

First Trust Global Risk Managed Income Index ETF

Interim Management Report of Fund Performance June 30, 2017

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# INTERIM MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE June 30, 2017

## First Trust Global Risk Managed Income Index ETF (the "First Trust ETF")

This interim management report of fund performance contains financial highlights, but does not contain the complete unaudited interim financial report of the First Trust ETF. All references to dollars contained herein are to Canadian dollars.

Securityholders may also contact us to request a copy of the First Trust ETF's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosures relating to the First Trust ETF by calling 1-877-622-5552, by writing to us at FT Portfolios Canada Co., 40 King Street West, Suite 3001, Scotia Plaza, Box 312, Toronto, Ontario M5H 3Y2 or by visiting our web site at www.firsttrust.ca or SEDAR at www.sedar.com.

### **Forward Looking Statements**

This document may contain forward-looking statements relating to anticipated future events, results, circumstances, performance or expectations that are not historical facts but instead represent beliefs regarding future events. By their nature, forward-looking statements are based on assumptions and are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties. There is significant risk that forward-looking statements will not prove to be accurate. Readers of this document should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements as a number of factors could cause actual future results, conditions, actions or events to differ materially from the expectations, estimates or intentions expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements. These factors include but are not limited to market and general economic conditions, interest rates, foreign currency exchange rates, the extent of industry sector exposure, the performance of the securities of the issuers held in the portfolio and regulatory developments and the risks detailed in the First Trust ETF's prospectus. The Manager does not undertake and specifically disclaims any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

### **Investment Objective and Strategy**

The fundamental investment objective of **First Trust Global Risk Managed Income Index ETF** (the "First Trust ETF") is to replicate, to the extent possible, the performance of the NASDAQ Global Risk Managed Income CAD TR Index (the "Index"), net of expenses.

The investment strategy of the First Trust ETF is to invest in and hold a proportionate share of the constituent securities of the Index, or other securities, to seek to replicate the performance of the Index. The Index seeks to provide a risk managed, global income portfolio which generates a high yield for the risk taken and consists of liquid income-bearing exchange traded funds and other exchange traded products across various asset classes. The First Trust ETF may also hold cash and cash equivalents or other money market instruments to fund current liabilities.

The Manager may use a sampling methodology in selecting investments for the First Trust ETF. As an alternative or in conjunction with investing in and holding constituent securities, the First Trust ETF may also invest in other securities to obtain exposure to the constituent securities of the applicable Index in a manner that is consistent with the investment objective and investment strategy of the First Trust ETF.

There are two classes of units offered by the First Trust ETF:

- Common Class (TSX symbol: ETP)
- Advisor Class (TSX symbol: ETP.A)

The inception date of the First Trust ETF was July 23, 2014.

#### Risk

The risks associated with an investment in the First Trust ETF remain as discussed in the ETF's most recent prospectus. There have been no significant changes during the period that affected the overall level of risk associated with the First Trust ETF.

### **Results of Operations**

The First Trust ETF's total net asset value as of June 30, 2017 was \$55,519,697 or \$19.48 of Common Class units and \$19.53 of Advisor Class units. The First Trust ETF's total net asset value as of December 31, 2016 was \$53,972,590 or \$19.27 of Common Class units and \$19.32 of Advisor Class units.

For the period ended June 30, 2017, the First Trust ETF paid cash distributions per unit as follows:

Payment Date	<u>ETP</u>	ETP.A
January 9th	\$0.0590	\$0.0503
February 7 <sup>th</sup>	\$0.0660	\$0.0570
March 7 <sup>th</sup>	\$0.0660	\$0.0570
April 7 <sup>th</sup>	\$0.0660	\$0.0570
May 5 <sup>th</sup>	\$0.0666	\$0.0576
June 7 <sup>th</sup>	\$0.0666	\$0.0576

For the period ended June 30, 2017, the First Trust ETF declared cash distributions per unit of \$0.0666 for ETP and \$0.0576 for ETP.A with payment date of July 10, 2017.

#### Investment Performance

The First Trust ETF's Common Class units returned 3.13% and the Advisor Class units returned 2.85%, net of fees and expenses, for the period ended June 30, 2017.

The First Trust ETF was invested at all times during the period in the securities of various Canadian ETF providers including BlackRock Asset Management Canada Limited, Vanguard Investments Canada Inc., BMO Asset

Management Inc. and First Trust Canada. During the period, the First Trust ETF tactically rebalanced twice to align the weights of the fund components with the index.

Preferred segment was one of the top contributors to the First Trust ETF performance. It was represented by the iShares S&P/TSX Canadian Preferred Share Index ETF, which is designed to replicate, to the extent possible, the performance of the S&P/TSX Canadian Preferred Share Index, net of expenses. The ETF consists of the exposure to a diversified portfolio of Canadian preferred shares. The index increased exposure to preferreds from 5% to 11% during the period.

Other contributors included the BMO High Yield US Corporate Bond Hedged to CAD ETF and the First Trust Senior Loan Hedged to CAD ETF. First Trust Senior Loan ETF (CAD-Hedged) is an actively managed fund, which primarily invest in a portfolio of senior floating rate loans that generally rated at or below BB+ by Standard & Poors, or Ba1 or less by Moody's Investor Services, Inc., or a similar rating by an approved credit rating organization. The low duration, high income characteristics of senior floating rate loans insulated the portfolio against rising interest rates at the beginning of the year. The First Trust ETF is hedged back to the Canadian Dollar.

### **Recent Developments**

The portfolio was diversified across 19 asset classes with a 75% allocation to fixed income. The portfolio remained biased toward lower duration assets given the rising interest rate environment. It focused on more credit based and equity-like asset classes. Since the last rebalance, the momentum and yield characteristics on REITs, Emerging Market Bonds, and core fixed incomes have been improving.

### **Related Party Transactions**

FT Portfolios Canada Co. is the Manager of the First Trust ETF and is a Canadian affiliate of First Trust Advisors L.P., the investment advisor (the "Advisor") of the First Trust ETF.

Pursuant to terms of the declaration of trust of the First Trust ETF, the Manager provides or arranges for all management, administrative and other services required by the First Trust ETF. The Manager receives a management fee from the First Trust ETF. For further details, please see "Management Fees".

The Manager has retained the Advisor to provide certain services to the First Trust ETF pursuant to an investment advisory agreement. The Advisor receives advisory fees from the Manager out of the management fee.

### **Financial Highlights**

The following tables show selected key financial information about the First Trust ETF and are intended to help you understand the First Trust ETF's financial performance for the past three years. The date of inception of the First Trust ETF was July 23, 2014. The information are derived from the First Trust ETF's unaudited interim financial statements for the period ended June 30, 2017, annual financial statements for the years ended December 31, and for the period from since inception to December 31, 2014.

### Net Asset Value per Unit – ETP

	Jun. 30, 2017	Dec. 31, 2016	Dec. 31, 2015	Dec. 31, 2014 <sup>(a)</sup>
Net asset value, beginning of period/year <sup>(1)</sup>	\$19.27	\$18.48	\$19.67	\$20.00 <sup>(b)</sup>
Increase (Decrease) from operations:				
Total revenue	0.35	0.72	0.79	0.41
Total expenses	(0.04)	(0.10)	(0.09)	(0.04)
Realized gains (losses) for the period/year	0.04	(0.25)	(0.56)	(0.03)
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period/year	0.26	1.10	(0.89)	(0.39)
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>(2)</sup>	\$0.61	\$1.47	\$(0.75)	\$(0.05)
Distributions:				
From income (excluding dividends)	(0.40)	(0.53)	(0.55)	(0.18)
From dividends	-	(0.12)	(0.15)	(0.10)
From capital gains	-	-	-	(0.10)
Return of capital	-	(0.09)	(0.09)	(0.02)
Total annual distributions <sup>(3)</sup>	\$(0.40)	\$(0.74)	\$(0.79)	\$(0.40)
Net asset value, end of period/year <sup>(4)</sup>	\$19.48	\$19.27	\$18.48	\$19.67

(a) December 31, 2014 does not relate to the full year as the date of inception of the First Trust ETF was July 23, 2014.

(b) Initial offering price

(1) This information is provided as at December 31 and June 30 of the years/periods shown and is prepared under IFRS.

(2) Net asset value 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 period/year.

(3) Distributions were either paid in cash or reinvested in additional units of the First Trust ETF.

(4) This table is not intended to be a reconciliation of beginning to ending net asset value per unit.

#### Ratios and Supplemental Data – ETP

	Jun. 30, 2017	Dec. 31, 2016	Dec. 31, 2015	Dec. 31, 2014
Net asset value (000's)	\$53,297	\$51,774	\$46,757	\$20,260
Number of units outstanding	2,736,214	2,686,214	2,530,000	1,030,000
Management expense ratio (1)	1.01%	0.98%	0.93%	0.94%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorption	1.22%	1.18%	1.18%	1.11%
Trading expense ratio <sup>(2)</sup>	0.02%	0.08%	0.07%	0.10%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(3)</sup>	7.62%	78.97%	106.68%	39.96%
Net asset value per unit	\$19.48	\$19.27	\$18.48	\$19.67

(1) Management expense ratio is based on total expenses for the stated period/year and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period/year.

(2) 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/year.

(3) The First Trust ETF's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the First Trust ETF's portfolio advisor manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the First Trust ETF buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the period/year. The higher a First Trust ETF's portfolio turnover rate in a period/year, the greater the trading cost payable by the First Trust ETF in the period/year, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the period/year. There is not necessarily a relationship between high turnover rate and the performance of a First Trust ETF.

### Net Asset Value per Unit – ETP.A

	Jun. 30, 2017	Dec. 31, 2016	Dec. 31, 2015	Dec. 31, 2014 <sup>(a)</sup>
Net asset value, beginning of period/year <sup>(1)</sup>	\$19.32	\$18.52	\$19.66	\$20.00 <sup>(b)</sup>
Increase (Decrease) from operations:				
Total revenue	0.35	0.71	0.78	0.40
Total expenses	(0.10)	(0.20)	(0.25)	(0.14)
Realized gains (losses) for the period/year	0.04	(0.24)	(0.55)	(0.03)
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period/year	0.26	1.15	(0.79)	(0.27)
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>(2)</sup>	\$0.55	\$1.42	\$(0.81)	\$(0.04)
Distributions:				
From income (excluding dividends)	(0.34)	(0.45)	(0.40)	(0.13)
From dividends	-	(0.10)	(0.11)	(0.07)
From capital gains	-	-	-	(0.09)
Return of capital	-	(0.08)	(0.06)	(0.01)
Total annual distributions <sup>(3)</sup>	\$(0.34)	\$(0.63)	\$(0.57)	\$(0.30)
Net asset value, end of period/year <sup>(4)</sup>	\$19.53	\$19.32	\$18.52	\$19.66

(a) December 31, 2014 does not relate to the full year as the date of inception of the First Trust ETF was July 23, 2014.

(b) Initial offering price

(1) This information is provided as at December 31 and June 30 of the years/periods shown and is prepared under IFRS.

(2) Net asset value 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 period/year.

(3) Distributions were either paid in cash or reinvested in additional units of the First Trust ETF.

(4) This table is not intended to be a reconciliation of beginning to ending net asset value per unit.

#### Ratios and Supplemental Data – ETP.A

	Jun. 30, 2017	Dec. 31, 2016	Dec. 31, 2015	Dec. 31, 2014
Net asset value (000's)	\$2,222	\$2,198	\$2,223	\$1,376
Number of units outstanding	113,800	113,800	120,000	70,000
Management expense ratio <sup>(1)</sup>	1.56%	1.53%	1.78%	2.06%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorption	1.78%	1.74%	2.03%	2.24%
Trading expense ratio <sup>(2)</sup>	0.02%	0.08%	0.07%	0.10%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(3)</sup>	7.62%	78.97%	106.68%	39.96%
Net asset value per unit	\$19.53	\$19.32	\$18.52	\$19.66

(1) Management expense ratio is based on total expenses for the stated period/year and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period/year.

(2) 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/year.

(3) The First Trust ETF's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the First Trust ETF's portfolio advisor manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the First Trust ETF buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the period/year. The higher a First Trust ETF's portfolio turnover rate in a period/year, the greater the trading cost payable by the First Trust ETF in the period/year, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the period/year. There is not necessarily a relationship between high turnover rate and the performance of a First Trust ETF.

### Management Fees

The First Trust ETF will pay the Manager a management fee equal to up to 0.60% and, in respect of the ETP.A, an additional amount for a service fee (see "ETP.A Service Fee" below) based on the average daily NAV of the First Trust ETF. The management fee, plus applicable taxes including HST, will be accrued daily and paid monthly in arrears. The Manager may, from time to time in its discretion, waive all or a portion of the management fee charged at any given time.

### ETP.A Service Fee

The Manager pays registered dealers a service fee equal to 0.50% per annum of the NAV of the Units held by clients of the registered dealer, plus any applicable taxes. The service fee will be calculated and accrued daily and paid quarterly at the end of each calendar quarter.

### **Past Performance**

### General

The past performance information shown assumes that all distributions made by the First Trust ETF in the periods shown were reinvested in additional securities of the First Trust ETF. The performance information does not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or other optional charges that would have reduced returns or performance. How the First Trust ETF has performed in the past does not necessarily indicate how it will perform in the future.

### Year by Year Returns

The bar chart below shows the First Trust ETF's performance, per class, for the six-month period ended June 30, 2017, for the years ended December 31, and for the period from since inception to December 31, 2014 and illustrate how the investment fund's performance has changed from year to year. The chart also shows, in percentage terms, how much an investment made on the first day of each financial year would have grown or decreased by the last day of each financial year.



\*Date of Inception

### Summary of Investment Portfolio

The table sets out the percentage (based on total net asset value) of the First Trust ETF's holdings as at June 30, 2017. This summary of portfolio holdings may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the First Trust ETF. A quarterly update is available at <u>www.firsttrust.ca</u>.

Holdings	% of ETF Total Net Asset Value
First Trust Senior Loan ETF (CAD-Hedged)	21.61%
iShares S&P/TSX Canadian Preferred Share Index ETF	11.81%
BMO High Yield US Corporate Bond Hedged to CAD ETF	10.20%
iShares Convertible Bond Index ETF	8.27%
iShares Canadian Corporate Bond Index ETF	5.98%
Vanguard Canadian Short-Term Bond Index ETF	5.50%
iShares Core S&P/TSX Composite High Dividend Index ETF	4.67%
BMO Emerging Markets Bond Hedged to CAD Index ETF	4.36%
BMO Equal Weight REITs Index ETF	4.02%
iShares Global Monthly Dividend Index ETF (CAD-Hedged)	3.12%
Vanguard FTSE Canadian High Dividend Yield Index ETF	3.03%
Vanguard Canadian Aggregate Bond Index ETF	2.85%
iShares S&P/TSX Capped Financials Index ETF	2.78%
BMO Equal Weight Utilities Index ETF	2.68%
iShares Canadian Government Bond Index ETF	2.42%
BMO Mid-Term US IG Corporate Bond Index ETF	2.08%
iShares Core Canadian Long Term Bond Index ETF	1.89%
iShares Global Real Estate Index ETF	1.49%
Vanguard U.S. Dividend Appreciation Index ETF	0.99%
Cash	0.39%

### Portfolio Breakdown

The table sets out the percentage (based on total net asset value) of the First Trust ETF's portfolio as at June 30, 2017.

Sector Weightings	% of ETF Total Net Asset Value
Exchange-Traded Funds	99.75%
Cash and Cash Equivalents	0.39%

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