## **Annual Management Report of Fund Performance**

As at December 31, 2023

# Canso Credit Income Fund





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### **A Note About Forward Looking Statements**

This annual Management Report of Fund Performance includes certain statements that are "forward looking statements". All statements, other than statements of historical fact, included in this Management Report of Fund Performance that address activities, events or developments that the Fund expects or anticipates will or may occur in the future, including such things as anticipated financial performance, are forward looking statements. The words "may", "could", "would", "should", "believe", "plan", "anticipate", "expect", "intend", "forecast", "objective" and similar expressions are intended to identify forward looking statements.

These forward looking statements are subject to various risks and uncertainties, including the risks described in the simplified prospectus of the Fund, which could cause actual financial performance and expectations to differ materially from the anticipated performance or other expectations expressed.

Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward looking statements. All opinions contained in forward looking statements are subject to change without notice and are provided in good faith but without legal responsibility.

The Fund has no specific intention of updating any forward looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by securities legislation. Certain research and information about specific holdings in the Fund, including any opinion, is based upon various sources believed to be reliable, but it cannot be guaranteed to be current, accurate or complete. It is for information only, and is subject to change without notice.

### **About This Report**

This annual Management Report of Fund Performance of Canso Credit Income Fund (the "Fund") contains financial highlights for the year ended December 31, 2023 but does not contain the complete financial statements of the Fund. This report should be read in conjunction with the annual financial statements of the Fund for the year ended December 31, 2023. Lysander Funds Limited (the "Manager") is the manager of the Fund. You can get a copy of the financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling toll-free 1 877 308 6979, by writing to Lysander Funds Limited, 3080 Yonge St., Suite 4000, Toronto, Ontario, M4N 3N1, by visiting our website at www.lysanderfunds.com or at SEDAR+ at www.sedarplus.ca.

Unitholders may also contact Lysander Funds Limited using one of these methods to obtain a copy of the Fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosure.

#### **Investment objective**

The Fund's investment objective is to (i) maximize total returns for unitholders while reducing risk and (ii) provide unitholders with monthly cash distributions by taking long and short positions primarily in corporate bonds and other income securities.

#### **Investment Strategies**

The Fund's portfolio manager is Canso Investment Counsel Ltd. ("Canso" or "Portfolio Manager"), a company under common control as the Manager. The Fund's holdings are not restricted by credit ratings. In addition, Canso engages in short selling of securities primarily to hedge credit and interest rate risk. This

allows the Fund's portfolio to be positioned more defensively in both rising interest rate environments and credit downturns.

#### Risks

The risks of this Fund remain as discussed in the Fund's most recently filed public disclosure documents.

### **Results of Operations**

The Fund had returns for the year of 4.4% for Class A units and 4.4% for Class F units. At the end of the year, the Fund held approximately 36.1% of its net asset value in short positions. These primarily consisted of short positions in Government of Canada bonds and U.S. Treasury bonds.

The net assets of the Fund were approximately \$138.9 million at December 31, 2023 from \$153.9 million at the beginning of the year. There were net redemptions of approximately \$13.8 million and cash distributions of \$4.9 million during the year.

During the year, the Fund paid performance fee of \$2,444,668. A performance fee, if applicable, will be equal to 20% of its outperformance of the FTSE Canada All Corporate Bond Index.

There were no unusual changes to the components of revenue and expenses of the Fund and there were no unusual events or transactions, economic changes or market conditions that affected performance beyond what would be reasonably expected or as described below.

The Fund did not borrow money during the year except for immaterial short-term cash overdrafts.

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#### **Recent Developments**

The U.S. Federal Reserve's ("the Fed") about-face on interest rates in the fourth quarter fueled a rally in almost every asset class, from speculative technology shares to junk bonds. The Treasury market posted its first annual gain since 2020 as slowing inflation bolstered views that the Fed's campaign of interest rate increases was seemingly over. The Fed acknowledged that economic activity had slowed, and job gains moderated. The Fed also prepared a potential path towards rate cuts.

The market may have gotten ahead of itself as investors clamored to invest cash before year end. The market is forecasting six quarter-point rate cuts throughout 2024. Investors have also been puzzled by the failure of a widely anticipated recession to materialize.

The Bank of Canada is concerned that inflationary pressures are broad-based. Economic growth stalled during the middle quarters of 2023 as higher interest rates were restraining consumer spending. The labour market is easing, and job creation has slowed. Wages are still rising at an elevated rate despite a modest increase in the unemployment rate.

The Fund maintains a weight in short dated, liquid securities as both credit and interest rate risks remained elevated. The Fund reduced its weight in BB & Below rated securities over the period to 40.8% as spreads on high yield bonds remain tight. The Fund had a net positive exposure of 2.6% to AAA/AA rated securities.

The Funds continues to take on duration when it believes that it's is being compensated for the incremental interest rate risk or where it's able to effectively hedge by shorting government securities. Floating rate exposure allows the Fund to mitigate interest rate risk while still being able to benefit from credit spread tightening. The Fund ended the year with 36.1% short position in government securities, which are offset by corresponding long corporate and government bonds and a positive cash balance. Duration of the Fund was 1.4 years at the end of the year.

There have been no changes to the Manager or Portfolio Manager, or change of control of the Manager, or of the Fund. There have been no actual or planned reorganizations, mergers or similar transactions involving the Fund.

There were no changes to the membership of the Fund's Independent Review Committee ("IRC").

### **Related Party Transactions**

The Manager provides or arranges to provide for the provision of all general management and administrative services required by the Fund in its day-to-day operations, including but not limited to, calculating and reporting the net asset value of the Fund and its classes, preparing all offering documents, unitholder recordkeeping and other administrative services. The Manager receives a management fee for these services. The fee is calculated based on a percentage of the net asset value of the Fund as disclosed in the Fund's most recently filed Annual Information Form.

The Fund paid \$1,089,396 (excluding HST) in management fees to the Manager for the year ended December 31, 2023 (December 31, 2022 - \$1,136,709).

The Manager is also entitled to receive a performance fee from the Fund (the "Performance Fee") under certain conditions as described in the Fund's most recently filed Annual Information Form. For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Performance Fee accrued payable by the Fund was \$2,163,423 (excluding HST) (December 31, 2022 - \$Nil).

The Portfolio Manager is responsible for all investment advice provided to the Fund including providing investment analysis and recommendations, making investment decisions and arranging for the acquisition and disposition of portfolio investments. Portfolio management fees for the Portfolio Manager's services are paid from the management fee. The Manager will also pay to Canso a percentage of any Performance Fee that the Manager receives from the Fund, such percentage to be agreed upon between the Manager and the Portfolio Manager from time to time.

The Manager paid \$2,239,124 (excluding HST) to the Portfolio Manager for the year ended December 31, 2023 (December 31, 2022 - \$530,464) including performance fees, if applicable.

The Manager relied, or may rely on standing instructions from the IRC in respect of securities traded amongst mutual funds, closed end funds, managed accounts or pooled funds managed by the Manager or an affiliate of the Manager. In such cases the Manager is required to comply with the Manager's written policies and procedures presented to the IRC and provide periodic reports to the IRC in accordance with National Instrument 81-107.

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### **Financial Highlights**

#### Class A

Year ended	31-Dec-2023	31-Dec-2022	31-Dec-2021	31-Dec-2020	31-Dec-2019
Net assets per unit <sup>1</sup>					
Net assets, beginning of year	\$ 14.71	\$ 15.29	\$ 13.69	\$ 11.34	\$ 10.70
Operations:					
Total revenue	1.18	0.59	1.20	1.45	0.75
Total expenses	(0.57)	(0.28)	(1.17)	(0.84)	(0.34)
Realized gains (losses)	(0.07)	1.58	1.88	1.25	(0.15)
Unrealized gains (losses)	0.08	(1.97)	0.18	0.67	0.88
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>2</sup>	\$ 0.62	\$ (0.08)	\$ 2.09	\$ 2.53	\$ 1.14
Distributions:					
From income (excluding dividends)	\$ (0.29)	\$ (0.36)	\$ (0.41)	\$ (0.31)	\$ -
From dividends	(0.12)	(0.19)	(80.0)	(0.07)	(0.02)
From capital gains	(0.34)	(0.51)	(1.70)	(1.70)	-
From return of capital	-	-	-	-	(0.48)
Total distributions <sup>2 3</sup>	\$ (0.75)	\$ (1.06)	\$ (2.19)	\$ (2.08)	\$ (0.50)
Net assets, end of year <sup>2 3</sup>	\$ 14.85	\$ 14.71	\$ 15.29	\$ 13.69	\$ 11.34

Ratios and supplemental data										
Net asset value <sup>4</sup> (thousands)	\$	135,004	\$	148,933	\$	152,808	\$	132,886	\$	142,866
Units outstanding		9,093,749		10,123,880		9,992,726		9,706,083		12,603,943
Management expense ratio <sup>5</sup>	%	2.53	%	0.96	%	6.85	%	5.40	%	1.52
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorption		2.53		0.96		6.85		5.40		1.52
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>6</sup>		41.43		52.27		37.82		86.43		48.10
Trading expense ratio <sup>7</sup>		0.13		0.07		0.01		-		0.01
Net asset value per unit, end of year		14.85		14.71		15.29		13.69		11.34
Closing Market price per unit <sup>4</sup>	\$	14.22	\$	13.66	\$	15.15	\$	13.41	\$	10.90

#### Notes

- 1 The information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements. All per unit figures presented are referenced to net assets determined in accordance to IFRS
- 2 Net assets and distributions are based on the actual numbers of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase (decrease) from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial period. This table is not intended to be a reconciliation of beginning to ending net assets per unit.
- 3 Distributions were paid in cash. A portion of the distributions in 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 were paid in cash (\$0.50/unit) and the remainder was paid as a special non-cash distribution.
- **4** This information is provided at the end of the period shown.
- 5 The management expense ratio is based on the total expenses of the period ended and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset values during the period. Prior to July 1, 2020, the Fund paid servicing fees at 0.40% per annum on Class A units. On July 1, 2020, the Fund discontinued the payment of servicing fees. Effective December 31, 2023 the management expense ratio excludes the stock borrows costs which will be reflected in the trading expense ratio.
- 6 The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio manager manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the period. The higher a fund's portfolio turnover rate in a period, the greater the trading costs payable by the fund in the period, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the period. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a fund. The portfolio turnover rate is calculated based on the lesser of purchases or sales of securities divided by the weighted average market value of portfolio securities, excluding short term securities.
- 7 The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period. Effective December 31, 2023 the stock borrows costs which will be reflected in the trading expense ratio.

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#### Class F

Year ended		31-Dec-2023		31-Dec-2022		31-Dec-2021		31-Dec-2020		31-Dec-2019
Net assets per unit <sup>1</sup>										
Net assets, beginning of year	\$	16.52	\$	17.09	\$	15.01	\$	12.39	\$	11.62
Operations:										
Total revenue		1.33		0.66		1.32		1.57		0.82
Total expenses		(0.64)		(0.32)		(1.11)		(0.88)		(0.32)
Realized gains (losses)		(0.10)		1.83		1.88		1.35		(0.16)
Unrealized gains (losses)		0.07		(2.48)		0.59		0.55		0.94
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>2</sup>	\$	0.66	\$	(0.31)	\$	2.68	\$	2.59	\$	1.28
Distributions:										
From income (excluding dividends)	\$	(0.33)	\$	(0.15)	\$	(0.30)	\$	(0.37)	\$	-
From dividends		(0.13)		(0.08)		(0.06)		(0.08)		(0.02)
From capital gains		(0.34)		(0.97)		(2.87)		(1.77)		-
From return of capital		-		-		-		-		(0.48)
Total distributions <sup>2 3</sup>	\$	(0.80)	\$	(1.20)	\$	(3.23)	\$	(2.22)	\$	(0.50)
Net assets, end of year <sup>2 3</sup>	\$	16.74	\$	16.52	\$	17.09	\$	15.01	\$	12.39
Ratios and supplemental data										
Net asset value <sup>4</sup> (thousands)	\$	3,919	\$	5,019	\$	7,747	\$	11,253	\$	13,749
Units outstanding		234,125		303,844		453,278		749,740		1,109,959
Management expense ratio <sup>5</sup>	%	2.50	%	0.98	%	5.77	%	5.21	%	1.16
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorption		2.50		0.98		5.77		5.21		1.16
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>6</sup>		41.43		52.27		37.82		86.43		48.1
Trading expense ratio <sup>7</sup>		0.13		0.07		0.01		-		0.01
Net asset value per unit, end of year	\$	16.74	\$	16.52	\$	17.09	\$	15.01	\$	12.39

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### **Management Fees**

The Manager provides or arranges the provision of all general management and administrative services required by the Fund, and as described in the section "Related Party Transactions" above.

In consideration for such services, the Manager receives a monthly management fee, based on the net asset value of each Class, calculated daily and payable monthly. The Fund pays a management fee at a rate of 0.75% per annum for Class A and Class F units.

The Fund may also pay a performance fee under certain conditions as described in the Fund's most recent Annual Information Form.

#### **Past Performance**

The following charts and table show the past performance of the Fund. Past performance does not necessarily indicate how the Fund will perform in the future. The information shown assumes that cash distributions made by the Fund in the years/periods shown were reinvested in additional units of the Fund.

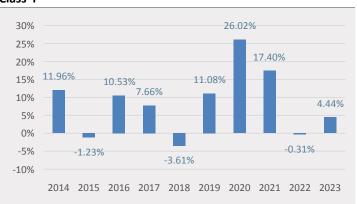
Prior to June 25, 2015, the Fund used a fund-on-fund investment strategy whereby the Fund gained exposure to Canso Credit Trust through a forward agreement. On June 25, 2015, as a result of changes to the Income Tax Act (Canada), CCIF changed its investment objectives, ceased to use a fund-on-fund strategy and began investing in securities directly. In addition, prior to July 1, 2020, the Fund paid servicing fees at 0.40% per annum on Class A units. On July 1, 2020, the Fund discontinued the payment of servicing fees. These changes could have affected the performance of the Fund or a class of units of the Fund had these changes been in effect throughout the performance measurement period.

#### Year-by-Year Returns

#### Class A



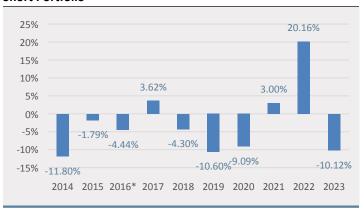
#### Class F



### **Long Portfolio**



#### **Short Portfolio**



<sup>\*</sup> Restated performance for short portfolio for January 1 to December 31

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### **Annual Compound Returns**

The following table shows the Fund's annual compound return for each period indicated, compared with the FTSE Canada All Corporate Bond Index (the "Index"). The Index is divided into sub-indices based on credit rating: a combined AAA/AA sector, a single A sector, and a BBB sector. The returns of the Index are calculated without the deduction of fees and expenses, whereas the performance of the Fund is calculated after deducting such fees and expenses.

For years ended December 31, 2023		1 Year	3 Year <sup>2</sup>	5 Year <sup>2</sup>		10 Year <sup>2</sup>
Annual Compound Return						
Class A <sup>1</sup>	%	4.39	% 6.40	% 10.97	%	7.68
Class F <sup>1</sup>		4.44	7.02	11.40		8.08
Long Portfolio <sup>1</sup>		7.68	5.53	9.48		7.86
Short Portfolio <sup>1</sup>		(10.12)	3.61	(2.00)		(2.93)
FTSE Canada All Corporate Bond Index <sup>3</sup>	%	8.37	% (1.23)	% 2.51	%	3.10

#### Notes

- 1 Returns are based on the net asset value per unit of the relevant series of the Fund and assume that all distributions were reinvested.
- 2 Compound period returns are annualized.
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### **Summary of Investment Portfolio**

		% of NAV
Top 25 Issuers		
Long positions:		
Canadian Government	%	31.7
Air Canada		9.4
Strait Crossing Dev Inc.		5.2
Manulife Financial Corp.		5.2
Pembina Pipeline Corp.		4.8
Toronto-Dominion Bank		4.5
General Electric Co		4.4
Avis Budget Car/Finance		4.4
Royal Bank Of Canada		3.1
Bombardier Inc.		3.1
Clearstream Energy Services Inc.		2.9
Loblaw Companies Limited		2.8
Yellow Pages Ltd/Canada (Equity)		2.8
Enbridge Inc.		2.8
Thomson Reuters Corp. (Equity)		2.6
Latam Airlines Group SA		2.5
Transcanada Pipelines		2.4
Met Life Glob Funding I		2.2
Spirit Aerosystems Inc.		2.0
Credit Suisse Group AG		1.8
Hertz Corp.		1.8
Natwest Group Plc		1.7
Short positions:		
US Government		(5.1)
Canadian Government		(31.0)
Total	%	68.0
Total Portfolio Long Positions	%	136.1
Total Portfolio Short Positions		(36.1)

		% of NAV
Asset Mix		
Canadian Fixed Income	%	94.5
Foreign Fixed Income		24.3
Canadian Equities		5.1
Preferred Shares		5.9
Cash and Cash Equivalents		0.2
Foreign Fixed Income - Short		(5.1)
Other Assets less Liabilities		6.1
Canadian Fixed Income - Short		(31.0)
Total	%	100.0
Sector		
Sector Cash and Cash Equivalents	%	0.2
	%	0.2 13.4
Cash and Cash Equivalents	%	*
Cash and Cash Equivalents Communication Services	%	13.4
Cash and Cash Equivalents Communication Services Consumer Discretionary	%	13.4
Cash and Cash Equivalents Communication Services Consumer Discretionary Consumer Staples	%	13.4 1.3 12.5
Cash and Cash Equivalents Communication Services Consumer Discretionary Consumer Staples Energy	%	13.4 1.3 12.5 14.4
Cash and Cash Equivalents Communication Services Consumer Discretionary Consumer Staples Energy Financials	%	13.4 1.3 12.5 14.4 26.6
Cash and Cash Equivalents Communication Services Consumer Discretionary Consumer Staples Energy Financials Government	%	13.4 1.3 12.5 14.4 26.6 (3.3)



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