

## **ETFs as Alpha Enablers**

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### THE ALPHA SUMMIT

# Current state & consideration

The importance of a disciplined approach to portfolio construction and staying invested



#### **STAYING INVESTED**



# Time in the market almost always beats timing the market.

Average S&P 500 return after bear market trough					
3 months later	22.9%				
6 months later	31.7%				
1 year later	49.8%				
3 years later (annualized)	20.7%				
5 years later (annualized)	18.0%				
10 years later (annualized)	13.5%				

Missing just the **10 best days** in **2 decades** <u>cuts an investor's return in half</u>. **7 of these 10 best days** occurred <u>within 2 weeks of the 10 worst days</u>, often immediately following the worst days.

## Performance of \$10,000 invested in S&P 500 for 20 years to end of 2022





# To maintain the same expected 5% real return today vs 30 years ago requires a much more complex portfolio.





# Diversification among different asset classes may reduce portfolio risk

### **10-year correlations**

Mackenzie Asset Allocation ETFs: Single-ticket solutions

MCDW

MOON

										INCON	INDAL	WGRW
Canadian equities	1.00								QCN	12.0%	18.0%	24.0%
US equities	0.70	1.00							QUU	18.0%	27.0%	36.0%
International developed market equities	0.54	0.51	1.00						QDX	7.2%	10.8%	14.4%
Emerging market equities			0.64	1.00					QEE	2.8%	4.2%	5.6%
Canadian fixed income	-0.01	0.02	-0.01	-0.01	1.00				QBB	35.4%	23.6%	11.8%
US fixed income	-0.05	-0.10	-0.01	-0.07	0.06	1.00			QUB	13.8%	9.2%	4.6%
Developed ex-US aggregate bond	-0.01	0.01	-0.01	-0.05	0.10	0.59	1.00		QDXB	9.6%	6.4%	3.2%
EM local currency bonds	0.38	0.13		0.40	0.01	0.15	0.09	1.00	QEBL	1.2%	0.8%	0.4%

Source: Morningstar Direct as of March 31, 2023. All returns in CAD.

Exposures are represented by the following indices: Canadian equities: Solactive Canada Broad Market TR CAD, US equities: Solactive US Large Cap TR CAD, International Developed Market equities: Solactive GBS DM ex NA L&M C TR CAD, Canadian Fixed Income: FTSE Canada Universe Bond, US Fixed Income: BBgBarc US Agg Float Adj TR Hedged CAD, Developed ex-US Aggregate Bond: BBgBarc Gbl Agg xUSD 10% IC TR Hdg USD, EM local currency bonds: JPM GBI-EM Global Core TR USD



# Asset allocation remains the most important aspect of portfolio construction

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Emerging market equities	US equities	US equities	US equities	Canadian equities	Emerging market equities	Developed ex-US aggr bond	US equities	US equities	US equities	Canadian equities
15.61	40.65	23.5	21.43	24.78	28.26	12.36	24.77	18.52	27.11	-5.58
EM bond (local currency)	International dev market Eq	Developed ex-US aggr bond	Developed ex-US aggr bond	Emerging market equities	International dev market Eq	US equities	Canadian equities	Emerging market equities	Canadian equities	International dev market Eq
14.88	31.04	19.52	21.41	7.34	17.02	4.04	21.67	16.23	25.71	-8.13
International dev market Eq	Canadian equities	Canadian equities	International dev market Eq	US equities	US equities	EM bond (local currency)	International dev market Eq	Canadian Fixed Income	International dev market Eq	EM bond (local currency)
14.74	11.5	9.79	19.29	7.30	13.63	1.49	16.21	8.68	10.34	-10.18
US equities	Developed ex-US aggr bond	Canadian Fixed Income	Canadian Fixed Income	EM bond (local currency)	Canadian equities	Canadian Fixed Income	Emerging market equities	US Fixed Income	US Fixed Income	Developed ex-US aggr bond
12.86	7.70	8.79	3.52	6.15	9.18	1.41	12.45	7.53	-1.60	-10.68
12.86 Canadian equities	7.70 Emerging market equities	8.79 US Fixed Income	3.52 EM bond (local currency)	6.15 US Fixed Income	9.18 EM bond (local currency)	1.41 US Fixed Income	12.45 US Fixed Income	7.53 International dev market Eq	-1.60 Developed ex-US aggr bond	-10.68 Canadian Fixed Income
12.86 Canadian equities 6.00	7.70 Emerging market equities 3.93	8.79 US Fixed Income 6.81	3.52 EM bond (local currency) 2.81	6.15 US Fixed Income 2.51	9.18 EM bond (local currency) 7.13	1.41 US Fixed Income -0.79	12.45 US Fixed Income 8.07	7.53 International dev market Eq 6.02	-1.60 Developed ex-US aggr bond -2.48	-10.68 Canadian Fixed Income -11.69
12.86 Canadian equities 6.00 Developed ex-US aggr bond	7.70 Emerging market equities 3.93 Canadian Fixed Income	8.79 US Fixed Income 6.81 Emerging market equities	3.52 EM bond (local currency) 2.81 Emerging market equities	6.15 US Fixed Income 2.51 Canadian Fixed Income	9.18 EM bond (local currency) 7.13 US Fixed Income	1.41 US Fixed Income -0.79 International dev market Eq	12.45 US Fixed Income 8.07 Canadian Fixed Income	7.53 International dev market Eq 6.02 Canadian equities	-1.60 Developed ex-US aggr bond -2.48 Canadian Fixed Income	-10.68 Canadian Fixed Income -11.69 US Fixed Income
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12.86 Canadian equities 6.00 Developed ex-US aggr bond 5.34 US Fixed Income	7.70 Emerging market equities 3.93 Canadian Fixed Income -1.19 US Fixed Income	8.79 US Fixed Income 6.81 Emerging market equities 6.63 International dev market Eq	3.52 EM bond (local currency) 2.81 Emerging market equities 2.04 US Fixed Income	6.15 US Fixed Income 2.51 Canadian Fixed Income 1.66 Developed ex-US aggr bond	9.18 EM bond (local currency) 7.13 US Fixed Income 3.14 Canadian Fixed Income	1.41 US Fixed Income -0.79 International dev market Eq -5.87 Emerging market equities	12.45 US Fixed Income 8.07 Canadian Fixed Income 6.87 EM bond (local currency)	7.53 International dev market Eq 6.02 Canadian equities 5.91 Developed ex-US aggr bond	-1.60 Developed ex-US aggr bond -2.48 Canadian Fixed Income -2.54 Emerging market equities	-10.68 Canadian Fixed Income -11.69 US Fixed Income -13.44 Emerging market equities
12.86 Canadian equities 6.00 Developed ex-US aggr bond 5.34 US Fixed Income 5.13	7.70 Emerging market equities 3.93 Canadian Fixed Income -1.19 US Fixed Income -1.25	8.79 US Fixed Income 6.81 Emerging market equities 6.63 International dev market Eq 4.16	3.52 EM bond (local currency) 2.81 Emerging market equities 2.04 US Fixed Income 1.05	6.15 US Fixed Income 2.51 Canadian Fixed Income 1.66 Developed ex-US aggr bond 1.32	9.18 EM bond (local currency) 7.13 US Fixed Income 3.14 Canadian Fixed Income 2.52	1.41 US Fixed Income -0.79 International dev market Eq -5.87 Emerging market equities -6.88	12.45 US Fixed Income 8.07 Canadian Fixed Income 6.87 EM bond (local currency) 4.57	7.53 International dev market Eq 6.02 Canadian equities 5.91 Developed ex-US aggr bond 2.86	-1.60 Developed ex-US aggr bond -2.48 Canadian Fixed Income -2.54 Emerging market equities -3.37	-10.68 Canadian Fixed Income -11.69 US Fixed Income -13.44 Emerging market equities -13.9
12.86 Canadian equities 6.00 Developed ex-US aggr bond 5.34 US Fixed Income 5.13 Canadian Fixed Income	7.70 Emerging market equities 3.93 Canadian Fixed Income -1.19 US Fixed Income -1.25 EM bond (local currency)	8.79 US Fixed Income 6.81 Emerging market equities 6.63 International dev market Eq 4.16 EM bond (local currency)	3.52         EM bond (local currency)         2.81         Emerging market equities         2.04         US Fixed Income         1.05         Canadian equities	6.15 US Fixed Income 2.51 Canadian Fixed Income 1.66 Developed ex-US aggr bond 1.32 International dev market Eq	9.18 EM bond (local currency) 7.13 US Fixed Income 3.14 Canadian Fixed Income 2.52 Developed ex-US aggr bond	1.41 US Fixed Income -0.79 International dev market Eq -5.87 Emerging market equities -6.88 Canadian equities	12.45 US Fixed Income 8.07 Canadian Fixed Income 6.87 EM bond (local currency) 4.57 Developed ex-US aggr bond	7.53 International dev market Eq 6.02 Canadian equities 5.91 Developed ex-US aggr bond 2.86 EM bond (local currency)	-1.60 Developed ex-US aggr bond -2.48 Canadian Fixed Income -2.54 Emerging market equities -3.37 EM bond (local currency)	-10.68 Canadian Fixed Income -11.69 US Fixed Income -13.44 Emerging market equities -13.9 US equities

Picking "winning" asset classes is a near-impossible endeavour. Instead, a more practical approach to getting the right exposures is leveraging ETF building blocks and regularly rebalancing to achieve low-cost, broadly-diversified exposure to target allocations and risk levels.

Source: Morningstar Direct. All returns calendar annual returns in CAD.

Canadian equities: Solactive Canada broad market TR CAD, US equities: Solactive US large cap TR CAD, International developed market equities: Solactive GBS DM ex NA L&M C TR CAD, Canadian fixed income: FTSE Canada universe bond, US fixed income: Bloomberg US agg float adj TR hedged CAD, Developed ex-US aggregate bond: Bloomberg Gbl agg xUSD 10% IC TR Hdg USD, EM local currency bonds: JPM GBI-EM Global Core TR USD



# Asset allocation drives 92% of variability in a portfolio's returns

#### (Brinson, Hood, and Brian D. Singer)

Investments (Eq/Fl)	Cumulative return %	15yr return %	15yr std dev %	Max drawdown %
Bonds	55.8	3.0	3.4	-13.8
Stocks	386.8	11.1	12.6	-33.7
40%/60%	156.9	6.5	5.8	-14.3
60%/40%	222.5	8.1	7.9	-19.3
80%/20%	299.0	9.7	10.2	-26.7

#### Markets do not go up in straight lines.

- Diversification matters: asset classes, geographies, industries, etc.
- · Regular rebalancing is essential to ensure diversification benefits are realized
- Assumptions must be revisited regularly in light of dynamic market conditions





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## Part 1: Portfolio construction considerations

The importance of a disciplined approach to portfolio construction and staying invested





# A tailored, client-centric framework for portfolio construction

With **continued volatility, cash on the sidelines,** and a **plethora of investment options,** calibrating the portfolio construction process to achieve client goals is more important than ever.

### 01

### Setting goals, preferences

Understand both financial goals and personal goals as well as investment time horizon. Preferences also need to considered.

### 02

#### Determining risk tolerance & constraints

Consider the level of **volatility** the client would be comfortable with. **Be intentional** about the risks being taken and set appropriate **risk budgets**.



### Strategic asset allocation (core)

Determine an appropriate strategic asset mix that will anchor the portfolio in the long-run.



## Setting tactical tilts (satellite)

**Express short-term views through satellite investments** that can dial up or down various desired exposures.

Leveraging ETFs as building blocks & alpha enablers



# Key considerations to effective strategic & tactical portfolio allocations

Balance, cost, and discipline are crucial pillars to portfolio construction, both as they pertain to long-term strategic asset allocation and effective short-term tactical tilts.

### Fundamental principles for successful investing

- >
- **Balance:** Use building blocks to adequately diversify the core asset mix of the portfolio to minimize idiosyncratic (uncompensated) risk.
- **Cost:** Consider fees, taxes, trading costs, and liquidity costs when making strategic and tactical allocations. Alpha-seeking strategies should deliver excess risk-adjusted returns net of fees.
  - **Discipline:** Maintain a long-term perspective and avoid emotional reactions. Understand the importance of staying invested and regularly rebalancing.



### Strategic asset allocation (core)

Determine an appropriate strategic asset mix that will anchor the portfolio in the long-run.



## Setting tactical tilts (satellite)

**Express short-term views through satellite investments** that can dial up or down various desired exposures.

Leveraging ETFs as building blocks & alpha enablers



# Key considerations to effective product selection in a portfolio





## Strategic asset allocation (core)

Determine an appropriate strategic asset mix that will anchor the portfolio in the long-run.



## Setting tactical tilts (satellite)

Express short-term views through satellite investments that can dial up or down various desired exposures.



# Leveraging asset allocation ETFs as a single-ticket core solution to round out your strategic asset allocation

### **Simple, single-ticket solutions**

- MCON, MBAL, and MGRW combine the benefits of broad global diversification (8 Mackenzie ETF building blocks) with strategic asset allocation provided by the Mackenzie Multi-Asset Team.
- Designed for investors with different risk tolerance levels, with regular rebalancing to maintain target allocations/risk levels, enabling you to dedicate more time to other alphagenerating areas of your portfolio.
- A 20% allocation to Mackenzie ETFs could be an efficient way to fulfill risk and fee budgeting to round out your strategic asset allocation and achieve long-term portfolio objectives.





# Leveraging ETF building blocks to unlock alpha through asset allocation





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# Part 2: ETFs as tools in managing assets & enabling alpha

How ETFs can be deployed as powerful tools to improve client portfolios and unlock alpha



## **ETFs as tools in portfolio construction/management**

ETFs can serve various purposes in building more **efficient client portfolios** from a **cost, risk,** and **alpha** perspective.

	Tax optimization	Possible tax loss harvesting and other considerations to improve after-tax investor returns
Cost	Enhanced liquidity	Complement core allocations with ETF liquidity sleeves that allow for the tactical dialing up/down of specific exposures
	Diversification	Cost-effective diversification across different asset classes, geographies, factors, etc.
	Active-passive combinations	Use a combination of low-cost index ETFs and active funds / ETFs with exposures to different asset classes/market cycles
Alpha		



## **Tax optimization – ETF structure matters**

## Objective: <u>Avoid</u> costly level 2 withholding taxes that erode investor returns by selecting solutions that can improve portfolio alpha through tax-efficient outcomes





Account Type							
RRSF	, RRIF	TFSA, RD	SP, RESP	Taxable A	ccounts		
Level 1 Tax (underlying ETF / exposure)	Level 2 Tax (if applicable)	Level 1 Tax (underlying ETF / exposure)	Level 2 Tax (if applicable)	Level 1 Tax (underlying ETF / exposure)	Level 2 Tax (if applicable)		
N/A	x	N/A	~	N/A	тс		
N/A	✓	N/A	~	N/A	тс		
N/A	✓	N/A	~	N/A	тс		
ncome only)							
N/A	R	N/A	R	N/A	R		
N/A	R	N/A	R	N/A	R		
N/A	x	N/A	x	N/A	~		
×	x	✓	✓	~	тс		
~	✓	~	~	~	тс		
~	N/A	~	x	тс	N/A		
	RRSF Level 1 Tax (underlying ETF / exposure) N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A	RRSP, RRIF       Level 1 Tax (underlying ETF / exposure)     Level 2 Tax (if applicable)       N/A     X       N/A     X       N/A     ✓       N/A     ✓       N/A     R       N/A     R       N/A     R       N/A     X       V/A     X       N/A     X       N/A     X       N/A     X       N/A     X	N/A     X     N/A       N/A     X     N/A	N/A     X     N/A       N/A     X     N/A	Account Type       RRSP, RRIF     TFSA, RDSP, RESP     Taxable A       Level 1 Tax (underlying ETF / exposure)     Level 1 Tax (if applicable)     Level 1 Tax (underlying ETF/ exposure)     Level 1 Tax (if applicable)     Level 1 Tax (underlying ETF/ exposure)       N/A     X     N/A     ✓     N/A       N/A     X     N/A     ✓     N/A       N/A     ✓     N/A     ✓     N/A       N/A     R     N/A     R     N/A       N/A     R     N/A     R     N/A       N/A     R     N/A     R     N/A       N/A     R     N/A     X     N/A       N/A     X     N/A     X     N/A       N/A     X     N/A     X     N/A       N/A     X     N/A     X     X		

✓ Tax will apply X Tax will not apply TC Tax credit is available R Reclaim is available

Level 1 Tax: Withholding taxes applied by the foreign country where the shares in the ETF originales Level 2 Tax: Withholding taxes applied by the US to ETFs that pay dividends to non- US shareholders.



## Tax optimization – Tax loss harvesting (TLH)

**Objective:** Realize losses in existing positions by rotating into different ETFs, offsetting capital gains realized on other investments, thereby lowering taxes payable and improving portfolio alpha

#### TLH examples during 2022 market drawdown

#### Trade Idea: Sell out of individual Canadian equities and invest in QCN or QCE

	Mackenzie ETF Alternatives			
Ticker	Name	Price Change YTD	Price Change 1 YR	Mackenzie ETF
SHOP	Shopify Inc	-75.15%	-76.66%	
BNS	Bank of Nova Scotia	-26.40%	-18.77%	
CM Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce		-22.17%	-17.60%	- QCN/QCE
BAM/A	Brookfield Asset Management Inc	-29.38%	-27.80%	

#### Trade Idea: Sell out of US Large Cap Equity Index ETFs and invest in QUU

US Equity Index ETFs								
Ticker	ETF	Underlying Index	Management Fee	Price Change YTD	Price Change 1 YR			
QUU	Mackenzie US Large Cap Equity Index ETF	Solactive US Large Cap CAD Index	0.06%	-13.86%	-9.73%			
XUS	iShares Core S&P 500 Index ETF	S&P 500 Index	0.09%	-11.81%	-7.35%			
VEV	Vanguard S&P 500 Index ETF	5&P 500 Index	0.08%	-12.40%	-7.43%			
ZSP	BMO S&P 500 Index ETF	5&P 500 Index	0.08%	-12.50%	-7.53%			

#### Superficial loss rule:

When an investment is sold for a loss, and an identical investment is purchased either 30 days before or after the loss was realized, Canadian tax laws will deny the loss. For this rule not to hinder a TLH strategy, ensure the ETF being rotated into tracks a different index to the one sold (e.g. Solactive US Large Cap Index instead of S&P 500)

Trading costs when selling/ buying existing /new ETFs; may be offset by reduction in management fees with new ETFs.



### Risk

Relatively unchanged if rotating into ETF with similar mandate (XIU  $\rightarrow$ QCE). May increase/ decrease if rotating into ETF with slightly different mandate  $(XWD \rightarrow MDVD).$ 

Alpha May improve tax alpha by lowering the portfolio's overall tax expense.

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## **Enhanced liquidity – ETF liquidity sleeves: Northleaf x QINF**

Objective: Allow advisors to be more tactical with their allocations by providing flexibility to rapidly dial up/down exposures to specific sectors/risks as market conditions or investor goals change.

#### **Example: Dedicated infrastructure sleeve**



3%-4% Greater than 4% Inflation

Public Infrastructure - Equities Private Infrastructure - Equities

4%

0%

during periods of high inflation.

With an ETF liquidity sleeve, advisors can tactically dial up/down their infrastructure exposure as dictated by the inflationary environment.



#### Risk

Daily liquidity allows for the tactical dialing up and down of exposures as market conditions or investor objectives change, enabling greater flexibility in risk management.

### Alpha

Pairing private investments with ETF liquidity sleeves may capture higher risk-adjusted returns in specific sectors



# **Diversification – ETF building blocks for low-cost diversification**

Objective: Achieve low-cost diversification across asset classes, geographies, factors, etc. to reduce portfolio risk.

#### ETFs can help achieve diversification across:

	Accet classes		_	Cost
V	Asset classes			With regular
	Equity/FI	MCON, MBAL, MGRW	0.17%	rebalancing and
	Equity	QCN, QUU, QDX, QEE	0.04% - 0.22%	fees, ETF building
	Fixed income	QBB, QUB, QDXB, QEBL	0.07% - 0.45%	blocks may be a cheaper core
	Infra/Real estate	QINF, QRET	0.40%	alternative to
2	Geographies			trading.
	Canada	QCE, QCN, QBB, QCB, QSB	0.04% - 0.14%	
	US	QUU, QAH, QUB, QHY, QUIG, QTIP	0.06% - 0.40%	
	International	QDX, QDXH, QDXB	0.17% - 0.30%	
	EM/China	QEE, QEBL, QEBH, QCH	0.22% - 0.55%	
3	Factors			
	Dividend	MDVD	0.25%	
	Large Cap	QCE, QUU, QAH	0.04% - 0.06%	

### Risk

Diversification *within* ETFs holding dozens to thousands of securities reduces *idiosyncratic risk*, while diversification *across* several ETFs spanning various geographies, asset classes, etc. further reduces risk.

Alpha



# Active-passive combinations – Low-cost diversification paired with active management to enable alpha

Objective: Improve risk-adjusted returns by leveraging active manager expertise in certain exposures while benefitting from low-cost indexing where broad exposure is desirable

#### Example: Fixed income carve-out

QBB

QUB

**QDXB** 

QEBL

QSB

QCB

QHY

QUIG

QTIP

#### Index ETFs (50-70%)

- Low-cost exposure; broadly diversified across regions, maturities, credit qualities, etc.
- Unlock asset allocation alpha by actively managing exposures to specific fixed income categories (high-yield, corporate, EM, etc.)
- Can tactically dial up/down passive allocation depending on market conditions.

#### Active ETFs (30-50%)

Benefit from active management in FI MUB categories where opportunities for alpha MFT through security selection exist. MKB Unlock asset allocation MGB **alpha** through exposure to unconstrained/floating MCSB rate fixed income. MGSB Can tactically dial up active exposure when market MHYB conditions are conducive to

alpha-generation.



Alpha Unlock alpha through active management in both asset allocation and security selection



## **Portfolio construction framework**

#### In summary





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# **Closing Remarks**



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