

# **CC&L Absolute Return Fund**

Financial Statements  
**December 31, 2024**

**KPMG LLP**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Unitholders of CC&L Absolute Return Fund (the "Fund")

***Opinion***

We have audited the financial statements of the Fund, which comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2024
- the statement of comprehensive income for the year then ended
- the statement of changes in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units for the year then ended
- the statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of material accounting policy information

(hereinafter referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Fund as at December 31, 2024, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards.

***Basis for Opinion***

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***" section of our auditor's report.

We are independent of the Fund in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

***Responsibilities of the Manager and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements***

The Fund's Manager is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as the Manager determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.



In preparing the financial statements, the Manager is responsible for assessing the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Manager either intends to liquidate the Fund or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Fund's financial reporting process.

### ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Manager.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Manager's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Fund to cease to continue as a going concern.



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- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

*KPMG LLP*

Chartered Professional Accountants

Vancouver, Canada  
March 28, 2025

# CC&L Absolute Return Fund

## Statements of Financial Position

As at December 31

	2024	2023
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash	\$ -	\$ 5,918
Investments	87,151,140	76,750,384
Other receivable	47,159	44,264
	<u>87,198,299</u>	<u>76,800,566</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Bank indebtedness	127,619	-
Accrued expenses	18,291	21,477
Management fees payable	95,191	80,968
Performance fees payable	754,600	720,120
	<u>995,701</u>	<u>822,565</u>
<b>Net Assets attributable to holders of redeemable units</b>	<u>\$ 86,202,598</u>	<u>\$ 75,978,001</u>
<b>Net Assets attributable to holders of redeemable units for each class</b>		
Series A	\$ 12,327,646	\$ 11,807,583
Series F	<u>\$ 73,874,952</u>	<u>\$ 64,170,418</u>
<b>Redeemable units outstanding</b> (note 6)		
Series A	981,062	1,090,512
Series F	<u>5,725,397</u>	<u>5,652,162</u>
<b>Net Assets attributable to holders of redeemable units per unit</b>		
Series A	\$ 12.57	\$ 10.83
Series F	<u>\$ 12.90</u>	<u>\$ 11.35</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# CC&L Absolute Return Fund

## Statements of Comprehensive Income

For the years ended December 31

	2024	2023
<b>Income</b>		
Other income (loss)	\$ 37,205	\$ -
Net gain (loss) on investments		
Interest for distribution purposes	428	17
Income distributions from pooled funds	-	1,396,277
Capital gains distributions from pooled funds	9,872,375	7,208,640
Net realized gain (loss) on investments	16,744	(1,159,393)
Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments	7,854,852	2,693,145
Total net gain (loss) on investments	17,744,399	10,138,686
<b>Total income (loss), net</b>	<b>17,781,604</b>	<b>10,138,686</b>
<b>Expenses (note 8)</b>		
Audit fees	4,352	4,412
Custodial fees	12,832	12,050
Fundserv fees	6,973	5,702
Interest expense	134	245
Management fees	1,005,554	963,108
Performance fees	2,763,455	845,980
Professional fees	1,566	1,577
Securityholder reporting fees	76,213	58,563
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>3,871,079</b>	<b>1,891,637</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) in Net Assets attributable to holders of redeemable units from operations</b>	<b>\$ 13,910,525</b>	<b>\$ 8,247,049</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) in Net Assets attributable to holders of redeemable units for each class</b>		
Series A	\$ 1,954,385	\$ 1,135,513
Series F	\$ 11,956,140	\$ 7,111,536
<b>Weighted average number of units outstanding</b>		
Series A	1,018,321	1,062,744
Series F	5,550,107	5,492,879
<b>Increase (decrease) in Net Assets attributable to holders of redeemable units per unit</b>		
Series A	\$ 1.92	\$ 1.07
Series F	\$ 2.15	\$ 1.29

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# CC&L Absolute Return Fund

## Statements of Changes in Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Redeemable Units

For the years ended December 31

	Series A 2024	Series A 2023
Net Assets attributable to holders of redeemable units - Beginning of year	\$ 11,807,583	\$ 12,304,671
Increase (decrease) in Net Assets attributable to holders of redeemable units from operations	1,954,385	1,135,513
<b>Redeemable unit transactions</b>		
Proceeds from redeemable units issued	13,500	113,065
Reinvestments of distributions to holders of redeemable units	165,431	912,120
Redemption of redeemable units	(1,438,869)	(1,680,319)
Net increase (decrease) from redeemable unit transactions	(1,259,938)	(655,134)
<b>Distributions to holders of redeemable units</b>		
From net investment income	-	(170,066)
From net realized capital gains	(174,384)	(807,401)
Total distributions to holders of redeemable units	(174,384)	(977,467)
Increase (decrease) in Net Assets attributable to holders of redeemable units during the year	520,063	(497,088)
Net Assets attributable to holders of redeemable units - End of year	\$ 12,327,646	\$ 11,807,583
	Series F 2024	Series F 2023
Net Assets attributable to holders of redeemable units - Beginning of year	\$ 64,170,418	\$ 63,573,308
Increase (decrease) in Net Assets attributable to holders of redeemable units from operations	11,956,140	7,111,536
<b>Redeemable unit transactions</b>		
Proceeds from redeemable units issued	7,826,022	2,983,940
Reinvestments of distributions to holders of redeemable units	2,745,981	5,541,528
Redemption of redeemable units	(9,488,182)	(8,999,810)
Net increase (decrease) from redeemable unit transactions	1,083,821	(474,342)
<b>Distributions to holders of redeemable units</b>		
From net investment income	-	(1,637,739)
From net realized capital gains	(3,335,427)	(4,402,345)
Total distributions to holders of redeemable units	(3,335,427)	(6,040,084)
Increase (decrease) in Net Assets attributable to holders of redeemable units during the year	9,704,534	597,110
Net Assets attributable to holders of redeemable units - End of year	\$ 73,874,952	\$ 64,170,418

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# CC&L Absolute Return Fund

## Statements of Changes in Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Redeemable Units

For the years ended December 31

	Total 2024	Total 2023
Net Assets attributable to holders of redeemable units - Beginning of year	\$ 75,978,001	\$ 75,877,979
Increase (decrease) in Net Assets attributable to holders of redeemable units from operations	13,910,525	8,247,049
<b>Redeemable unit transactions</b>		
Proceeds from redeemable units issued	7,839,522	3,097,005
Reinvestments of distributions to holders of redeemable units	2,911,412	6,453,648
Redemption of redeemable units	(10,927,051)	(10,680,129)
Net increase (decrease) from redeemable unit transactions	(176,117)	(1,129,476)
<b>Distributions to holders of redeemable units</b>		
From net investment income	-	(1,807,805)
From net realized capital gains	(3,509,811)	(5,209,746)
Total distributions to holders of redeemable units	(3,509,811)	(7,017,551)
Increase (decrease) in Net Assets attributable to holders of redeemable units during the year	10,224,597	100,022
Net Assets attributable to holders of redeemable units - End of year	\$ 86,202,598	\$ 75,978,001

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# CC&L Absolute Return Fund

## Statements of Cash Flows

For the years ended December 31

	2024	2023
<b>Cash flows from (used in) Operating activities</b>		
Increase (decrease) in Net Assets attributable to holders of redeemable units from operations	\$ 13,910,525	\$ 8,247,049
<b>Adjustments to reconcile to operating cash flows:</b>		
Income distributions from pooled funds	-	(1,396,277)
Capital gains distributions from pooled funds	(9,872,375)	(7,208,640)
Net realized (gain) loss on investments	(16,744)	1,159,393
Net change in unrealized (appreciation) depreciation of investments	(7,854,852)	(2,693,145)
Purchase of investments	(4,650,574)	(1,337,674)
Proceeds from investments sold	11,993,789	10,642,886
(Increase) decrease in other receivable	(2,895)	26,938
Increase (decrease) in accrued expenses	(3,186)	(5,888)
Increase (decrease) in management fees payable	14,223	(2,731)
Increase (decrease) in performance fees payable	34,480	720,120
<b>Net cash flows from (used in) operating activities</b>	<b>3,552,391</b>	<b>8,152,031</b>
<b>Cash flows from (used in) Financing activities</b>		
Proceeds from redeemable units issued**	7,626,680	2,579,717
Redemption of redeemable units**	(10,714,209)	(10,129,841)
Distributions paid to holders of redeemable units, net of reinvestments	(598,399)	(564,097)
<b>Net cash flows from (used in) financing activities</b>	<b>(3,685,928)</b>	<b>(8,114,221)</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) in cash</b>		
Net increase (decrease) in cash	(133,537)	37,810
Cash (bank indebtedness), beginning of year	5,918	(31,892)
<b>Cash (bank indebtedness), end of year</b>	<b>\$ (127,619)</b>	<b>\$ 5,918</b>
Interest received*	\$ 428	\$ 17
Interest paid*	(134)	(245)

\*included in operating activities

\*\*net of non-cash switches of \$212,842 (2023 - \$550,288)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# CC&L Absolute Return Fund

## Schedule of Investment Portfolio

As at December 31, 2024

	Number of Units	Average Cost \$	Fair Value \$	Percentage of Net Assets %
<b>Pooled Funds (December 31, 2023: 101.02%)</b>				
CC&L All Strategies Fund, Class I*	666,635	87,846,396	87,151,140	
<b>Total Pool Funds</b>		<u>87,846,396</u>	<u>87,151,140</u>	101.10
<b>Total Investments</b>		<u>87,846,396</u>	<u>87,151,140</u>	101.10
Other Assets Less Liabilities			<u>(948,542)</u>	<u>(1.10)</u>
<b>Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Redeemable Units</b>			<u>86,202,598</u>	<u>100.00</u>

\* The fund is managed by Connor, Clark & Lunn Investment Management Ltd., a company related to the Manager of the Fund through the common control of Connor, Clark & Lunn Financial Group Ltd.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# CC&L Absolute Return Fund

## Notes to Financial Statements – Fund Specific Information

**December 31, 2024 and 2023**

These fund specific notes shall be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes to the financial statements, which are an integral part of these financial statements. These fund specific notes can be referenced to the accompanying notes by the corresponding note number. Since they are supplemental to the accompanying notes, there may not be a corresponding specific note to match every accompanying note.

### General information (Note 1)

The CC&L Absolute Return Fund (the “Fund”) is an open-ended mutual fund trust established under the laws of Ontario and is governed by the Declaration of Trust dated March 3, 2014 (the Declaration of Trust), as amended from time to time. The Fund commenced operations on April 17, 2014. The address of the Fund’s registered office is 1400 – 130 King St. West, P.O. Box 240, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5X 1C8.

The investment activities of the Fund are managed by Connor, Clark & Lunn Funds Inc. (the “Manager”). The Manager has retained Connor, Clark & Lunn Investment Management Ltd. to act as portfolio manager (the “Investment Manager”) for the Fund. The Trustee of the Fund is RBC Investor Services Trust.

The investment objective of the Fund is to earn an attractive absolute risk adjusted return over the long term while targeting volatility broadly similar to equity markets by primarily investing in investment fund(s) that employ absolute return strategies, including funds managed by the Manager, the Investment Manager or any one of their affiliates. The Fund will also invest indirectly, through other investment funds, in a diversified portfolio of global financial assets, including, but not limited to, investments in or exposure to equities, bonds and commodities. The Fund may also invest in cash, money market and short term debt instruments. Investments funds into which the Fund invests may utilize derivatives, including, but not limited to, exchange traded futures contracts on equities, bonds and commodities. Investment funds into which the Fund invests may also utilize leverage and short selling.

### Fair value of financial instruments (Note 5)

#### Classification of investments under the Fair Value Hierarchy

The tables below illustrate the classification of the Fund’s financial instruments measured at fair value at the reporting date. The amounts are based on the values recognized in the Statements of Financial Position.

As at December 31, 2024:

Assets at Fair Value		Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		Total
Pooled funds	\$	-	\$	87,151,140	\$	-	\$	87,151,140
	\$	-	\$	87,151,140	\$	-	\$	87,151,140

As at December 31, 2023:

Assets at Fair Value		Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		Total
Pooled funds	\$	-	\$	76,750,384	\$	-	\$	76,750,384
	\$	-	\$	76,750,384	\$	-	\$	76,750,384

There were no transfers of financial assets between Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023. All fair value measurements above are recurring.

# CC&L Absolute Return Fund

## Notes to Financial Statements – Fund Specific Information

**December 31, 2024 and 2023**

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### Redeemable units of the Fund (Note 6)

The Fund has two classes of units available for issue, namely Series A and F. Series A units and Series F units are being offered pursuant to an offering memorandum to investors resident in all the provinces and territories of Canada pursuant to exemptions from the prospectus requirements of the applicable securities laws.

For the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, changes in outstanding units were as follows:

<b>2024</b>	<b>Balance - Beginning of year</b>	<b>Redeemable units issued</b>	<b>Redeemable units reinvested</b>	<b>Redeemable units redeemed</b>	<b>Balance - End of year</b>
Series A	1,090,512	1,219	13,070	(123,739)	981,062
Series F	5,652,162	633,780	209,913	(770,458)	5,725,397
<b>2023</b>					
Series A	1,155,258	10,667	83,898	(159,311)	1,090,512
Series F	5,688,103	267,222	486,227	(789,390)	5,652,162

### Taxation of the Fund (Note 7)

As at December 31, 2024, the Fund had unused capital losses of \$95,665 (2023 - \$95,665), which may be carried forward indefinitely to reduce future net realized capital gains. There were \$Nil (2023 - \$Nil) unused non-capital losses available for tax purposes.

### Related party transactions and other expenses (Note 8)

#### Management fees

The Fund pays a management fee, which is accrued daily and paid monthly. The annual management fee rates, exclusive of taxes, are 2.00% for Series A and 1.00% for Series F.

#### Performance fees

The Fund (inclusive of and applicable to both Series A and Series F units) may pay a quarterly incentive fee (a “Performance Fee”) to the Investment Manager, calculated and accrued weekly, and payable as of the last business day of each calendar quarter, or at other times (e.g. upon the dissolution of the Fund), equal to 20% of the net asset value per unit of Series A units of the Fund over and above the applicable High Water Mark converted to a percentage, and then multiplied by the average aggregate net asset value of the Fund (including the net asset value of Series A units and Series F units of the Fund) over the relevant performance period.

The “High Water Mark” is the highest quarter end Net Asset Value per unit of the Series A units since Series A units of the Fund have been issued plus the Hurdle Rate return.

The “Hurdle Rate” will be net of the Management Expense Ratio (MER) for Series A units plus 4.0% per annum.

The Performance Fee for the Fund is only payable when the net asset value per unit of Series A units of the Fund exceeds the High Water Mark on the calculation date.

# **CC&L Absolute Return Fund**

## **Notes to Financial Statements – Fund Specific Information December 31, 2024 and 2023**

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### **Investments in related parties**

The Fund invests in units of other underlying funds which are managed by the Manager or entities related to the Manager through common ownership. For the year ended December 31, 2024, the net realized gains from the sale of such underlying funds included in the Net realized gain (loss) on investments on the Statements of Comprehensive Income were \$16,744 (2023 - losses of \$1,159,393).

### **Brokerage commissions and soft dollars (Note 9)**

The Fund paid \$Nil (2023 - \$Nil) in brokerage commissions and other transactions costs for portfolio transactions during the year. The soft dollars paid during the year were \$Nil (2023 - \$Nil).

### **Financial risk management (Note 10)**

#### **Currency risk**

As at December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Fund's direct exposure to currency risk was negligible as the units of the underlying pooled funds and other investments are valued in Canadian dollars. The Fund was exposed to indirect currency risk to the extent the underlying pooled funds' investments are financial instruments denominated in a foreign currency.

The tables below summarize the exposure to foreign currencies as at December 31, 2024 and 2023 in Canadian dollars of the underlying fund, CC&L All Strategies Fund. Amounts shown are based on the fair value of monetary assets (including cash and short-term investments) as well as the underlying principal amounts of forward foreign currency contracts, as applicable.

The tables also illustrate the potential impact on the underlying fund's net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units as a result of 5% change in these currencies relative to the Canadian dollar, with all other factors remaining constant. In practice, actual results may differ from this sensitivity analysis and the difference could be material.

# CC&L Absolute Return Fund

## Notes to Financial Statements – Fund Specific Information

**December 31, 2024 and 2023**

As at December 31, 2024, CC&L All Strategies Fund:

<b>Currency</b>	<b>Monetary Assets (Liabilities) (\$)</b>	<b>Derivative Currency Contracts (\$)</b>	<b>Net Exposure (\$)</b>	<b>% of Net Assets</b>	<b>Impact on Net Assets (\$)</b>
Australian Dollar	912,720	(31,228,573)	(30,315,853)	(8.4)	(1,515,793)
British Pound	110,194	-	110,194	-	5,510
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	1,985	(746,566)	(744,581)	(0.2)	(37,229)
Czech Koruna	24,166	-	24,166	-	1,208
Danish Krone	363,261	-	363,261	0.1	18,163
Euro	462,094	-	462,094	0.1	23,105
Hong Kong Dollar	(195,247)	(1,973,476)	(2,168,723)	(0.6)	(108,436)
Hungarian Forint	(1,866)	-	(1,866)	-	(93)
Israeli New Shekel	(12,530)	(1,372,426)	(1,384,956)	(0.4)	(69,248)
Japanese Yen	152,028	(35,377,450)	(35,225,422)	(9.8)	(1,761,271)
Mexican Peso	84,072	(1,348,928)	(1,264,856)	(0.3)	(63,243)
New Zealand Dollar	5,522	-	5,522	-	276
Norwegian Krone	25,958	(3,736,539)	(3,710,581)	(1.0)	(185,529)
Polish Zloty	12,543	(722,480)	(709,937)	(0.2)	(35,497)
Singapore Dollar	(96,687)	(6,961,225)	(7,057,912)	(2.0)	(352,896)
South African Rand	138,271	-	138,271	-	6,914
South Korean Won	512	-	512	-	26
Swedish Krona	21,082	(33,614,443)	(33,593,361)	(9.3)	(1,679,668)
Swiss Franc	170,787	(8,022,281)	(7,851,494)	(2.2)	(392,575)
Thai Baht	(4,886)	-	(4,886)	-	(244)
Turkish Lira	16,125	-	16,125	-	806
UAE Dirham	(6,700)	-	(6,700)	-	(335)
US Dollar	34,729,241	13,980,843	48,710,084	13.5	2,435,504
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,912,645</b>	<b>(111,123,544)</b>	<b>(74,210,899)</b>	<b>(20.7)</b>	<b>(3,710,545)</b>

## CC&L Absolute Return Fund

### Notes to Financial Statements – Fund Specific Information December 31, 2024 and 2023

As at December 31, 2023, CC&L All Strategies Fund:

Currency	Monetary Assets (Liabilities) (\$)	Derivative Currency Contracts (\$)	Net Exposure (\$)	% of Net Assets	Impact on Net Assets (\$)
Australian Dollar	(62,482)	(24,383,136)	(24,445,618)	(8.1)	(1,222,281)
Brazilian Real	9	-	9	-	-
British Pound	1,008,722	337,871	1,346,593	0.5	67,330
Chinese Renminbi	-	(3,296,035)	(3,296,035)	(1.1)	(164,802)
Czech Koruna	11,473	-	11,473	-	574
Danish Krone	390,269	(4,326,261)	(3,935,992)	(1.3)	(196,800)
Euro	(1,713,351)	-	(1,713,351)	(0.6)	(85,668)
Hong Kong Dollar	194,925	-	194,925	0.1	9,746
Hungarian Forint	10,413	-	10,413	-	521
Israeli New Shekel	(80,099)	(3,428,236)	(3,508,335)	(1.2)	(175,417)
Japanese Yen	925,904	(24,059,605)	(23,133,701)	(7.7)	(1,156,685)
Mexican Peso	54,279	-	54,279	-	2,714
New Zealand Dollar	64,541	(291,370)	(226,829)	(0.1)	(11,341)
Norwegian Krone	220,379	(5,726,264)	(5,505,885)	(1.8)	(275,294)
Philippines Peso	9	-	9	-	-
Polish Zloty	(46,871)	-	(46,871)	-	(2,344)
Singapore Dollar	111,248	(878,667)	(767,419)	(0.3)	(38,371)
South African Rand	171,736	(802,516)	(630,780)	(0.2)	(31,539)
South Korean Won	537	-	537	-	27
Swedish Krona	(675,807)	(30,460,140)	(31,135,947)	(10.3)	(1,556,797)
Swiss Franc	(260,854)	(8,917,568)	(9,178,422)	(3.0)	(458,921)
Thai Baht	13,784	-	13,784	-	689
Turkish Lira	(715,595)	-	(715,595)	(0.2)	(35,780)
UAE Dirham	54	-	54	-	3
US Dollar	8,447,614	52,083,136	60,530,750	20.1	3,026,538
Total	8,070,837	(54,148,791)	(46,077,954)	(15.2)	(2,303,898)

### Interest rate risk

As at December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Fund's direct exposure to interest risk was negligible as the Fund had no significant exposure to long-term interest-bearing investments and the underlying pooled funds are non-interest bearing. The Fund was exposed to indirect interest rate risk to the extent the underlying pooled funds invest in fixed income and short-term debt. The tables below summarize the exposure to interest rate risk as at December 31, 2024 and 2023 in Canadian dollars of the underlying fund, CC&L All Strategies Fund. Amounts shown are based on the carrying values of debt instruments and exclude cash and preferred shares.

## CC&L Absolute Return Fund

### Notes to Financial Statements – Fund Specific Information

**December 31, 2024 and 2023**

As at December 31, 2024, CC&L All Strategies Fund:

<b>Debt Instruments Grouped by Maturity Date</b>	<b>Total \$</b>	<b>% of Net Assets</b>
Less than 1 year	128,877,216	35.8
1 to 3 years	49,802,571	13.8
3 to 5 years	(34,287,891)	(9.5)
Greater than 5 years	69,263,077	19.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>213,654,973</b>	<b>59.3</b>

As at December 31, 2023, CC&L All Strategies Fund:

<b>Debt Instruments Grouped by Maturity Date</b>	<b>Total \$</b>	<b>% of Net Assets</b>
Less than 1 year	60,196,945	20.0
1 to 3 years	88,395,615	29.3
3 to 5 years	(19,928,255)	(6.6)
Greater than 5 years	24,284,163	8.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>152,948,468</b>	<b>50.7</b>

If prevailing interest rates had been raised or lowered by 1.0%, assuming a parallel shift in the yield curve, with all other factors remaining constant, net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units would have increased or decreased by approximately \$3,000 (2023 - \$481,000). In practice, actual results may differ from this sensitivity analysis and the difference could be material.

### Other price risk

As at December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Fund was exposed to other price risk to the extent the underlying pooled funds invest in securities subject to market fluctuations (not caused by other factors mentioned above). Approximately 31.8% (2023 - 31.0%) of the underlying fund's net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units were exposed to other price risk. If the prices of the securities held by the underlying funds had increased or decreased by 10%, with all other factors remaining constant, net assets would have increased or decreased by approximately \$2,748,000 (2023 - \$2,355,000). In practice, actual results may differ from this sensitivity analysis and the difference could be material.

# CC&L Absolute Return Fund

## Notes to Financial Statements – Fund Specific Information

**December 31, 2024 and 2023**

### Credit risk

As at December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Fund's direct exposure to credit risk was negligible as the Fund had no significant exposure to debt or derivative instruments. The Fund was exposed to indirect credit risk to the extent the underlying pooled funds invest in such instruments. The tables below summarize the exposure to credit risk as at December 31, 2024 and 2023 of the underlying fund, CC&L All Strategies Fund. Amounts shown are based on the carrying values of debt instruments and the unrealized gain on derivative instruments outstanding with counterparties.

As at December 31, 2024, CC&L All Strategies Fund:

<b>Debt and Counterparty Credit Ratings</b>	<b>Total \$</b>	<b>% of Net Assets</b>
AAA	193,552,728	53.7
AA	19,218,155	5.3
A	55,284,044	15.3
BBB	232,607,368	64.6
BB	65,074,315	18.1
B	38,151,808	10.6
CCC	5,805,076	1.6
Total	609,693,494	169.2

As at December 31, 2023, CC&L All Strategies Fund:

<b>Debt and Counterparty Credit Ratings</b>	<b>Total \$</b>	<b>% of Net Assets</b>
AAA	193,248,516	64.1
AA	12,447,053	4.1
A	83,581,299	27.7
BBB	137,098,378	45.4
BB	37,043,534	12.3
B	33,416,832	11.1
Total	496,835,612	164.7

# CC&L Absolute Return Fund

## Notes to Financial Statements – Fund Specific Information

**December 31, 2024 and 2023**

### Concentration risk

The table below summarizes the Fund's indirect exposure to concentration risk as at December 31, 2024 and 2023 through its investment in CC&L All Strategies Fund:

Portfolio by Sector	% of Net Assets	
	2024	2023
Canadian Treasury Bills	26.98	19.61
Canadian Bonds	23.46	40.27
Industrials Sector	17.54	12.45
Information Technology Sector	11.74	10.15
United States Treasury Bills	8.79	-
Financials Sector	7.54	(0.59)
Foreign Bonds	7.10	0.84
Communication Services Sector	3.74	1.25
Utilities Sector	3.35	2.07
Energy Sector	2.79	4.05
Health Care Sector	2.76	(3.20)
Pooled Funds	1.52	12.74
Currency forward contracts	0.33	(0.57)
Credit default swaps	0.05	0.50
Swap contracts	(0.06)	0.03
Futures contracts	(0.59)	0.70
Materials Sector	(1.14)	(1.22)
Consumer Discretionary Sector	(1.85)	1.38
Consumer Staples Sector	(4.23)	(0.53)
United States Bonds	(7.01)	(10.04)
Real Estate Sector	(8.97)	(0.68)
Total	93.84	89.21

# CC&L Absolute Return Fund

## Notes to Financial Statements – Fund Specific Information

**December 31, 2024 and 2023**

### Investments in structured entities (Note 11)

The Fund has determined that the underlying pooled fund ('Investee Fund') in which it invests is an unconsolidated structured entity. The table below describes the types of structured entities that the Fund does not consolidate but in which it holds an interest.

Entity	Nature and purpose	Interest held by the Fund
Investee Fund	To manage assets on behalf of third party investors. These vehicles are financed through the issue of units to investors.	Investment in units issued by the Fund.

The tables below set out the interest held by the Fund in unconsolidated structured entities. The maximum exposure to loss is the carrying amounts of the financial assets held.

*December 31, 2024*

Underlying Fund	Principal place of business	Country of Domicile	Ownership interest	Carrying amount included in investments in Statement of Financial Position
CC&L All Strategies Fund	Canada	Canada	24.18%	\$87,151,140
				\$87,151,140

*December 31, 2023*

Underlying Fund	Principal place of business	Country of Domicile	Ownership interest	Carrying amount included in investments in Statement of Financial Position
CC&L All Strategies Fund	Canada	Canada	25.44%	\$76,750,384
				\$76,750,384

# CC&L Absolute Return Fund

## Notes to Financial Statements

**December 31, 2024 and 2023**

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These notes shall be read in conjunction with the accompanying fund specific notes which are an integral part of these financial statements.

### **1 General information**

The financial statements were authorized for issue by the Manager on March 28, 2025.

### **2 Basis of presentation**

(a) Statement of compliance:

These annual financial statements have been prepared in compliance with IFRS Accounting Standards. The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of financial assets and liabilities (including derivatives) at fair value through profit and loss.

(b) Functional and presentational currency:

These financial statements are presented in Canadian dollars, which is the Fund's functional currency.

### **3 Material accounting policy information**

The Fund has consistently applied the following accounting policies to all periods presented in these financial statements.

(a) Financial instruments:

The Fund has determined that it meets the definition of an 'investment entity'. An investment entity is an entity that: obtains funds from one or more investors for the purpose of providing them with investment management services; commits to its investors that its business purpose is to invest funds solely for returns from capital appreciation, investment income, or both; and measures and evaluates the performance of substantially all of its investments on a fair value basis. The significant judgment that the Fund has made in determining that it meets this definition is that fair value is the primary measurement attribute used to measure and evaluate the performance of substantially all of its investments.

The Fund classifies and measures financial instruments in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standard ("IFRS") 9, "Financial Instruments". The standard requires financial assets to be classified as amortized cost, fair value through profit or loss ("FVTPL"), or fair value through other comprehensive income based on the entity's business model for managing the financial assets and the contractual cash flow characteristics of these assets. Assessment and decision on the business model approach used is an accounting judgement. The Fund classifies investments based on both the Fund's business models for managing those financial assets and the contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial assets. The portfolio of financial assets is managed and performance is evaluated on a fair value basis. The Fund is primarily focused on fair value information and uses that information to assess performance and to make decisions. Consequently, all investments are measured at FVTPL.

# CC&L Absolute Return Fund

## Notes to Financial Statements

**December 31, 2024 and 2023**

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More specifically, the Fund's investments, derivative assets and liabilities and short sales, if any, are measured at FVTPL. The Fund's obligation for Net Assets attributable to holders of redeemable units is presented at the redemption amount. All other financial assets and liabilities are initially recognized at fair value and subsequently measured at amortized cost. Under this method, financial assets and liabilities reflect the amounts required to be received or paid, discounted when appropriate, at the financial instrument's effective interest rate. The fair values of the Fund's financial assets and liabilities that are not carried at FVTPL approximate their carrying amounts due to their short-term nature.

The net asset value ("NAV") per unit is determined by dividing the aggregate market value of the net assets of the Fund by the total number of units of the Fund outstanding before giving effect to redemptions or subscriptions to units on that day.

The interest for distribution purposes, if any, shown on the Statements of Comprehensive Income represents the coupon interest received by the Fund accounted for on an accrual basis. The Fund does not amortize premiums paid or discounts received on the purchase of fixed income securities except for zero coupon bonds which are amortized on a straight line basis. Dividends received are recognized as income on the ex-dividend date. Dividends paid on securities sold short, if any, are recognized as an expense on the ex-dividend date. Distributions from income trusts and pooled funds, if any, are recognized when the Fund has earned the right to receive payment of the distributions. The cost of investments is determined using the average cost method.

(b) Redeemable units of the Fund:

Under International Accounting Standard ("IAS") 32, "Financial Instruments: Presentation", the Fund classified its redeemable units as liabilities. The Fund's redeemable units do not meet the criteria in IAS 32 for classification as equity as the Fund has more than one contractual obligation to its unitholders. Investors have the right to require redemption, subject to available liquidity, for cash at a unit price based on the Fund's valuation policies at each redemption date. Unitholders are also entitled to distributions when declared, and have the right to receive distributions in cash. Therefore, the ongoing redemption feature is not the only contractual obligation related to units.

(c) Increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units per class unit:

The increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units per class unit is calculated by dividing the increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units of each class by the weighted average number of units outstanding of that class during the period.

(d) Foreign exchange:

Foreign denominated investments and other foreign denominated assets and liabilities are translated into Canadian dollars using the exchange rates prevailing on each valuation date. Purchases and sales of investments, as well as income and expense transactions denominated in foreign currencies, are translated using exchange rates prevailing on the date of the transaction. Foreign currency gains and losses on foreign denominated assets and liabilities other than investments are presented separately in the Statements of Comprehensive Income. Foreign currency gains and losses on investments are included in the Net realized gain (loss) on investments and Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments in the Statements of Comprehensive Income.

(e) Income and expense allocation:

Realized gains/losses, changes in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments and derivatives, income and expenses are allocated daily to each class based on the proportionate share of the net asset value of the class. The proportionate share of each class is determined by adding the current day's net unitholder subscriptions of the class to the prior day's net asset value of the class. Any income or expense amounts that are unique to a particular class (for example, management fees) are accounted for separately in that particular class so as not to affect the net asset value of the other class.

# CC&L Absolute Return Fund

## Notes to Financial Statements

**December 31, 2024 and 2023**

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(f) Income taxes:

The Fund qualifies as a unit trust or mutual fund trust (refer to fund specific notes) under the Income Tax Act (Canada). All of the Fund's net income for tax purposes and sufficient net capital gains realized in any period are required to be distributed to unitholders such that no income tax is payable by the Fund. As a result, the Fund does not record income taxes. Since the Fund does not record income taxes, the tax benefit of capital and non-capital losses has not been reflected in the Statements of Financial Position as a deferred income tax asset.

(g) Transaction costs:

Transaction costs such as brokerage commissions incurred in the purchase and sale of securities are expensed as incurred and are recognized in the Statements of Comprehensive Income.

(h) Investments in underlying funds and unconsolidated structured entities:

Underlying funds are valued on each business day at their net asset value as reported by the underlying funds' managers. A structured entity is an entity that has been designed so that voting or similar rights are not the dominant factor in deciding who controls the entity, such as when any voting rights relate to administrative tasks only and the relevant activities are directed by means of contractual arrangements. A structured entity often has some or all of the following features or attributes: (a) restricted activities, (b) a narrow and well-defined objective, such as to provide investment opportunities for investors by passing on risks and rewards associated with the assets of the structured entity to investors, (c) insufficient equity to permit the structured entity to finance its activities without subordinated financial support and (d) financing in the form of multiple contractually linked instruments to investors that create concentrations of credit or other risks (tranches). The Fund considers all of its investments in other funds ("Investee Funds") to be investments in unconsolidated structured entities. The Fund may invest in Investee Funds whose objectives range from achieving medium to long term capital growth and whose investment strategy does not include the use of leverage. The Investee Funds may be managed by related or unrelated asset managers and apply various investment strategies to accomplish their respective investment objectives. The Investee Funds finance their operations by issuing redeemable units which are puttable at the holder's option and entitles the holder to a proportional stake in the respective fund's net assets. The Fund holds redeemable units in each of its Investee Funds. The change in fair value of each Investee Fund is included in the Statements of Comprehensive Income in Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments.

(i) Currency forward contracts:

The Fund may enter into foreign exchange forward contracts for economic hedging purposes or to establish an exposure to a particular currency. Open forward contracts are valued at the gain or loss that would arise as a result of closing the position on the valuation date. Unrealized gains and losses on foreign exchange forward contracts are included in Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on currency forward contracts in the Statements of Comprehensive Income, and upon closing of a contract, the realized gain or loss is included in Net realized gain (loss) on currency forward contracts. Outstanding settlement amounts on the close out of foreign exchange forward contracts are listed in the Schedule of Investment Portfolio and are presented in the Statements of Financial Position as unrealized appreciation or unrealized depreciation on currency forward contracts.

(j) Bond forward contracts

Bond forward contracts are financial instruments that are based on an underlying sovereign bond of a particular government. The Fund utilizes these instruments to hedge against and benefit from price movements of the underlying sovereign bond. The Fund may engage in both normal purchases and sales as well as in short-sales and cover-buys of these instruments. All risks associated with traditional short-selling also apply to short-sales of these instruments. The bond forward contracts are traded with coupon payments of the underlying bond with a specified settlement date in the future. Typically bond forward contracts are closed off prior to their settlement by an equal and opposite trade of the same bond forward instrument.

# CC&L Absolute Return Fund

## Notes to Financial Statements

**December 31, 2024 and 2023**

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Open bond forward contracts are valued at the gain or loss that would arise as a result of closing the position on the valuation date. The Fund records the difference in the change between fair value and cost of each of the bond forward contracts positions as a change in unrealized gain or loss in the net asset value determination of the Fund in the Statements of Comprehensive Income. The Fund benefits or suffers based on the gains or losses realized due to the difference in purchase and sale prices.

Unrealized gains and losses on bond forward contracts are included in Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on bond forward contracts in the Statements of Comprehensive Income, and upon closing of a contract, the realized gain or loss is included in Net realized gain (loss) on bond forward contracts. Outstanding settlement amounts are listed in the Schedule of Investment Portfolio and are presented in the Statements of Financial Position as unrealized appreciation or unrealized depreciation on bond forward contracts.

(k) Futures:

The Fund may purchase standardized, exchange-traded futures contracts. Any outstanding futures contracts as at reporting period end date are listed in the Schedule of Investment Portfolio and are presented in the Statements of Financial Position as unrealized appreciation or unrealized depreciation on futures contracts. Any difference between the value at the close of business on the current valuation day and that of the previous valuation day is settled in cash daily and recorded in the Statements of Comprehensive Income as Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on futures contracts, and upon closing of a contract, the realized gain or loss is included in Net realized gain (loss) on futures contracts. Any amounts receivable (payable) from settlement of futures contracts are reflected in the Statements of Financial Position as Daily variation margin. Certain short-term debt instruments, as indicated in the Schedule of Investment Portfolio, may be segregated and held as margin against the futures contracts purchased by the Fund.

(l) Swap contracts:

The Fund may invest in swap contracts. The fair value of over-the-counter (“OTC”) swap contracts is determined using valuation techniques which incorporate the use of observable market data such as market returns, interest rates, and credit spreads. Changes in the fair value of the swap contracts outstanding at the reporting date are disclosed in the Statements of Comprehensive Income as Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on swap contracts. When the swap contracts expire or are closed out, the net realized gain or loss is reflected in the Statements of Comprehensive Income as part of Net realized gain (loss) on swap contracts. Outstanding swap agreements as at reporting period end date are listed in the Schedule of Investment Portfolio and are presented in the Statements of Financial Position as unrealized appreciation or unrealized depreciation on swap contracts. Any amounts receivable (payable) from settlement of swap contracts are reflected in the Statements of Financial Position as Daily variation margin.

(m) New standards and interpretations not yet adopted:

The International Accounting Standards Board issued IFRS 18, “Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements” on April 9, 2024, which will replace IAS 1, “Presentation of Financial Statements”. This new standard, effective for annual periods beginning on or after January 1, 2027, aims to improve financial statement comparability and transparency by introducing a more structured statement of comprehensive income. Key changes include new categories for income and expenses (operating, investing, and financing), defined subtotals like operating profit, and requirements for management-defined performance measures. It is anticipated the Fund’s classification of income and expenses, particularly within the operating category, will be impacted. The Fund’s net profit is not expected to change as a result of applying IFRS 18. The Manager is currently assessing the implications of IFRS 18 and its impact on the Fund’s financial statements and disclosures.

# CC&L Absolute Return Fund

## Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

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### 4 Critical accounting estimates and judgments

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRS Accounting Standards requires the Manager to make judgments, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. Actual results may differ from these estimates. Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis.

### 5 Fair value of financial instruments

The fair value of a financial instrument is the amount that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The Fund classifies fair value measurements within a hierarchy which gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are:

*Level 1:* Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date;

*Level 2:* Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable either directly or indirectly; and

*Level 3:* Inputs that are unobservable.

The fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities that are traded in active markets (such as publicly traded derivatives and marketable securities) are based on quoted market prices or dealer price quotations at the close of trading on the reporting date. The Fund uses the last traded market price for both financial assets and financial liabilities where the last traded price falls within that day's bid-ask spread. In circumstances where the last traded price is not within the bid-ask spread, the Manager determines the point within the bid-ask spread that is most representative of fair value based on the specific facts and circumstances. The Fund's policy is to recognize transfers into and out of the fair value hierarchy levels as of the date of the event or change in circumstances giving rise to the transfer.

The carrying value of cash, daily variation margin, receivable from brokers, subscriptions receivable, interest and dividends receivable, other receivables, bank indebtedness, payable to brokers, redemptions payable, distributions payable, management fees payable, performance fees payable and accrued expenses, if applicable, approximates their fair value given their short-term nature. These financial instruments are classified as Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy because, while prices are available, there is no active market for these instruments.

#### **Fair value measurement of derivatives and securities not quoted in an active market**

For financial instruments that trade infrequently and have little price transparency, fair value is less objective, and requires varying degrees of judgment depending on liquidity, uncertainty of market factors, pricing assumptions and other risks affecting the specific instrument.

The Fund uses widely recognized valuation models for determining the fair value of financial instruments such as future, forward and swap contracts that use only observable market data and require little management judgment and estimation. Observable prices and model inputs are usually available in the market for listed debt and equity securities, and exchange-traded derivatives, such as futures and options, and OTC derivatives, such as forward contracts and swaps. The availability of observable market prices and model inputs reduces the need for management judgment and estimation and reduces the uncertainty associated with the determination of fair values.

# CC&L Absolute Return Fund

## Notes to Financial Statements

**December 31, 2024 and 2023**

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If inputs of different levels are used to measure an asset's or liability's fair value, the classification within the hierarchy is based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

### **Classification of investments under the Fair Value Hierarchy**

Equity positions (including income trusts, exchange-traded funds and limited partnerships) are classified as Level 1 when the security is actively traded and a reliable price is observable. If equities do not trade frequently and observable prices are not available, fair value is determined using observable market data (e.g. transactions for similar securities of the same issuer) and the fair value is classified as Level 2, unless the determination of fair value requires significant unobservable data, in which case the measurement is classified as Level 3.

Bonds and mortgage backed securities include primarily government and corporate bonds and mortgage backed securities, which are valued using models with inputs including interest rate curves, credit spreads and volatilities. The inputs that are significant to valuation are generally observable and therefore the Fund's investments in bonds and mortgage backed securities have been generally classified as Level 2.

Short-term investments are classified as Level 2, as fair value is determined using market observable inputs.

Derivative assets and liabilities consist of currency forward contracts, bond forward contracts and swap contracts, which are valued based primarily on the contract notional amount, the difference between the contract rate and the forward market rate for the same currency, interest rates and credit spreads. Contracts for which counterparty credit spreads are observable and reliable, or for which the credit-related inputs are determined not to be significant to fair value are classified as Level 2.

Futures and exchange-traded credit default swap index contracts are classified as Level 1, as a quoted price is used based on observable market information.

Warrants are classified as Level 1, unless observable prices are not available. In such cases, fair value is determined using observable market data and the fair value is classified as Level 2.

## **6 Redeemable units of the Fund**

Redeemable units of the Fund are not offered to the public by way of prospectus. Redeemable units are issued pursuant to statutory exemptions from registration and prospectus requirements.

Redeemable units of the Fund are redeemable at the option of the unitholders in accordance with the provisions of the declaration of trust at their net asset value per class unit and do not have any nominal or par value. The Trustee shall also deduct from the aggregate redemption proceeds otherwise payable by the Trust to a unitholder, the amount of any transactions costs as calculated by the Manager.

The Fund has no restrictions or specific capital requirements on the subscription and redemption of units. The relevant movements are shown on the Statements of Changes in Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Redeemable Units. However, the switches between the series within a Fund are excluded from proceeds from redeemable units issued and redemption of redeemable units in the Statements of Cash Flows. In accordance with the objectives and risk management policies outlined in Note 10, the Fund endeavors to invest subscriptions received in appropriate investments while maintaining sufficient liquidity to meet redemptions. Liquidity is supported by the disposal of marketable securities when necessary.

Unitholders have the right to make an election to receive cash instead of additional units on the payment of a distribution by the Fund by written notification to the Trustee.

# **CC&L Absolute Return Fund**

## **Notes to Financial Statements**

**December 31, 2024 and 2023**

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### **7 Taxation of the Fund**

The Fund may have unused capital losses which may be carried forward indefinitely to reduce future net realized capital gains, and unused non-capital losses which may be applied against the future investment income, available for tax purposes, as detailed in the fund specific notes.

Certain dividend, interest, capital gains and security lending income received by the Fund is subject to withholding tax imposed in the country of origin. Such income and gains are recorded on a gross basis and the related withholding taxes are shown separately in the Statements of Comprehensive Income.

As at December 31, 2024 and 2023, if applicable, the Fund has considered contingent tax liabilities and uncertain tax treatments, as well as interest and penalties, and determined that no amount need be accrued in respect of such amounts.

### **8 Related party transactions and other expenses**

#### **Management fees**

Management fees may be charged by the Manager as detailed in the fund specific notes if applicable, either to the Fund or directly to the unitholders.

#### **Performance fees**

Performance fees may be charged by the Manager as detailed in the fund specific notes if applicable, either to the Fund or directly to the unitholders.

#### **Other expenses**

The Fund is responsible for audit fees, custodial fees, securityholder reporting fees and other expenses incurred directly for the operations of the Fund.

#### **Investments in related parties**

The Fund may have investment transactions related to activities of investor funds, which are managed by the Manager or entities related to the Manager through common ownership.

### **9 Brokerage commissions and soft dollars**

The Manager may select brokers who charge commission in “soft dollars” if they determine in good faith that the commission is reasonable in relation to the order execution and research services utilized. Soft dollars represent a means of paying for products or services provided by brokerage firms (e.g., research reports) in exchange for direction transactions (e.g., trade execution) to the brokerage. Fund managers may use soft dollars allocated by brokerages to pay for a portion of the total commissions owed to the brokerage.

### **10 Financial risk management**

The Fund may be exposed to a variety of financial risks which are described below. The Fund’s exposure to these risks is concentrated in its investment holdings including derivative instruments, where applicable. In determining the

# CC&L Absolute Return Fund

## Notes to Financial Statements

**December 31, 2024 and 2023**

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risks that apply, and the extent to which they apply, reference should be made to the Schedule of Investment Portfolio and supporting schedules that group securities (as applicable) by asset class, market segment and geographic region (when securities are held in multiple currencies). The Manager aims to manage the potential effects of these financial risks on the Fund's performance by employing and overseeing professional and experienced portfolio managers that regularly monitor the Fund's holdings, market events and overall economic conditions.

The portfolio managers use a variety of means to monitor the Fund including the measurement of specific financial and economic variables pertinent to the Fund. The Fund's risk management program is based on monitoring compliance against investment guidelines contained in the Statement of Investment Policy ("SIP"). The SIP is an internal document that outlines how the Fund is managed. The SIP states the investment objective of the Fund and the investment guidelines. The guidelines include permitted investments, acceptable levels of diversification and the permitted uses of derivatives.

Securities are selected with the intent of maximizing returns within the risk parameters defined in the SIP. On a daily basis, these guidelines and other restrictions are monitored against the positions in the Fund using an electronic compliance system to confirm there are no violations and to ensure market movements do not leave the Fund's portfolio holdings outside specified ranges. Corrective action is taken when necessary and any guideline violations are reported to the Manager.

The Fund may be exposed indirectly to the below risks through investments in exchange-traded funds and underlying funds.

The economic uncertainties around persistent inflation pressure, global pandemic recovery, geopolitical events, climate change and ongoing natural disasters could slow growth in the global economy. Developing reliable estimates and applying judgment continue to be substantially complex. Actual results may differ from those estimates and assumptions.

Refer to the fund specific notes for specific risk disclosures.

### **Currency risk**

Currency risk is the risk that the value of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in currencies other than the Canadian dollar (the functional and presentational currency of the Fund) will fluctuate due to changes in foreign exchange rates. The Schedule of Investment Portfolio and supporting schedules identify all investments and derivative instruments denominated in foreign currencies. Bonds and short-term investments issued in foreign countries are exposed to that country's currency unless otherwise noted. Bonds, short-term investments and derivatives denominated in foreign currencies are exposed to currency risk as prices are converted to the Fund's functional currency in determining fair value. Foreign equities are not exposed to currency risk since they are considered non-monetary investments. Changes in the market value of these securities due to fluctuations in exchange rates are considered a component of other price risk (see below).

The portfolio manager may utilize hedging strategies at their discretion to minimize exposure to currency risk.

### **Interest rate risk**

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of the Fund's interest-bearing investments will fluctuate due to changes in prevailing interest rates. The longer the term to maturity, all else being equal, the more sensitive a security is to interest rate risk. The Fund's exposure to interest rate risk is concentrated in its investment in debt securities (such as bonds and short-term investments) and interest rate derivative instruments, if any. Other assets and liabilities are short-term in nature and non-interest bearing.

The Fund may also hold a limited amount of floating rate debt, cash and short-term investments that expose the Fund to cash flow interest rate risk. The Fund has direct exposure to interest rate changes on the valuation and cash flows of its interest bearing assets and liabilities. However, it may also be indirectly affected by the impact of interest rate changes on the earnings of certain companies in which the Fund invests. Therefore the sensitivity analysis may not

# CC&L Absolute Return Fund

## Notes to Financial Statements

**December 31, 2024 and 2023**

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fully indicate the total effect on the Fund's net assets to holders of redeemable shares of redeemable units of future movements in interest rates.

The portfolio manager targets the Fund's duration to be within a specified tolerance of the benchmark or as otherwise specified in the SIP in order to minimize exposure to interest rate risk.

### **Other price risk**

Other price risk is the risk that the fair value of financial instruments will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices (other than those arising from currency risk or interest rate risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual financial instrument or its issuer, or factors affecting all similar financial instruments traded in a market.

Unexpected volatility or illiquidity could occur due to legal, political, regulatory, economic or other developments, such as public health emergencies, including an epidemic or pandemic, natural disasters, war and related geopolitical risks, and may impair the portfolio manager's ability to carry out the objectives of the Fund or cause the Fund to incur losses. Neither the duration nor ultimate effect of any such market conditions, nor the degree to which such conditions may worsen can be predicted.

The portfolio manager adheres to specified investment constraints in relation to asset class and diversification, thus minimizing exposure to other price risk.

Other assets and liabilities are monetary items that are short-term in nature and not subject to other price risk.

### **Credit risk**

Credit risk is the risk that a loss could arise when a security issuer or counterparty to a financial instrument is unable to meet its financial obligations. To maximize the credit quality of its investments, the Fund's portfolio manager performs ongoing credit evaluations of debt issuers. The fair value of debt securities includes consideration of the credit worthiness of the debt issuer. Credit risk can also arise with counterparties, as applicable, on forward contracts, swap contracts and reverse sale and repurchase agreements. Credit risk exposure for over-the-counter derivative instruments is based on the Fund's unrealized gain of the contractual obligations with the counterparty as at the reporting date. The credit exposure of other assets is represented by their carrying amount.

The Fund measures credit risk and expected credit losses using probability of default, exposure at default and loss given default. Management considers both historical analysis and forward looking information in determining any expected credit loss. At December 31, 2024 and 2023, if applicable, all other receivables, amounts due from brokers, cash and short-term deposits are held with counterparties with a credit ratings ranging from AAA to AA. Credit risk related to unsettled transactions is considered small due to the short settlement period involved. Management considers the probability of default to be close to zero as the counterparties have a strong capacity to meet their contractual obligations in the near term.

Credit ratings are determined from a composite of bond rating services such as Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Dominion Bond Rating Services and are subject to change without notice.

The Fund can also be exposed to credit risk to the extent that the Fund's custodian may not be able to settle trades for cash. RBC Investor Services Trust, which is the custodian for the Fund, is approved by Canadian Securities Administrator to act as custodian.

### **Liquidity risk**

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Fund may not be able to settle or meet its obligations on time or at a reasonable price. The Fund's exposure to liquidity risk is concentrated in the daily cash redemptions of redeemable units, which are due on demand. The liquidity of some securities held by the Fund, which may need to be disposed of in order to meet immediate or short-term obligations, are susceptible to rapid negative movements in credit markets; in particular non-government issued fixed income securities found on the Schedule of Investments Portfolio. Like all fixed income

# CC&L Absolute Return Fund

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securities, the market value of these securities is based on a credit risk premium or 'spread'. The greater the credit risk associated with a security, the greater the spread demanded by holders. There is a negative correlation between the size of the spread and the value or price of the underlying security.

The Fund may also be exposed to liquidity risk through its investments in underlying funds. The underlying funds invest in the majority of their investments that are traded in an active market and can be readily disposed of to maintain liquidity.

The Fund retains sufficient cash, short-term investments and marketable securities that can be readily disposed of to maintain liquidity. Liquidity risk is considered negligible. The Fund's financial liabilities are all short-term in nature and are expected to mature within three months of the December 31, 2024 financial statement date, with the exception of redeemable units, which are due on demand, bonds held short and certain derivatives. All of the Fund's financial liabilities as at December 31, 2023, if applicable, matured within three months of the financial statement date.

### **Concentration risk**

Concentration risk arises as a result of the concentration of exposures within the same category, whether it is geographic region, asset type or sector.

The portfolio manager adheres to specified investment constraints in relation to asset class and diversification, thus minimizing exposure to concentration risk.

The Schedule of Investment Portfolio provides detailed information on the Fund's concentration risk exposure as at December 31, 2024 and 2023, if applicable.

### **Capital risk management**

Redeemable units issued and outstanding are considered to be capital of the Fund. The Fund is not subject to any internally or externally imposed restrictions on its capital. Each unit is redeemable at the option of the unitholder in accordance with the Declaration of Trust and entitles the unitholder to a pro rata share of the Fund's NAV. Unitholders are entitled to distributions when declared. Distributions on units of the Fund are reinvested in additional units of the Fund or at the option of the unitholder, paid in cash.

## **11 Investments in structured entities**

The Fund has determined that all of the underlying pooled funds in which they invest are unconsolidated structured entities. The exposure to investments in underlying funds is disclosed in the fund specific notes.

The Fund has determined that all of the mortgage-related and other asset-backed securities in which they invest are unconsolidated structured entities. These securities include mortgage pass-through securities, collateralized mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, asset-backed securities, collateralized debt obligations and other securities that directly or indirectly represent a participation in, or are secured by and payable from, mortgage loans on real property. The debt and equity securities issued by these securities may include tranches with varying levels of subordination. These securities may provide a monthly payment which consists of both interest and principal payments. Mortgage-related securities are created from pools of residential or commercial mortgage loans, including mortgage loans made by savings and loan institutions, mortgage bankers, commercial banks and others. Asset-backed securities are created from many types of assets, including auto loans, credit card receivables, home equity loans, and student loans.

The Fund has determined that all of the exchange-traded funds in which they invest are unconsolidated structured entities. The Funds may invest in exchange-traded funds which provide access to the returns of stock indices, bond indices, or a basket of assets and are intended to replicate the economic effects that would apply had the Funds directly purchased the underlying reference asset or basket of assets. An investment in an exchange-traded fund is subject to all of the risks of investing in the securities held by the exchange-traded fund.

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The Fund accounts for these unconsolidated structured entities at fair value. The fair value of such securities, as disclosed in the Schedule of Investment Portfolio, as applicable, represents the maximum exposure to losses at that date.

During the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, if applicable, the Fund did not provide financial support to unconsolidated structured entities and has no intention of providing financial or other support.

### **12 Securities lending**

The Fund may enter into a securities lending program with its custodian, RBC Investor Services Trust, in order to earn additional income. The aggregate market value of all securities loaned by the Fund will not exceed 50% of the fair value of the assets of the Fund. The Fund will receive collateral of at least 102% of the fair value of the securities on loan. Collateral consists primarily of fixed income securities. Securities lending income reported in the Statements of Comprehensive Income is net of a securities lending charges which the Fund's custodian is entitled to receive.

### **13 Leverage and borrowing**

Leverage occurs when a Fund borrows money or securities, or uses derivatives, to generate investment exposure that is greater than the amount invested.

Fund's leverage is determined by calculating the aggregate exposure through the sum of following:

- (i) the market value of the Fund's short positions;
- (ii) the amount of cash borrowed for investment purposes; and
- (iii) the notional value of the Fund's specified derivatives positions excluding any specified derivatives used for hedging purposes.

If a Fund is permitted to use leverage and engages in short selling (as stated in the Fund's SIP), the Manager will appoint one or more prime brokers as custodians. Accordingly, some or all of the Fund's net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units may be held in accounts with prime brokers. A prime broker account may provide less segregation of these assets than would be the case with a more conventional custody arrangement. Further, a prime broker may also lend, pledge or hypothecate these assets, which may result in a potential loss of such assets. As a result, these assets could be frozen and inaccessible for withdrawal or subsequent trading for an extended period of time if a prime broker experiences financial difficulty. In such case, the Fund may experience losses due to insufficient assets at a prime broker to satisfy the claims of its creditors and adverse market movements while its positions cannot be traded.

### **14 Financial reports**

In reliance on the exemption in Section 2.11 of National Instrument 81-106, the Fund has not and will not be filing its financial statements with the regulatory authorities.