



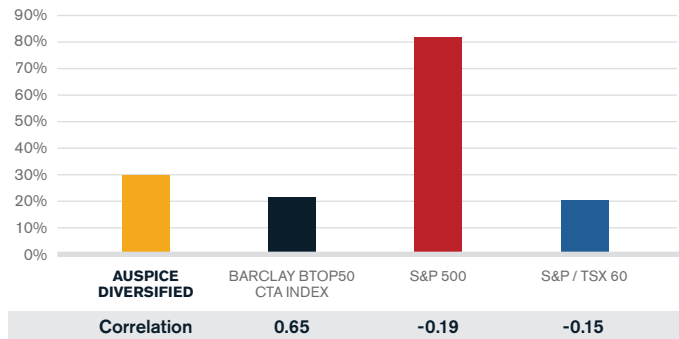
# DIVERSIFIED PROGRAM

COMMENTARY +  
PORTFOLIO FACTS

MARCH 2020



## CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE ( SINCE JANUARY 2007\* )



\*Cumulative performance from January 2007. This represents the first full year of the fund and is most representative of the current strategy and portfolio.

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Winner - 2014  
Altegris CTA Challenge



Silver Medal  
Best Opportunistic Hedge Fund - 2010

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**SUMMARY**

The Auspice Diversified Program gained a notable 9.72% in March capping off a positive Q1 with a strong result at a critical time. Further illustrating all managers in the sector are not the same, the Barclay BTOP50 CTA fell by 1.14% for the month (per Table 1) and was negative for Q1, a spread of over 9.5%. Chart 1 illustrates there is a history of preserving capital and importantly stronger gains at critical times while performing alongside benchmarks long-term. At both opportunities in the last year when equity corrected, the Auspice fund has provided exceptional gains. For a history of this performance back to 2007, please reach out.

Global equities continued the trend lower that started in late February. The S&P fell -12.51% to be down 20% for the year, while the Nasdaq and MSCI World lost 10.12% and 13.47%. The Canadian TSX/S&P60 lost 15.66% while the TSX Energy sub-index collapsed by an astonishing 45.14%.

Commodities continued to sell off as demand destruction due to global economic slow-down (and in many places shut-down) is a reality. Energy was amongst the hardest hit sectors while almost all commodities traded lower. As such, the energy weighted GSCI lost 29.46% while the more diverse Bloomberg Commodity index dropped 12.85%. The Auspice Broad Commodity index tactically exited all remaining exposure early in the month to be down only 2.89%.

Bond futures were volatile and initially sold-off sharply alongside equities, providing little safe-haven. Prices recovered and made news highs as a series of global stimulus programs were launched alongside central bank rate reductions. The US dollar was similarly volatile selling off before recovering and making new highs. Commodity currencies sold off most violently before bouncing alongside equities and commodities at month end.

**OUTLOOK**

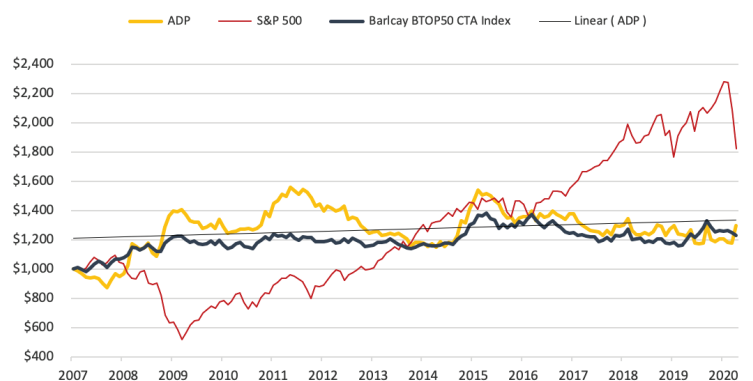
Practically and statistically it is challenging to hold strong convictions in terms of market direction, regardless of the sector, given the massive volatility, external forces (eg. government actions) and sheer volume of unknowns.

While equity grabs the headlines, we would point out that the benchmark S&P500 is off 20% for the year which is higher than where we left off in 2018 given the 29% gain of 2019. Given the prolonged outlook for reduced economic activity and corporate slowdown, we have trouble rationalizing this.

Similarly, the severely beaten commodity sector will eventually recover. The drop in demand has been met by a drop in supply

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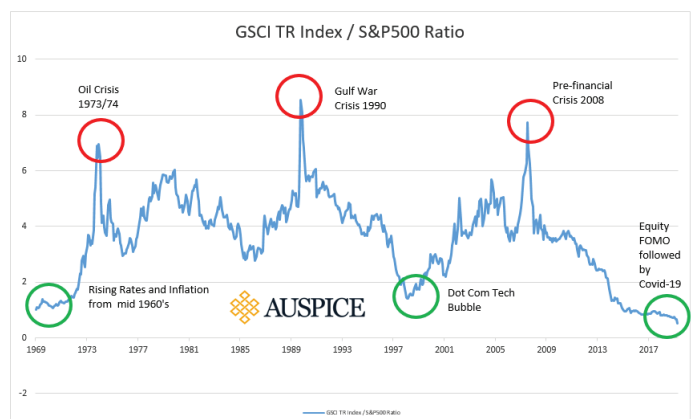
**Chart 1 HISTORICAL GROWTH OF \$1000 INVESTMENT**



**Table 1 ABSOLUTE PERFORMANCE**

	Auspice Diversified	Barclay BTOP50 CTA Index	S&P 500	TSX 60
1 Month	<b>9.72%</b>	-1.14%	-12.51%	-15.66%
2020 YTD	<b>7.25%</b>	-2.29%	-20.00%	-19.22%
1 yr (Apr 19)	<b>5.53%</b>	2.48%	-8.81%	-14.55%
3 yr (Apr 17)	<b>1.00%</b>	0.40%	9.39%	-10.45%
5 yr (Apr 15)	<b>-14.59%</b>	-11.01%	24.99%	-5.68%
10 yr (Apr 10)	<b>2.81%</b>	4.98%	121.01%	16.00%
13 yr (Apr 07)	<b>36.93%</b>	24.96%	81.90%	8.96%
Annualized (Jan 07)				
Return	<b>2.00%</b>	1.57%	4.63%	0.75%
Std Deviation	<b>11.80%</b>	6.63%	15.11%	13.26%
Sharpe Ratio	<b>0.25</b>	0.26	0.43	0.17
MAR Ratio	<b>0.08</b>	0.10	0.09	0.02
Worst Drawdown	<b>-26.04%</b>	-16.11%	-52.56%	-44.27%

**GSCI/S&P500 RATIO: EQUITIES EXPENSIVE, COMMODITIES CHEAP?**



Source: Dr. Torsten Dornin, Incrementum AG

**OUTLOOK (CONTINUED)**

and the stimulus and need for commodities will be critical for global economic recovery. Moreover, unexpected inflation, the worst kind, is a real risk. In the meantime, it will remain volatile and provide an opportunity for extracting short and long trading opportunities.

However, to be clear, at Auspice we are committed to participating in all markets in an impartial way. Our goal remains to not only participate in trends across diverse asset classes but do so agnostically, up or down, managing the risk and capital first and foremost.

Our outlook is simple: The volatility and unknowns are likely to bring about many more surprising trends. This will occur beyond equities in currencies, bonds and especially across the diverse commodity sector. This will likely provide a series of opportunities for our disciplined approach. We anticipate this period lasting for the rest of 2020 and into 2021. We are very excited.

**ATTRIBUTIONS AND TRADES**

In March we managed to participate and capture gains, reducing risk as the probability of keeping mark-to-market gains eroded. As illustrated on Chart 6, the month-end exposure as measured by the margin-to-equity ratio is at a very low level.

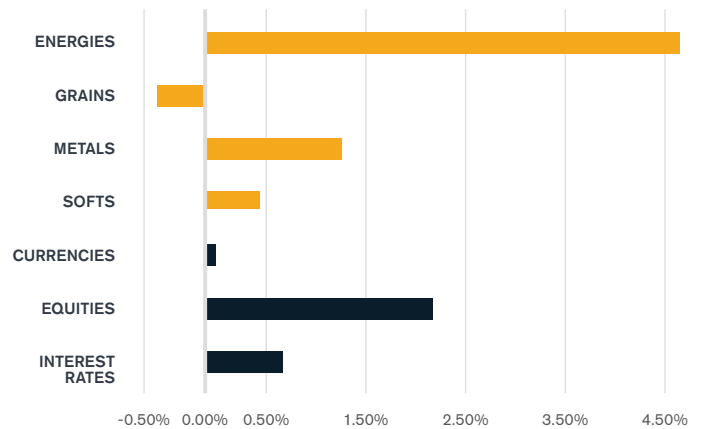
Commodity shorts, led by energy buoyed sector gains as a collapse in the sector provided the opportunity to participate and capture gains (see Chart 2). This was complemented by severe weakness in Metals where Copper and Silver provided the strongest opportunities. Within Soft Commodities, Cotton fell over 17% providing one of the strongest attributions. Notably one of the few long exposures is in Soybean Meal as food demand remains significant.

While we remain short global equity indices, the sector risk remains very small after capturing some of the sell-off and a large portion of the VIX move higher.

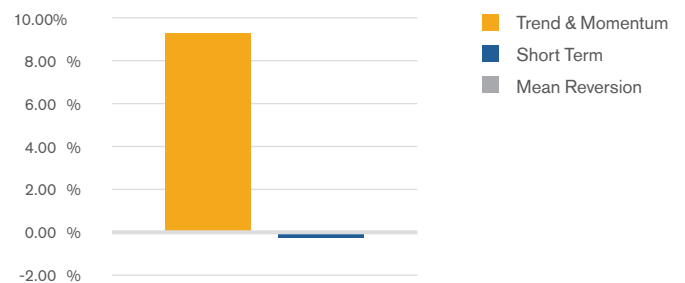
The remaining financial markets of currencies and bonds were equally volatile marked by a steep sell-off early in the month followed by a sharp rally. This caught our strategies in numerous markets eroding gains by stopping out of trades. However, on a net basis, both sectors provided a positive result.

**Return Drivers:** Trend-following strategies had a strong positive month while the non-correlated short-term strategies had a small loss (see Chart 3).

**Chart 2** SECTOR PNL MONTHLY ATTRIBUTION



**Chart 3** STRATEGY (RETURN DRIVER) ATTRIBUTION



\* Strategy Attribution excludes all fees.

**POSITION HIGHLIGHTS**

**GAINS**

- Short energies led by Gasoline.
- Long VIX entered and captured.
- Short commodity currencies Canadian and Aussie Dollars.

**LOSSES**

- Whipsawed in Euro currency as market shifted violently numerous times.
- Sugar exited after remaining one of the few long exposures.
- Wheat entered from short side before rallying sharply – have reduced risk.

**EXPOSURE AND RISK ALLOCATION**

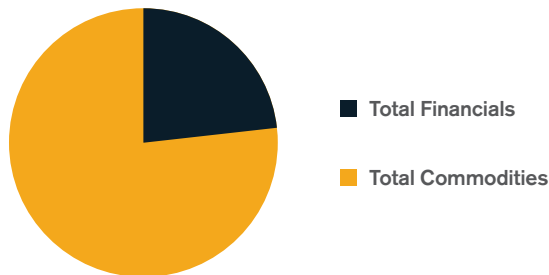
Commodity to Financial exposure had the exposure to commodity markets gained to 77:23 from 71:29 last month per Chart 4.

Within commodities, there were small changes increasing Energies (short side), Grains and Metals while trimming Softs. Within Financials, Currencies increased while Rate exposure was reduced significantly.

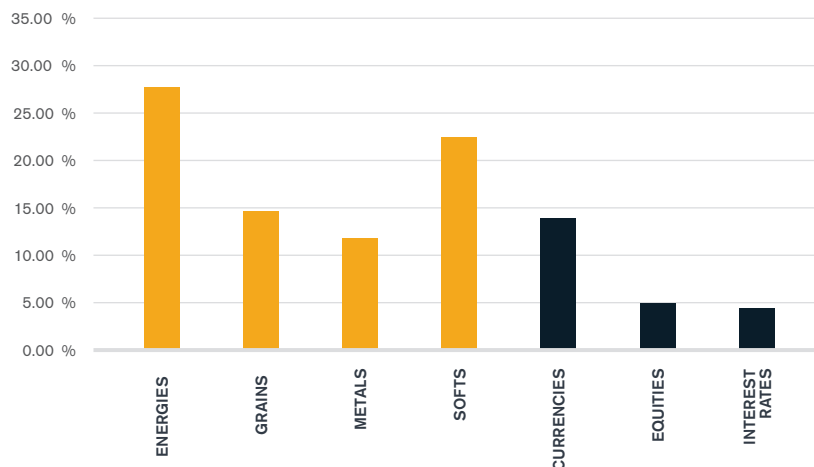
Portfolio exposure, as measured by the Margin to Equity ratio, was reduced to a very low 3.9% from 6.9% which is far below the historical average level of 6.8% (see Chart 6 next page). This indicated we have reduced risk given the volatility and to capture gains made during March.

**CURRENT RISK BY SECTOR**

**Chart 4** COMMODITIES VS. FINANCIAL EXPOSURE



**Chart 5** CURRENT SECTOR RISK



**ENERGIES 27.76%**

Largest Holdings	Position	% of Risk
Gasoline	Short	6.55%
Heating Oil	Short	6.37%
Crude Oil (WTI)	Short	5.71%

**GRAINS 14.67%**

Largest Holdings	Position	% of Risk
Corn	Short	6.98%
Soybeans	Short	4.84%
Soybean Meal	Long	2.34%

**METALS 11.84%**

Largest Holdings	Position	% of Risk
Copper	Short	4.34%
Silver	Short	2.98%
Zinc	Short	2.15%

**SOFTS 22.53%**

Largest Holdings	Position	% of Risk
Cotton	Short	12.66%
Sugar	Short	9.87%

**CURRENCIES 13.60%**

Largest Holdings	Position	% of Risk
Aussie Dollar	Short	6.06%
Canadian Dollar	Short	5.21%
British Pound	Short	1.71%

**EQUITIES 4.94%**

Largest Holdings	Position	% of Risk
Nikkei	Short	1.68%
DJ EuroStoxx 50	Short	1.63%
S&P500	Short	0.79%

**INTEREST RATES 4.65%**

Largest Holdings	Position	% of Risk
Treasury Note/10yr (USA)	Long	4.18%
Treasury Note/5yr (USA)	Long	0.46%

\* Risk is expressed as the maximum expected loss in a position or sector divided by the total portfolio risk across all positions.

## STRATEGY DESCRIPTION

Auspice Diversified is our flagship strategy. It is a rules-based multi-strategy investment program designed to deliver superior, non-correlated returns at critical times. It represents the culmination of the ongoing research and experience of the Auspice Portfolio Management and Research teams.

The strategy draws from all of Auspice's current research (the Auspice Building Blocks). The strategy is rooted in trend following but is our most active and evolving multi-strategy quantitative approach pulling together other complementary strategies and wrapping them in a rigorous risk and capital allocation model. The strategy is designed to be agile and resilient as we believe these traits are necessary in order to generate performance long term.

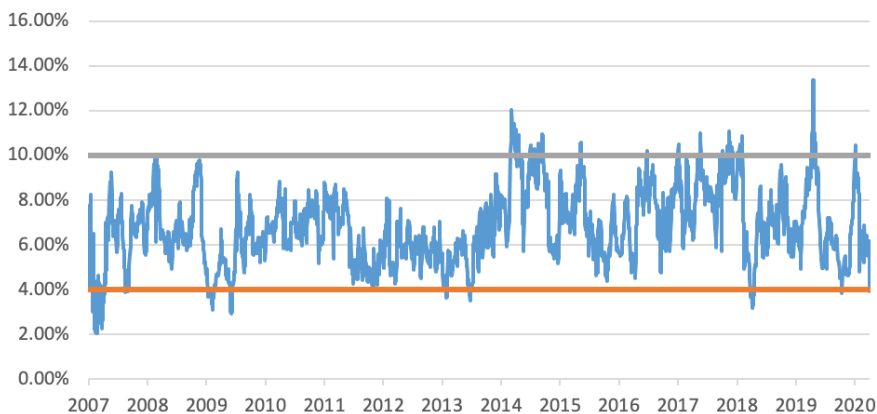
With a long term correlation of -0.19 to the S&P (see front page), and a modest 0.40 correlation to the SG CTA Index (1 year basis - daily returns), this demonstrates the combined performance and non-correlation to equity and other CTAs is accretive and valuable.

### THE MAIN POINTS OF DIFFERENTIATION INCLUDE:

- Higher allocation to commodities relative to our peers,
- Negative correlation to equity, no correlation to commodity,
- Low risk (margin to equity average <7.0%) makes it scalable, low round turns per million.
- Portfolio Management team with experience trading in volatile environments.
- Positive skew: Auspice Diversified has outperformed at critical times of crisis, recovery, and volatility expansion.

## FUND FACTS

**Chart 6** PORTFOLIO EXPOSURE (MARGIN TO EQUITY)



**Table 3** NAVS AND RETURNS

Auspice Diversified Trust			
NAV		MTD	YTD
Class A	8.8631	9.63%	6.97%
Class F	9.5156	9.72%	7.25%
Class S	8.6492	9.63%	6.97%
Class I	11.5855	9.80%	7.53%
Class X*	10.8919	9.72%	7.25%

Program Statistics (from Jan 2007)		Trade Statistics	
Annualized Return	2.00%	Avg Monthly Gain	2.92%
Annualized Std Dev	11.80%	Avg Monthly Loss	-2.13%
Largest Drawdown	-26.04%	Daily Std Dev	0.69%
Sharpe Ratio <sup>1</sup>	0.25	Daily VAR (sim w/99% conf)	-2.06%
MAR Index <sup>2</sup>	0.08	Round Turns per \$million	800
Sortino	0.44	Margin to Equity ratio	6.8
Upside/Downside Deviation	0.14 / 0.05	Average Hold Period (Days)	67
Correlation to S&P 500	-0.19	% Profitable	40%
Correlation to TSX60	-0.15	\$Win / \$Loss	1.49
Correlation to BCOM ER	-0.01	Skew	1.02

Program Details	
Structure	Unit Trust / LP / Mngd Account / Offshore
Mgmt Fee	Series X 1%
Incentive Fee	15% w/High-Water Mark
Liquidity	Monthly (no lockup)
Firm Assets	\$190MM
Min. Investment	Accredited Investor / QEP
Unit Pricing	\$CAD or \$USD

1. Assumes Risk free rate of 0%.

2. MAR is the annualized return divided by the largest drawdown.

**FUND FACTS (CONT)**

▶ **MONTHLY PERFORMANCE TABLE\***

YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
2020	-2.06%	-0.19%	9.72%										<b>7.25%</b>
2019	-4.14%	-0.47%	-0.65%	3.50%	-7.43%	-0.37%	0.52%	10.60%	-7.59%	-1.33%	1.42%	0.25%	<b>-6.75%</b>
2018	3.12%	-5.81%	-2.27%	-0.19%	1.41%	-1.48%	1.89%	3.57%	-0.84%	-4.75%	3.66%	1.64%	<b>-0.61%</b>
2017	-3.66%	-1.89%	-1.35%	-1.39%	-0.53%	-0.51%	-1.61%	2.76%	-2.53%	5.16%	-0.27%	0.67%	<b>-5.31%</b>
2016	-0.22%	3.12%	-4.93%	3.59%	-1.64%	0.56%	2.44%	-1.55%	-1.06%	-1.34%	2.68%	-0.13%	<b>1.15%</b>
2015	4.66%	-1.93%	0.47%	-0.98%	-2.03%	-1.84%	-4.36%	-2.14%	0.26%	-2.74%	2.56%	0.66%	<b>-7.47%</b>
2014	-2.02%	1.62%	-1.84%	3.25%	-3.11%	2.65%	-0.43%	3.92%	8.56%	-0.78%	7.05%	4.19%	<b>24.76%</b>
2013	0.40%	-2.23%	0.26%	0.99%	-0.90%	0.66%	-1.54%	-1.33%	-4.07%	2.01%	0.04%	-0.36%	<b>-6.01%</b>
2012	2.41%	-1.11%	-1.19%	0.60%	1.72%	-6.29%	1.17%	-0.70%	-3.64%	-1.80%	2.38%	-0.81%	<b>-10.24%</b>
2011	1.39%	2.97%	-1.16%	4.09%	-1.31%	-1.62%	2.16%	-1.09%	-2.60%	-3.82%	1.07%	-3.44%	<b>-3.66%</b>
2010	-3.26%	0.45%	0.61%	0.95%	0.01%	0.62%	-1.02%	1.07%	1.82%	6.98%	-2.51%	6.68%	<b>12.53%</b>
2009	-0.61%	1.08%	-2.27%	-3.32%	-0.58%	0.15%	-3.23%	0.75%	1.44%	-2.31%	4.84%	-3.83%	<b>-7.93%</b>
2008	5.60%	14.59%	-1.72%	-1.58%	0.71%	2.86%	-5.61%	-1.99%	6.86%	10.80%	5.77%	2.73%	<b>44.30%</b>
2007	-1.43%	-1.76%	-2.42%	-0.79%	0.71%	-1.32%	-3.16%	-3.07%	5.87%	4.53%	-2.13%	2.29%	<b>-3.11%</b>

\* Returns represent the performance for Auspice Diversified Trust, Class X (1.5% management and 15% performance fee with hurdle rate). Prior to December 2019, the returns were from Auspice Managed Futures LP, Series 1 (2% management and 20% performance fee) and based in Canadian Dollars (CAD). See Important Disclaimer and Notes for addition details.

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## COMPARABLE INDICES

\*Returns for **Auspice Diversified Program (“ADP”)** represent the performance for Auspice Diversified Trust, Class X (1.5% management and 15% performance fee with hurdle rate). Prior to December 2019, the returns were from Auspice Managed Futures LP, Series 1 (2% management and 20% performance fee) and based in Canadian Dollars (CAD).

The **Barclay BTOP50 CTA Index** seeks to replicate the overall composition of the managed futures industry with regard to trading style and overall market exposure. The BTOP50 employs a top-down approach in selecting its constituents. The largest investable trading advisor programs, as measured by assets under management, are selected for inclusion in the BTOP50.

The **SG CTA Index** provides the market with a reliable daily performance benchmark of major commodity trading advisors (CTAs). The SG CTA Index calculates the daily rate of return for a pool of CTAs selected from the larger managers that are open to new investment.

The CTA indexes do not encompass the whole universe of CTAs. The CTAs that comprise the indices have submitted their information voluntarily and the performance has not been verified by the index publisher.

The **S&P/TSX 60 Index** is designed to represent leading companies in leading industries. Its 60 stocks make it ideal for coverage of companies with large market capitalizations and a cost-efficient way to achieve Canadian equity exposure. Price Return data is used (not including dividends).

The **S&P 500** is an index of 500 stocks chosen for market size, liquidity and industry grouping, among other factors. The S&P 500 is designed to be a leading indicator of U.S. equities and is meant to reflect the risk/return characteristics of the large cap universe. Price Return data is used (not including dividends).

The **(MSCI) World Index**, Morgan Stanley Capital International, is designed to measure equity market performance large and mid-cap equity performance across 23 developed markets countries, covering approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each. This index offers a broad global equity benchmark, without emerging markets exposure.

The Bloomberg Commodity (Excess Return) Index (**BCOM ER**), is a broadly diversified index that allows investors to track 19 commodity futures through a single, simple measure.

**Excess Return (ER)** Indexes do not include collateral return.

The S&P Goldman Sachs Commodity Excess Return Index (**S&P GSCI ER**), is a composite index of commodity sector returns representing an unleveraged, long-only investment in commodity futures that is broadly diversified across the spectrum of commodities.

## PERFORMANCE NOTES

The Equity benchmarks used in this material are intended to reflect the general equity market performance. They are shown to illustrate the non-correlated attributes versus other assets such as the Barclay CTA Index and the Auspice Diversified Program. Adding non-correlated assets within a portfolio has the potential to reduce portfolio volatility and drawdowns.

## QUALIFIED INVESTORS

For U.S. investors, any reference to the Auspice Diversified Strategy or Program, “ADP”, is only available to Qualified Eligible Persons “QEP’s” as defined by CFTC Regulation 4.7.

For Canadian investors, any reference to the Auspice Diversified Strategy or Program, “ADP”, is only available to “Accredited Investors” as defined by CSA NI 45-106.

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