

# FORTIFIED SPECIAL SITUATIONS ALTERNATIVE FUND



**THINK AHEAD.  
STAY AHEAD.**



# PICTON MAHONEY FORTIFIED SPECIAL SITUATIONS ALTERNATIVE FUND

MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE (FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023)

This annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete annual financial statements for Picton Mahoney Fortified Special Situations Alternative Fund (the "Fund"). If you have not received a copy of the annual financial statements with the management report of fund performance, you may obtain a copy of the annual financial statements, at no cost, by calling 416-955-4108 or toll-free at 1-866-369-4108, by writing to us at Picton Mahoney Asset Management, 33 Yonge Street, Suite 830, Toronto ON M5E 1G4, or by visiting our website at [www.pictonmahoney.com](http://www.pictonmahoney.com) or SEDAR+ at [www.sedarplus.ca](http://www.sedarplus.ca).

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

## INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE AND STRATEGIES

The investment objective of the Picton Mahoney Fortified Special Situations Alternative Fund is to maximize total return to unitholders through income and capital appreciation by investing primarily in by investing primarily in event-driven situations in global fixed income while mitigating capital loss through shorting and other hedging strategies. The Fund invests its assets primarily in North America but can invest up to 100% of its assets globally in long and short positions in high yield bonds, investment grade corporate bonds, government bonds, emerging market bonds, loans, convertible bonds, convertible debentures, preferred shares, options, futures, forward contracts, swaps, swaptions, short-term debt instruments, distressed debt, collateral loan obligations, mortgage-backed securities, asset-backed securities, cash and cash equivalents, equities, ETFs and other mutual funds. The Fund may engage in borrowing for investment purposes. Picton Mahoney Asset Management is the manager (the "Manager"), portfolio advisor (the "Portfolio Advisor") and the trustee (the "Trustee") of the Fund.

The Fund is considered an "alternative fund" meaning it has received exemptions from National Instrument 81-102 – Investment Funds ("NI 81-102") to permit it to use strategies generally prohibited by conventional mutual funds, such as the ability to borrow, up to 50% of the Fund's net asset value, cash to use for investment purposes; sell, up to 50% of the Fund's net asset value, securities short (the combined level of cash borrowing and short selling is limited to 50% in aggregate); and leverage up to 300% of the Fund's net asset value.

The Fund seeks to build a diversified portfolio by investing long or short in event driven, credit situations including fixed income securities that are impacted by some form of catalyst such as a corporate event, capital structure reorganization or other opportunistic situations. The Fund seeks gains through income and movements in security prices that can occur over a short to long-term time horizon providing an attractive risk-adjusted return with less volatility to the traditional equity and credit markets. The Fund will invest 93% primarily in Canadian, U.S. and international fixed income securities but will not be limited in the type of fixed income securities in which it may invest. The Fund may invest in other mutual funds and ETFs, including funds managed by the Portfolio Advisor. In selecting securities for the portfolio, the Manager will focus on securities that it believes will maximize risk-adjusted returns.

The Fund may also choose to: i) invest up to 100% of its portfolio in international securities; ii) engage in short selling in a manner which is consistent with the investment objectives of the Fund and as permitted by securities regulations; iii) pairs trade by taking short positions from time to time in securities of one issuer while taking a long position in securities of another issuer in an attempt to gain from the relative valuation

differences between the two issuers; iv) take long and short positions in private company debt offerings; v) purchase, hold, sell, or otherwise deal in commodity forward contracts, commodity futures, financial futures or options on financial futures, but not physical commodities; vi) invest up to 10% of its portfolio in equity securities; vii) invest up to 10% of its portfolio in preferred stock; viii) use derivative instruments, such as options, futures, forward contracts, swaps and swaptions, cleared and uncleared, for both hedging and non-hedging strategies, in a manner which is consistent with the investment objectives of the Fund and as permitted by securities regulations, including to: a) hedge against losses from changes in the prices of the Fund's investments and from exposure to foreign currencies; b) implement option spreads by purchasing an option on a security and simultaneously selling an option on the same security with the same expiry date; and c) gain exposure to individual securities and markets instead of buying the securities directly; and ix) hold cash and cash equivalents.

The specific strategies that differentiate this Fund from conventional mutual funds include: increased use of derivatives for hedging and non-hedging purposes, increased ability to sell securities short and the ability to borrow cash to use for investment purposes. While these strategies will be used in accordance with the Fund's investment objective and strategies, during certain market conditions they may accelerate the pace at which your investment decreases in value.

The Fund may invest in securities of underlying funds (including underlying funds managed by the Manager or an affiliate or associate of the Manager). The types of underlying funds held by the Fund will be selected with consideration for the underlying fund's investment objectives and strategies, past performance and operational efficiencies. The Fund has obtained exemptive relief from Canadian securities regulatory authorities to invest in ETFs listed on a Canadian or United States stock exchange that seek to replicate the daily performance of a widely-quoted market index (i) in an inverse multiple of 100%, or (ii) by a multiple of up to 200% or an inverse multiple of up to 200% (in either case, a "Permitted ETF"). In each case: (a) the investment would be made by the Fund in accordance with its investment objective; (b) the Fund would not short sell securities of any Permitted ETF; (c) the aggregate investment by the Fund in Permitted ETFs would not exceed 10% of the Fund's net asset value, taken at market value at the time of purchase; and (d) the Fund would not purchase securities of a Permitted ETF that tracks the inverse of its underlying index (a "Bear ETF") or short sell securities of any issuer if, immediately after such purchase or short sale, more than 20% of the net asset value of the Fund, taken at market value at the time of the transaction, would consist of, in aggregate, securities of Bear ETFs and all securities sold short by the Fund.

## RISK

There is no assurance that the Fund will be able to achieve its total return, capital preservation and distribution investment objectives. There is no assurance that the portfolio will earn any return and no assurances can be given as to the amount of distributions in future years and that the net asset value (the "NAV") of the Fund will appreciate or be preserved.

While risks are numerous, we believe the following are the most pertinent ones to be mindful of today:

1. Fixed Income Investment Risk – Certain general investment risks can affect fixed income investments in a manner similar to equity investments. For example, specific developments relating to a company and general financial, political and economic (other than interest rate) conditions in the

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country in which the company operates. For government fixed income investments, general economic, financial and political conditions may affect the value of government securities. Since a Fund's unit price is based on the value of its investments, an overall decline in the value of its fixed income investments will reduce the value of the Fund and therefore, the value of your investment. However, your investment will be worth more if the value of the fixed income investments in the portfolio increases.

2. Credit Risk – An issuer of a bond or other fixed income investment may not be able to pay interest or to repay the principal at maturity. The risk of this occurring is greater with some issuers than with others. For example, the risk of default is quite low for most government and high-quality corporate securities. Where this risk is considered greater, the interest rate paid by the issuer is generally higher than for an issuer where this risk is considered to be lower. This risk could increase or decline during the term of the fixed income investment. Companies and governments that borrow money, as well as their debt securities, may be rated by specialized rating agencies. A downgrade in an issuer's credit rating or other adverse news regarding an issuer can reduce a security's market value. Lower rated debt instruments generally offer a better yield than higher-grade debt instruments, but have the potential for substantial loss.

3. Interest Rate Risk – Mutual funds that invest in fixed income securities, such as bonds, and money market instruments, are sensitive to changes in interest rates. In general, when interest rates are rising, the value of these investments tends to fall. When rates are falling, fixed income securities tend to increase in value. Fixed income securities with longer terms to maturity are generally more sensitive to changes in interest rates. Certain types of fixed income securities permit issuers to repay principal before the security's maturity date. There is a risk that an issuer will exercise this prepayment right after interest rates have fallen and the funds that hold these fixed income securities will receive payments of principal before the expected maturity date of the security and may need to reinvest these proceeds in securities that have lower interest rates.

4. Leverage Risk - The Fund has received exemptive relief from Canadian securities regulatory authorities from certain investment restrictions set out in NI 81-102 that would restrict the ability of the Fund to leverage their assets through borrowing, short sales and/or derivatives. Investment decisions may be made for the assets of the Fund that exceed the net asset value of the Fund. As a result, if these investment decisions are incorrect, the resulting losses will be more than if investments were made solely in an unleveraged long portfolio as is the case in most conventional equity mutual funds. In addition, leveraged investment strategies can also be expected to increase a Fund's turnover, transaction and market impact costs, interest and other costs and expenses.

Pursuant to the terms of the exemptive relief, the Fund's aggregate gross exposure, calculated as the sum of the following, must not exceed three times the Fund's net asset value: (i) the aggregate market value of the Fund's long positions; (ii) the aggregate market value of physical short sales on equities, fixed income securities or other portfolio assets; and (iii) the aggregate notional value of the Fund's specified derivatives positions excluding any specified derivatives used for hedging purposes. If the Fund's aggregate gross exposure exceeds three times the Fund's net asset value, the Fund must, as quickly as is commercially reasonable, take all necessary steps to reduce the aggregate gross exposure to three times the Fund's net asset value or less.

The Fund has also obtained exemptive relief such that the Fund is permitted to engage in short selling transactions and cash borrowing up to a combined maximum of 100% of its net asset value, which is in excess of the short sale and cash borrowing limits provided for both conventional mutual funds and alternative mutual funds in NI 81-102.

For further details relating to risks of investing in the Fund, please refer to the *Specific Investment Risks*, *Investment Risk Classification Methodology*, and *Who Should Invest in the Funds'* sections of the Simplified Prospectus.

## LEVERAGE

Leverage occurs when the Fund borrows money or securities, or uses derivatives, to generate investment exposure that would otherwise not be possible.

The Fund's aggregate exposure to its sources of leverage is calculated as the sum of the following: (i) the market value of short holdings; (ii) the amount of cash borrowed for investment purposes; and (iii) the notional value of the Fund's derivatives positions, excluding any derivatives used for hedging purposes. The Fund's exposure to leverage must not exceed 300% of the Fund's NAV.

During the year ended December 31, 2023, the Fund's aggregate exposure reached a low of 43.02% and a high of 187.70% of the Fund's NAV. As at December 31, 2023, the Fund's aggregate exposure was 88.56% of the Fund's NAV. The primary source of leverage was cash overdraft and short positions in fixed income securities.

## RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

For the year January 1 to December 31, 2023, the net asset value of the Fund increased by approximately \$91.2 million from \$78.3 million to \$169.5 million. During the same period, performance on the Fund's portfolio increased its assets by \$9.4 million. The Fund also received \$133.9 million in proceeds, had reinvestment of distributions of \$4.9 million, net redemptions of \$49.2 million, and paid distributions totaling \$7.8 million. For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Fund Class A units returned 6.53%, the Fund Class F units returned 7.13%, the Fund Class I units returned 8.93% and the Fund Class ETF units returned 7.16%.

There have been no changes made to the broader Picton Mahoney Fortified Special Situations Alternative Fund (the "Fund") during the reporting period. The Fund has been invested in a basket of global corporate bonds selected in a bottom-up approach diversified by sectors. These investments are primarily in medium-grade fixed income securities (rated B-BBB) issued in developed markets. Short positions have been diversified with a blend of market-sensitive higher beta bonds and story credit deterioration situations. The hedging overlay was invested primarily in put options against credit and equity indices as well as government bond futures. The Fund was 100% currency-hedged during the period.

Over this timeframe, we remained focused on providing sustainable income, growth and downside protection. Based on market conditions, our target net position was 90% invested in securities, taking advantage of attractive carry in shorter dated corporate bonds and event-driven special situations. Geographically, investments have been concentrated in the U.S. and Europe, with participation in core Canadian names. From a sector exposure perspective, the Fund has been well diversified with an overweight in Financials and Energy sectors.

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The Fund underperformed its benchmark (75% ICE BofA Merrill Lynch Global High Yield Index / 25% ICE BofA Merrill Lynch Global Corporate Index (TR) (Hedged to CAD)) over the 12-month period. While participating in the rally, defensive positioning, shorting and hedges detracted from relative performance during the period.

We continued to employ the options overlay hedging strategy in the Fund, allocating the option budget over rate, credit and cross-asset indices, depending on the exposure of the portfolio and the relative attractiveness of the cost to hedge.

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

2023 saw several distinct periods of volatility with the regional banking crisis in March, the higher for longer rate narrative through the Summer and Fall, and then a rapid shift in market tone toward declining inflation and a soft-landing economic environment. While government bond yields traded in a wide range they ended the year close to where they started. Risk assets including equity and credit spreads had strong performance, mostly in the final two months of the year.

Looking ahead, although credit spreads may appear tight, bond prices are low and yields are high. We believe short duration, high quality corporate bonds have outstanding risk/reward potential from here. In addition, our team continues to focus on finding uncorrelated special situation investments that have the potential to drive capital gains in addition to attractive yields. We are also taking advantage of the recent rally in risk assets to rebalance our shorts and hedges given macro uncertainty and expensive valuations.

## RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Picton Mahoney Asset Management is the manager (the "Manager"), portfolio advisor (the "Portfolio Advisor"), and trustee ("the Trustee") of the Fund. The Manager is an investment manager focused on equity and fixed income securities investments with approximately \$9.9 billion of assets under management as of December 31, 2023. As at December 31, 2023, the Manager holds 233 units of Class A, 232 units of Class F, and 831 units of Class I of the Fund (December 31, 2022 - 220 units of Class A, 220 units of Class F and 785 units of Class I). For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Manager has absorbed \$27,300 of expenses.

### Management Fees

As a result of providing investment and management services, the Manager receives a management fee calculated and accrued daily based on the NAV of the class of units of the Fund, plus applicable taxes, payable on the last day of each calendar quarter. For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Fund incurred management fees of \$1,206,421 (December 31, 2022 - \$497,428). Management fees in respect of Class I units are direct fees negotiated with the investor, paid directly by the investor, and would not exceed the management fee payable on Class A units of the Fund. The Manager uses these management fees to pay for sales and trailing commissions to registered dealers on the distribution of the Fund's shares, investment advice, as well as general administrative expenses relating to Picton Mahoney's role as Manager. The following is a breakdown:

### As a Percentage of Management Fees

	Annual Rates	Dealer Compensation	General Administration and Investment Advice
Class A units	1.95%	51.37%	48.63%
Class F units	0.95%	-	100.00%
Class ETF units	0.95%	-	100.00%

Out of the management fees that the Manager received from the Fund, the Manager paid trailer commissions of \$29,007 for the year ended December 31, 2023.

### Performance Fees

The Manager receives a performance fee in respect of each class of units of the Fund. The performance fee for each class shall be calculated and become a liability of the Fund on each valuation day (the "Valuation Day") and shall be payable at the end of each calendar quarter. The performance fee is equal to 20% of the amount by which the performance of the applicable class exceeds an annual hurdle rate of return equal to 2%, for each class of units of the Fund, plus applicable taxes. The performance fee in respect of each class of units of the Fund on a particular Valuation Day shall be equal to the product of, (a) 20% of the positive difference between (i) the unit price on the Valuation Day; and (ii) the greatest unit price on any previous Valuation Day (or the unit price on the date when the units of the class were first issued, where no performance fee liability has previously arisen in respect of units of the class (the "High Water Mark"); less (iii) the hurdle amount per unit on the Valuation Day; and (b) the number of units outstanding on the applicable Valuation Day on which the performance fee is determined, plus applicable taxes. The hurdle amount per unit is the product of (a) 2% for each calendar year (prorated for the number of days in the year); (b) the unit price on the applicable Valuation Day; and (c) the number of days since the most recently determined High Water Mark or the beginning of the current calendar year, whichever is most recent. Investors in Class I units may negotiate a different performance fee than the one described herein or no performance fee at all. Any performance fee for Class I units will be paid directly to the Manager. The Manager reserves the right, in its discretion, to discontinue, decrease or waive the performance fee at any time. For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Fund incurred performance fees of \$757,150. (December 31, 2022 - \$nil)

### Independent Review Committee

The Fund receives standing instructions (the "SI") from the independent review committee (the "IRC"). The SI constitutes a written approval or recommendation from the IRC that permits the Manager to proceed with specific action(s) set out in the SI on an ongoing basis. The SI is designed to ensure that the Manager's actions are carried out in accordance with the law, the instrument and the Manager's policies and procedures in order to achieve a fair and reasonable result for the Fund. The SI outlines actions related to i) Fees and Expenses; ii) Trade Allocations; iii) Broker Selections; iv) Code of Ethics and Conduct; v) Portfolio Pricing Issues, amongst other things. The Manager must provide the IRC with a written report summarizing each instance where the Manager has relied on the SI. For the year ended December 31, 2023, the IRC did not provide any recommendations to the Manager.

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## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The following table shows selected key financial information about the Fund and are intended to help you understand the Fund's financial performance for the past periods as applicable.

Class A Units - Net Assets per Unit			
	Dec 31, 2023(\$)	Dec 31, 2022(\$)	Dec 31, 2021(\$) <sup>(7)</sup>
<b>Net Assets, beginning of year</b>	8.68	9.62	10.00
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>			
Total revenue	0.63	0.52	0.24
Total expense	(0.24)	(0.29)	(0.15)
Realized gains (losses)	(0.01)	(0.09)	(0.13)
Unrealized gains (losses)	0.14	(0.36)	(0.07)
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>0.52</b>	<b>(0.22)</b>	<b>(0.11)</b>
<b>Distributions:</b>			
From income	(0.48)	(0.70)	(0.33)
From dividends	-	-	-
From capital gains	-	-	-
Return of capital	(0.00)	(0.01)	-
<b>Total annual distributions<sup>(1)(2)</sup></b>	<b>(0.48)</b>	<b>(0.71)</b>	<b>(0.33)</b>
<b>Net Assets, end of year</b>	<b>8.74</b>	<b>8.68</b>	<b>9.62</b>

Class A Units - Ratios/Supplemental Data			
	Dec 31, 2023(\$)	Dec 31, 2022(\$)	Dec 31, 2021(\$) <sup>(7)</sup>
Total Net Asset Value (\$000's) <sup>(3)</sup>	2,456	2,828	2,915
Number of units outstanding (000's) <sup>(3)</sup>	281	326	303
Management expense ratio <sup>(4)</sup>	3.48%	2.75%	2.36%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions	3.50%	2.82%	2.55%
Trading expense ratio, excluding short dividend and interest expense <sup>(5)</sup>	0.53%	0.76%	0.67%
Trading expense ratio, including short dividend and interest expense <sup>(5)</sup>	2.75%	2.93%	3.50%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(6)</sup>	163.79%	176.27%	114.03%
Net Asset Value per unit	8.74	8.68	9.62

Class F Units - Net Assets per Unit			
	Dec 31, 2023(\$)	Dec 31, 2022(\$)	Dec 31, 2021(\$) <sup>(7)</sup>
<b>Net Assets, beginning of year</b>	8.84	9.68	10.00
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>			
Total revenue	0.67	0.53	0.24
Total expense	(0.24)	(0.18)	(0.10)
Realized gains (losses)	(0.05)	(0.11)	(0.12)
Unrealized gains (losses)	0.24	(0.39)	(0.07)
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>0.62</b>	<b>(0.15)</b>	<b>(0.05)</b>
<b>Distributions:</b>			
From income	(0.54)	(0.75)	(0.33)
From dividends	-	-	-
From capital gains	-	-	-
Return of capital	(0.00)	(0.01)	-
<b>Total annual distributions<sup>(1)(2)</sup></b>	<b>(0.54)</b>	<b>(0.76)</b>	<b>(0.33)</b>
<b>Net Assets, end of year</b>	<b>8.94</b>	<b>8.84</b>	<b>9.68</b>

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Class F Units - Ratios/Supplemental Data			
	Dec 31, 2023(\$)	Dec 31, 2022(\$)	Dec 31, 2021(\$) <sup>(7)</sup>
Total Net Asset Value (\$000's) <sup>(3)</sup>	107,634	32,183	6,084
Number of units outstanding (000's) <sup>(3)</sup>	12,038	3,642	629
Management expense ratio <sup>(4)</sup>	3.06%	1.51%	1.24%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions	3.08%	1.58%	1.33%
Trading expense ratio, excluding short dividend and interest expense <sup>(5)</sup>	0.53%	0.76%	0.67%
Trading expense ratio, including short dividend and interest expense <sup>(5)</sup>	2.75%	2.93%	3.50%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(6)</sup>	163.79%	176.27%	114.03%
Net Asset Value per unit	8.94	8.84	9.68

Class I Units - Net Assets per Unit			
	Dec 31, 2023(\$)	Dec 31, 2022(\$)	Dec 31, 2021(\$) <sup>(7)</sup>
<b>Net Assets, beginning of year</b>	8.97	9.72	10.00
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>			
Total revenue	0.71	0.54	0.24
Total expense	(0.10)	(0.09)	(0.04)
Realized gains (losses)	(0.09)	(0.11)	(0.11)
Unrealized gains (losses)	0.30	(0.31)	(0.11)
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>0.82</b>	<b>0.03</b>	<b>(0.02)</b>
<b>Distributions:</b>			
From income	(0.58)	(0.66)	(0.26)
From dividends	-	-	-
From capital gains	-	-	-
Return of capital	(0.00)	(0.01)	-
<b>Total annual distributions<sup>(1)(2)</sup></b>	<b>(0.58)</b>	<b>(0.67)</b>	<b>(0.26)</b>
<b>Net Assets, end of year</b>	<b>9.23</b>	<b>8.97</b>	<b>9.72</b>

Class I Units - Ratios/Supplemental Data			
	Dec 31, 2023(\$)	Dec 31, 2022(\$)	Dec 31, 2021(\$) <sup>(7)</sup>
Total Net Asset Value (\$000's) <sup>(3)</sup>	32,824	9,568	25,476
Number of units outstanding (000's) <sup>(3)</sup>	3,557	1,067	2,621
Management expense ratio <sup>(4)</sup>	1.17%	0.53%	0.20%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions	1.19%	0.60%	0.30%
Trading expense ratio, excluding short dividend and interest expense <sup>(5)</sup>	0.53%	0.76%	0.67%
Trading expense ratio, including short dividend and interest expense <sup>(5)</sup>	2.75%	2.93%	3.50%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(6)</sup>	163.79%	176.27%	114.03%
Net Asset Value per unit	9.23	8.97	9.72

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Class ETF Units - Net Assets per Unit			
	Dec 31, 2023(\$)	Dec 31, 2022(\$)	Dec 31, 2021(\$) <sup>(7)</sup>
<b>Net Assets, beginning of year</b>	8.83	9.67	10.00
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>			
Total revenue	0.64	0.53	0.23
Total expense	(0.17)	(0.19)	(0.09)
Realized gains (losses)	-	(0.13)	(0.12)
Unrealized gains (losses)	0.13	(0.30)	(0.10)
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>0.60</b>	<b>(0.09)</b>	<b>(0.08)</b>
<b>Distributions:</b>			
From income	(0.48)	(0.72)	(0.29)
From dividends	-	-	-
From capital gains	-	-	-
Return of capital	(0.00)	(0.01)	-
<b>Total annual distributions<sup>(1)(2)</sup></b>	<b>(0.48)</b>	<b>(0.73)</b>	<b>(0.29)</b>
<b>Net Assets, end of year</b>	<b>8.94</b>	<b>8.83</b>	<b>9.67</b>

Class ETF Units - Ratios/Supplemental Data			
	Dec 31, 2023(\$)	Dec 31, 2022(\$)	Dec 31, 2021(\$) <sup>(7)</sup>
Total Net Asset Value (\$000's) <sup>(3)</sup>	26,629	33,724	15,182
Number of units outstanding (000's) <sup>(3)</sup>	2,980	3,820	1,570
Management expense ratio <sup>(4)</sup>	2.78%	1.52%	1.24%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions	2.81%	1.59%	1.33%
Trading expense ratio, excluding short dividend and interest expense <sup>(5)</sup>	0.53%	0.76%	0.67%
Trading expense ratio, including short dividend and interest expense <sup>(5)</sup>	2.75%	2.93%	3.50%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(6)</sup>	163.79%	176.27%	114.03%
Net Asset Value per unit	8.94	8.83	9.67
Closing Market Price (TSX)	8.99	8.86	9.69

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

- (1) Net Assets and distributions are based on the actual number 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.
- (2) Distributions were paid in cash, reinvested in additional units of the Fund, or both.
- (3) This information is provided as at the periods shown.
- (4) The management expense ratio ("MER") is based on total expenses (excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs) for the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period. In the period the class is established, the MER is annualized.
- (5) The trading expense ratio ("TER") represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period. In the period the class is established, the TER is annualized. The TER is calculated at the fund level and applies to all classes of the Fund. The Fund's TER is shown both with and without the short dividend expense from equities and interest expense from fixed income securities.
- (6) The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio advisor manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher a fund's portfolio turnover rate in a year, the greater the trading costs payable by the fund in the year, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the year. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a fund. Portfolio turnover rate is calculated based on the lesser of the cost of purchases or proceeds of sales divided by the average market value of the portfolio, excluding short-term investments.
- (7) For the period from July 8, 2021 (commencement of operations) to December 31, 2021.



# PICTON MAHONEY FORTIFIED SPECIAL SITUATIONS ALTERNATIVE FUND

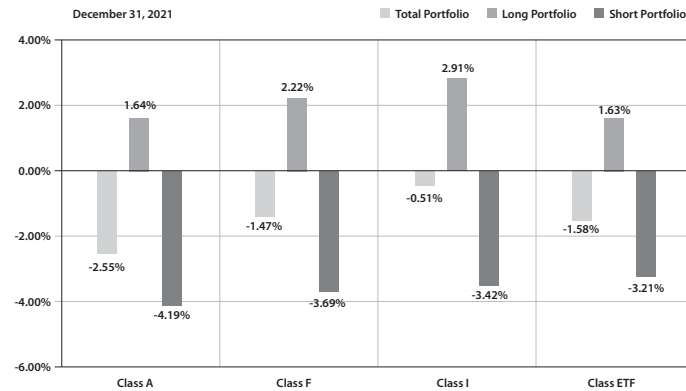
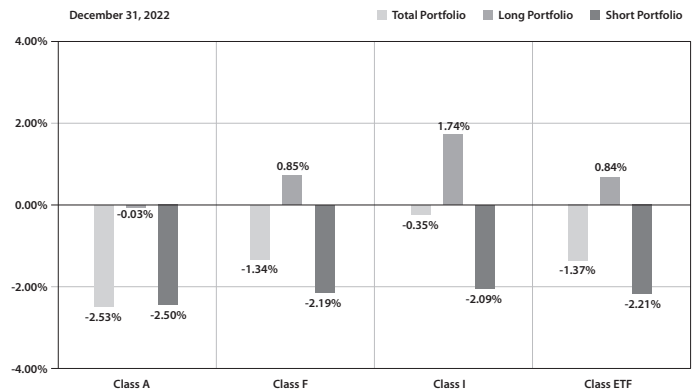
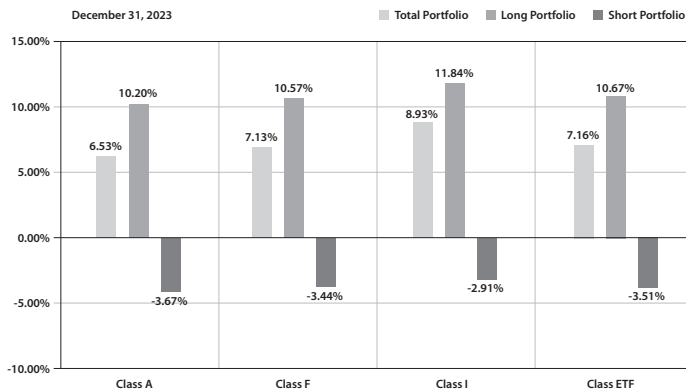
MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE (FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023)

## PAST PERFORMANCE

This section describes the Fund's performance over the past period since inception. The information shown assumes that any distributions made by the Fund were reinvested in additional units of the Fund. All rates of returns are calculated based on the NAV of the particular series of the Fund. Past returns of the Fund do not necessarily indicate how it will perform in the future.

## Year-by-Year>Returns

The following chart indicates the performance of each series of the Fund each year from inception to December 31, 2023. The chart shows, in percentage terms, how much an investment made on the first day of the period would have grown or decreased by the last day of the period.



## ANNUAL COMPOUND RETURNS

The following table presents the compound returns of the units of the Fund for the period indicated to December 31, 2023.

Further discussion of the Fund's performance can be found within the Results of Operations section.

Annual Compound Returns	1 Year	Since Inception
Total portfolio - Class A units	6.53%	1.02%
Long portfolio - Class A units	10.20%	10.04%
Short portfolio - Class A units	-3.67%	-9.02%
Total portfolio - Class F units	7.13%	1.98%
Long portfolio - Class F units	10.57%	10.02%
Short portfolio - Class F units	-3.44%	-8.04%
Total portfolio - Class I units	8.93%	3.28%
Long portfolio - Class I units	11.84%	13.13%
Short portfolio - Class I units	-2.91%	-9.85%
Total portfolio - Class ETF units	7.16%	1.95%
Long portfolio - Class ETF units	10.67%	9.43%
Short portfolio - Class ETF units	-3.51%	-7.48%
HFRX Fixed Income-Credit Index (in CAD)	3.97%	-0.34%

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MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE (FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023)

## SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2023

Portfolio by Category		Top 25 Holdings	
	Percentage of Net Asset Value (%)		Percentage of Net Asset Value (%)
<b>LONG POSITIONS</b>		<b>LONG POSITIONS</b>	
<b>Canadian Equities</b>	<b>8.9%</b>	Royal Bank of Canada 4.500%, 2080-11-24	4.4%
Energy	4.7%	Toronto-Dominion Bank 7.232%, 2049-12-31	3.8%
Financials	1.9%	Permian Resources Operating LLC 8.000%, 2027-04-15	3.6%
Industrial	1.4%	Rogers Communications Inc. 5.000%, 2081-12-17	3.1%
Real Estate	0.6%	Tervita Corp. 11.000%, 2025-12-01	3.1%
Utilities	0.3%	Prime Healthcare Services Inc. 7.250%, 2025-11-01	3.0%
		Enbridge Inc.	3.0%
<b>Global Equities</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	National Bank of Canada 7.500%, 2082-11-16	3.0%
International	0.2%	Permian Resources Operating LLC 9.875%, 2031-07-15	2.9%
		Secure Energy Services Inc. 7.250%, 2026-12-30	2.8%
<b>Canadian Debt</b>	<b>85.0%</b>	AutoCanada Inc. 5.750%, 2029-02-07	2.6%
Corporate Bonds	83.1%	Brookfield Property REIT Inc. 4.500%, 2027-04-01	2.6%
Asset-Backed Securities	1.9%	Vistra Corp. 8.000%, 2049-12-31	2.6%
		Bank of Montreal 7.373%, 2049-12-31	2.5%
<b>Global Debt</b>	<b>45.3%</b>	iA Financial Corp. Inc. 6.611%, 2082-06-30	2.4%
United States Bonds	38.0%	Enbridge Inc. 8.747%, 2084-01-15	2.4%
International Bonds	7.3%	First Quantum Minerals Ltd. 6.875%, 2026-03-01	2.4%
		Vista Outdoor Inc. 4.500%, 2029-03-15	2.3%
<b>Derivatives</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	Splunk Inc. 1.125%, 2027-06-15	2.3%
<b>Total Long Positions</b>	<b>141.5%</b>	Chemtrade Logistics Income Fund 6.250%, 2027-08-31	2.3%
		Bank of Nova Scotia 7.023%, 2082-07-27	2.3%
<b>SHORT POSITIONS</b>		Gibson Energy Inc. 5.250%, 2080-12-22	2.3%
<b>Global Equities</b>	<b>-3.9%</b>	Enbridge Inc. 5.000%, 2082-01-19	2.2%
International Index Equivalents	-3.9%		
		<b>SHORT POSITIONS</b>	
<b>Canadian Debt</b>	<b>-3.1%</b>	Cash	-6.3%
Corporate Bonds	-3.1%	iShares iBoxx \$ High Yield Corporate Bond ETF	-3.9%
		<b>Total Net Asset Value (\$000)</b>	<b>\$169,542</b>
<b>Global Debt</b>	<b>-26.7%</b>		
United States Bonds	-25.7%		
International Bonds	-1.0%		
<b>Derivatives</b>	<b>-2.1%</b>		
<b>Total Short Positions</b>	<b>-35.8%</b>		
<b>Cash</b>	<b>-6.3%</b>		
<b>Other Assets (net)</b>	<b>0.6%</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>		

The Summary of Investment Portfolio may change due to the ongoing portfolio transactions. A quarterly update is available on our website at [www.pictonmahoney.com](http://www.pictonmahoney.com).

### CAUTION REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This report may contain forward-looking statements about the Fund, its future performance, strategies and events. Forward-looking statements include words such as "anticipates", "believe", "could", "expect", "estimate", "may" or negative versions thereof and similar expressions. By their nature, forward-looking statements make assumptions on future events that are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties. There is significant risk that predictions on the Fund, future events and economic conditions will not prove to be accurate. Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and actual results may differ materially from management projected expectations due to factors such as general market and economic conditions, interest rates and foreign currency fluctuations, changes to regulatory requirements and guidelines, changes in technology, effects of competition in the various business areas and unforeseen natural disasters and catastrophes. As a result of these factors, readers of this document are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these statements and before making any investment decisions should clearly consider these factors, among other factors. All opinions contained in the forward-looking statements are subject to change without notice and are provided in good faith, unless required by applicable law.



**THINK AHEAD.  
STAY AHEAD.**



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## **PICTON MAHONEY ASSET MANAGEMENT CORPORATE INFORMATION**

### **Corporate Address**

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### **Auditor**

#### **PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP**

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Canada M5J 0B2

### **Fund Administration & Transfer Agent**

#### **Picton Mahoney Funds**

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