



# Canadian Utilities & Telecom Income Fund

## Annual Report 2017

## Letter to Unitholders

We are pleased to present the 2017 annual report containing the management report of fund performance and the audited financial statements for Canadian Utilities & Telecom Income Fund (the “Fund”).

2017 was a very strong year for global equity markets with most indices making new all-time highs. After being one of the strongest markets in 2016, the S&P/TSX Composite Index in Canada lagged most other indices but still generated a total return of 9.1 percent, primarily led by strength in the Health Care and Consumer Discretionary sectors. In the U.S., the broad market S&P 500 Index rose 21.8 percent while the technology centric NASDAQ Composite Index had a total return of 29.7 percent. Despite various events throughout the year that caused uncertainty for investors, such as President Trump being unable to repeal the Affordable Care Act, not once but twice, and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un launching a missile over Japan, the global synchronized recovery drove stock returns with forward looking economic indicators contributing to earnings upside across markets. The passage of the U.S. Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in late 2017 is expected to benefit earnings further. The Bank of Canada raised the overnight lending rate twice in 2017, lifting it to 1.00 percent, while the U.S. Federal Reserve raised the Federal Funds rate 25 basis points on three separate occasions to now sit at 1.50 percent. With the Bank of Canada starting to follow the U.S. Federal Reserve’s path to normalizing interest rates, along with strength in the price of oil and other commodities, the Canadian dollar rose by 7.3 percent to end the year at US\$0.80 per U.S. dollar.

For the year ended December 31, 2017, the Fund had an annual total return, including reinvestment of distributions, of 0.9 percent. The Fund paid total cash distributions of \$0.74 per unit during the year. The net asset value decreased 6.0 percent from \$10.58 per unit at December 31, 2016 to \$9.95 per unit at December 31, 2017. The net realized gain on options attributable to Strathbridge Selective Overwriting strategy (see “The Fund”) amounted to \$0.02 per unit in 2017 as compared to a net realized gain on options of \$0.10 per unit in 2016. For a more detailed review of the operations of the Fund, please see the Results of Operations and the Portfolio Manager Report sections.

We thank all unitholders for their continued support and encourage unitholders to review the detailed information contained within the annual report.



John P. Mulvihill  
Chairman & CEO  
Strathbridge Asset Management Inc.

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## The Fund

The Fund is a closed-end investment trust designed to maximize total returns for unitholders including both long-term appreciation in net asset value (“NAV”) per unit and to pay unitholders monthly distributions in an amount targeted to be 7.0 percent per annum on the NAV of the Fund. The units are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (“TSX”) under the ticker symbol UTE.UN.

To accomplish its objectives, the Fund invests at least 75 percent of the value of the Fund in securities of Utilities and Telecommunications issuers listed on the TSX which have a minimum market capitalization of \$1 billion and a current minimum distribution yield of 2.0 percent per annum at the time of investment. In addition, up to 25 percent of the value of the Fund may be invested in securities of North American issuers in the Utilities and Telecommunications sectors which have a minimum market capitalization of \$250 million and a minimum distribution yield of 2.0 percent per annum at the time of investment. The Fund may also invest in public investment funds including exchange-traded funds and other Strathbridge Funds (provided that no more than 15 percent of the net asset value of the Fund may be invested in securities of other Strathbridge Funds) that provide exposure to such securities.

The Fund employs a proprietary investment strategy, Strathbridge Selective Overwriting (“SSO”), to enhance the income generated by the portfolio and to reduce volatility. The Fund may, from time to time, selectively write covered call options in respect of up to a maximum of 25 percent of the securities in the portfolio. In addition, the Fund may write cash covered put options in respect of securities in which it is permitted to invest.

The SSO strategy is a quantitative, technical based methodology that identifies appropriate times to write and/or close out option positions compared to writing continuously and rolling options every thirty days. This proprietary process has been developed over many years through various market cycles. The Manager believes the primary benefit to investors is to maximize the total return of the Fund while reducing the level of volatility of the portfolio, thereby increasing the risk-adjusted return.

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## Management Report of Fund Performance

This annual management report of fund performance contains the financial highlights for the year ended December 31, 2017 of Canadian Utilities & Telecom Income Fund (the “Fund”). The annual financial statements of the Fund are attached.

Copies of the Fund’s proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record and quarterly portfolio disclosure may be obtained by calling 1-800-725-7172 toll free, by writing to the Fund at Investor Relations, 121 King Street West, Suite 2600, P.O. Box 113, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 3T9, by email at [info@strathbridge.com](mailto:info@strathbridge.com) or by visiting our website at [www.strathbridge.com](http://www.strathbridge.com). You can also request semi-annual and annual reports at no cost using one of the above methods.

## Investment Objectives and Strategies

The Fund’s investment objectives are to:

- (1) pay unitholders monthly distributions in an amount targeted to be 7.0 percent per annum on the net asset value (“NAV”) of the Fund, and
- (2) preserve and enhance the Fund’s NAV while reducing portfolio volatility.

To achieve its objectives, the Fund invests at least 75 percent of the value of the Fund in securities of Utilities and Telecommunications issuers listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (“TSX”) which have a minimum market capitalization of \$1 billion and a current minimum distribution yield of 2.0 percent per annum at the time of investment. In addition, up to 25 percent of the value of the Fund may be invested in securities of North American issuers in the Utilities and Telecommunications sectors which have a minimum market capitalization of \$250 million and a minimum distribution yield of 2.0 percent per annum at the time of investment. The Fund may also invest in public investment funds including exchange-traded funds and other Strathbridge Funds (provided that no more than 15 percent of the net asset value of the Fund may be invested in securities of other Strathbridge Funds) that provide exposure to such securities.

The Fund employs a proprietary investment strategy, Strathbridge Selective Overwriting (“SSO”), to enhance the income generated by the portfolio and to reduce volatility. The Fund may, from time to time, selectively write covered call options in respect of up to a maximum of 25 percent of the securities in the portfolio. In addition, the Fund may write cash covered put options in respect of securities in which it is permitted to invest.

The SSO strategy is a quantitative, technical based methodology that identifies appropriate times to write and/or close out option positions compared to writing continuously and rolling options every thirty days. This proprietary process has been developed over many years through various market cycles. The Manager believes the primary benefit to investors is to maximize the total return of the Fund while reducing the level of volatility of the portfolio, thereby increasing the risk-adjusted return.

## Risk

Risks associated with an investment in the securities of the Fund are discussed in the Fund’s 2017 annual information form, which is available on the Fund’s website at [www.strathbridge.com](http://www.strathbridge.com) or on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com). There were no changes to the Fund over the year that materially affected the risks associated with an investment in the securities of the Fund.

## Results of Operations

### Distributions

For the year ended December 31, 2017, cash distributions of \$0.74 per unit were paid to unitholders.

Since the inception of the Fund in December 2010, the Fund has paid total cash distributions of \$5.89 per unit of which \$0.20 were special distributions.

### Revenue and Expenses

For the year ended December 31, 2017, the Fund’s total revenue was \$0.45 per unit down from \$0.48 in the prior year. Overall expenses decreased \$0.2 million or 20.5 percent compared to the prior year; however, total expenses per unit increased by \$0.02 per unit to \$0.32 per unit mainly due to a decreased average number of units outstanding during the year. The Fund had a net realized and unrealized gain of \$0.24 per unit in 2017 as compared to a net realized and unrealized gain of \$0.90 per unit a year ago.

### Net Asset Value

The net asset value per unit of the Fund decreased 6.0 percent from \$10.58 per unit at December 31, 2016 to \$9.95 per unit at December 31, 2017. The total net asset value of the Fund decreased \$15.8 million from \$33.9 million at December 31, 2016 to \$18.1 million at December 31, 2017, reflecting cash distributions of \$1.9 million and unit redemptions of \$14.9 million, partially offset by an increase in net assets attributable to equity holders of \$1.0 million.

## Recent Developments

There were no recent developments pertaining to the Fund during the year ended December 31, 2017.

## Related Party Transactions

Strathbridge Asset Management Inc. (“Strathbridge”), as the Investment Manager of the Fund, manages the Fund’s investment portfolio in a manner consistent with the investment objectives, strategy and criteria of the Fund pursuant to an Investment Management Agreement made between the Fund and Strathbridge dated November 26, 2010.

Strathbridge is the Manager of the Fund pursuant to a Trust Agreement made between the Fund and Strathbridge dated November 26, 2010. As such, Strathbridge is responsible for providing or arranging for required administrative services to the Fund.

Strathbridge is paid the fees described under the Management Fees section of this report.

During the year, no recommendations or approvals were required to be sought from the Independent Review Committee (“IRC”) concerning related party transactions.

## Independent Review Committee

National Instrument 81-107 - Independent Review Committee for Investment Funds (“NI 81-107”) requires all publicly offered investment funds to establish an IRC to whom the Manager must refer conflict of interest matters for review or approval. NI 81-107 also imposes obligations upon the Manager to establish written policies and procedures for dealing with conflict of interest matters, maintaining records in respect of these matters and providing assistance to the IRC in carrying out its functions. The Chief Compliance Officer, designated by the Manager, is in charge of facilitating the fulfillment of these obligations.

The IRC will prepare, for each financial year, a report to securityholders that describes the IRC and its activities during such financial year and includes, if known, a description of each instance when the Manager acted in a conflict of interest matter for which the IRC did not give a positive recommendation or for which a condition, imposed by the IRC, was not met in its recommendation or approval. Members of the IRC are Robert W. Korthals, Michael M. Koerner and Robert G. Bertram.

## Financial Highlights

The following tables show selected key financial information about the Fund and are intended to help you understand the Fund's financial performance for the past five years. This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements.

Years ended December 31	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
<b>NET ASSETS PER UNIT</b>					
<b>Net Assets, beginning of year<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>\$ 10.58</b>	\$ 10.27	\$ 12.62	\$ 11.77	\$ 12.15
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) FROM OPERATIONS</b>					
Total revenue	<b>0.45</b>	0.48	0.48	0.52	0.53
Total expenses	<b>(0.32)</b>	(0.30)	(0.33)	(0.32)	(0.31)
Realized gain (loss) for the period	<b>0.65</b>	0.69	(0.64)	1.45	0.50
Unrealized gain (loss) for the period	<b>(0.41)</b>	0.21	(1.06)	0.31	(0.27)
<b>Total Increase (Decrease) from Operations<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>0.37</b>	1.08	(1.55)	1.96	0.45
<b>DISTRIBUTIONS</b>					
From net investment income	<b>(0.15)</b>	(0.45)	–	(0.50)	(0.25)
From capital gains	<b>–</b>	–	–	(0.51)	–
Non-taxable distributions	<b>(0.59)</b>	(0.30)	(0.80)	(0.06)	(0.60)
<b>Total Annual Distributions<sup>(3)</sup></b>	<b>(0.74)</b>	(0.75)	(0.80)	(1.07)	(0.85)
<b>Net Assets, end of year<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>\$ 9.95</b>	\$ 10.58	\$ 10.27	\$ 12.62	\$ 11.77

(1) All per unit figures presented are derived from the Fund's audited financial statements for the years ended December 31. Net assets per unit is the difference between the aggregate value of the assets and the aggregate value of the liabilities, divided by the number of units then outstanding.

(2) Total increase (decrease) from operations consists of interest and dividend revenue, realized and unrealized gain (loss), less expenses and is calculated based on the weighted average number of units outstanding during the period. The schedule is not intended to total to the ending net assets as calculations are based on the weighted average number of units outstanding during the period.

(3) Distributions to unitholders are based on the number of units outstanding on the record date for each distribution.

## Financial Highlights

Years ended December 31	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
<b>RATIOS/SUPPLEMENTAL DATA</b>					
Net Asset Value (\$millions) <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 18.11	\$ 33.88	\$ 36.04	\$ 45.31	\$ 45.00
Number of units outstanding <sup>(1)</sup>	1,819,867	3,202,175	3,509,502	3,590,002	3,823,500
Management expense ratio <sup>(2)</sup>	2.41%	2.21%	2.35%	2.19%	2.14%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(3)</sup>	264.98%	318.49%	315.92%	322.56%	228.39%
Trading expense ratio <sup>(4)</sup>	0.58%	0.63%	0.58%	0.43%	0.44%
Net Asset Value per unit <sup>(5)</sup>	\$ 9.95	\$ 10.58	\$ 10.27	\$ 12.62	\$ 11.77
Closing market price	\$ 10.40	\$ 10.26	\$ 9.86	\$ 12.92	\$ 11.67

(1) This information is provided as at December 31.

(2) The management expense ratio is the sum of all fees and expenses for the stated period, including harmonized sales tax but excluding transaction fees, divided by the average net asset value. Generally, the MER increases when the Fund becomes smaller in size due to redemptions. The MER for 2015 and 2014 includes the special resolution expense/(recovery). The MER for 2015 and 2014 excluding the special resolution expense/(recovery) is 2.37% and 2.13% respectively. The MER for 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014 and 2013 includes withholding taxes. The MER for 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014 and 2013, excluding withholding taxes, is 2.34%, 2.17%, 2.27%, 2.13% and 2.08% respectively.

(3) Portfolio turnover rate is calculated based on the lesser of purchases or sales of investments, excluding short-term investments, divided by the average value of the portfolio securities. The Fund employs an option overlay strategy which can result in higher portfolio turnover by virtue of option exercises, when compared to a conventional equity mutual fund.

(4) Trading expense ratio represents total commissions expressed as a percentage of the daily average net asset value during the period.

(5) Net Asset Value per unit is the difference between the aggregate value of the assets including the valuation of securities at closing prices and the aggregate value of the liabilities divided by the number of units then outstanding.

### Management Fees

Strathbridge, as the Investment Manager of the Fund, is entitled to fees under the Investment Management Agreement calculated monthly as 1/12 of 1.00 percent of the net asset value of the Fund at each month end. Services received under the Investment Management Agreement include the making of all investment decisions and writing of covered call options in accordance with the investment objectives, strategy and criteria of the Fund. Strathbridge also makes all decisions as to the purchase and sale of securities in the Fund’s portfolio and as to the execution of all portfolio and other transactions.

Strathbridge, as the Manager of the Fund, is entitled to fees under the Trust Agreement calculated monthly as 1/12 of 0.10 percent of the net asset value of the Fund at each month end. Services received under the Trust Agreement include providing or arranging for required administrative services to the Fund.

### Past Performance

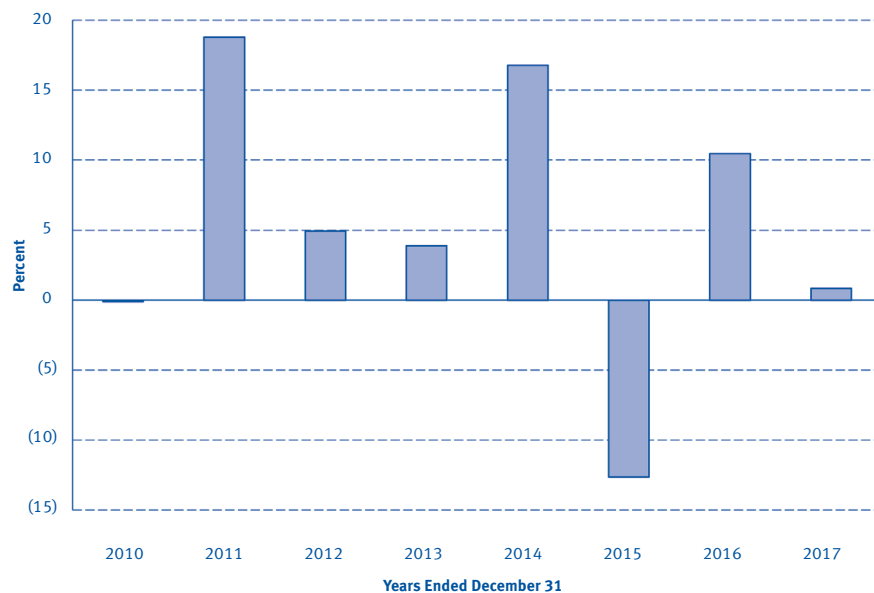
The following chart sets out the Fund’s year-by-year past performance. It is important to note that the:

- (1) information shown assumes that all distributions made by the Fund during these periods were reinvested in units of the Fund,
- (2) information does not take into account sales, redemptions, distributions or other optional charges that would have reduced returns, and
- (3) past performance of the Fund does not necessarily indicate how it will perform in the future.

### Year-By-Year Returns

The following bar chart illustrates how the Fund’s annual return varied from year to year for each of the past eight years. The chart also shows, in percentage terms, how much an investment made on January 1 or the date of inception on December 17, 2010 would have increased or decreased by the end of the fiscal year.

### Annual Total Return





## Annual Compound Returns

The following table shows the Fund's historical annual compound return (net of expenses) for the periods ended December 31, 2017 as compared to the performance of the S&P/TSX Capped Utilities Index, S&P/TSX Capped Telecommunication Services Index and S&P/TSX Oil & Gas Storage & Transportation Index.

(In Canadian Dollars)	One Year	Three Years	Five Years	Since Inception <sup>(1)</sup>
Canadian Utilities & Telecom Income Fund	<b>0.85 %</b>	(0.90)%	3.38 %	5.62 %
S&P/TSX Capped Utilities Index <sup>(2)</sup>	<b>10.62 %</b>	7.89 %	6.85 %	6.22 %
S&P/TSX Capped Telecommunication Services Index <sup>(3)</sup>	<b>18.26 %</b>	14.40 %	13.57 %	14.40 %
S&P/TSX Oil & Gas Storage & Transportation Index <sup>(4)</sup>	<b>(1.39)%</b>	0.70 %	8.02 %	11.92 %

<sup>(1)</sup> From date of inception on December 17, 2010.

<sup>(2)</sup> The S&P/TSX Capped Utilities Index is a cap-weighted sector index whose equity weights are capped at 25 percent. The index constituents are derived from a subset stock pool of the S&P/TSX Composite Index whose sector classification is based on the Global Industry Classification Standard ("GICS").

<sup>(3)</sup> The S&P/TSX Capped Telecommunication Services Index is a cap-weighted sector index whose equity weights are capped at 25 percent. The index constituents are derived from a subset stock pool of the S&P/TSX Composite Index whose sector classification is based on the GICS.

<sup>(4)</sup> The S&P/TSX Oil & Gas Storage & Transportation Index is a subset of the constituents of the S&P/TSX Composite Index that have been classified according to the GICS.

The equity performance benchmarks shown here provide an approximate indication of how the Fund's returns compare to a public market index for similar securities. It is important to note that the Fund is not managed in order to match or exceed these indices; rather, its objectives are to pay out monthly distributions and preserve and enhance the Fund's net asset value. As a result, the Fund has, from time to time, maintained cash balances in an effort to provide greater net asset value stability and employs a covered option writing strategy to enhance the income generated by the portfolio and reduce volatility.

The Manager believes that in a flat or downward trending market, a portfolio that is subject to covered call option writing will generally provide higher relative returns and lower volatility than one on which no options are written. However, in a rising market, the use of options may have the effect of limiting or reducing the total returns of the Fund since the premiums associated with writing covered call options may be outweighed by the foregone opportunity of remaining fully invested in the securities comprising the portfolio.

## Portfolio Manager Report

2017 was a very strong year for global equity markets with most indices making new all-time highs. After being one of the strongest markets in 2016, the S&P/TSX Composite Index in Canada lagged most other indices but still generated a total return of 9.1 percent, primarily led by strength in the Health Care and Consumer Discretionary sectors. In the U.S., the broad market S&P 500 Index rose 21.8 percent while the technology centric NASDAQ Composite Index had a total return of 29.7 percent. Despite various events throughout the year that caused uncertainty for investors, such as President Trump being unable to repeal the Affordable Care Act, not once but twice, and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un launching a missile over Japan, the global synchronized recovery drove stock returns with forward looking economic indicators contributing to earnings upside across markets. The passage of the U.S. Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in late 2017 is expected to benefit earnings further. The Bank of Canada raised the overnight lending rate twice in 2017, lifting it to 1.00 percent, while the U.S. Federal Reserve raised the Federal Funds rate 25 basis points on three separate occasions to now sit at 1.50 percent. With the Bank of Canada starting to follow the U.S. Federal Reserve's path to normalizing interest rates, along with strength in the price of oil and other commodities, the Canadian dollar rose by 7.3 percent to end the year at US\$0.80 per U.S. dollar.

The NAV of the Fund on December 29, 2017 was \$9.95 per unit compared to \$10.58 per unit on December 30, 2016. Unitholders received cash distributions of \$0.73584 per unit during the year. The Fund's units, listed on the TSX as UTE.UN, closed on December 29, 2017 at \$10.40 per unit, which represents a 4.5 percent premium to the NAV.

The annual return of the Fund, including reinvestment of distributions, was 0.9 percent for the year ended December 31, 2017. The best performing stocks in the portfolio in 2017 were Veresen Inc. rising 45.5 percent on the back of a takeover followed by Brookfield Infrastructure Partners LP rising 30.9 percent. Rogers Communications, Inc. was the outstanding performer among the Telecommunication Services companies with an increase of 24.1 percent. Keyera Corp., AltaGas Ltd, and Pembina Pipeline Corporation were among the stocks in the portfolio that had a negative impact on the Fund.

Volatility remained subdued throughout 2017, peaking in August at 16. Since then, volatility has been trending lower in a typical inverse relation to the price movement and the low point was set in November 2017. Volatility has been below long-term average levels for the past few years which adds to the challenge of overwriting. The Fund had on average 2.6 percent of the portfolio subject to covered calls over the year. The net realized gain on options attributable to the Strathbridge Selective Overwriting ("SSO") strategy was \$0.02 per unit as compared to a net realized gain on options of \$0.10 per unit in the prior year.

The Fund's U.S. dollar exposure was actively hedged back into Canadian dollars throughout the year and ended 2017 with 100 percent of the U.S. dollar exposure hedged.

## Summary of Investment Portfolio

The composition of the portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund. A quarterly portfolio summary, which includes the percentage of net asset value for each holding, and a monthly portfolio list are available on our website at [www.strathbridge.com](http://www.strathbridge.com).

### Asset Mix

December 31, 2017

	% OF NET ASSET VALUE
Utilities	76.6 %
Telecommunication Services	16.4 %
Cash	7.7 %
Other Assets (Liabilities)	(0.7)%
	100.0 %

### Portfolio Holdings

December 31, 2017

	% OF NET ASSET VALUE
Cash	7.7 %
Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp.	6.5 %
Parkland Fuel Corporation	6.3 %
BCE Inc.	6.3 %
Pembina Pipeline Corporation	6.0 %
Brookfield Renewable Energy Partners L.P.	6.0 %
Brookfield Infrastructure Partners L.P.	6.0 %
Emera Incorporated	5.5 %
Inter Pipeline Ltd.	5.4 %
TELUS Corporation	5.3 %
TransCanada Corporation	4.9 %
Rogers Communications, Inc.	4.8 %
Borex Inc.	4.1 %
AltaGas Ltd.	4.0 %
Northland Power Inc.	4.0 %
Canadian Utilities Limited	4.0 %
Fortis Inc.	3.9 %
Gibson Energy Inc.	3.4 %
Enbridge Income Fund Holdings Inc.	3.4 %
Enercare Inc.	3.2 %

#### Forward-Looking Statements

This report may contain forward-looking statements about the Fund. Forward-looking statements include statements that are predictive in nature, that depend upon or refer to future events or conditions, or that include words such as “expects”, “anticipates”, “intends”, “plans”, “believes”, “estimates” or negative versions thereof and similar expressions. In addition, any statement that may be made concerning future performance, strategies or prospects, and possible future Fund action, is also forward-looking. Forward-looking statements are based on current expectations and projections about future events and are inherently subject to, among other things, risks, uncertainties and assumptions about the Fund and economic factors.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance, and actual events and results could differ materially from those expressed or implied in any forward-looking statements made by the Fund. Any number of important factors could contribute to any divergence between what is anticipated and what actually occurs, including, but not limited to, general economic, political and market factors, interest and foreign exchange rates, global equity and capital markets, business competition, technology change, changes in government regulations, unexpected judicial or regulatory proceedings, and catastrophic events.

The above-mentioned list of important factors is not exhaustive. You should consider these and other factors carefully before making any investment decisions and you should avoid placing undue reliance on forward-looking statements. While the Fund currently anticipates that subsequent events and developments may cause the Fund's views to change, the Fund does not undertake to update any forward-looking statements.

## Management's Responsibility for Financial Reporting

The accompanying financial statements of Canadian Utilities & Telecom Income Fund (the "Fund") and all the information in this annual report are the responsibility of the management of Strathbridge Asset Management Inc. (the "Manager"), and have been approved by the Fund's Board of Advisors (the "Board").

The financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and include certain amounts that are based on estimates and judgments. Management has ensured that the other financial information presented in this annual report is consistent with the financial statements. The significant accounting policies which management believes are appropriate for the Fund are described in Note 3 of the annual financial statements.

The Manager is also responsible for maintaining a system of internal controls designed to provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded and that accounting systems provide timely, accurate and reliable financial information.

The Board meets periodically with management and the independent auditor to discuss internal controls, the financial reporting process, various auditing and financial reporting issues, and to review the annual report, the financial statements and the independent auditor's report. Deloitte LLP, the Fund's independent auditor, has full and unrestricted access to the Board.



John P. Mulvihill  
Director  
Strathbridge Asset Management Inc.  
March 2, 2018



John D. Germain  
Director  
Strathbridge Asset Management Inc.

## To the Unitholders of Canadian Utilities & Telecom Income Fund

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Canadian Utilities & Telecom Income Fund, which comprise the statements of financial position as at December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016, and the statements of comprehensive income, statements of changes in equity and statements of cash flows for the years then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements 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 entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

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

### Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Canadian Utilities & Telecom Income Fund as at December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

*Deloitte LLP*

Chartered Professional Accountants

Licensed Public Accountants

March 2, 2018

Toronto, Ontario

## Statements of Financial Position

As at December 31

	Note	2017	2016
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	6,7	\$ 16,847,858	\$ 31,682,116
Dividends receivable		86,907	143,734
Derivative assets	6,7	31,781	–
Short-term investments	6,7	–	2,097,391
Cash		1,390,950	902,207
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>18,357,496</b>	<b>34,825,448</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Due to brokers - investments		177,654	840,873
Accrued liabilities		53,529	68,659
Accrued management fees	9	15,923	30,239
Derivative liabilities	6,7	4,749	2,209
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>251,855</b>	<b>941,980</b>
<b>NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO EQUITY HOLDERS</b>		<b>\$ 18,105,641</b>	<b>\$ 33,883,468</b>
<b>NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO EQUITY HOLDERS PER UNIT</b>		<b>\$ 9.9489</b>	<b>\$ 10.5814</b>

On behalf of the Manager,  
Strathbridge Asset Management Inc.



John P. Mulvihill, Director



John D. Germain, Director

## Statements of Comprehensive Income

For the years ended December 31

	Note	2017	2016
<b>INCOME</b>			
Dividend income		\$ 1,142,445	\$ 1,627,011
Interest income		3,407	2,947
Net realized gain on investments at fair value through profit or loss	7	1,665,005	1,716,800
Net realized gain on options at fair value through profit or loss	7	63,355	338,017
Net realized gain/(loss) on forward exchange contracts at fair value through profit or loss	7	(73,987)	276,728
Net change in unrealized gain/loss on investments at fair value through profit or loss	7	(1,038,633)	707,380
<b>TOTAL INCOME, NET</b>		<b>1,761,592</b>	<b>4,668,883</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Management fees	9	291,039	392,599
Service fees		103,340	140,219
Administrative and other expenses		92,344	78,653
Transaction fees	10	155,435	225,323
Custodian fees		45,964	47,533
Audit fees		29,533	28,811
Advisory board fees	9	19,500	19,500
Independent review committee fees	9	7,500	6,898
Legal fees		2,960	10,228
Unitholder reporting costs		12,090	11,303
Harmonized sales tax		27,755	36,907
Withholding taxes	3	18,382	15,721
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>805,842</b>	<b>1,013,695</b>
<b>INCREASE IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO EQUITY HOLDERS</b>	11	<b>\$ 955,750</b>	<b>\$ 3,655,188</b>
<b>INCREASE IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO EQUITY HOLDERS PER UNIT</b>	11	<b>\$ 0.3741</b>	<b>\$ 1.0855</b>

## Statements of Changes in Equity

For the years ended December 31

	Unit Capital	Deficit	Total
BALANCE AT JANUARY 1, 2016	\$ 39,541,656	\$ (3,498,614)	\$ 36,043,042
Increase in Net Assets Attributable to Equity Holders	–	3,655,188	3,655,188
Distributions			
From net investment income	–	(1,493,716)	(1,493,716)
Non-taxable distributions	–	(1,006,094)	(1,006,094)
Value for units redeemed	(3,462,662)	147,710	(3,314,952)
BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2016	\$ 36,078,994	\$ (2,195,526)	\$ 33,883,468
Increase in Net Assets Attributable to Equity Holders	–	955,750	955,750
Distributions			
From net investment income	–	(334,558)	(334,558)
Non-taxable distributions	–	(1,521,376)	(1,521,376)
Value for units redeemed	(15,574,502)	696,859	(14,877,643)
BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2017	\$ 20,504,492	\$ (2,398,851)	\$ 18,105,641

## Statements of Cash Flows

For the years ended December 31

	2017	2016
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 2,999,598	\$ 1,915,669
<b>Cash Flows Provided by/(Used In) Operating Activities</b>		
Increase in Net Assets Attributable to Equity Holders	955,750	3,655,188
<b>Adjustments to Reconcile Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities</b>		
Net realized gain on investments at fair value through profit or loss	(1,665,005)	(1,716,800)
Net realized (gain)/loss on options at fair value through profit or loss	73,987	(338,017)
Net realized gain on forward exchange contracts at fair value through profit and loss	(63,355)	(276,728)
Net change in unrealized gain/loss on investments at fair value through profit or loss	1,038,633	(707,380)
Net change in unrealized gain/loss on foreign cash	(25,349)	(39,022)
Decrease in dividends receivable	56,827	60,955
Increase/(decrease) in accrued liabilities, accrued management fees and due to brokers - investments	(692,665)	821,241
Purchase of investment securities	(67,300,500)	(105,896,531)
Proceeds from disposition of investment securities	82,746,606	111,335,785
	14,169,179	3,243,503
<b>Cash Flows Used In Financing Activities</b>		
Unitholder distributions	(1,855,934)	(2,499,810)
Unitholder redemptions	(14,877,643)	(3,314,952)
	(16,733,577)	(5,814,762)
<b>Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents during the Year</b>	(1,608,648)	1,083,929
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR	\$ 1,390,950	\$ 2,999,598
Cash and Cash Equivalents are comprised of:		
Cash	\$ 1,390,950	\$ 902,207
Short-Term Investments	–	2,097,391
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR	\$ 1,390,950	\$ 2,999,598
Dividends received, net of withholding taxes	\$ 1,180,890	\$ 1,672,245
Interest received	\$ 3,407	\$ 2,947

The notes are an integral part of the Financial Statements.  
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## Schedule of Investments

As at December 31, 2017

	Number of Shares	Average Cost	Fair Value	% of Net Assets Attributable to Equity Holders
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>				
<b>Canadian Common Shares</b>				
<b>Telecommunication Services</b>				
BCE Inc.	18,800	\$ 1,122,535	\$ 1,135,144	
Rogers Communications, Inc.	13,700	867,418	877,485	
TELUS Corporation	20,000	897,781	952,400	
<b>Total Telecommunication Services</b>		2,887,734	2,965,029	16.4%
<b>Utilities</b>				
Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp.	84,000	1,064,726	1,181,040	
AltaGas Ltd.	25,500	748,702	729,810	
Boralex Inc.	31,500	722,425	740,250	
Brookfield Infrastructure Partners L.P.	19,100	978,190	1,076,858	
Brookfield Renewable Energy Partners L.P.	24,600	1,019,264	1,077,726	
Canadian Utilities Limited	19,400	752,812	725,754	
Emera Incorporated	21,200	1,024,501	995,976	
Enbridge Income Fund Holdings Inc.	20,400	632,970	608,124	
Enercare Inc.	28,500	582,106	584,535	
Fortis Inc.	15,400	674,707	710,094	
Gibson Energy Inc.	33,600	614,448	610,848	
Inter Pipeline Ltd.	37,700	987,614	981,331	
Northland Power Inc.	31,200	748,342	728,520	
Parkland Fuel Corporation	42,700	1,117,318	1,146,495	
Pembina Pipeline Corporation	24,000	1,083,207	1,092,240	
TransCanada Corporation	14,600	923,381	893,228	
<b>Total Utilities</b>		13,674,713	13,882,829	76.6%
<b>Total Canadian Common Shares</b>		\$ 16,562,447	\$ 16,847,858	93.0%
<b>Forward Exchange Contracts</b>				
Sold USD \$400,000, Bought CAD \$507,432 @ 0.78828 - January 10, 2018			\$ 6,343	
Sold USD \$270,000, Bought CAD \$343,832 @ 0.78527 - January 10, 2018			5,595	
Bought USD \$200,000, Sold CAD \$255,295 @ 0.78341 - January 10, 2018			(4,749)	
Sold USD \$650,000, Bought CAD \$833,950 @ 0.77942 - January 24, 2018			19,843	
<b>Total Forward Exchange Contracts</b>			\$ 27,032	0.2%
Adjustment for transaction fees		(13,595)		
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</b>		\$ 16,548,852	\$ 16,874,890	93.2%
<b>OTHER NET ASSETS</b>			1,230,751	6.8%
<b>NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO EQUITY HOLDERS</b>			\$ 18,105,641	100.0%



## 1. Fund Information

Canadian Utilities & Telecom Income Fund (the “Fund”) is a closed-end investment trust established under the laws of the Province of Ontario on November 26, 2010. The Fund began operations on December 17, 2010. The address of the Fund’s registered office is 121 King Street West, Suite 2600, P.O. Box 113, Toronto, Ontario.

Strathbridge Asset Management Inc. (“Strathbridge”) is the Manager as well as the Investment Manager of the Fund. RBC Investor Services Trust is the Custodian of the Fund.

The Fund is a closed-end investment trust designed to maximize total returns for unitholders including both long-term appreciation in net asset value (“NAV”) per unit and to pay unitholders monthly distributions in an amount targeted to be 7.0 percent per annum on the NAV of the Fund. The units are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (“TSX”) under the ticker symbol UTE.UN.

The Fund invests at least 75 percent of the value of the Fund in securities of Utilities and Telecommunications issuers listed on the TSX which have a minimum market capitalization of \$1 billion and a current minimum distribution yield of 2.0 percent per annum at the time of investment. In addition, up to 25 percent of the value of the Fund may be invested in securities of North American issuers in the Utilities and Telecommunications sectors which have a minimum market capitalization of \$250 million and a minimum distribution yield of 2.0 percent per annum at the time of investment. The Fund may also invest in public investment funds including exchange-traded funds and other Strathbridge Funds (provided that no more than 15 percent of the net asset value of the Fund may be invested in securities of other Strathbridge Funds) that provide exposure to such securities.

The Fund employs a proprietary investment strategy, Strathbridge Selective Overwriting (“SSO”), to enhance the income generated by the portfolio and to reduce volatility. The Fund may, from time to time, selectively write covered call options in respect of up to a maximum of 25 percent of the securities in the portfolio. In addition, the Fund may write cash covered put options in respect of securities in which it is permitted to invest.

The SSO strategy is a quantitative, technical based methodology that identifies appropriate times to write and/or close out option positions compared to writing continuously and rolling options every thirty days. This proprietary process has been developed over many years through various market cycles. The Manager believes the primary benefit to investors is to maximize the total return of the particular portfolio while reducing the level of volatility of the portfolio, thereby increasing the risk-adjusted return.

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Advisors on March 2, 2018.

## 2. Basis of Presentation

The annual financial statements for the Fund have been prepared in compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards (“IFRS”) as adopted by the International Accounting Standards Board.

## 3. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

### Functional and Presentation Currency

Items included in the financial statements of the Fund are measured in the currency of the primary economic environment in which the Fund

operates (the “functional currency”). Based on the guidance provided in International Accounting Standard (“IAS”) 21, the Manager has determined that the functional currency is Canadian dollars. The financial statements of the Fund are presented in Canadian dollars which is the Fund’s presentation currency.

### Financial Instruments

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis except for the fair valuation of certain financial instruments. Historical cost is generally based on the fair value of the consideration given in exchange for assets. Under IAS 39, Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement (“IAS 39”), the Fund’s equity investments are designated at fair value through profit or loss (“FVTPL”) at inception and derivative investments are classified as held for trading and measured at FVTPL.

### Fair Value Measurement

Fair value is the price 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 fair value of financial assets and liabilities traded in active markets are based on quoted market prices at the close of trading on the reporting date. The Fund uses the last traded market price as its valuation input for financial assets and liabilities if the last traded price falls within the bid-ask spread. In other 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 for financial reporting purposes.

The fair value of financial assets and liabilities that are not traded in an active market is determined by valuation techniques as described in Note 4.

### Investment Transactions and Income

Investment transactions are accounted for on a trade date basis. Net realized gain/(loss) on investments at fair value through profit or loss and net change in unrealized gain/loss on investments at fair value through profit or loss are determined on an average cost basis. Realized gains and losses related to options are included in net realized gain/(loss) on options at fair value through profit or loss. Realized gains and losses relating to written options may arise from:

- (i) Expiration of written options whereby realized gains are equivalent to the premium received,
- (ii) Exercise of written covered call options whereby realized gains or losses are equivalent to the premium received in addition to the realized gain or loss from disposition of the related investments at the exercise price of the option, and
- (iii) Closing of written options whereby realized gains or losses are equivalent to the cost of purchasing options to close the positions, net of any premium received.

Realized gains and losses relating to purchased put options may arise from:

- (i) Expiration of purchased put options whereby realized losses are equivalent to the premium paid,
- (ii) Exercise of purchased put options whereby realized gains or losses are equivalent to the realized gain or loss from disposition of the related investments at the exercise price of the option less the premium paid, and
- (iii) Sale of purchased put options whereby realized gains or losses are equivalent to the sale proceeds, net of any premium paid.

Option premiums received are reflected as deferred credits in investments so long as the options are outstanding. Any difference resulting from revaluation is included in the net change in unrealized gain/loss on investments at fair value through profit or loss. The premiums received on written put options that are exercised are included in the cost of the security purchased.

Dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend date.

Interest income is measured using the effective interest method and recorded on a daily basis.

### Foreign Currency Translation

Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into Canadian dollars at the prevailing rate of exchange on each valuation date. Purchases and sales of investments, and income derived from investments are translated at the rate of exchange prevailing on the respective dates of such transactions.

Foreign exchange gains (losses) on short-term investments are reflected as interest income. Realized gains (losses) relating to forward exchange contracts are included in net realized gain/(loss) on forward exchange contracts at fair value through profit or loss. Other foreign exchange gains (losses) are recorded as net realized or unrealized gain (loss) on investments at fair value through profit or loss, as appropriate.

### Short-Term Investments

Short-term investments are held for investment purposes and consist primarily of money market instruments with original maturities of 90 days or less.

### Units

IAS 32, Financial Instruments: Presentation (“IAS 32”), requires that if all the criteria under paragraph 16A are met, the units (which are puttable instruments) should be classified as equity or if they do not meet all the conditions, they should be classified as financial liabilities. The Fund’s units meet the definition of IAS 32 paragraph 16A to be classified as equity.

### Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets Attributable to Equity Holders per Unit

The increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to equity holders per unit is calculated by dividing the increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to equity holders by the weighted average number of units outstanding during the year. Please refer to Note 11 for the calculation.

### Taxation

The Fund is a “mutual fund trust” as defined in the Income Tax Act (Canada) (the “Act”). The Fund is subject to tax in each taxation year under Part I of the Act on the amount of its income for the year, including net realized taxable capital gains, less the portion thereof that it claims in respect of the amount paid or payable to unitholders in the year. Income tax paid by the Fund on any net realized capital gains not paid or payable to unitholders is recoverable by the Fund to the extent and in the circumstances provided in the Act.

Given the investment and distribution policies of the Fund and taking into account expenses, the Fund does not expect to bear any non-refundable income tax.

The Fund currently incurs withholding taxes imposed by certain foreign countries on investment income. Such foreign income is recorded gross of withholding taxes, and the withholding taxes are shown as separate line items in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

### IAS 1 Disclosure Initiative

The Fund has applied amendments to IAS 1 Disclosure Initiative. The amendments clarify that an entity need not provide a specific disclosure required by an IFRS if the information resulting from that disclosure is not material, and give guidance on the basis of aggregating and disaggregating information for disclosure purposes. In addition, the amendments reiterate that an entity should consider providing additional disclosures when compliance with the specific requirements in IFRS is insufficient to enable users of financial statements to understand the impact of particular transactions, events and conditions on the Fund’s financial position and financial performance.

The application of these amendments has not resulted in any impact on the financial performance, the financial position or disclosures of the Fund.

### IAS 7 Statement of Cash Flows

IAS 7 Statement of Cash Flows (“IAS 7”) requires disclosures related to changes in liabilities arising from financing activities for annual periods beginning on or after January 1, 2017. Units issued by the Fund are classified as equity in accordance with IAS 32, as they meet the definition of puttable instruments to be classified as equity in accordance with IAS 32 for financial reporting purposes. However, the units are considered liabilities for the purposes of the IAS 7 disclosures, regardless of their classification for financial reporting purposes under IAS 32.

A reconciliation between the opening and closing balances of the units of the Fund is presented in the Statement of Changes in Equity, including changes from cash flows and non-cash changes.

## 4. Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

The preparation of financial statements requires the Manager to use judgment in applying accounting policies and to make estimates and assumptions about the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The following discusses the most significant accounting judgments and estimates that the Fund has made in preparing the financial statements.

The Manager considers the currency of the primary economic environment in which the Fund operates to be the Canadian dollars as this is the currency which in their opinion most faithfully represents the economic effects of underlying transactions, events and conditions. The financial statements of the Fund are presented in Canadian dollars as the Fund’s presentation currency.

In classifying and measuring the financial instruments held by the Fund, the Manager has applied the fair value option for financial assets and liabilities under IAS 39. The fair value option was used as: (i) fair value is readily available via market quotation; (ii) it eliminates or significantly reduces an accounting mismatch; and (iii) financial instruments designated at As a result, the Fund’s equity investments have been designated at FVTPL at inception and the derivative investments have been classified as held for trading by nature and valued at FVTPL.

The Fund may, from time to time, hold financial instruments that are not quoted in active markets. Fair values of such instruments are determined by using valuation models and techniques generally recognized as standard within the investment industry. These valuation methods use observable data as practicable as possible. Observable market data are readily available and supplied by independent sources actively involved in the relevant market. However, areas such as credit risk (both own and counterparty) and its correlations require the Manager to make estimates. Significant changes in assumptions about these factors could adversely affect the reported fair values of financial instruments.

Please refer to Note 6 for a further analysis of risks associated with financial instruments.

## 5. Capital Disclosures

IAS 1, Presentation of Financial Statements ("IAS 1"), requires the disclosure of: (i) an entity's objectives, policies and processes for managing capital; (ii) quantitative data and qualitative information about what the entity regards as capital; (iii) whether the entity has complied with any capital requirements; and (iv) if it has not complied, the consequences of such non-compliance. The Fund's objectives, policies and processes are described in Note 1, information on the Fund's units is described in Note 8 and the Fund does not have any externally imposed capital requirements.

## 6. Risks Associated with Financial Instruments

The Fund is exposed to various types of risks that are associated with its investment strategies, financial instruments and markets in which the Fund invests. The most important risks include credit risk, liquidity risk, market risk (including currency risk, interest rate risk, and price risk), concentration risk and capital risk management.

### Credit Risk

The Fund is subject to the credit risk that its counterparty (whether a clearing corporation, in the case of exchange traded instruments, or other third party, in the case of over-the-counter instruments) may be unable to meet its obligations. The Fund manages these risks through the use of various risk limits and trading strategies.

The analysis below summarizes the credit quality of the Fund's short-term investments as at December 31, 2017 and 2016.

Credit Rating	Percentage of Short-Term Investments	
	Dec. 31, 2017	Dec. 31, 2016
A-1	-	100.0%

The Fund is also exposed to counterparty credit risk on derivative financial instruments. The counterparty credit risk for derivative financial instruments is managed by dealing with counterparties that have a credit rating that is not below the level of approved credit ratings as set out in National Instrument 81-102. During the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, the counterparties to the Fund's derivative financial instruments had a credit rating of A-1 or higher from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services.

The Fund's derivative instruments are subject to offsetting, enforceable netting arrangements and similar agreements. The Fund and its counterparty have elected to settle all transactions on a gross basis; however, each party has the option to settle all open contracts on a net basis in the event of default of the other party. All outstanding derivatives have been presented on a gross basis on the Statement of Financial Position as derivative assets or derivative liabilities, as they do not meet the criteria for offsetting in IAS 32 paragraph 42.

### Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the possibility that investments in the Fund cannot be readily converted into cash when required. To manage this risk, the Fund invests the majority of its assets in investments that are traded in an active market and which can be easily disposed. In addition, the Fund aims to retain sufficient cash and short-term investments to maintain liquidity and to meet its obligations when due.

Cash is required to fund redemptions. Unitholders must surrender units at least 10 business days prior to the last day of the month and receive payment on or before 15 calendar days following the month end valuation date. Therefore the Fund has a maximum of 21 business days to generate sufficient cash to fund redemptions mitigating liquidity issues.

The amounts in the table are the contractual undiscounted cash flows:

	As at December 31, 2017		
	Financial Liabilities		Total
	On Demand	< 3 months	
Due to brokers - investments	\$ -	\$ 177,654	\$ 177,654
Accrued liabilities	-	53,529	53,529
Accrued management fees	-	15,923	15,923
Derivative liabilities	-	4,749	4,749
	\$ -	\$ 251,855	\$ 251,855

	As at December 31, 2016		
	Financial Liabilities		Total
	On Demand	< 3 months	
Due to brokers - investments	\$ -	\$ 840,873	\$ 840,873
Accrued liabilities	-	68,659	68,659
Accrued management fees	-	30,239	30,239
Derivative liabilities	-	2,209	2,209
	\$ -	\$ 941,980	\$ 941,980

### Market Risk

The Fund's investments are subject to market risk which is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in the market prices. The following include sensitivity analyses that show how the net assets attributable to equity holders would have been affected by a reasonably possible change in the relevant risk variable at each reporting date. In practice, the actual results may differ and the differences could be material.

#### (a) Currency Risk

Currency risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. The portfolio includes securities and options denominated in foreign currencies. The net asset value of the Fund and the value of the dividends and option premiums received by the Fund will be affected by fluctuations in the value of the foreign currencies relative to the Canadian dollar. The Fund uses forward exchange contracts, from time to time, to actively hedge all or part of the majority of its foreign currency exposure.

The table below indicates the foreign currencies to which the Fund had significant exposure to as at December 31, 2017 and 2016 in Canadian dollar terms, and the notional amounts of forward exchange contracts. The table also illustrates the potential impact on the net assets attributable to equity holders if the Canadian dollar had strengthened or weakened by 5 percent in relation to each of the other currencies, with all other variables held constant.

	As at December 31, 2017					
	U.S. Currency Exposure			Impact on Net Assets Attributable to Equity Holders		
	Monetary	Non-Monetary	Total	Monetary	Non-Monetary	Total
	\$ (35,994)	\$ -	\$ (35,994)	\$ (1,800)	\$ -	\$ (1,800)
% of Net Assets Attributable to Equity Holders	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

As at December 31, 2016 U.S. Currency Exposure						
			Impact on Net Assets Attributable to Equity Holders			
Monetary	Non-Monetary	Total	Monetary	Non-Monetary	Total	
\$ (819,321)	\$ 1,752,749	\$ 933,428	\$ (40,966)	\$ 87,637	\$ 46,671	
% of Net Assets Attributable to Equity Holders						
(2)%	5%	3%	0%	0%	0%	

### (b) Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of a financial instrument. The financial instruments which potentially expose the Fund to interest rate risk are the short-term fixed income securities. The Fund has minimal sensitivity to changes in rates since securities are usually held to maturity and are short-term in nature.

### (c) Price Risk

Price risk is the risk that the value of financial instruments will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate or currency risk), whether caused by factors specific to an individual investment, its issuer, or all factors affecting all instruments traded in a market or segment. The Fund's most significant exposure to price risk arises from its investments in equity securities. Net assets per unit varies as the value of the securities in the Fund varies. The Fund has no control over the factors that affect the value of the securities in the Fund, including factors that affect all the issuers included in the Portfolio Universe.

The Fund's price risk is managed by taking a long-term perspective and utilizing an option writing program, as well as by the use of purchased put options. Approximately 93 percent (2016 - 94 percent) of the Fund's net assets attributable to equity holders held at December 31, 2017 were publicly traded equities. If equity prices on the exchange increased or decreased by 5 percent as at December 31, 2017, the net assets attributable to equity holders would have increased or decreased by \$0.8 million (2016 - \$1.6 million) respectively or 4.7 percent (2016 - 4.7 percent) of the net assets attributable to equity holders with all other factors remaining constant. In practice, actual trading results may differ and the difference could be material.

The Manager believes that a portfolio that is subject to covered call option writing or purchased put options should provide a degree of protection against falling share prices in a downward trending market.

### Concentration Risk

Concentration risk arises as a result of the concentration of exposures with the same category, whether it is geographical location, product type, industry sector or counterparty type. The following is a summary of the Fund's concentration risk:

	Dec. 31, 2017	Dec. 31, 2016
Utilities	82.4%	89.4%
Telecommunication Services	17.6%	10.6%
	100.0%	100.0%

### Capital Risk Management

Units surrendered for redemption by a unitholder at least twenty business days prior to the last day in June (the "June Redemption Date") will be redeemed on such June Redemption Date. Units surrendered for redemption by a unitholder at least ten business days prior to the last day of any other month (a "Monthly Redemption Date" and, together

with the June Redemption Date, a "Redemption Date"), will be redeemed on such Monthly Redemption Date. If a day that would otherwise be a Redemption Date is not a business day, the Redemption Date shall be the preceding business day. Unitholders will receive payment for the units on or before the 15th day following such Redemption Date (the "Redemption Payment Date"). Unitholders whose units are redeemed on a June Redemption Date will be entitled to receive a redemption price per unit equal to the NAV per unit determined as of such date. For unitholders whose units are redeemed on any other Redemption Date, the redemption price per unit will be equal to the lesser of: (i) 95 percent of the Market Price, and (ii) 100 percent of the Closing Market Price of the units on the applicable redemption Date, minus an amount equal to the aggregate of all brokerage fees, commissions and other costs incurred by the Fund in connection with such payment, including, but not limited to, costs incurred in liquidating securities held in the Fund's portfolio. For such purposes, "Market Price" means the weighted average trading price of the units on the stock exchange on which the units are listed for the ten trading days immediately preceding the applicable Redemption Date, and the "Closing Market Price" means the closing price of the units on the stock exchange on which the units are listed or, if there was no trade on the relevant date, the average of the last bid and the last asking prices of the units on the stock exchange on which the units are listed.

### Fair Value Measurement

The Fund classifies fair value of measurement 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

Level 2: Inputs, other than quoted prices in Level 1, that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (i.e. as prices) or indirectly (i.e. derived from prices), and

Level 3: Inputs that are based on unobservable market data.

The classification of an item into the above levels is based on the lowest level of the inputs used that has a significant effect on the fair value measurement of the item. Transfers of items between levels are recognized in the period they occur. The following table illustrates the classification of the Fund's assets and liabilities measured at fair value within the fair value hierarchy as at December 31, 2017 and 2016.

	As at December 31, 2017			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Canadian Common Shares	\$ 16,847,858	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,847,858
Forward Exchange Contracts	-	27,032	-	27,032
	\$ 16,847,858	\$ 27,032	\$ -	\$ 16,874,890

	As at December 31, 2016			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Short-Term Investments	\$ -	\$ 2,097,391	\$ -	\$ 2,097,391
Canadian Common Shares	29,929,367	-	-	29,929,367
United States Common Shares	1,752,749	-	-	1,752,749
Forward Exchange Contracts	-	(2,209)	-	(2,209)
	\$ 31,682,116	\$ 2,095,182	\$ -	\$ 33,777,298

The carrying values of cash, dividends receivable, accrued liabilities, accrued management fees, and the Fund's obligation for net assets attributable to equity holders approximate their fair values due to their short-term nature.

**(a) Equities**

The Fund's equity positions are classified as Level 1 as equity securities are actively traded and a reliable quoted price is observable.

**(b) Short-Term Investments**

Short-term investments are valued at cost plus accrued interest which approximates fair value. The inputs are observable and therefore short-term investments are classified as Level 2.

**(c) Derivative Assets and Liabilities**

Derivative assets and liabilities consist of forward exchange contracts and option contracts.

Listed options are classified as Level 1 as the security is traded in a recognized exchange and a reliable price is readily observable.

Fair value of over-the-counter options is determined using the Black-Scholes Model with observable market data as inputs. Forward exchange contracts are valued on the gain or loss that would be realized if, on the valuation date, the position in the forward exchange contracts, as the case may be, was to be closed out. Over-the-counter option and forward exchange contracts, for which the credit risks are determined not to be significant to fair value, have been classified as Level 2.

There were no transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 and the Fund did not hold any financial instruments within Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy during 2017 and 2016.

**7. Financial Instruments by Category**

The following tables present the carrying amounts of the Fund's financial instruments by category as at December 31, 2017 and 2016.

	As at December 31, 2017			
	Financial Instruments at FVTPL Designated at Inception	Held for Trading	Financial Instruments at Amortized Cost	Total
<b>Assets</b>				
Non-derivative financial assets	\$ 16,847,858	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,847,858
Derivative assets	-	31,781	-	31,781
Dividends receivable	-	-	86,907	86,907
Cash	-	-	1,390,950	1,390,950
	\$ 16,847,858	\$ 31,781	\$ 1,477,857	\$ 18,357,496
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Derivative liabilities	\$ -	\$ 4,749	\$ -	\$ 4,749
Due to brokers - investments	-	-	177,654	177,654
Accrued liabilities	-	-	53,529	53,529
Accrued management fees	-	-	15,923	15,923
	\$ -	\$ 4,749	\$ 247,106	\$ 251,855

	As at December 31, 2016			
	Financial Instruments at FVTPL Designated at Inception	Held for Trading	Financial Instruments at Amortized Cost	Total
<b>Assets</b>				
Non-derivative financial assets	\$ 31,682,116	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31,682,116
Short-term investments	-	-	2,097,391	2,097,391
Dividends receivable	-	-	143,734	143,734
Cash	-	-	902,207	902,207
	\$ 31,682,116	\$ -	\$ 3,143,332	\$ 34,825,448
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Derivative liabilities	\$ -	\$ 2,209	\$ -	\$ 2,209
Accrued management fees	-	-	30,239	30,239
Accrued liabilities	-	-	68,659	68,659
Due to brokers - investments	-	-	840,873	840,873
	\$ -	\$ 2,209	\$ 939,771	\$ 941,980

The following table presents the net gain on financial instruments at FVTPL by category for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016.

	Dec. 31, 2017	Dec. 31, 2016
<b>Net Realized Gain/(Loss) on Financial Instruments at FVTPL</b>		
Designated at Inception	\$ 1,665,005	\$ 1,716,800
Held for Trading	(10,632)	614,745
	1,654,373	2,331,545
<b>Net Change in Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Financial Instruments at FVTPL</b>		
Designated at Inception	(1,067,874)	569,735
Held for Trading	29,241	137,645
	(1,038,633)	707,380
<b>Net Gain on Financial Instruments at FVTPL</b>	<b>\$ 615,740</b>	<b>\$ 3,038,925</b>

**8. Units**

The Fund is authorized to issue an unlimited number of transferable, redeemable trust units of one class, each of which represents an equal, undivided interest in the net assets of the Fund.

The Fund intends to pay monthly cash distributions on the last day of each month in an amount targeted to be 7.0 percent per annum on the net asset value of the Fund. If after such distributions there would otherwise remain in the Fund additional net investment income or net realized capital gains, the Fund intends to make a special distribution of such portion of the remaining net investment income and net realized capital gains as is necessary to ensure that the Fund is not liable for income tax under the Act.

For the year ended December 31, 2017, cash distributions paid to unitholders were \$1,855,934 (2016 - \$2,499,810) representing a payment of \$0.74 (2016 - \$0.75) per unit.

During the year ended December 31, 2017, 1,382,308 (2016 - 307,327) units were redeemed with a total retraction value of \$14,877,643 (2016 - \$3,314,952).

During the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, unit transactions are as follows:

	Dec. 31, 2017	Dec. 31, 2016
Units outstanding, beginning of year	3,202,175	3,509,502
Units redeemed	(1,382,308)	(307,327)
Units outstanding, end of year	1,819,867	3,202,175

**9. Related Party Transactions**

Parties are considered to be related if one party has the ability to control the other party or exercise significant influence over the other party in making financial or operational decisions.

**(a) Management Fees**

Strathbridge, as Manager under the terms of the Trust Agreement and as Investment Manager under terms of the Investment Management Agreement, receives fees payable at annual rates of 0.10 percent and 1.00 percent respectively of the Fund's net asset value, calculated and payable monthly, plus applicable taxes. The Fund is responsible for all ongoing custodian, manager, legal, accounting and audit fees as well as all other expenses incurred by the Custodian and Manager in the ordinary course of business relating to the Fund's operations. Total management fees for the year ended December 31, 2017 were

\$291,039 (2016 - \$392,599) of which \$15,923 (2016 - \$30,239) was unpaid at year-end.

#### (b) Advisory Board Fees

Total advisory board fees paid to the external members of the Board of Advisors for the year ended December 31, 2017 were \$19,500 (2016 - \$19,500).

#### (c) Independent Review Committee Fees

Total remuneration paid to the external members of the Independent Review Committee for the year ended December 31, 2017 were \$7,500 (2016 - \$6,898).

### 10. Brokerage Commissions and Soft Dollars

The Manager may select brokerages who charge a 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. The ascertainable soft dollar value received as a percentage of total transaction fees paid during the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 is disclosed below:

	Dec. 31, 2017	Dec. 31, 2016
Soft Dollars	\$ 102,862	\$ 140,272
Percentage of Total Transaction Fees	66.2%	62.3%

### 11. Increase in Net Assets Attributable to Equity Holders per Unit

The increase in net assets attributable to equity holders per unit for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 is calculated as follows:

	Dec. 31, 2017	Dec. 31, 2016
Increase in Net Assets Attributable to Equity Holders	\$ 955,750	\$ 3,655,188
Weighted Average Number of Units Outstanding during the Year	2,554,573	3,367,205
Increase in Net Assets Attributable to Equity Holders per Unit	\$ 0.3741	\$ 1.0855

### 12. Income Taxes

No amount is payable on account of income taxes in 2017 or 2016.

Accumulated non-capital losses of nil (2016 - \$0.1 million) and accumulated capital losses of approximately \$0.7 million (2016 - \$1.8 million) are available for utilization against realized gains on sale of investments in future years. The capital losses can be carried forward indefinitely.

### 13. Future Accounting Policy Changes

IFRS 9 Financial Instruments ("IFRS 9") issued in July 2014, replaces the existing guidance in IAS 39. It includes revised guidance on classification and measurement of financial instruments, a new expected credit loss model for calculating impairment on financial assets and new general hedge accounting requirements. It also carries forward the guidance on recognition and derecognition of financial instruments from IAS 39. It is effective for annual periods beginning on or after January 1, 2018. The Fund plans to adopt the new standard the date it becomes effective.

### Classification and Measurement of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities

Under IFRS 9, classification and measurement of financial assets will be driven by the Fund's business model for managing them and their contractual cash flows. Classification and measurement categories under IFRS 9 are amortized cost, fair value through other comprehensive income ("FVOCI") and fair value through profit or loss ("FVTPL").

IFRS 9 largely retains the existing requirements for classification and measurement of financial liabilities. However, unlike IAS 39 where all fair value changes of liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss are recognized in profit or loss, under IFRS 9, fair value changes related to changes in the issuer's own credit risk will be presented in other comprehensive income.

Based on the Fund's initial assessment, IFRS 9 is not expected to have a material impact on classification and measurement of financial instruments, since the Fund makes decisions based on the assets' fair values and manages the assets to realize those fair values. As such the majority of the Fund's financial assets will continue to be measured at FVTPL. In addition, derivatives will continue to be measured at FVTPL.

### Impairment of Financial Assets

IFRS 9 also introduces the expected credit loss ("ECL") model for impairment of financial assets measured at amortized cost and debt instruments measured at FVOCI. The ECL impairment model will not have a material impact to the Fund's financial assets given that the majority of the Fund's financial assets will continue to be measured at FVTPL.

### Hedge Accounting

The Fund does not apply hedge accounting, therefore, IFRS 9 hedge accounting related changes do not have an impact on the Fund's financial statements.

Based on the Fund's initial assessment, IFRS 9 is not expected to have a material impact to the Fund's financial statements.

## Board of Advisors

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### John P. Mulvihill

Chairman & CEO  
Strathbridge Asset Management Inc.

### John D. Germain

Senior Vice-President & Chief Financial Officer  
Strathbridge Asset Management Inc.

### Michael M. Koerner<sup>1</sup>

Corporate Director

### Robert W. Korthals<sup>1</sup>

Corporate Director

### Robert G. Bertram<sup>1</sup>

Corporate Director

<sup>1</sup> Independent Review Committee Member

## Information

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### Independent Auditor:

Deloitte LLP  
Bay Adelaide Centre, East Tower  
8 Adelaide Street West, Suite 200  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5H 0A9

### Transfer Agent:

Computershare Investor Services Inc.  
100 University Avenue, 8th Floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5J 2Y1

### Units Listed:

Toronto Stock Exchange  
trading under  
UTE.UN

### Custodian:

RBC Investor Services Trust  
RBC Centre  
155 Wellington Street West, 2nd Floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5V 3L3

Visit our website at [www.strathbridge.com](http://www.strathbridge.com) for additional information on all Strathbridge Investment Funds.

## Investment Funds Managed by Strathbridge Asset Management Inc.

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### UNIT TRUSTS

Canadian Utilities & Telecom Income Fund (UTE.UN)  
Core Canadian Dividend Trust (CDD.UN)  
Low Volatility U.S. Equity Income Fund (LVU.UN)  
NDX Growth & Income Fund (NGI.UN)  
Top 10 Canadian Financial Trust (TCT.UN)  
U.S. Financials Income Fund (USF.UN)

### SPLIT SHARES

Premium Income Corporation (PIC.PR.A/PIC.A)  
S Split Corp. (SBN.PR.A/SBN)  
Top 10 Split Trust (TXT.PR.A/TXT.UN)  
World Financial Split Corp. (WFS.PR.A/WFS)

## Head Office:

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Contact your broker directly for address changes.



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