in each month. The Company will also pay any goods and services taxes or harmonized sales taxes applicable to this administration fee.

In respect of Preferred Shares and Class A Shares retracted on a monthly Retraction Date other than the Retraction Date in October in each year, Shareholders receive a retraction price equal to 98% of the net asset value per Unit determined as of the applicable Retraction Date, less the cost to the Company of the purchase of a Preferred Share or Class A Share, as the case may be, in the market for cancellation and less any other applicable costs. Quadrainvest is paid the 2% discount to the net asset value per Unit for Shares retracted on such monthly Retraction Date.

Pursuant to the terms of the Investment Management Agreement, Quadrainvest is entitled to a base management fee payable monthly in arrears at an annual rate equal to 0.65% of the Company’s net asset value calculated as at the last Valuation Date in each month. The Company will also pay any goods and services taxes or harmonized sales taxes applicable to the base management fee.

Quadrainvest is also entitled to a performance fee equal to 20% of the total return per Unit of the Company for a financial year (which includes all cash distributions per Unit made during the year and any increase in the net asset value per Unit from the beginning of the year after the deduction on a per Unit basis of all fees, other expenses and distributions) that exceeds 112% of the Bonus Threshold. The “Bonus Threshold”, for any financial year immediately following a year for which a performance fee is payable, is equal to the net asset value per Unit at the beginning of that financial year. The “Bonus Threshold”, for any financial year immediately following a year for which a performance fee is not payable, is equal to the greater of (i) the net asset value per Unit at the end of the immediately prior financial year; and (ii) the Bonus Threshold for the prior year, minus the Adjustment Amount. The “Adjustment Amount” for any financial year is the amount, if any, by which the net asset value per Unit at the end of the immediately prior financial year plus dividends paid in that prior year exceeds the Bonus Threshold for that prior year.

No performance fee may be paid in any year if, at the end of such year, (i) the net asset value per Unit is less than \$25.00; (ii) DBRS has then rated the Preferred Shares at less than Pfd-2 (or, if DBRS has

not then rated such Shares, then the equivalent rating of another rating agency that has rated such Shares shall apply); or (iii) the Company has not earned a total annual return of at least the “Base Return” on a cumulative basis since inception. The Base Return in any year is the greater of 5% and the annual total return for such year as measured by the Scotia Capital 91-day T-Bill Index.

The T-Bill Index reflects income yields available to investors who acquire “risk-free” 91-day Treasury bills. Quadrainvest believes that the T-Bill Index is an appropriate benchmark against which to assess the performance of the total return per Unit as the investment objective of the Company is to achieve targeted returns for the Preferred Shares and the Class A Shares. Although the actual returns may be achieved in part through the capital appreciation of equity securities, the principal objective, as evidenced by the Company’s intention to write covered call options, is to achieve the targeted returns and not to track the performance of an investment in the equity securities. As a result, Quadrainvest believes that the most appropriate benchmark is one that focuses on yield and not on the investment performance of equity securities.

The performance fee, if payable, will be deducted from the amount otherwise payable to the holders of the Class A Shares. The Company will also pay any goods and services taxes or harmonized sales taxes applicable to the performance fee.

The Company will pay for all other expenses incurred in connection with the operation and administration of the Company, estimated to be approximately \$165,000, including harmonized sales tax, per annum (excluding all commissions and other costs of Portfolio transactions, withholding taxes and expenses relating to the issue of Shares for which the Company is also responsible). These expenses are expected to include, without limitation, valuation and administration services fees; fees payable to the Company’s custodian for acting as custodian of the assets of the Company and performing certain administrative services under the Custodian Agreement; fees payable to the Company’s registrar and transfer agent with respect to the Preferred Shares and Class A Shares; fees payable to the auditor and legal advisors of the Company; fees payable to the independent directors of the Company and the Company’s IRC; premiums for directors’ and officers’ insurance coverage for the directors and officers of the Company and the members of the IRC; costs and expenses of preparing financial and other reports; costs of reporting to Shareholders, including mailing and printing expenses for periodic reports to Shareholders; expenses related to compliance with NI 81-107; regulatory filing and stock exchange fees (including any such fees payable by Quadrainvest in respect of the services it provides to the Company); costs and expenses arising as a result of complying with all applicable laws, regulations and policies including expenses and costs incurred in connection with continuous public filing requirements; fees payable to CDS; any taxes payable by the Company to which the Company may be subject, including income taxes and sales taxes; extraordinary expenses that the Company may incur; all amounts paid on account of indebtedness of the Company; and expenditures incurred upon the dissolution of the Company. Such expenses will also include expenses of any action, suit or other proceedings in which or in relation to which: (a) Quadrainvest or its directors, officers, employees or agents; or (b) the Company’s custodian, or its affiliates, subsidiaries or agents, or their respective directors, officers and employees are entitled to indemnity by the Company.

## **FUND GOVERNANCE**

The Board of Directors has overall responsibility for the Company’s corporate governance, as with all corporations. Three of the six directors of the Company are neither officers, directors or employees of Quadrainvest. The auditor is independent of the Company and Quadrainvest, as are Computershare and RBC Trust.

## **Independent Review Committee**

In accordance with the requirements of National Instrument 81-107 *Independent Review Committee for Investment Funds* (“NI 81-107”), Quadravest has established an independent review committee (“IRC”) consisting of Messrs. Sharp and Steep, two of the independent directors of the Company, and Mr. Gordon A. M Currie, who acts as the chair of the IRC. In accordance with NI 81-107, Mr. Sharp was appointed to the IRC effective December 5, 2022 in order to fill a vacancy. Quadravest has established a single IRC which is responsible for all of the public investment funds which it manages.

Mr. Currie is the Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer of George Weston Limited, which he joined in 2005. Prior to that, he was the General Counsel of Direct Energy, the North American subsidiary of Centrica plc. Prior to that, he was a partner at Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP, specializing in securities law, having joined the firm in 1983. Mr. Sharp is a retired partner of Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP, where he was a partner for over 20 years prior to retiring in 2019. Mr. Steep is currently the President of S Factor Consulting Inc. Prior to retiring in 2002, Mr. Steep spent over 30 years in the financial services business and retired as a Senior Vice-President at a major Canadian chartered bank.

Under NI 81-107, Quadravest must refer conflict of interest matters for review or approval to the IRC, and imposes obligations upon Quadravest to establish written policies and procedures for dealing with conflict of interest matters, to maintain records in respect of these matters and to provide assistance to the IRC in carrying out its functions. Each of the executive officers of Quadravest work with the IRC in respect of these matters.

The IRC conducts regular assessments and provides reports to Quadravest and to Shareholders in respect of its functions. Annual reports are filed on SEDAR and posted on the Company’s website. Upon request made by a Shareholder, the Company will deliver a copy of the most recent of such annual reports of the IRC to such Shareholder without charge.

Members of the IRC currently receive compensation of \$15,000 per annum (\$25,000 per annum for the chair of the IRC) plus reimbursement of expenses. Annual compensation is apportioned among the various funds for which the IRC acts, including the Company, in Quadravest’s discretion. During the fiscal year of the Company ended November 30, 2022, \$4,077 of such compensation in the aggregate was allocated to the Company. During such period, no reimbursement of expenses was made to the IRC members.

## **Use of Derivatives**

Derivatives are used by the Company, principally exchange-traded options which are used in connection with the Company’s covered call option writing program. They are not used for speculative purposes or for leverage. Derivatives must be used in compliance with the detailed rules in NI 81-102 which are designed to minimize counterparty risk and to ensure that the derivatives use is not speculative or involve the Company in leverage. The effective derivatives exposure of the Company, if any, is monitored by Quadravest on an on-going basis and any margin required in connection with the Company’s derivatives positions is held by, and derivatives trading is undertaken with, independent third party organizations in compliance with the requirements of NI 81-102.

## **Voting of Portfolio Securities**

Under the proxy voting policies and procedures adopted by the Company, Quadravest is required to vote (or decide to refrain from voting) all shares or other voting securities of the Company in accordance with its best judgement in this regard; provided that Quadravest receives the proxy and related

materials from the issuer or otherwise in sufficient time to cast such vote. Quadravest will consider each such proposal on its merits in light of the best interests of the Company and its Shareholders. In order to aid in the evaluation process for each proxy proposal, Quadravest subscribes to the research services of Institutional Shareholder Services, a leading provider of proxy analysis and recommendations.

Where the custodian must vote such securities in accordance with the instructions of Quadravest in this regard, Quadravest shall ensure that instructions are provided to the custodian in accordance with its corporate action requirements in this regard.

Quadravest will maintain a proxy voting record which includes, each time the Company receives proxy voting materials, the name of the issuer in question; the stock exchange on which the securities are listed and the ticker symbol for such securities; the CUSIP number for the securities; the meeting date and whether the meeting was called by management or otherwise; a brief identification of the matters to be voted on at the meeting; whether, and if so how, the Company voted on such matters; and whether the votes cast by the Company were for or against the recommendations of management of the issuer.

The Company prepares by August 31 in each year a proxy voting record for the one-year period ending on June 30 of that year and posts such record on its website. Upon request made by a Shareholder by calling 1-877-478-2372 or writing to the Company at Investor Relations, 200 Front Street West, Suite 2510, Toronto, ON M5V 3K2, the Company will deliver a copy of its proxy voting record, or of its policies and procedures with respect to proxy voting, to such Shareholder without charge.

### **Short-Term Trading**

Because the Preferred Shares and the Class A Shares are listed on the TSX and are not issued and redeemed like a conventional mutual fund, the Company has no need of, and therefore has not developed, any policies with respect to the short-term trading by investors in those Shares or entered into any arrangements with others to permit short term trading.

### **CANADIAN FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS**

In the opinion of Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP, counsel to the Company, the following is a summary of the principal Canadian federal income tax considerations generally relevant to investors who, at all relevant times and for purposes of the Tax Act, are resident in Canada, deal at arm's length with the Company and are not affiliated with the Company, and hold their Preferred Shares and Class A Shares as capital property. Certain investors who might not otherwise be considered to hold their Preferred Shares or Class A Shares as capital property may, in certain circumstances, be entitled to make an irrevocable election pursuant to subsection 39(4) of the Tax Act, the effect of which is to deem such Preferred Shares or Class A Shares and any other "Canadian security", as defined in the Tax Act, owned by such investor in the taxation year in which the election is made and in all subsequent taxation years, to be capital property.

This summary is based upon the facts set out in this Annual Information Form, the current provisions of the Tax Act and the regulations thereunder, and counsel's understanding of the current administrative policies and assessing practices of the Canada Revenue Agency ("CRA") made publicly available in writing prior to the date hereof and relies as to certain factual matters on certificates of an officer of the Company and Quadravest. This summary also takes into account specific proposals to amend the Tax Act announced prior to the date hereof by or on behalf of the Minister of Finance (Canada) (the "Proposed Amendments") and assumes that the Proposed Amendments will be enacted as proposed. No assurances can be given that the Proposed Amendments will become law.

This summary is based on the assumptions that:

- (a) the Preferred Shares and Class A Shares will at all times be listed on a designated stock exchange in Canada (which currently includes the TSX);
- (b) the Company was not established and will not be maintained primarily for the benefit of non-residents of Canada;
- (c) the issuers of the securities held in the Portfolio will not be foreign affiliates of the Company or any Shareholder;
- (d) the investment objectives and restrictions applicable to the Company will at all relevant times be as set out in this Annual Information Form and that the Company will at all times comply with such investment objectives and restrictions; and
- (e) the Company does not and will not invest in or hold (i) a share of, an interest in, or a debt of a non-resident entity, an interest in or a right or option to acquire such a share, interest or debt or an interest in a partnership which holds such a share, option or right, interest or debt that would cause the Company (or partnership) to include amounts in income under section 94.1 of the Tax Act, (ii) securities of a non-resident trust other than an “exempt foreign trust” as defined in subsection 94(1) of the Tax Act, or (iii) an interest in a trust that would require the Company to report income in connection with such interest pursuant to the rules in section 94.2 of the Tax Act.

**This summary is not exhaustive of all possible federal income tax considerations and does not take into account or anticipate any changes in law, administrative policy or assessing practice, whether by legislative, governmental or judicial action, other than the Proposed Amendments. This summary does not deal with foreign, provincial or territorial income tax considerations, which may differ from the federal considerations. This summary does not address the deductibility of interest on any funds borrowed by an investor to purchase Preferred Shares or Class A Shares.**

**This summary does not apply to an investor (i) that is a “financial institution” as defined in section 142.2 of the Tax Act, (ii) an interest in which is a “tax shelter investment” as defined in subsection 143.2(1) of the Tax Act, (iii) which makes or has made a functional currency reporting election pursuant to section 261 of the Tax Act, or (iv) which enters into a “derivative forward agreement” (a “DFA”), as such term is defined in the Tax Act, with respect to the purchase or sale of Preferred Shares or Class A Shares.**

**This summary is of a general nature only and does not constitute legal or tax advice to any particular investor. Investors are advised to consult their own tax advisors with respect to their individual circumstances.**

### **Status of the Company**

The Company qualifies, and intends at all relevant times to qualify, as a “mutual fund corporation” as defined in the Tax Act.

### **Tax Treatment of the Company**

As a mutual fund corporation, the Company is entitled in certain circumstances to a refund of tax paid by it in respect of its net realized capital gains. The amount of the available refund to the Company

in any taxation year is determined by a formula which is based in part on (i) the amount of the capital gains dividends (described below) paid by the Company to Shareholders, and (ii) the amount of the Company's "capital gains redemptions" (as defined in the Tax Act) for the year, which amount is determined in part by reference to the amount paid by the Company to Shareholders on the redemption of Shares. As a mutual fund corporation, the Company maintains a capital gains dividend account in respect of capital gains realized by the Company and from which it may elect to pay dividends ("capital gains dividends") which are treated as capital gains in the hands of Shareholders (see "*Canadian Federal Income Tax Considerations — Tax Treatment of Shareholders*" below). In certain circumstances where the Company has recognized a capital gain in a taxation year on which tax would be payable by the Company, it may elect not to pay capital gains dividends in that taxation year in respect thereof and instead pay refundable capital gains tax, which may in the future be fully or partially refundable upon the payment of sufficient capital gains dividends and/or capital gains redemptions.

The Company will be required to include in computing its income for a taxation year all dividends received in the year. Dividends received from the Portfolio Companies will be fully taxable. Such dividends received by the Company may be subject to foreign withholding taxes. Depending on the circumstances, the Company may be entitled to a foreign tax credit or deduction in respect of such foreign withholding taxes. In computing its taxable income, the Company will generally be entitled to deduct all taxable dividends received on shares of taxable Canadian corporations, which shares may be included in the 20% of the Portfolio that may consist of equity securities of issuers other than the Portfolio Companies.

The Company is a "financial intermediary corporation" (as defined in the Tax Act) and, as such, is not subject to tax under Part IV.1 of the Tax Act on dividends received by the Company nor is it generally liable to tax under Part VI.1 of the Tax Act on dividends paid by the Company on "taxable preferred shares" (as defined in the Tax Act). As a mutual fund corporation (which is not an "investment corporation" as defined in the Tax Act), the Company will generally be subject to a refundable tax of 38  $\frac{1}{3}$ % under Part IV of the Tax Act on taxable dividends received during the year to the extent such dividends are deductible in computing the taxable income of the Company for the taxation year. This tax is fully refundable upon payment of sufficient dividends other than capital gains dividends ("Ordinary Dividends") by the Company.

The Company has purchased and will purchase shares in the Portfolio with the objective of earning dividends thereon over the life of the Company, and intends to treat and report transactions undertaken in respect of such shares on capital account. Generally, the Company will be considered to hold such shares on capital account unless the Company is considered to be trading or dealing in securities or otherwise carrying on a business of buying and selling securities or the Company has acquired the securities in a transaction or transactions considered to be an adventure or concern in the nature of trade. The Company has advised counsel that it has elected in accordance with the Tax Act to have each of its "Canadian securities" (as defined in subsection 39(6) of the Tax Act) treated as capital property; however, such election will not apply to shares of the Portfolio Companies which are not "Canadian securities".

In computing the adjusted cost base of any particular security held by the Company, the Company will generally be required to average the cost of that security with the adjusted cost base of all other identical securities owned by the Company and held as capital property.

A loss realized by the Company on a disposition of capital property will be a suspended loss for purposes of the Tax Act if the Company, or a person "affiliated" with the Company (within the meaning of the Tax Act), acquires a property (a "substituted property") that is the same or identical to the property disposed of, within 30 days before and 30 days after the disposition and the Company, or a person

affiliated with the Company, owns the substituted property 30 days after the original disposition. If a loss is suspended, the Company cannot deduct the loss from the Company's capital gains until the substituted property is sold and is not reacquired by the Company, or a person affiliated with the Company, within 30 days before and after the sale.

The Company will write covered call options with the objective of increasing the yield on the Portfolio beyond the dividends received on the common shares in the Portfolio. In accordance with CRA's published administrative practice, a transaction undertaken by the Company in respect of such options will be treated and reported for purposes of the Tax Act on capital account, unless such transaction is considered to be a DFA. In general, the writing of a covered call option by the Company in the manner described in "*Investment Objectives*" above is not expected to constitute a DFA. It is not clear whether the writing of covered calls, if coupled with certain other transactions, could be considered to be DFAs.

Quadravest and the Company have advised counsel that the Company will not enter into a DFA the effect of which would be to materially increase the income tax payable by the Company (taking into account all DFAs entered into).

Premiums received on call options written by the Company (to the extent such call options relate to securities actually owned by the Company at the time the option is written and such securities are held on capital account as discussed above) will constitute capital gains of the Company in the year received, and gains or losses realized upon dispositions of securities owned by the Company (whether upon the exercise of call options written by the Company or otherwise) will generally constitute capital gains or capital losses of the Company in the year realized. Where a call option is exercised the premium received by the Company for the option will be included in the proceeds of disposition of the securities sold pursuant to the option and such premium will not give rise to a capital gain at the time the option is written.

If the Company sells a security under a DFA, the amount by which the proceeds of disposition exceed (or are less than) the fair market value of the security at the time the DFA is entered into will generally be recognized as ordinary income (or loss) realized upon the disposition of the security. The deductibility of any loss realized on the disposition of a security under a DFA may be restricted depending upon the particular circumstances. The adjusted cost base to the Company of any such security will be increased (or decreased) by the amount of income recognized (or loss that is deductible) because of the DFA, and the Company's capital gain (or capital loss) will be adjusted accordingly.

Generally, the Company will include gains and deduct losses on income account in connection with investments made through derivative securities (except where such derivatives are used to hedge Portfolio securities held on capital account and provided there is sufficient linkage), and will recognize such gains or losses for tax purposes at the time they are realized by the Company. The Company may also use derivative instruments for hedging purposes. Gains or losses realized on such derivatives hedging Portfolio securities held on capital account will be treated and reported for tax purposes on capital account (subject to adjustment for any ordinary income or loss recognized from the disposition of property pursuant to a derivative that constitutes a DFA), provided there is sufficient linkage.

To the extent that the Company earns net income (other than taxable dividends from taxable Canadian corporations and taxable capital gains) such as interest, dividends from corporations other than taxable Canadian corporations or certain gains from the disposition of a security under a DFA, the Company will be subject to income tax on such income and no refund will be available in respect thereof.



The trading price of, and dividends on, shares of all of the Portfolio Companies are denominated in U.S. dollars. All dividends, cost and proceeds of disposition of securities, interest and all other amounts will be determined for purposes of the Tax Act in Canadian dollars using the relevant spot rate (as defined in the Tax Act) for the day on which the particular amount arises. The Company may realize gains or losses by virtue of the fluctuation in the value of foreign currencies relative to Canadian dollars.

### **Tax Treatment of Shareholders**

Shareholders must include in income Ordinary Dividends received from the Company. For individual Shareholders, Ordinary Dividends will be subject to the usual gross-up and dividend tax credit rules with respect to taxable dividends paid by taxable Canadian corporations under the Tax Act. An enhanced gross-up and dividend tax credit is available on “eligible dividends” received or deemed to be received from a taxable Canadian corporation which are so designated by the corporation. Ordinary Dividends received by a corporation other than a “specified financial institution” (as defined in the Tax Act) will generally be deductible in computing its taxable income. In certain circumstances, subsection 55(2) of the Tax Act will treat a taxable dividend received by a Shareholder that is a corporation as a capital gain. Shareholders that are corporations should consult their own tax advisors having regard to their own circumstances.

In the case of a Shareholder that is a specified financial institution, Ordinary Dividends received on a particular class of Shares will be deductible in computing its taxable income only if either (a) the specified financial institution did not acquire the Shares in the ordinary course of its business; or (b) at the time of the receipt of the dividends by the specified financial institution the Shares of that class are listed on a designated stock exchange in Canada, and dividends are received by (i) the specified financial institution, or (ii) the specified financial institution and persons with whom it does not deal at arm’s length (within the meaning of the Tax Act), in respect of not more than 10% of the issued and outstanding Shares of that class. For purposes of the exception in (b), a beneficiary of a trust will be deemed to receive the amount of any dividend received by the trust and designated to that beneficiary, effective at the time the dividend was received by the trust, and a member of a partnership will be deemed to have received that partner’s share of a dividend received by the partnership, effective at the time the dividend was received by the partnership.

Ordinary Dividends on Preferred Shares will generally be subject to a 10% tax under Part IV.1 of the Tax Act when such dividends are received by a corporation (other than a “private corporation” or a “financial intermediary corporation”, as defined in the Tax Act) to the extent that such dividends are deductible in computing the corporation’s taxable income. Such corporations should consult their own tax advisors with respect to whether Ordinary Dividends on the Class A Shares are subject to Part IV.1 tax when received by such corporations.

A Shareholder which is a private corporation for purposes of the Tax Act, or any other corporation controlled directly or indirectly by or for the benefit of an individual (other than a trust) or a related group of individuals (other than trusts) may be liable to pay a 38<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub>% refundable tax under Part IV of the Tax Act on Ordinary Dividends received on Class A Shares or Preferred Shares, to the extent that such dividends are deductible in computing the corporation’s taxable income. Where Part IV.1 tax also applies to an Ordinary Dividend received by a particular corporation, the Part IV tax payable by such corporation on such dividend is reduced by 10% of the dividend. The tax payable by a Shareholder under Part IV of the Tax Act may be refunded in certain circumstances to the extent the Shareholder pays sufficient taxable dividends.

The amount of any capital gains dividend received by a Shareholder from the Company will be considered to be a capital gain of the Shareholder from the disposition of capital property in the taxation year of the Shareholder in which the capital gains dividend is received.

The current policy of the Company is to pay monthly distributions and, in addition, to pay a special year-end dividend to holders of Class A Shares where amounts remain available for the payment of dividends. Therefore, a person acquiring Shares may become taxable on distributions derived from income and capital gains of the Company that accrued before such person acquired such Shares and on realized capital gains that have not been distributed before such time.

The Company may make returns of capital in respect of the Class A Shares. A return of capital in respect of a Class A Share will not be included in the income of the holder of the Class A Share, but will reduce the adjusted cost base of such Class A Share. To the extent that the adjusted cost base of a Class A Share would otherwise be less than zero, the negative amount will be deemed to be a capital gain realized by the Shareholder from the disposition of the Class A Share and the adjusted cost base will be increased by the amount of such deemed capital gain.

Upon the redemption, retraction or other disposition of a Share, a capital gain (or a capital loss) will be realized by the Shareholder to the extent that the proceeds of disposition of the Share exceed (or are less than) the aggregate of the adjusted cost base of the Share and any reasonable costs of disposition. If the Shareholder is a corporation, any capital loss arising on the disposition of a Share may in certain circumstances be reduced by the amount of any Ordinary Dividends received on the Share. Analogous rules apply to a partnership or trust of which a corporation, partnership or trust is a member or beneficiary. For purposes of computing the adjusted cost base of each Share of a particular class, a Shareholder must average the cost of such Share with the adjusted cost base of any Shares of that class already held as capital property.

One-half of a capital gain is included in computing income as a taxable capital gain and one-half of a capital loss must generally be deducted against taxable capital gains to the extent and under the circumstances prescribed in the Tax Act. A Shareholder that is a Canadian-controlled private corporation will be subject to an additional refundable tax on its "aggregate investment income" (as defined in the Tax Act), which includes an amount in respect of taxable capital gains. The additional tax is refundable in certain circumstances to the extent the Shareholder pays sufficient taxable dividends. Proposed Amendments released on August 9, 2022, are intended to extend this additional tax and refund mechanism in respect of "aggregate investment income" to "substantive CCPCs" as defined in such Proposed Amendments. Shareholders are advised to consult their own tax advisors regarding the possible implications of these Proposed Amendments in their particular circumstances.

Individuals (other than certain trusts) realizing net capital gains or receiving dividends may be subject to an alternative minimum tax under the Tax Act.

## **INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION REPORTING**

Pursuant to the Canada-United States Enhanced Tax Information Exchange Agreement entered into between Canada and the United States on February 5, 2014 (the "IGA") and related Canadian legislation in the Tax Act, the dealers through which Shareholders hold their Shares are required to report certain financial information (e.g. account balances) with respect to Shareholders, or their controlling persons, who are U.S. residents and U.S. citizens (including U.S. citizens who are residents and/or citizens of Canada), certain other "U.S. Persons", as defined under the IGA or who do not provide the requested information and indicia of U.S. or non-Canadian status are present (excluding trusts governed by registered retirement savings plans, registered retirement income funds, deferred profit sharing plans,

registered education savings plans, registered disability savings plans and tax-free savings accounts (each as defined in the Tax Act)), to the CRA. The CRA provides the information to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

Canada has also implemented the OECD Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement and Common Reporting Standard which provides for the automatic exchange of certain tax information between the tax authorities of participating jurisdictions. Affected investors are required to provide certain information including their tax identification numbers for the purpose of such information exchange.

## **MATERIAL CONTRACTS**

The following contracts can reasonably be regarded as material to holders of Preferred Shares and Class A Shares:

- (a) the articles of incorporation of the Company, as amended, referred to under “*Name, Formation and History of the Company*”;
- (b) the Management Agreement described under “*Management of the Company – The Manager*”;
- (c) the Investment Management Agreement described under “*Management of the Company – The Investment Manager – Investment Management Agreement*”;
- (d) the Recirculation Agreement described under “*Description of the Shares of the Company – Resale of Shares Tendered for Retraction*”; and
- (e) the Custodian Agreement described under “*Registrar and Transfer Agent, Custodian and Auditor*”.

Copies of the foregoing agreements have been filed on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – RISK FACTORS**

The following are certain considerations relating to an investment in Preferred Shares or Class A Shares which existing or prospective investors should consider. There can be no assurance that the Company will be successful in meeting its dividend and capital repayment objectives, and the Preferred Shares and Class A Shares may trade in the market at a premium or discount to their proportionate shares of the Company’s net asset value.

### **Interest and Currency Rate Fluctuations**

It is anticipated that the market price of the Preferred Shares and Class A Shares will, at any time, be affected by the level of interest rates prevailing at such time. A rise in interest rates may have a negative effect on the market price of the Preferred Shares and Class A Shares.

Some of the shares in the Portfolio and the dividends paid thereon will be denominated in U.S. dollars. To the extent that some or all of the Company’s exposure to the U.S. dollar is unhedged, the Company will be exposed to the risk that its net asset value, measured in Canadian dollars, will fluctuate with changes in the exchange rates between the Canadian dollar and the U.S. dollar. Quadravest expects that none of the Company’s exposure to the U.S. dollar will be hedged back to the Canadian dollar.

## **Risk of Volatile Markets and Market Disruption Risk**

The performance of the Portfolio may be influenced by, among other things, interest rates, changing supply and demand relationships, trade, fiscal, monetary and exchange control programs and policies of governments and national and international political and economic events and policies. In addition, unexpected and unpredictable events such as war and occupation, a widespread health crisis or global pandemic, terrorism and related geopolitical risks may lead to substantial market volatility and may have adverse long-term effects on world economies and markets generally. For example, the spread of a coronavirus disease (COVID-19 and any variants thereto) caused increased volatility and disruptions in global business activity and financial markets.

These factors may also cause inflation, a downturn or recession, exchange trading suspensions and closures, affect the Portfolio's performance and significantly reduce the value of an investment in shares. The Company is therefore exposed to some, and at times, a substantial, degree of market risk.

## **Net Asset Value and Distributions**

The net asset value of the Company and the funds available for distribution to Shareholders will vary, among other things, according to the value of the common shares in the Portfolio (which in turn will be influenced by factors which are not within the control of the Company, including the performance of the Portfolio Companies, their dividend payment policies and financial market and economic conditions generally), the dividends received by the Company on the shares in the Portfolio, and the level of option premiums received. There can be no assurance that the Company will be able to achieve its objectives of paying monthly dividends on the Preferred Shares or the Class A Shares. A substantial drop in the United States equities markets could be expected to have a negative effect on the Company. In addition, a decline in the market price of the shares in the Portfolio may adversely affect the rating on the Preferred Shares, which in turn may have an adverse impact on the market price or demand for such Shares. If such a drop were to lead to a significant decline in the value of the Portfolio, the Company could be prohibited from paying regular monthly or special annual dividends on the Class A Shares (see "*Description of the Shares of the Company – Certain Provisions of the Class A Shares*"), which in turn may have an adverse impact on the market price or demand for such Shares.

## **Use of Options**

The Company is subject to the full risk of its investment position in the shares of the Portfolio Companies, including those shares that are subject to outstanding call options, should the market price of the common shares decline. In addition, the Company will not participate in any gain on the common shares that are subject to outstanding call options above the strike price of the options.

There can be no assurance that a liquid exchange or over-the-counter market will exist to permit the Company to write covered call options on desired terms or to close out option positions should Quadravest desire to do so. In purchasing call options, the Company 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 ability of the Company to close out its positions may also be affected by exchange-imposed daily trading limits on options. If the Company is unable to repurchase a call option which is in-the-money, it will be unable to realize its profits or limit its losses until such time as the option becomes exercisable or expires.

## **Reliance on the Investment Manager**

Quadravest manages the Portfolio in a manner consistent with the investment objectives, strategy and criteria of the Company. The officers of Quadravest who will be primarily responsible for the management of the Portfolio have extensive experience in managing investment portfolios. There is no certainty that such individuals will continue to be employees of Quadravest throughout the term of the Company.

## **Conflicts of Interest**

Quadravest is engaged in a variety of management, investment management and other business activities. The services of Quadravest under the Management Agreement and Investment Management Agreement are not exclusive and nothing in those agreements prevents Quadravest or any of its affiliates from providing similar services to other investment funds and other clients (whether or not their investment objectives, strategies and policies are similar to those of the Company) or from engaging in other activities. Quadravest's investment decisions for the Company will be made independently of those made for its other clients and independently of its own investments. However, on occasion, Quadravest may make the same investment for the Company and for one or more of its other clients. If the Company and one or more of the other clients of Quadravest are engaged in the purchase or sale of the same security, the transactions will be effected on an equitable basis.

## **Treatment of Proceeds of Disposition and Option Premiums**

In determining its income for tax purposes, the Company will treat gains and losses realized on the disposition of securities in the Portfolio, option premiums received on the writing of covered call options and any gains and losses sustained on closing out options as capital gains and capital losses in accordance with CRA's published administrative practice (subject to adjustment for any ordinary income or loss recognized from the disposition of property pursuant to a derivative that constitutes a DFA, as described under "*Canadian Federal Income Tax Considerations – Tax Treatment of the Company*"). CRA's practice is not to grant advance income tax rulings on the character of items as capital or income and no advance income tax ruling has been applied for or received from CRA.

If, contrary to CRA's published administrative practice, some or all of the transactions undertaken by the Company in respect of options and securities in the Portfolio were treated on income rather than capital account, after-tax returns to holders of Class A Shares and Preferred Shares could be reduced and the Company may be subject to non-refundable income tax in respect of income from such transactions and the Company may be subject to penalty taxes in respect of excessive capital gains dividend elections.

## **Class A Shares a Leveraged Investment**

Holders of the Class A Shares enjoy a form of leverage in that any capital appreciation in the shares of the Portfolio Companies after payment of any accrued and unpaid distributions on the Preferred Shares, redemption or retraction value of the Preferred Shares and expenses are for the benefit of the holders of the Class A Shares. In the event of a decrease in the value of the Company's underlying investment in the shares of the Portfolio Companies, this leverage works to the disadvantage of holders of the Class A Shares, with the result that any net capital loss incurred by the Company on its investment in the shares of the Portfolio Companies is effectively first for the account of the holders of the Class A Shares. If the net asset value per Unit is less than or equal to \$10.00 plus accrued and unpaid distributions on the Preferred Shares on the Termination Date, the Class A Shares will have no value.

## **Applicability of Mutual Fund Rules**

Although the Company is considered to be a mutual fund under the securities legislation of certain provinces of Canada, it has been granted an exemption from certain requirements of NI 81-102, and so is not subject to all the same rules as conventional public mutual funds.

## **Mutual Fund Corporation Status**

The tax treatment of the Company and its Shareholders depends in part upon the Company being a “mutual fund corporation” for tax purposes. If the Company ceases to qualify as a mutual fund corporation under the Tax Act, such tax treatment would be materially and adversely different in certain respects.

## **Changes in Legislation and Regulatory Risk**

There can be no assurance that laws applicable to the Company, including securities legislation, will not be changed in a manner which adversely affects the Company or Shareholders. Certain legal or regulatory changes could make it more difficult, if not impossible, for the Company to operate or achieve its investment objectives. If legal or regulatory changes occur, such changes could have a negative effect upon the value of the Company, the Preferred Shares, the Class A Shares and upon investment opportunities available to the Company.

## **Suspension of Retractions**

The Company may suspend the retraction of Preferred Shares and Class A Shares or payment of retraction proceeds during any period when normal trading is suspended on any stock exchange within or outside Canada on which securities of the Company are listed which represent more than 50% by value of the total assets of the Company without allowance for liabilities or, with the prior permission of the Ontario Securities Commission, for any period not exceeding 120 days during which the Company determines that conditions exist which render impractical the sale of assets of the Company or which impair the ability of the Company to determine the value of the assets of the Company. In the event of a suspension of retractions, holders of Preferred Shares and Class A Shares would experience reduced liquidity. See “*Description of the Shares of the Company – Suspension of Retractions or Redemptions*”.

## **Effects of Substantial Retractions**

If holders of a substantial number of Preferred Shares or Class A Shares exercise their retraction rights, the number of Preferred Shares and Class A Shares outstanding and the net assets of the Company could be reduced, with the effect of decreasing the liquidity of the Preferred Shares and Class A Shares in the market and increasing the management expense ratio of the Company.

## **Cybersecurity Risk**

The information and technology systems of QuadraVest, the Company’s key service providers (including its custodian, registrar and transfer agent, valuation services provider and administration services provider) and the Portfolio Companies may be vulnerable to cybersecurity risks such as potential damage or interruption from computer viruses, network failures, computer and telecommunications failures, infiltration by unauthorized persons (e.g. through hacking or malicious software) and general security breaches. A cybersecurity incident is an adverse intentional or unintentional action or event that threatens the integrity, confidentiality or availability of the Company’s information resources. A cybersecurity incident may disrupt business operations or result in the theft of confidential or sensitive

information, including personal information, or may cause system failures, disrupt business operations or require QuadraVest or a service provider to make a significant investment to fix, replace or remedy the effects of such incident. Furthermore, a cybersecurity incident could cause disruptions and negatively impact the Company's business operations, potentially resulting in financial losses to the Company and Shareholders. There is no guarantee that the Company or QuadraVest will not suffer material losses as a result of cybersecurity incidents. If they occur, such losses could materially adversely impact the Company's net asset value.

**US FINANCIAL 15 SPLIT CORP.**

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Additional information about the Company is available in its management reports of fund performance and financial statements. These documents are available on the Company's website at [www.financial15.com](http://www.financial15.com). These documents and other information about the Company, such as information circulars and material contracts, are also available through SEDAR (the System for Electronic Document Analysis and Retrieval) at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com), or from your dealer.

