



# Caldwell Investment Management Ltd.

*Independent Investment Managers*

## **Semi-Annual Management Report of Fund Performance**

For the Period Ended June 30, 2019

## **Clearpoint Short Term Income Fund**

This semi-annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights, but does not contain the complete semi-annual financial statements of the investment fund. You may obtain a copy of the semi-annual financial statements at your request, free of charge, by calling 1-800-256-2441, by writing to us at Caldwell Investment Management Ltd., 150 King Street West, Suite 1702, P.O. Box 47, Toronto, ON M5H 1J9 or by visiting our website at [www.caldwellinvestment.com](http://www.caldwellinvestment.com) or SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

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



## **Management Discussion of Fund Performance**

### **Investment Objective**

The Fund seeks to provide income while preserving capital and maintaining liquidity, by investing primarily in a diverse portfolio of North American publicly traded corporate bonds and asset-backed securities with a term to maturity of five years or less.

Unitholder approval is required prior to a change in the fundamental investment objective of the Fund.

### **Results of Operations**

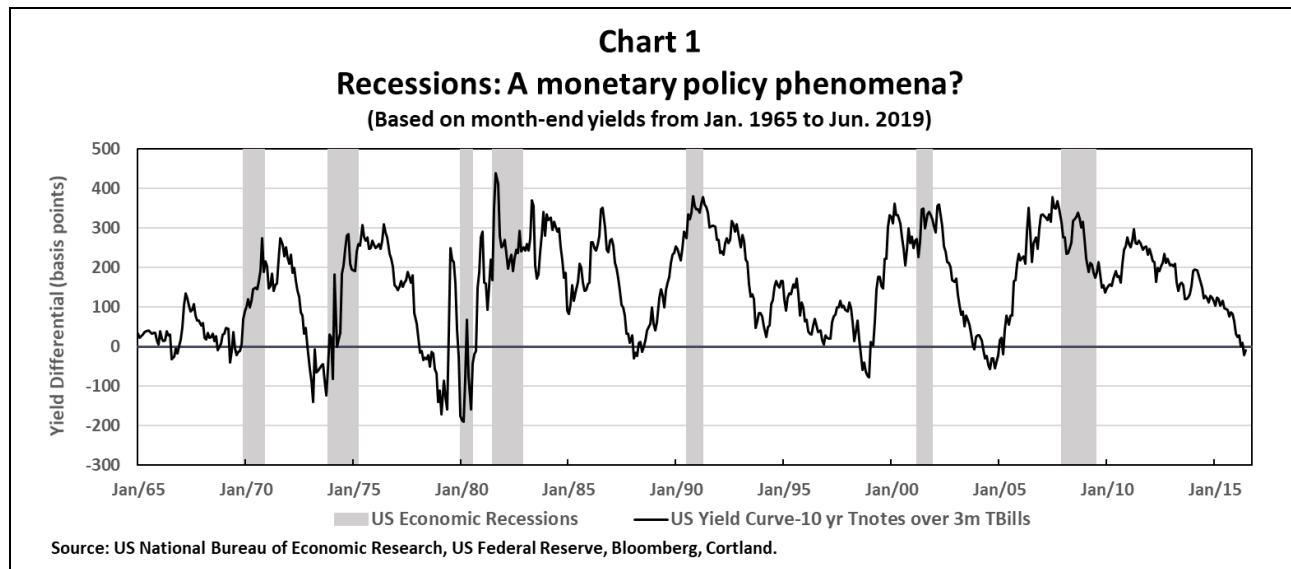
#### Recent Developments - Sub Advisory Comments

##### Highlights

- Monetary policy rates were stable through the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter across the major economies.
- Equity indexes showed strong growth over the quarter, indicating continued investor confidence in the overall economy. In contrast, Government bond yields fell steadily over the quarter, normally an indicator of negative sentiment. Along with the decline in general bond yields, credit spreads also fell over the quarter, resulting in positive performance for the corporate asset class.
- Corporate profits maintained strength and bankruptcies remain low, supporting credit.
- Fund returns were up 0.5% on the quarter, with some volatility across monthly results. The portfolio's exposures to Financials and Utilities sectors were the largest contributors of positive returns while the Energy sector was the primary source of negative returns.
- Over the quarter, the Energy sector carried the largest exposures in the portfolio, averaging 32%, followed by Communications and Financials.

##### Market Comment

In the last several months there's been significant commentary on the shape of the yield curve and its utility as a predictor of economic downturn when inverted.



There are many tools for analyzing the shape of the yield curve but an easy way to capture its major segments is the interest rate differential between the 10-year sovereign bond yield and the 3-month Treasury Bill rate. The spread between rates in these 2 sectors is captured in Chart 1, above.

The 10-year sector is generally the most active term in the bond market and reflects the views of the institutional investors that are its largest holders. Rising 10-year yields typically indicate improving confidence in the overall economy on the part of these investors while negative expectations for economic growth support pushing up allocations to bonds versus riskier asset classes and falling interest rate environments.

The 3 month T-Bill, in contrast, is used as an equivalent to cash, the interest its holders earn is expected to be the closest thing to a risk free rate and its market rate is very closely tied, especially in Canada and the U.S., to the monetary policy rate utilized by central banks to manage inflation and support general economic growth and employment levels.

In Chart 1 we track this yield curve along with periods of recession in the U.S. going back to 1962 when data was first available from the U.S. Federal Reserve. With some variation in timing, during the period covered that economy has never encountered a recession that was not preceded by an inverted yield curve. However, this says nothing about the utility of predicting economic downturns using this indicator.

The U.S. economy is market driven and highly diverse. Given that the non-government sectors represent the majority of the country's GDP (36.6% in 2016, in contrast to European economies where for all the larger sovereign regimes the percentage is above 40%, and Canada at 40.6%<sup>1</sup>), year in/year out we see their ubiquitous profit motives drive overall economic growth to be positive. That is unless inflation becomes an important factor driving economic decisions – in which case the central bank is expected to raise monetary policy rates to slow the overall economy

<sup>1</sup> IMF Data, General Government Sector as % of GDP, <https://data.imf.org>

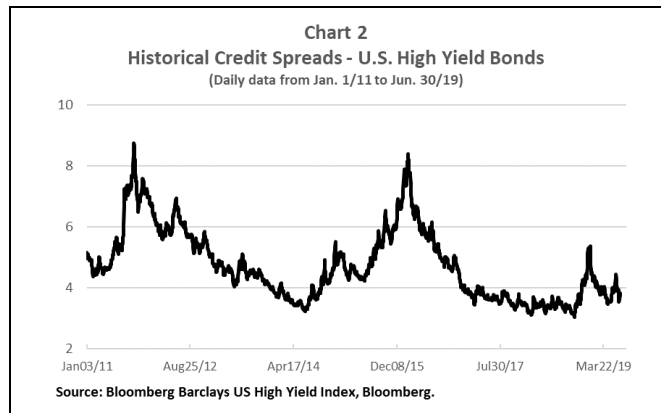


and bring back price stability. Barring inflationary pressures and the consequential monetary tightening policy, the shape of the yield curve should have no value as a reliable indicator of, nor correlation to, declining economic growth.

## Credit Sector

For fixed income investors a strategy for enhancing yield is to add in credit risk through allocations to corporate bonds. Rating agencies have separated bonds into investment grade and speculative grade bonds. Investment grade, or high grade, bonds are rated BBB- or higher and assessed to have a strong capacity to service their debt over the long term. High yield bonds are rated B- to BB+, reflecting that the issuer is a going concern in the near term but may face longer term uncertainty or may be exposed to adverse business conditions.

In Chart 2, historical spreads for a US high yield corporate bond index are presented back to Jan. 1, 2011. The data highlights that spreads had been trading in a tight range since early in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2017, spiked in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2018, have experienced some volatility in the first half of 2019 and offer some value in an environment where default rates remain at historic lows.



## Portfolio Review

Our strategy focuses on generating income from corporate debt, with at least 50% of the portfolio targeting high yield, or speculative grade bonds. We work to reduce portfolio volatility by shortening the interest rate sensitivity of the portfolio captured in its calculated duration.

Our macro analysis for credit markets is indicating a positive stance in the near to mid term (6 months to 2 years):

- Positives:
  - o Good credit fundamentals – strong corporate profits and low bankruptcy rates.
  - o After the spike in risk premiums for credit in the last quarter of 2018, along with good credit fundamentals, investors are expected to continue to look for opportunities to add to allocations in the high yield sector.
- Negatives:
  - o Credit spreads, although obviously having bounced off the recent lows, remain in the bottom half of the band seen in the last 8 years.
  - o After a solid first quarter of 2019 equities plateaued in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and may be reaching a near term plateau. As risk tolerance for credit tends to move in the same direction, though generally within a lower range, interest may also be fading for high yield bonds.



## Strategy Results

The Fund's strategy focuses on sourcing value-oriented investments across the North American credit markets. We continue to target businesses and investment sectors which provide superior relative income in their credit category based on strong cash flow generation and debt servicing capability. As at the end of the quarter, 87% of portfolio holdings were allocated to US high yield opportunities, 6% to US asset backed securities (all Collateralized Loan Obligations), both currency hedged. Of the balance, 5% was to Canadian high yield bonds and 2% to cash. The portfolio maintained low duration levels to reduce volatility, as reflected in the overall duration, with CLOs termed to the floating roll period, of approximately 2.3 years, well below the 3.4-year duration we calculate for the portfolio's U.S. high yield benchmark.

The portfolio has maintained a diversified strategy with limited exposure to specific commodities. At the end of the quarter, our largest industry exposure of 32% of holdings was to the Energy sector – 2/3rds to producers and the balance split evenly between pipelines and refining. Financials were the next largest sectors at 12% followed by Consumer Staples and Materials at 10% each.

Total return for the quarter was 0.5%. The strongest sources of positive returns came from the Financials and Utilities sectors while exposures to Energy were the primary sources of under-performance.

The strategy's performance is tracked relative to weightings of 35% to the BofA Merrill Lynch US HY index in CAD, 35% to the DEX Cdn High Yield Bond Index and 30% to the S&P Cda Investment Grade Corporate Bond Index. This blended benchmark generated a return for the quarter of 1.1% on a combined basis.

## Summary and Outlook

While overall bankruptcy rates are expected to remain low, corporate profits are less reliable but expected to remain positive across Canadian and US economies, overall. We do not anticipate significant volatility in general interest rates for the next 1 to 2 quarters until we have more information on the direction of inflation. In the face of modest growth in the economy, overall yields further out the yield curve are expected to rise slowly through the next 2 quarters as well.

We expect to maintain a conservative stance on credit. This means we'll be keeping the duration of our assets down to reduce the interest rate sensitivity of the portfolio.

Corporate profitability and improving credit quality are themes within the strategy that we believe are sustainable and of high value to almost all investor types both Institutional and Individual.

Our overall objective for 2019 focuses on adding strategies that provide both reliable returns and strong risk-to-return ratio.



## Subsequent Events

On August 15, 2019, a majority of unitholders approved a change of manager and trustee of the Fund from Caldwell Investment to the current sub-advisor, Cortland Credit. Subject to regulatory approval, we expect this transition to take place before the end of August.

## Independent Review Committee

Under the provisions of National Instrument 81-107 – *Independent Review Committee for Investment Funds* (“NI 81-107”), which came into force on November 1, 2006, it is now required that all publicly offered investment funds, such as the Fund, establish an independent review committee (“IRC”) to whom the Manager is to refer all potential conflict of interest matters in order to obtain a recommendation or approval, as applicable. NI 81-107 further mandates that the IRC be composed of at least three independent members and requires that they conduct assessments and regularly report to the Manager and unitholders in respect of its duties.

The current members of the Manager’s IRC are Trent Morris, Sharon Kent and F. Michael Walsh.

## Forward-looking Statements

Certain statements included in this report may constitute forward-looking statements, including those identified by the expressions “believe”, “anticipate”, “expect” or similar expressions to the extent they relate to the Fund, its Manager or its portfolio manager. Such forward-looking statements are not historical facts but reflect the Fund’s, the Manager’s or the portfolio manager’s current expectations regarding future results or events. Such forward-looking statements are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results or events to differ materially from current expectations. Readers are cautioned to consider these and other factors carefully when making decisions with respect to the Fund and not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements. Unless required by applicable law, the Fund does not undertake any obligation to update publicly or to revise any of such forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Forward-looking statements included or incorporated by reference in this report include statements with respect to:

- Interest rates
- Change in accounting policy



## **Related Party Transactions**

### **Manager and Portfolio Adviser**

The Manager is a wholly owned subsidiary of Caldwell Financial Ltd. The Manager is responsible for the Fund's day-to-day operations including providing or arranging for investment management, fund accounting and administrative services, including registrar and transfer agency services, to the Fund. For its services, the Manager is paid an annual fee based on the net asset value of the Fund. The annual rate of management fee for Series A units is 1.4% of average net assets and for Series F units, the annual rate of management fees is .9% of average net assets.

### **Trustee**

The trustee of the Fund is Caldwell Investment Management Ltd.

### **Principal Distributor**

Caldwell Securities Ltd. is related to the Manager in that both are wholly-owned subsidiaries of Caldwell Financial Ltd. Caldwell Securities Ltd. has entered into an agreement with Clearpoint Asset Management Inc. which provides to Clearpoint the exclusive right to market the Fund to dealers. Caldwell Securities Ltd. clients may hold units of the Fund and Caldwell Securities Ltd. receives sales commissions and trailer fees based on the total value of their clients' holdings in the Fund on the same basis as other dealers that distribute units to the public.



## 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 and is presented for Series A units of the Fund and Series F units of the Fund.

The Fund's Net Asset Value (NAV), per Series A Unit as at June 30, 2019 (unaudited) and December 31 of previous years:

	2019	2018	2017*
Net Assets, beginning of year	8.97	9.73	10.00
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>			
Total Revenue	0.32	0.66	0.40
Total Expenses	(0.15)	(0.34)	(0.31)
Realized gains (losses) for the period	(0.01)	(0.27)	(0.27)
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	0.17	(0.34)	0.12
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>(1)</sup></b>	0.33	(0.29)	(0.06)
<b>Distributions:</b>			
From Income (excluding dividends)	0.00	0.00	0.00
From Dividends	0.00	0.00	0.00
From Capital Gains	0.00	0.00	0.00
Return of Capital	(0.24)	(0.48)	(0.16)
<b>Total Annual Distributions <sup>(2)</sup></b>	(0.24)	(0.48)	(0.16)
<b>Net Assets at June 30 and December 31 of year shown</b>	9.06	8.97	9.73

<sup>(1)</sup> Net asset value and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase/decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial period.

<sup>(2)</sup> Distributions were paid in cash or reinvested in additional units of the Fund.

\* The Fund began operations on April 5, 2017.





The Fund's Net Asset Value (NAV), per Series F Unit as at June 30, 2019 (unaudited) and December 31 of previous years:

	2019	2018	2017*
Net Assets, beginning of year	9.07	9.77	10.00
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>			
Total Revenue	0.32	0.67	0.43
Total Expenses	(0.13)	(0.30)	(0.26)
Realized gains (losses) for the period	(0.01)	(0.29)	(0.21)
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	0.20	(0.37)	0.05
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>0.38</b>	<b>(0.29)</b>	<b>0.01</b>
<b>Distributions:</b>			
From Income (excluding dividends)	0.00	0.00	0.00
From Dividends	0.00	0.00	0.00
From Capital Gains	0.00	0.00	0.00
Return of Capital	(0.24)	(0.48)	(0.16)
<b>Total Annual Distributions <sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>(0.24)</b>	<b>(0.48)</b>	<b>(0.16)</b>
<b>Net Assets at June 30 and December 31 of year shown</b>	<b>9.19</b>	<b>9.07</b>	<b>9.77</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Net asset value and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase/decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial period.

<sup>(2)</sup> Distributions were paid in cash or reinvested in additional units of the Fund.

\* The Fund began operations on April 5, 2017.



## Ratios and Supplemental Data

### Series A

	2019	2018	2017
Net asset value (000's) <sup>(1)</sup>	3,612	4,512	4,560
Number of units outstanding <sup>(1)</sup>	398,682	503,050	468,818
Management expense ratio <sup>(2)</sup>	3.44%	3.60%	4.17%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions <sup>(2)</sup>	3.44%	3.60%	4.52%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(3)</sup>	32.34%	45.87%	58.53%
Trading expense ratio <sup>(4)</sup>	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%

### Series F

	2019	2018	2017
Net asset value (000's) <sup>(1)</sup>	7,151	7,609	4,455
Number of units outstanding <sup>(1)</sup>	778,332	839,378	455,942
Management expense ratio <sup>(2)</sup>	2.86%	3.07%	3.56%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions <sup>(2)</sup>	2.86%	3.07%	3.71%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(3)</sup>	32.34%	45.87%	58.53%
Trading expense ratio <sup>(4)</sup>	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%

- <sup>(1)</sup> This information is presented at June 30, 2019 (unaudited) and December 31 of the years shown.
- <sup>(2)</sup> Management expense ratio is based on total expenses for the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net assets during the period.
- <sup>(3)</sup> The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio adviser manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher a fund's portfolio turnover rate in a year, the greater the trading costs payable by the fund in the year, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the year. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a fund.
- <sup>(4)</sup> The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net assets during the period.



## Management Fees

As compensation for managing the Fund, the Manager can receive an annual fee of up to 1.4% of the average net asset value of Series A units of the Fund and an annual fee of up to 0.90% of the average net asset value of Series F units of the Fund. Such fees are calculated daily and payable monthly. The Manager in turn is responsible for paying investment adviser fees, trustee fees, sales commissions and trailer fees.

Distribution	17%
Management and Portfolio Adviser Services	83%
Waivers and Absorption of Fund Expenses	0%

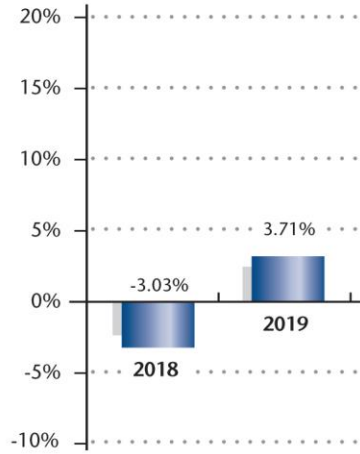
## Past Performance

The following charts shows how the Fund has performed in the past, and can help you understand the risks of investing in the Fund. These returns include the reinvestment of all distributions and would be lower if they did not. They don't include deduction of sales, switch, redemption, or other optional charges (which distributors may charge) or income taxes payable, and would be lower if they did. The Fund's past performance is no guarantee of how it will perform in the future.

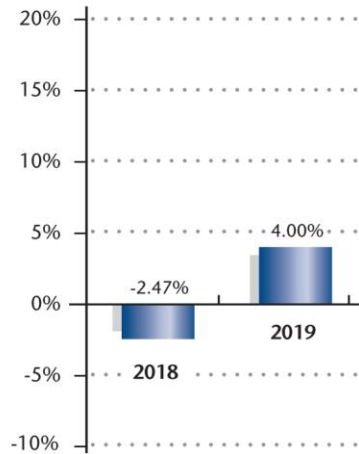
## Year-by-Year Returns

The bar charts shows how the Fund's annual past performance has varied from year to year for each of the years shown. It shows in percentage terms how an investment made on January 1 would have increased or decreased by December 31 for that year. Only the information for Year 1 is available for both Series A and Series F since the Fund began operations on April 5, 2017.

**For the years ended December 31 and the semi-annual period ended June 30, 2019**



**Clearpoint Short Term Income Fund - Series A**

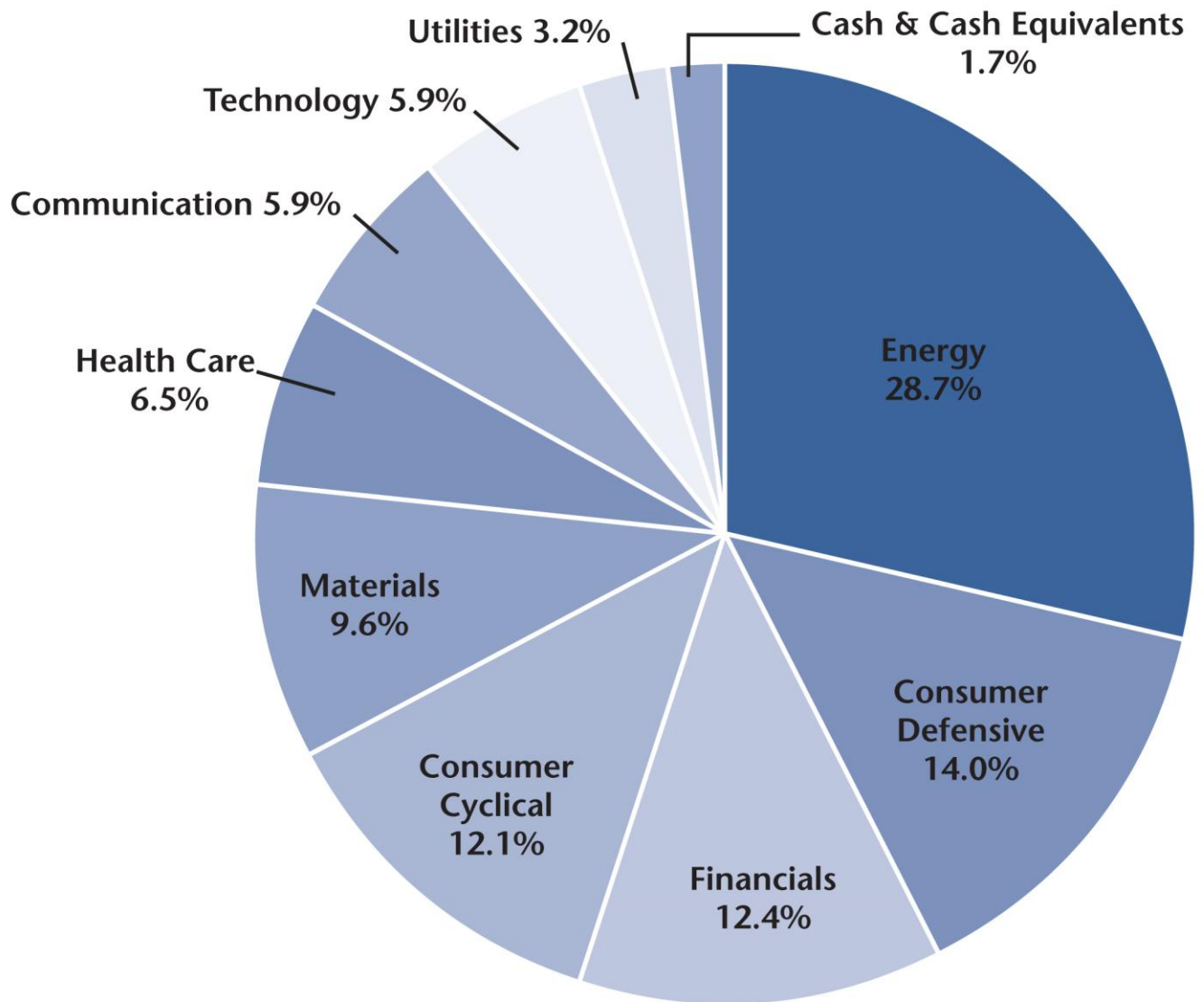


**Clearpoint Short Term Income Fund - Series F**



## Summary of Investment Portfolio

Portfolio Breakdown as at June 30, 2019



## Clearpoint Short Term Income Fund



## CLEARPOINT SHORT TERM INCOME FUND

### Summary of Investment Portfolio

#### Top 25 Holdings

As at June 30, 2019

<b>SECURITY</b>	<b>Percentage of Net Assets</b>
PBF Logistics LP / PBF Logistics Finance Corp. 6.875% 15MAY2023	6.29%
Lee Enterprises Inc. 9.50% 15MAR2022	6.22%
AK Steel Corp. 7.625% 01OCT2021	6.02%
Denbury Resources Inc. 9% 15MAY2021	6.01%
Genworth Holdings Inc. 7.20% 15FEB2021	5.98%
Cutwater 2015-I Ltd 5.88631% 15JAN2029	5.94%
Trulieve Cannabis Corp. 9.75% 18JUN2024	5.91%
Consolidated Communications Inc. 6.50% 01OCT2022	5.70%
Rackspace Hosting Inc. 8.625% 15NOV2024	5.62%
Unit Corp. 6.625% 15MAY2021	5.56%
Salem Media Group Inc. 6.75% 01JUN2024	5.45%
Ensign Drilling Inc. 9.25% 15APR2024	5.01%
Clearwater Seafoods Inc. 6.875% 01MAY2025	4.90%
Tidewater Midstream and Infrastructure Ltd 6.75% 19DEC2022	4.71%
Mattamy Group Corp. 6.875% 15DEC2023	4.47%
Dean Foods Co. 6.50% 15MAR2023	4.09%
Warrior Met Coal Inc. 8% 01NOV2024	3.19%
Rockpoint Gas Storage Canada Ltd 7% 31MAR2023	3.09%
Cash & Cash Equivalents	1.64%
WTS Trulieve Cannabis Corp. \$17.25 18JUN2022	0.30%

All Holdings (the Fund has less than 25 holdings)

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<b>Top 25 Holdings</b>	<b>96.09%</b>
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The summary of investment portfolio may change. A quarterly update is available at [www.caldwellinvestment.com](http://www.caldwellinvestment.com).