

## NEXUS NORTH AMERICAN EQUITY FUND QUARTERLY REPORT – September 30, 2005

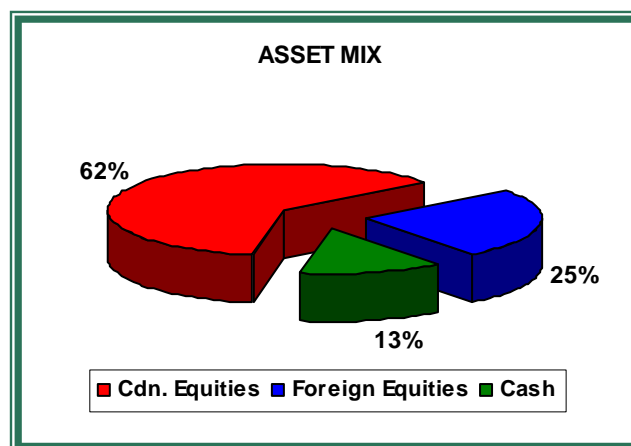
The Fund enjoyed a very solid 3rd quarter, led primarily by strong returns in Canada's energy sector and to a lesser degree, in financial services. In the United States, where the weighting of the energy sector is less than Canada, market returns were modestly positive in U.S. dollars, but negative when the effect of a sharp appreciation of the C\$ is considered. After having moved to record low levels at the end of the second quarter, interest rates generally reversed a portion of the previous descent in a steady fashion throughout the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. As regularly happens, "the summer doldrums" were much in evidence, with volumes and secondary trading activity across bond and equity markets generally light.

Another important development of this past quarter was talk of altering the tax treatment of Flow Through Entities (Income Trusts and Limited Partnerships) from policy makers in Ottawa. While the potential for negative developments on this issue exists, the consequences to the Fund so far have been limited. The issue is discussed in more detail below, but investing always includes an element of unknown risk and we were pleased to have weathered the effects without material consequences to the Net Asset Value of the Fund.

Interpreting the economic scene remains a challenge. In Canada, the strength of commodity markets, particularly energy, has been a strong support to the C\$. While some of this interest is speculative and could prove ephemeral, there is undoubtedly genuine, patient capital making its way to Canada in search of long-term investment opportunities, particularly in the energy and infrastructure sectors. However, for those non-energy sectors oriented to the export market, the ascent of the C\$ presents a challenge. The disparity between the fortunes of the resource-rich western provinces and the more manufacturing-oriented economies of Ontario and Quebec is increasingly stark.

Further complicating the economic scene are the effects of hurricanes Katrina and Rita on the North American economy. Damage to the energy infrastructure in the Gulf of Mexico has caused a sharp spike in gasoline and natural gas prices. Expenditures on energy are largely non-discretionary, so there is a worry that consumers will curtail spending in other areas as a result. When added to the scenes of human devastation, it is likely that consumer sentiment across the U.S. has suffered and that economic growth may feel the effects. Closer to home, consumer sentiment and economic activity in central Canada are anything but robust, yet measures of inflation seem to be picking up. While this is partly explainable by surging energy prices, it is clear that the risk of inflation being re-kindled is a little higher now than earlier in the year.

During the quarter, the Fund's unit value increased 7.5%<sup>1</sup>. The Fund is up 26.0% in the last 12 months.



<sup>1</sup> Fund returns are shown before the deduction of management fees but after the deduction of direct expenses.

## Asset Mix

We remain overweight Canadian equities and underweight the U.S. – as we have been for some time. Our cash position remains higher than our long-term guideline, as we look for interesting new opportunities in both markets.

## Canadian Equity Summary (62 % of Assets)

As a result of significant capital appreciation in the last 12 months, it has become necessary to trim some of our holdings back – especially where valuations, not just the share price, seemed elevated. One of those situations was Ritchie Brothers Auctioneers, a long-term, core holding of the firm, but not a particularly active trader. Another was UTS Energy, a new and very liquid holding, but one where the valuation had moved too far and too fast, in our estimation.

Ten Largest Holdings	
<b>Manulife</b>	<b>4.3%</b>
<b>Bank of Nova Scotia</b>	<b>4.2%</b>
<b>TD Bank</b>	<b>3.4%</b>
<b>Suncor</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
<b>Royal Bank</b>	<b>2.9%</b>
<b>Petro Canada</b>	<b>2.6%</b>
<b>Talisman</b>	<b>2.6%</b>
<b>EnCana</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
<b>Telus</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
<b>Rogers Communications</b>	<b>2.2%</b>

In September, the Income Trust sector was roiled by uncertainty. Over the course of the month valuations across this area have declined precipitously with some issues down 15% or more. The reasons for the decline began in early September with the initiation by the Department of Finance of a public consultation on the role of Flow Through Entities (FTEs) – a development that began only a modest sell-off in the sector. Largely because the consultation period does not conclude until December 31, and because it was generally felt that a Federal election was not far away, many participants under-reacted to the gravity of the situation. A subsequent decision by CRA to stop issuing advance tax rulings with regard to companies re-organizing into trusts sparked a sharp correction in prices.

As many readers will know, the income trust sector has been a distinguishing feature of the Canadian stock market, and has provided many years of luxurious returns. In the last three or four years it has attracted all sorts of interest; including Canadian retirees, Canadian pension funds, as well as foreign and domestic hedge funds, to name but a few. Based on the way most observers described it, it was a suitable destination for both “hot money” and patient investors alike. To use street parlance, everyone was leaning the same way on this sector. The Fund has emerged from this latest adjustment largely unscathed due to our reasonably modest weighting in the sector of about 6.0%. At this time, based partially on our overall concern for equity markets as well as this regulatory risk, we are not inclined to “buy the dip”, nor are we in a mood to sell indiscriminately.

As we cast forward as to what may develop in the future in this area, it is worth considering that approval from Ottawa has always been begrudging. Policy makers’ support has been undermined by a justified worry about the effect of these structures on capital allocation, tax revenues and economic growth. Specifically, the Finance Department is considering limiting the deduction of interest expenses, taxing FTEs like similar corporate entities, or improving the integration of Canada’s personal and corporate tax systems (adjusting the dividend tax credit). This last alternative will likely benefit steady dividend-paying companies, such as banks and utilities. We recently added to our holdings of Canadian Banks partly for this reason. Future policy will be determined by both economics and politics - making any forecast of outcomes risky. At this time, our approach is to favour the side of caution.

The Fund's Canadian equity returns were strong this past quarter, and substantially better than market benchmarks. Canadian equity returns were up +13.7% for the quarter and +43.4% for the year. By comparison, the TSX Composite was +11.6% and +29.3% for the same periods.

## U.S. Equity Summary (16% of Assets)

This quarter the benchmark S&P 500 index was up slightly in U.S. dollar terms, but down almost 2% for Canadian investors having to contend with the effects of the ever-appreciating Canadian dollar. Our own results were worse than the index, reflecting the variability that is a natural consequence of maintaining only a small list of holdings. With a 16% weighting, we remain very under-exposed to the U.S. market as compared to our long-term benchmark.

Early this quarter we sold Renal Care Inc., a long-term successful holding of the Fund that was the subject of a takeover. In its place, we have purchased Waters Corporation. Waters is a maker of analytical instruments, particularly in the field of chromatography, that are used in the drug research departments of both large pharmaceutical companies and universities. End demand is driven by environmental testing, higher water purification standards and medical research and is not likely to be particularly cyclical. Over 60% of sales are outside North America, and they manufacture the equipment in Massachusetts and the UK.

This quarter we sold Gander Mountain Inc, a specialty retailer in the hunting, fishing and camping arena. This was a relatively recent holding that has been a disappointment and had declined from when we first bought it. Although we remain comfortable with both the long-term story and management, we are concerned that rising energy prices and the burden of consumer debt would be felt most acutely by their typical customer. We will continue to watch the performance of their stores with an open mind to reinvesting at an advantageous time.

As mentioned above, returns lagged the benchmark this quarter. The Fund's U.S. equity returns in C\$ were -6.2% for the quarter, and +1.1% for the year. By comparison, the S&P 500 (in C\$) was -1.9% and +3.1% for the same periods.

Ten Largest Holdings	
<b>Waters Corporation</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
<b>Exxon Mobil</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
<b>Edwards Lifesciences</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
<b>Baxter International</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
<b>Tyco International</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
<b>Bank of America</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
<b>Washington Mutual</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
<b>Pfizer</b>	<b>0.8%</b>
<b>Home Depot</b>	<b>0.8%</b>
<b>Wells Fargo</b>	<b>0.6%</b>

## Other Investments (9% of Assets)

Our investment in the JPMorgan *Equity International Investment Trust* (EQIT) continues to outperform our U.S. holdings and provide diversification to our equity selections. This quarter EQIT returned +3.5% and, in the past year, it has increased 12.8%. We continue to view this as a core holding.