

# FIRST ASSET CORE CANADIAN EQUITY ETF



Interim Financial Statements for the period  
**January 12, 2015 to June 30, 2015**



**FIRST ASSET CORE CANADIAN EQUITY ETF**

**NOTICE TO READER:**

These interim financial statements and related notes for the six-month period ended June 30, 2015 have been prepared by First Asset Investment Management Inc. The external auditors of the Fund have not audited or reviewed these interim financial statements.

FIRST ASSET CORE CANADIAN EQUITY ETF

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (Unaudited)

As at June 30

	2015 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current assets</b>	
Investments, at fair value (note 2)	14,356,715
Cash and cash equivalents	31,086
Dividends receivable	77,365
	14,465,166
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
<b>Current liabilities</b>	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	7,675
Management fee payable	1,805
Distributions payable to holders of redeemable securities (note 8)	76,310
	85,790
<b>Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable securities</b>	<b>14,379,376</b>
<b>Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable securities per class</b>	
Common Units	13,865,923
Advisor Class Units	513,453
	14,379,376
<b>Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable securities per security</b>	
Common Units	\$20.54
Advisor Class Units	\$20.54

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

FIRST ASSET CORE CANADIAN EQUITY ETF

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (Unaudited)

For the period from January 12 to June 30

	2015 \$
<b>INCOME</b>	
Net gains (losses) on investments	
Dividends	117,955
Net realized gain on sale of investments	7,374
Change in unrealized depreciation of investments	(496,316)
<b>Net gains (losses) on investments<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>(370,987)</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Custodian and fund valuation fees	9,873
Securityholder reporting costs	7,522
Audit fees	7,500
Management fee (notes 7 and 11) <sup>(2)</sup>	5,702
Harmonized Sales Tax	4,007
Transaction costs (note 7)	3,118
Dealer service fee (notes 7 and 11) <sup>(2)</sup>	1,771
Independent Review Committee fees (note 11)	173
	49,539
Expenses absorbed by the Manager	(21,884)
	17,782
<b>Increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable securities from operations (excluding distributions)</b>	<b>(388,769)</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable securities from operations (excluding distributions) per class</b>	
Common Units	(405,307)
Advisor Class Units	16,538
	(388,769)
<b>Increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable securities from operations (excluding distributions) per security (note 2)</b>	
Common Units	\$(1.07)
Advisor Class Units	\$0.66

<sup>(1)</sup> Comprised of:

	2015 \$
Financial assets and liabilities designated at FVTPL	(370,987)

<sup>(2)</sup> Management and dealer service fee rates (notes 7 and 11)

	Management Fee	Service Fee
Common Units	0.15%	-
Advisor Class Units	0.15%	0.75%

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

FIRST ASSET CORE CANADIAN EQUITY ETF

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HOLDERS OF REDEEMABLE SECURITIES (Unaudited)

For the period from January 12 to June 30, 2015

	Common Units \$	Advisor Class Units \$	Total \$
<b>Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable securities, beginning of period</b>	-	-	-
Increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable securities from operations (excluding distributions)	(405,307)	16,538	(388,769)
<b>Distributions to holders of redeemable securities (note 8)</b>			
From net investment income	(99,553)	(3,057)	(102,610)
From capital gains	(2,282)	(48)	(2,330)
	(101,835)	(3,105)	(104,940)
<b>Redeemable securities transactions (note 6)<sup>(1)</sup></b>			
Issuance of securities	14,373,065	500,020	14,873,085
	14,373,065	500,020	14,873,085
<b>Net increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable securities</b>	13,865,923	513,453	14,379,376
<b>Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable securities, end of period</b>	13,865,923	513,453	14,379,376

<sup>(1)</sup> Redeemable securities issued and outstanding

	2015	
	Common Units #	Advisor Class Units #
<b>Securities outstanding, beginning of period</b>	-	-
Issuance of securities	675,001	25,001
Redemption of securities	(1)	(1)
<b>Securities outstanding, end of period</b>	675,000	25,000

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

FIRST ASSET CORE CANADIAN EQUITY ETF

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS (Unaudited)

For the period from January 12 to June 30

	2015
	\$
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	
Increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable securities from operations (excluding distributions)	(388,769)
Adjustments to reconcile cash flows from (used in) operating activities	
Proceeds from sale of investments	695,123
Purchases of investments	(701,137)
Change in other assets and liabilities	(67,884)
Net realized (gain) loss on sale of investments	(7,373)
Change in unrealized (appreciation) depreciation of investments	496,316
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>	<b>26,275</b>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	
Subscriptions received	33,441
Distributions to securityholders	(28,630)
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>	<b>4,811</b>
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents during the period</b>	<b>31,086</b>
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	-
<b>Cash and cash equivalents, end of period</b>	<b>31,086</b>
Dividends received, net of withholding tax	40,590

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

FIRST ASSET CORE CANADIAN EQUITY ETF

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO (Unaudited)

As at June 30, 2015

Number of shares	Description	Average Cost \$	Fair Value \$	% of Net Assets
<b>EQUITIES</b>				
313,524	First Asset Morningstar Canada Dividend Target 30 Index ETF	3,423,402	3,263,785	
215,996	First Asset Morningstar Canada Momentum Index ETF	3,456,475	3,397,617	
235,492	First Asset Morningstar Canada Value Index ETF	3,517,814	3,412,279	
401,409	First Asset MSCI Canada Low Risk Weighted ETF	4,456,701	4,283,034	
<b>Total equities</b>		<b>14,854,392</b>	<b>14,356,715</b>	<b>99.84%</b>
Adjustment for transaction costs		(1,361)	-	-%
<b>Total investments</b>		<b>14,853,031</b>	<b>14,356,715</b>	<b>99.84%</b>
Other assets, net of liabilities			22,661	0.16%
<b>Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable securities</b>			<b>14,379,376</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.



## FIRST ASSET CORE CANADIAN EQUITY ETF

# FUND SPECIFIC NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Unaudited)

June 30, 2015

### (A) THE FUND

First Asset Core Canadian Equity ETF (the "Fund") is an actively managed exchange traded fund that seeks to provide holders with: (i) long term capital appreciation with an attractive risk-adjusted rate of return; and (ii) consistent dividend income; through investing the First Asset ETF's portfolio to gain exposure to equity securities of primarily large capitalization Canadian issuers.

### (B) FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The following tables show the fair value hierarchy classification of financial instruments measured or disclosed at their fair value.

As at June 30, 2015

	Level 1 \$	Level 2 \$	Level 3 \$	Total \$
<b>Financial assets</b>				
Equities	14,356,715	–	–	14,356,715
	14,356,715	–	–	14,356,715

### (C) INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HOLDERS OF REDEEMABLE SECURITIES FROM OPERATIONS (EXCLUDING DISTRIBUTIONS) PER SECURITY

The increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable securities per security for the period ended June 30, 2015 is calculated as follows:

	2015	
	Common Units	Advisor Class Units
Increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable securities from operations (excluding distributions)	\$(405,307)	\$16,538
Weighted average securities outstanding during the period	377,876	25,000
Increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable securities from operations (excluding distributions) per security	\$(1.07)	\$0.66

### (D) MANAGEMENT OF FINANCIAL RISKS

#### Other price risk

The table below indicates how net assets attributable to holders of redeemable securities would have increased or decreased had the value of the Fund's benchmark increased or decreased by 10%. This change is estimated based on the historical correlation between the return of the Fund's securities as compared to the return of the benchmark as at period end, with all other variables held constant. Regression analysis has been utilized to estimate the historical correlation. The analysis uses daily data points from Launch Date to the applicable period end. The historical correlation may not be representative of the future correlation, and accordingly the impact on net assets attributable to holders of redeemable securities could be different.

Benchmark	Impact on net assets attributable to redeemable securities	
	June 30, 2015	
	\$	
S&P/TSX Composite Total Return Index	1,312,051	

### (E) RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

As at June 30, 2015, the Fund held 313,524 units of First Asset Morningstar Canada Dividend Target 30 Index ETF, 215,996 units of First Asset Morningstar Canada Momentum Index ETF, 235,492 units of First Asset Morningstar Canada Value Index ETF and 401,409 units of First Asset MSCI Canada Low Risk Weighted ETF, each such investment fund managed by First Asset, having a combined fair value of \$14,356,715 and representing 99.84% of the Fund's net assets. The trades were executed by an unrelated broker and through the facilities of the Toronto Stock Exchange ("TSX") at prevailing market prices on the days of the transactions. None of the related parties received any fees in connection with the trades. The trades were executed in reliance on a standing instruction issued by both funds' Independent Review Committee.

## FIRST ASSET CORE CANADIAN EQUITY ETF

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Unaudited)

June 30, 2015

### 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Each of the First Asset Exchange Traded Funds (individually, a Fund, and collectively, the Funds) is established as an investment fund under the laws of the Province of Ontario and governed by a Declaration of Trust. The manager, trustee and investment manager of the Funds is First Asset Investment Management Inc. (First Asset). The Funds' registered office is at 95 Wellington Street West, Suite 1400, Toronto, Canada.

Each Fund offers two classes of securities called Common Units and Advisor Class Units and, if applicable, Unhedged Common Units and Unhedged Advisor Class Units. First Asset Core U.S. Equity ETF and First Asset Active Credit ETF also offer U.S. dollar denominated Unhedged Common Units and Unhedged Advisor Class Units. The only difference between the Common Units and the Advisor Class Units is the management fee payable by a Fund due to the service fee payable by First Asset in respect of the Advisor Class Units (as described in Note 7). The primary difference between the currency hedged securities and the unhedged securities, if any, of a Fund is that the exposure in relation to the unhedged securities of such Fund to currencies other than the Canadian dollar is not hedged back to the Canadian dollar. Accordingly, the net asset value attributable to holders of redeemable securities per security of each class will not be the same as a result of the different fees allocable to each class of securities and/or the different currency hedging strategy, as applicable. All classes of securities of the Funds are currently listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX).

The following table indicates the date upon which each Fund was established by Declaration of Trust or the prospectus date of the initial public offering for Funds that were originally established as closed-end investment trusts (Inception Date). The date upon which each class of securities of each Fund started trading on the TSX (Launch Date) is also indicated below.

Fund	TSX Ticker Symbol	Inception Date	Common Units	Advisor Class Units	Unhedged Common Units (CAD and/or USD)	Unhedged Advisor Class Units (CAD and/or USD)
First Asset Can-Energy Covered Call ETF	OXF	May 16, 2011	June 1, 2011	June 1, 2011		
First Asset Can-Materials Covered Call ETF	MXF	May 16, 2011	June 4, 2011	June 4, 2011		
First Asset Canadian Convertible Bond ETF	CXF	May 24, 2011	June 7, 2011	June 7, 2011		
First Asset Tech Giants Covered Call ETF	TXF	October 17, 2011	October 26, 2011	October 26, 2011		
First Asset Morningstar Canada Dividend Target 30 Index ETF	DXM	January 13, 2012	February 6, 2012	February 6, 2012		
First Asset Morningstar US Dividend Target 50 Index ETF	UXM	January 13, 2012	February 6, 2012	February 6, 2012	October 22, 2013	October 22, 2013
First Asset Morningstar National Bank Quebec Index ETF	QXM	January 13, 2012	February 6, 2012	February 6, 2012		
First Asset Morningstar Canada Momentum Index ETF	WXM	January 13, 2012	February 15, 2012	February 15, 2012		
First Asset Morningstar Canada Value Index ETF	FXM	January 13, 2012	February 15, 2012	February 15, 2012		
First Asset Provincial Bond Index ETF	PXF	January 3, 2013	January 21, 2013	January 21, 2013		
First Asset 1-5 Year Laddered Government Strip Bond Index ETF	BXF	May 30, 2013	June 11, 2013	June 11, 2013		
First Asset Morningstar US Value Index ETF	XXM	October 11, 2013	October 22, 2013	October 22, 2013	October 22, 2013	October 22, 2013
First Asset Morningstar US Momentum Index ETF	YXM	October 11, 2013	October 22, 2013	October 22, 2013	October 22, 2013	October 22, 2013
First Asset MSCI Canada Low Risk Weighted ETF	RWC	January 27, 2014	February 19, 2014	February 19, 2014		
First Asset MSCI Europe Low Risk Weighted ETF	RWE	January 27, 2014	February 11, 2014	February 11, 2014	February 11, 2014	February 11, 2014
First Asset MSCI USA Low Risk Weighted ETF	RWU	January 27, 2014	February 11, 2014	February 19, 2014	February 19, 2014	February 19, 2014
First Asset MSCI World Low Risk Weighted ETF	RWW	January 27, 2014	February 19, 2014	February 11, 2014	February 11, 2014	February 11, 2014
First Asset Hamilton Capital European Bank ETF	FHB	July 18, 2014	July 29, 2014	July 29, 2014		
First Asset Active Canadian Dividend ETF	FDV	July 18, 2014	September 9, 2014	September 9, 2014		
First Asset U.S. & Canada LifeCo Income ETF	FLI	August 25, 2014	September 3, 2014	September 9, 2014		
First Asset Morningstar International Value Index ETF	VXM	October 20, 2014	November 18, 2014	November 18, 2014	November 18, 2014	November 18, 2014
First Asset Morningstar International Momentum Index ETF	ZXM	October 20, 2014	November 18, 2014	November 18, 2014	November 18, 2014	November 18, 2014
First Asset Utility & Infrastructure ETF	FAI	January 12, 2015	January 16, 2015	January 23, 2015		
First Asset Active Credit ETF	FAO	January 12, 2015	January 19, 2015	January 23, 2015	January 19, 2015	January 23, 2015
First Asset Core Canadian Equity ETF	CED	January 12, 2015	January 20, 2015	January 20, 2015		
First Asset Core U.S. Equity ETF	CES	January 12, 2015	January 20, 2015	January 20, 2015	January 20, 2015	January 20, 2015
First Asset Core Balance Balanced ETF	CBB	January 12, 2015	February 10, 2015	February 10, 2015		
First Asset Energy Giants Covered Call ETF	NXF	January 26, 2015	February 10, 2015	February 10, 2015		

Refer to section A of the Fund Specific Notes for details of the investment objectives and strategies of each Fund.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Unaudited)

### 1. GENERAL INFORMATION (continued)

The Schedule of Investment Portfolio for each Fund is as at June 30, 2015. The Statements of Financial Position for each Fund are as at June 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, where applicable. The Statements of Comprehensive Income, Statements of Changes in Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Redeemable Securities and Statements of Cash Flows for each Fund are for the six-month period ended June 30, 2015 and 2014, except for Funds or classes established during the period, in which case the information for that Fund or class is provided for the period from Inception Date of the Fund or Launch Date of the class to June 30 of the applicable year.

These interim financial statements of the Funds for the period ended June 30, 2015 were approved and authorized for issuance by the Board of Directors of First Asset on August 26, 2015.

### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the Funds have been prepared in accordance with International Accounting Standard 34 Interim Financial Reporting (IAS 34) as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). The Funds adopted International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) on January 1, 2014 as required by Canadian securities legislation and the Canadian Accounting Standards Board. Previously, the Funds prepared their financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles as defined in Part V of the CPA Canada Handbook (Canadian GAAP).

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis using the historical cost convention except for financial assets and financial liabilities measured at fair value through profit or loss. The Funds' accounting policies for measuring fair value of investments and derivatives are consistent with those used in measuring the net asset value (NAV) for transactions with securityholders.

In applying IFRS, management may make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses during the reporting periods. Significant estimates include the valuation of investments, classification of redeemable securities and classification of the Funds as investment entities. These estimates are based on information available as at the reporting date. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

The key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date, that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year, are discussed below. The Funds based their assumptions and estimates on parameters available when the financial statements were prepared. However, existing circumstances and assumptions about future developments may change due to market changes or circumstances arising beyond the control of the Funds. Such changes are reflected in the assumptions when they occur.

#### Functional and presentation currency

The financial statements are presented in Canadian dollars (CAD), which is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the Funds operate and is considered the functional currency of the Funds. For First Asset Active Credit ETF and First Asset Core U.S. Equity ETF, all information is stated in Canadian dollars except for all per unit information for the U.S. dollar classes which are stated in U.S. dollars.

#### Financial instruments

##### (i) Classification and recognition of financial instruments

The Funds classify financial assets and financial liabilities at initial recognition into the following categories, in accordance with IAS 39, *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement*.

##### **Financial assets and liabilities at fair value through profit or loss**

The category of financial assets and liabilities at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL) is sub-divided into:

*Financial assets and liabilities held for trading:* Financial assets are classified as held for trading if they are acquired for the purpose of selling and/or repurchasing in the near term. All derivatives and liabilities from short sales of financial instruments are classified as held for trading unless they are designated as effective hedging instruments as defined by IAS 39. The Funds' policy is not to apply hedge accounting.

*Financial instruments designated as fair value through profit or loss upon initial recognition:* All investments held by the Funds (other than derivatives and securities sold short) are designated as fair value through profit or loss upon initial recognition. The Funds include equities, bonds, and other interest-bearing investments in this category. These financial assets are designated upon initial recognition on the basis that they are part of a group of financial assets that are managed and have their performance evaluated on a fair value basis, in accordance with risk management and investment strategies of the Funds, as set out in each Fund's prospectus.

Their classification depends on the purpose for which the financial instruments were acquired or issued, their characteristics and each Fund's designation of such instruments. Regular way purchases and sales of financial assets and liabilities are recognized at their trade date.

##### **Loans and receivables**

All other financial assets not measured at FVTPL are measured at amortized cost. Included in this category are subscriptions receivable, accrued income, dividends receivable, interest receivable and due from broker. Financial assets are shown at the amount required to be received, discounted, when appropriate, at the contract's effective interest rate.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Unaudited)

### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

#### **Other financial liabilities**

All other financial liabilities not measured at FVTPL are measured at amortized cost. Included in this category are due to broker, accounts payable and accrued liabilities, management fee payable, redemption payable and distributions payable to holders of redeemable securities. Financial liabilities are shown at the amount required to be paid, discounted, when appropriate, at the contract's effective interest rate.

#### **(ii) Valuation of financial instruments**

Financial assets and financial liabilities at FVTPL are recorded in the Statements of Financial Position at fair value upon initial recognition. All transaction costs, such as brokerage commissions incurred in the purchase and sale of securities for such instruments are recognized directly in profit or loss. All other financial assets and liabilities (other than those classified as FVTPL) are measured initially at their fair value plus any directly attributable incremental costs of acquisition or issue. For financial assets and liabilities where the fair value at initial recognition does not equal the transaction price, the Funds recognize the difference in the Statements of Comprehensive Income, unless specified otherwise.

After initial measurement, the Funds measure financial instruments which are classified as FVTPL at fair value. Subsequent changes in the fair value of those financial instruments are recorded as unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments in the Statements of Comprehensive Income. Net realized gain (loss) on sale of investments and unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments are determined on an average cost basis. Average cost does not include amortization of premiums or discounts on fixed income securities with the exception of zero coupon bonds.

Other financial assets and liabilities (other than those classified as FVTPL) are measured at amortized cost.

The Funds' obligation for net assets attributable to holders of redeemable securities is presented at the residual amount (total assets less total liabilities of each Fund).

The Funds meet the definition of an investment entity within IFRS 10 *Consolidated Financial Statements* and are required to measure their subsidiaries, if any, at FVTPL rather than consolidate them. The fair values of each specific type of investment and derivative are determined in the following manner:

#### **Portfolio investments**

In the case of publicly traded securities, fair value means the close or last traded price when the price falls within the day's bid-ask spread. For bonds and debentures, fair value means the most recent price provided by independent security pricing services, except in the case of First Asset Active Credit ETF where bonds and bank debt are valued at the bid price provided by independent security pricing services or broker quotes. In the circumstance where the close or last traded price falls outside of the bid-ask spread, then fair value is determined by using bid price for long positions and ask price for short positions, or a different point within the bid-ask spread that First Asset determines to be more representative of fair value.

#### **Derivatives**

Outstanding option positions are valued at an amount equal to the current fair value that would have the effect of closing the position. Any difference resulting from revaluation and gains or losses realized upon expiration or exercise of the options are recognized in the Statements of Comprehensive Income.

Certain Funds are permitted to invest in forward foreign currency contracts to hedge foreign currency exposure on the investment portfolio. The value of forward currency contracts is recorded as the unrealized gain or loss that would be realized if the position was to be closed out and recorded as an unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on forward foreign currency contracts in the Statements of Financial Position. Upon maturity of the contracts, the difference between the carrying value and the fair value is included in net realized gain or loss on forward foreign currency contracts in the Statements of Comprehensive Income.

#### **Other financial assets and liabilities**

Other assets and liabilities are short-term in nature and are carried at amortized cost.

#### **(iii) Offsetting of financial instruments**

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount presented in the Statements of Financial Position when there is a legally enforceable right to offset the recognized amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis, or to realize the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

#### **Income recognition**

##### **(i) Interest income for distribution purposes**

The interest for distribution purposes shown in the Statements of Comprehensive Income represents the coupon interest received by the Funds accounted for on an accrual basis. The Funds do 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. The interest for distribution purposes is the tax basis of calculating the interest received and which is subject to tax.

##### **(ii) Dividend revenue**

Dividend revenue is recognized when the Funds' right to receive the payment is established. Dividend revenue is presented gross of any non-recoverable withholding taxes, which are disclosed separately in the Statements of Comprehensive Income.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Unaudited)

### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

#### (iii) Income from options

Premiums received from writing options are included in the Statements of Financial Position as a liability and subsequently adjusted daily to fair value. When a written option expires unexercised, the Funds will realize a gain equal to the premium received. When a written option is closed, the Funds will realize a gain or loss equal to the difference between the cost at which the contract was closed and the premium received.

#### (iv) Securities lending

The Funds have entered into a securities lending program with their custodian. These transactions involve the temporary exchange of securities for collateral with a commitment to re-deliver the same securities on a future date. Income is earned from these transactions in the form of fees paid by the counterparty and, in certain circumstances, interest paid on cash or securities held as collateral. Income from securities lending is included in the Statements of Comprehensive Income and is recognized when earned.

The aggregate market value of all securities loaned by a Fund cannot exceed 50% of the assets of that Fund. Collateral received consists of qualified securities and securities that are immediately convertible into, or exchangeable for securities of the same type, the same term and in the same number as those loaned by each Fund with market values of at least 102% of the market value of the loaned securities. Aggregate values of securities on loan and related collateral held as at June 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014 are disclosed as a footnote to the Statements of Comprehensive Income.

#### Investment transactions and expense recognition

Expenses directly attributable to a class are charged to that class. Other expense, income, realized gains and losses from investment transactions are allocated proportionately to each class based on the relative NAV of each class. Realized and unrealized gains and losses on forward foreign currency contracts entered into to hedge currency exposure of hedged classes are allocated only to that class.

#### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are comprised of cash and short-term investments with a term to maturity of less than three months from date of purchase. Cash and cash equivalents are categorized as held for trading and therefore are carried at fair value. Short-term investments are valued at cost plus accrued interest, which approximates fair value.

#### Redeemable participating securities

Redeemable participating securities are classified as financial liabilities and are redeemable at the securityholder's option at prices disclosed in note 6.

#### Foreign currency translation

Transactions during the period, including purchases and sales of securities, income and expenses, are translated at the rate of exchange prevailing on the date of the transaction.

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the functional currency rate of exchange ruling at the reporting date.

Non-monetary items that are measured in terms of historical cost in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rates as at the dates of the initial transactions. Non-monetary items measured at fair value in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rates at the date when the fair value was determined.

Foreign currency transaction gains and losses on financial instruments classified as FVTPL are included in the Statements of Comprehensive Income as part of "net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on sale of investments" and foreign exchange gains and losses relating to cash and other assets and liabilities are presented as "net realized foreign exchange gain (loss)".

#### Increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable securities per security

Increase / (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable securities per security of each class is calculated by dividing the "Increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable securities from operations (excluding distributions)" as disclosed in the Statements of Comprehensive Income, by the weighted average number of securities outstanding during the period. Refer to section C of the Fund Specific Notes for the calculation.

### 3. STANDARDS ISSUED BUT NOT YET EFFECTIVE

Standards issued but not yet effective up to the date of issuance of the Funds' financial statements are listed below. The Funds will adopt any applicable standards when they become effective.

#### *IFRS 9, Financial Instruments - Classification and Measurement*

In July 2014, the IASB issued the final version of IFRS 9, Financial Instruments (IFRS 9), which replaces the guidance in IAS 39, Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement (IAS 39). The standard introduces new requirements for classification and measurement, impairment, and hedge accounting. IFRS 9 is effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018, with early application permitted. Retrospective application is required, but comparative information is not compulsory.

#### *IFRS 15, Revenue from Contracts with Customers*

In May 2014, the IASB issued IFRS 15, Revenue from Contracts with Customers, which clarifies the principles for recognizing revenue and cash flows arising from

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Unaudited)

### 3. STANDARDS ISSUED BUT NOT YET EFFECTIVE (continued)

contracts with customers. The standard is effective for annual periods beginning on or after January 1, 2018, with early application permitted. First Asset is currently assessing the impact of adopting this standard, but it is not expected to have a material impact to the Funds.

### 4. MANAGEMENT OF FINANCIAL RISK

In the normal course of business, the Funds are exposed to various financial risks, including credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk (consisting of interest rate risk, currency risk and other price risk). The Funds' overall risk management program seeks to minimize potentially adverse effects of these risks on the Funds' financial performance by employing professional, experienced portfolio advisors, by monitoring daily the Funds' positions and market events and by diversifying the investment portfolio within the constraints of the investment guidelines and periodically may use derivatives to hedge certain risk exposure. To assist in managing risk, First Asset maintains a governance structure that oversees the Funds' investment activities and monitors compliance with the Funds' stated investment strategies, investment guidelines and securities regulations. Please refer to section D of the Fund Specific Notes for specific risk disclosures related to each Fund.

#### (i) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a counterparty to a financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation or commitment that it has entered into with the Funds.

For those Funds that invest in fixed income securities or derivative contracts, the value presented on the Schedule of Investment Portfolio includes consideration of the creditworthiness of the issuer, and accordingly, represents the maximum credit risk exposure of the Funds. The Funds' holdings are continually monitored in regards to credit quality and relative value. Generally, the greater the credit rating of a security, the lower the probability of it defaulting on its obligations. In order to mitigate credit risk, First Asset attempts to focus on only highly creditworthy issuers that are less likely to suffer harshly during a downturn in the economic environment. As well, credit risk is managed by selecting Schedule I Banks operating in Canada as counterparties to the forward foreign currency contracts, if applicable, and by regular monitoring of credit exposures. Carrying amounts for accrued income represent minimal credit risk exposure as they will be settled in the short term. Credit ratings are obtained from Standard & Poor's. Where more than one rating is obtained for a security, the lowest rating has been used. See the Schedule of Investment Portfolio for the credit ratings of counterparties from over-the-counter derivative contracts, where applicable.

The Funds may enter into securities lending transactions with approved counterparties. Credit risk associated with these transactions is considered minimal as all counterparties have a sufficient approved credit rating and the market value of collateral held by the Fund must be at least 102% of the fair value of securities loaned.

All transactions executed by the Funds in listed securities are settled/paid for upon delivery using approved brokers. The risk of default is considered minimal, as delivery of securities sold is only made once the broker has received payment. Payment is made on a purchase once the securities have been received by the broker. The trade will fail if either party fails to meet its obligation.

#### (ii) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Funds may not be able to meet their obligation on time or at a reasonable price.

The Funds' exposure to liquidity risk is concentrated in the daily redemptions of securities. Since the delivery of redemptions is typically in the form of securities, the Funds are not exposed to any significant liquidity risk.

Generally, the Funds invest in securities that are considered readily realizable as they are actively traded on public exchanges. Certain securities may be less liquid than other securities and involve the risk that First Asset may not be able to dispose of them at the current market prices. As such, it may be difficult to significantly alter the composition of a Fund's portfolio in a short period of time.

The maturity of the Funds' financial liabilities are all between 1 and 3 months, except for the redeemable securities which are redeemable on demand at the holder's option. First Asset does not expect that this contractual maturity is representative of the actual cash outflows, as holders of these instruments typically retain them for a longer period.

#### (iii) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk arises from the possibility that changes in interest rates will affect future cash flows or fair values of financial instruments.

Certain Funds invest in interest bearing financial instruments. As such, these Funds are exposed to the risk that the value of such financial instruments will fluctuate due to changes in the prevailing levels of market interest rates. Prices of longer-term fixed income securities will generally fluctuate more in response to interest rate changes than would shorter-term securities. For portfolios that contain fixed income securities, First Asset reviews the remaining term-to-maturity dates on a regular basis to ensure diverse and balanced exposure.

#### (iv) Currency risk

Currency risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate due to changes in foreign exchange rates.

Certain Funds invest a portion of their assets in securities that are denominated in a currency other than the Canadian dollar, which represents the functional currency of the Funds. Consequently, these Funds are exposed to currency risk as the value of the portfolio securities denominated in currencies other than the Canadian dollar will vary due to changes in foreign currency exchange rates. For Funds with hedged classes, currency risk is mitigated by entering into forward foreign currency contracts and, as such, the hedged classes do not have significant exposure to currency risk. Significant currency risk exposure impacting the hedged and unhedged

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Unaudited)

### 4. MANAGEMENT OF FINANCIAL RISK (continued)

classes of each Fund is disclosed in the Fund Specific Notes, except for First Asset Core U.S. Equity ETF which has indirect exposure to currency risk as the Fund holds units in underlying investment funds which are denominated in Canadian dollars, however, the underlying funds invest in instruments that are denominated in a currency other than the Canadian dollar.

The US\$ Common Units and US\$ Advisor Class Units of First Asset Active Credit ETF do not have significant exposure to currency risk as the Fund's underlying portfolio is denominated in U.S. dollars and these two classes of securities are similarly denominated in U.S. dollars, which essentially eliminates the impact of fluctuations in exchange rates for securityholders.

#### (v) Other price risk

Other price risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or currency 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 the market.

All investments in securities present a risk of loss of capital. The maximum market price risk resulting from these investments is equivalent to their fair value. The value of the portfolios will be influenced by factors which are not within the control of the Funds including the performance of the portfolio securities, the condition of the equity markets generally and other factors. Market price risk is mitigated through the careful selection and diversification of securities within the limits of the Funds' investment objectives and strategies as well as the daily monitoring of the Funds' investment portfolio by First Asset.

### 5. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT HIERARCHY

Funds classify financial instruments into three levels based on inputs used to value the financial instruments. Level 1 securities are valued based on quoted prices in active markets for identical securities. Level 2 securities are valued based on significant observable market inputs, such as quoted prices from similar securities and quoted prices in inactive markets or based on observable inputs to models. Level 3 securities are valued based on significant unobservable inputs that reflect First Asset's determination of assumptions that market participants might reasonably use in valuing the securities.

For assets and liabilities that are recognized in the financial statements on a recurring basis, the Funds determine whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by re-assessing the categorization (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the beginning of each reporting period.

Financial assets and liabilities transferred from Level 1 to Level 2 are the result of securities no longer being traded in an active market. For the periods ended June 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, there were no transfers of financial assets and liabilities from Level 1 to Level 2.

Financial assets and liabilities transferred from Level 2 to Level 1 are the result of securities now being traded in an active market. For the periods ended June 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, there were no transfers of financial assets and liabilities from Level 2 to Level 1.

The Funds did not hold any significant positions of Level 3 investments at the beginning of, during, or at the end of the reporting periods.

Refer to section B of the Fund Specific Notes for the relevant disclosure.

### 6. REDEEMABLE SECURITIES

Each Fund is authorized to issue an unlimited number of redeemable, transferable Common Units and Advisor Class Units, including unhedged and US\$ classes if applicable, each of which represents an undivided interest in the net assets of the Fund. Whole units of each class of securities are convertible into whole units of any other class of securities of the Fund on the basis of their respective net asset values, with any remaining fractional units redeemed at their net asset value.

On any trading day, a designated broker or underwriter may place a subscription order for an integral multiple of the prescribed number of securities (PNU) of each Fund. A trading day is each day on which the TSX is open for business.

If the subscription order is accepted, the Fund will generally issue securities to the designated broker or underwriter within three trading days from the effective day of the subscription. For each PNU issued, a designated broker or underwriter must deliver payments consisting of (i) a basket of applicable securities and cash in an amount so that the value of the securities and cash is equal to the net asset value of the PNU of the Fund at the valuation time on the effective day of the subscription; or (ii) if approved by First Asset, cash in an amount sufficient so that the value of the cash is equal to the net asset value of the PNU of the Fund at the valuation time on the effective day of the subscription, in each case plus any applicable subscription fee determined by First Asset.

Securities of each Fund may also be issued to securityholders of such Fund on the automatic reinvestment of all distributions in accordance with the distribution policy of the Fund.

Securityholders may exchange an integral multiple of the PNU of each Fund on any trading day for baskets of securities and cash, or in the discretion of First Asset, cash only. The exchange price will be equal to the net asset value of the applicable PNU of the Fund tendered for exchange at the valuation time on the effective day of the exchange request, payable generally within three trading days from the effective day of the exchange request by delivery of (i) a basket of securities and cash in an amount sufficient so that the value of the securities and cash is equal to the applicable net asset value of the PNU of the Fund; or (ii) if approved by First Asset,

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Unaudited)

### 6. REDEEMABLE SECURITIES (continued)

cash only in an amount sufficient so that the value of the cash is equal to the applicable net asset value of the PNU of the Fund, in each case less any applicable redemption fee determined by First Asset. The securities will be redeemed in the exchange.

On any trading day, securityholders of each Fund may also redeem securities of such Fund at a redemption price per security equal to 95% of the applicable closing price for such securities on the TSX on the effective day of the redemption less any applicable redemption fee determined by First Asset.

Securityholders that have delivered a redemption request prior to the distribution record date for any distribution will not be entitled to receive that distribution.

### 7. EXPENSES

As compensation for the services it provides to the Funds, the Funds pay First Asset an annual management fee on the Common and Advisor Class Units, including unhedged and U.S. dollar classes if applicable, as disclosed in a footnote to the Statements of Comprehensive Income, calculated daily and paid monthly in arrears plus, in respect of the Advisor Class Units, and Unhedged Advisor Class Units if applicable, an additional amount for the service fee payable to dealers, calculated daily and paid as soon as practicable after the end of each calendar quarter.

First Asset Hamilton Capital European Bank ETF, First Asset Active Canadian Dividend ETF, First Asset U.S. & Canada Lifeco Income ETF, First Asset Utility and Infrastructure ETF, First Asset Active Credit ETF, First Asset Core Canadian Equity ETF, First Asset Core U.S. Equity ETF and First Asset Core Balanced ETF are responsible for all costs relating to their operations and administration.

For all other Funds, First Asset is responsible for all costs and expenses of the Funds, except for the management fee, brokerage expenses and commissions, the costs of any financial instruments used to achieve the investment objective of the Funds, reasonable costs associated with the Independent Review Committee, income taxes, withholding taxes, any applicable goods and services or other sales taxes including GST/HST, costs of complying with any new governmental or regulatory requirement introduced after the Funds were established, any costs associated with the printing and distribution of any documents that securities regulatory authorities require to be sent to securityholders, any transaction costs incurred by the custodian and any extraordinary expenses plus applicable taxes. From the management fee, First Asset pays for all other costs and expenses relating to the operation of the business of the Funds including administration, legal, accounting, custody, audit, registrar and transfer agency fees. As a result, these Funds do not have any other expenses.

In addition to covering brokerage services on security transactions, commissions paid to dealers may also cover research services provided to First Asset. The value of research services included in commissions and other transaction costs during the period is presented as a footnote to the Statements of Comprehensive Income.

### 8. DISTRIBUTIONS

Each Fund distributes to its securityholders on a monthly or quarterly basis. The amounts of distributions are based on First Asset's assessment of anticipated cash flow of the Funds from time to time.

If, in any year, after such distributions, there would otherwise remain in a Fund additional net realized capital gains, the Fund intends to make, on or before December 31 of that year, a special distribution of such portion of the remaining net realized capital gains as is necessary to ensure that the Fund will not be liable for income tax under the Income Tax Act (Canada) (the Tax Act). Such special capital gains distribution may be paid in securities and subsequently consolidated. They are reported as taxable distributions and increase each securityholder's adjusted cost base for their securities. Neither the number of securities held by the securityholder, nor the net asset value per security of the Fund change as a result of any non-cash capital gains distributions.

### 9. TAXATION

Each Fund qualifies, or is expected to qualify, as a mutual fund trust under the provisions of the Tax Act, and accordingly, is not subject to tax on its net taxable income for the tax year, including net realized capital gains, which is paid or payable to its securityholders as at the end of the tax year which ends December 15. Such distributed income is taxable in the hands of the securityholders. Income tax on net realized capital gains not paid or payable is generally recoverable, as redemptions occur, by virtue of refunding provisions contained in the Tax Act. No provision for income taxes has been recorded in the accompanying financial statements as all income and net realized taxable capital gains are distributed to securityholders.

As at the Funds' taxation year-ends, certain Funds have capital and non-capital loss carryforwards for income tax purposes which are disclosed in a footnote to the Statements of Changes in Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Redeemable Securities. Capital losses may be carried forward indefinitely to be applied against future capital gains. Non-capital losses may be utilized to reduce taxable income of future years and expire in the year(s) indicated in the footnote.

The Funds may be subject to withholding taxes, deducted at the source of the income, imposed by certain countries on investment income and capital gains. Such income and gains are recorded on a gross basis and the related withholding taxes are shown as a separate expense in the Statements of Comprehensive Income. For the purpose of the Statements of Cash Flows, cash flows from investments are presented net of withholding taxes.

### 10. CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

Each Fund manages its capital in accordance with its investment objectives and strategies outlined in section A of the Fund Specific Notes and the risk management practices disclosed in note 4 and endeavours to invest the subscriptions received in appropriate investments while maintaining sufficient liquidity to meet distributions and redemptions. In order to manage their capital structures, the Funds may adjust the amount of distributions paid to securityholders.



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Unaudited)

### 11. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

First Asset manages and administers the business operations and affairs of the Funds, and, other than First Asset Hamilton Capital European Bank ETF and First Asset Active Credit ETF, is also responsible for providing all investment advisory and portfolio management services required by the Funds. These services are in the normal course of operations and are recorded at the amount of the consideration agreed to by the parties.

An affiliate of First Asset administers the Funds' relationship with the Funds' Independent Review Committee on behalf of First Asset, however, it receives no compensation for doing so. Members of the Independent Review Committee receive fees from the Funds for services rendered to the Funds.

The above services are reported in the Statements of Comprehensive Income as management fee, dealer service fees and Independent Review Committee fees, as applicable. Management fee payable and accounts payable and accrued liabilities are amounts generally payable to First Asset.

Any other fund specific related party transactions are disclosed in section E of the Fund Specific Notes, if applicable.

