



**LDIC North American Small Business Fund**

**(Corporate Class)**

Management Report of Fund Performance

December 31, 2020

*Series A shares, Series F shares and Series F1 shares of LDIC North American Small  
Business Fund*

## **LDIC North American Small Business Fund**

For the Year ended December 31, 2020

All figures are reported in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted.

This management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain either the complete interim financial report or annual financial statements of the investment fund. You can get a copy of the financial statements at your request and at no cost, by contacting LDIC Inc. in one of the methods below.

Shareholders may contact LDIC Inc. to request a copy of the investment fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record or quarterly portfolio disclosure by calling 416-362-4141, by writing to us at 130 King Street West, Suite 2130, Toronto, ON, M5X 1E2 or by visiting our website at [www.ldic.ca](http://www.ldic.ca) (email at [info@ldic.ca](mailto:info@ldic.ca)), or SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

### **Investment Objectives and Strategies**

The Fund's investment objective is to provide long-term capital appreciation and income by investing primarily in equity and fixed income securities of small cap companies based in North America. The Fund may also include similar investments in mid-capitalization businesses. The prior approval of shareholders is required before a fundamental change is made to the investment objective of the Fund. This approval must be given by a resolution passed by a majority of the votes cast at a meeting of the shareholders of the Fund.

Techniques such as fundamental analysis may be used to assess the growth and value potential of an investment which requires evaluating the financial condition and management of each company, its industry and the overall economy. As part of this evaluation, the Manager may analyze financial data and other information sources, assess the quality of management, and conduct company interviews.

### **Risk**

As of December 31, 2020, the risks of investing in the Fund remain as described in the prospectus. The main risk to investors is the market capitalization risk of small companies. Small cap companies are inherently higher risk because of 1) lower trading liquidity, 2) access to capital can be limited, and 3) operational history can be limited/minimal.

The Fund is suitable for investors who are seeking a potential for capital appreciation, have high medium tolerance and have a medium to long-term investing horizon. However, the level of risk associated with any particular investment depends largely on an investor's personal circumstances. Investors can invest a component of their total portfolio in the Fund to provide portfolio diversification. Investors should consider their personal investment profile and consult their financial advisor before making a decision to invest in the Fund.

## **Result of Operations**

The Fund gained 27.4% on the Series A and 28.2% on the Series F and 27.3% on the Series F1 units during the period. The Fund's benchmark (70% S&P/TSX Small Cap Index/30% Russell 2000) was up 14.97% in 2020. Russell 2000 index was up 19.93%, whereas the S&P/TSX Small Cap Index, was up 12.85% during the year.

It therefore outperformed the Benchmark. This outperformance was partially related to the strong performance in the funds top 10 holdings, which represented 48% of the fund as well as sector positioning relative to the benchmark. Specifically, the funds limited exposure to weak sectors such as Energy (6.7% of the fund) and overweight positioning in strong sectors such as Technology (22.2% of the fund) and Industrials (23.9% of the fund) helped in outperforming the benchmark.

The Portfolio Manager believes that the limited number of active managers focusing on small cap stocks, coupled with a relatively robust universe of investment opportunities, provides a durable competitive advantage to uncover market inefficiencies. The Portfolio Manager also favors strong balance sheets, capable management teams and companies with strong economic moats, which help drive outperformance over the long-term.

## **Recent Developments**

The major rally of North American Large Cap equities post the March drop was led by the technology sector and healthcare. Firms such as Amazon and Apple continued their leadership. Canadian equity markets lagged due to their weighting to energy and resource companies. However, 2021 will likely mark a return to out of favor sectors.

We have shifted to Fund Allocation to reflect the stronger sectors of the economy. At year-end 22.2% of the Fund was invested in Information Technology; 13.3% in Health Care and 23.9% in Industrials. Weighting to Energy was only 2.3% at the end of 2019 and has increased to 6.7% at 2020 year-end. Materials added a further weight of 4.5%.

Our expectation is for solid but moderate recovery of North American Growth in 2021. We believe small business with solid balance sheets will benefit the most from this rebound. We are continuing to invest in technology and health care. We are also investing in the energy and materials sectors as prices for commodities have increased from very low levels last year.

## **Related Party Transactions**

The Manager of the Fund is LDIC Inc. The Manager provides investment and administrative services to the Fund. In consideration for these services the Manager receives a fee based on a percentage of the Net Assets of the Fund calculated daily and payable monthly, as follows:

Series A: 2.00% per annum  
Series F: 1.00% per annum  
Series F1: 1.50% per annum

The Fund will pay a performance fee to LDIC Inc., plus applicable taxes, at the end of each fiscal year. The performance fee will be 15% of the amount by which the Series NAV at the end of the fiscal year (adding back the amounts of any distributions paid on the shares of the Fund) (the “ending NAV”) exceeds the target NAV. The target NAV is calculated by multiplying the Series NAV, net of performance fees paid, as at the last performance fee payment date (the “beginning NAV”) by the sum of one plus the return of the Fund’s “benchmark” (the “benchmark return”) over the same period.

As of December 31, 2020, the Manager of the Fund and certain Directors and Officers of the manager held a total of 270,072 shares of the F Series of the Fund and 83,262 Series F1 of the Fund.

**Management Fees**

All management fees are based on the NAV of a series of shares, calculated on each Valuation Date and paid monthly. The management fee for the Fund is 2.00% for Series A, 1.00% for Series F, and 1.50% for Series F1. The breakdown of the services received in consideration of the management fee, as a percentage of the management fee is:

	Series A	Series F	Series F1
Management of Fund	37.5%	100%	100%
Trailing commission to Broker	62.5%	N/A	N/A

### Financial Highlight

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 year ended December 31, 2019 and for the past four periods ended December 31, as applicable. In the year a Fund or a Series is established, 'Period' represents inception to December 31 of that year. Per unit data is derived from the Fund's financial statements. Ratios and supplemental data are derived from the Fund's Net Asset Value.

#### The Fund's Net Assets per unit <sup>(1)</sup>

	<b>SERIES A</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Net Assets, beginning of year</b>	<b>11.43</b>	<b>11.17</b>	<b>13.34</b>	<b>12.45</b>	<b>9.66</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>					
Total revenue	<b>0.12</b>	0.16	0.16	0.14	0.19
Total expenses	<b>(0.74)</b>	(0.56)	(0.72)	(0.71)	(0.57)
Realized gains (losses) for the year	<b>0.98</b>	0.65	1.02	1.64	2.42
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year	<b>2.23</b>	1.70	(1.71)	0.95	1.14
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>\$ 2.59</b>	\$ 1.95	\$ (1.25)	\$ 2.02	\$ 3.18
<b>Distributions:</b>					
From income (excluding dividends)	-	-	-	-	-
From dividends	-	(0.19)	(0.14)	(0.19)	-
From capital gains	-	(0.21)	(0.80)	(0.88)	-
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total annual distributions<sup>(3)</sup></b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(0.40)</b>	<b>(0.94)</b>	<b>(1.07)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Assets, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 14.56</b>	<b>\$ 11.43</b>	<b>\$ 11.17</b>	<b>\$ 13.34</b>	<b>\$ 12.45</b>

	<b>SERIES F</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Net Assets, beginning of year</b>	<b>11.93</b>	<b>11.52</b>	<b>13.62</b>	<b>12.60</b>	<b>9.66</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>					
Total revenue	<b>0.12</b>	0.16	0.16	0.14	0.22
Total expenses	<b>(0.65)</b>	(0.21)	(0.56)	(0.61)	(0.44)
Realized gains (losses) for the year	<b>1.02</b>	(0.17)	1.04	1.62	1.83
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year	<b>2.52</b>	1.12	(1.76)	0.94	1.34

<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
	<b>3.01</b>	<b>0.90</b>	<b>(1.12)</b>	<b>2.09</b>	<b>2.95</b>
<b>Distributions:</b>					
From income (excluding dividends)	-	-	-	-	-
From dividends	-	(0.20)	(0.14)	(0.19)	-
From capital gains	-	(0.22)	(0.82)	(0.88)	-
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total annual distributions<sup>(3)</sup></b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(0.42)</b>	<b>(0.96)</b>	<b>(1.07)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Assets, end of year</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
	<b>15.29</b>	<b>11.93</b>	<b>11.52</b>	<b>13.62</b>	<b>12.60</b>

	<b>SERIES F1</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Net Assets, beginning of year</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>	<b>11.79</b>	<b>11.43</b>	<b>13.60</b>	<b>12.63</b>	<b>10.00</b>
Total revenue					
Total expenses	<b>0.11</b>	0.17	0.17	0.14	0.08
Realized gains (losses) for the year	<b>(0.71)</b>	(0.54)	(0.66)	(0.67)	(0.31)
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year	<b>1.09</b>	0.85	0.99	1.74	2.08
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>3.20</b>	1.92	(1.74)	1.03	0.32
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
	<b>3.69</b>	<b>2.40</b>	<b>(1.24)</b>	<b>2.24</b>	<b>2.17</b>
<b>Distributions:</b>					
From income (excluding dividends)	-	-	-	-	-
From dividends	-	(0.20)	(0.14)	(0.19)	-
From capital gains	-	(0.22)	(0.82)	(0.88)	-
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total annual distributions<sup>(3)</sup></b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(0.42)</b>	<b>(0.96)</b>	<b>(1.07)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Assets, end of year</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
	<b>15.01</b>	<b>11.79</b>	<b>11.43</b>	<b>13.60</b>	<b>12.63</b>

(1) This information is derived from the Fund audited annual financial statements and unaudited interim financial statements.

(2) Net Assets and distributions are based on the actual number of shares outstanding at the relevant time. The increase/decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of shares outstanding over the financial period.

(3) Distributions were paid in cash/reinvested in additional shares of the Fund, or both.

(4) Shares of series F1 for this Fund were first issued on May 31, 2016.

## Ratios and Supplemental Data

	<b>SERIES A</b>				
	<b>Dec 31, 2020</b>	<b>Dec 31, 2019</b>	<b>Dec 31, 2018</b>	<b>Dec 31, 2017</b>	<b>Dec 31, 2016</b>
Total Net Asset Value (\$) <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>641,421</b>	915,989	4,245,997	4,689,792	2,842,989
Number of shares outstanding <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>44,067</b>	80,151	379,965	351,453	228,310
Management expense ratio <sup>(2) (5)</sup>	<b>5.91%</b>	3.02%	4.37%	4.69%	3.85%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorption <sup>(2) (5)</sup>	<b>5.91%</b>	3.02%	4.37%	4.69%	3.85%
Management expense ratio excluding performance fees <sup>(5)</sup>	<b>3.38%</b>	3.02%	2.76%	2.87%	3.84%
Trading expense ratio <sup>(3) (5)</sup>	<b>0.69%</b>	0.85%	1.17%	1.18%	1.21%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(4)</sup>	<b>111.62%</b>	112.69%	170.82%	190.36%	187.49%
Net Asset Value per share (\$)	<b>14.56</b>	11.43	11.17	13.34	12.45

	<b>SERIES F</b>				
	<b>Dec 31, 2020</b>	<b>Dec 31, 2019</b>	<b>Dec 31, 2018</b>	<b>Dec 31, 2017</b>	<b>Dec 31, 2016</b>
Total Net Asset Value (\$) <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>11,573,563</b>	10,918,427	11,539,264	13,299,194	11,635,004
Number of shares outstanding <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>756,790</b>	915,425	1,001,690	976,349	923,159
Management expense ratio <sup>(2) (5)</sup>	<b>4.86%</b>	2.07%	3.38%	3.79%	2.78%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorption <sup>(2) (5)</sup>	<b>4.86%</b>	2.07%	3.38%	3.79%	2.78%
Management expense ratio excluding performance fees <sup>(5)</sup>	<b>2.27%</b>	2.07%	1.63%	1.78%	2.76%
Trading expense ratio <sup>(3) (5)</sup>	<b>0.69%</b>	0.85%	1.17%	1.18%	1.21%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(4)</sup>	<b>111.62%</b>	112.69%	170.82%	190.36%	187.49%
Net Asset Value per share (\$)	<b>15.29</b>	11.93	11.52	13.62	12.60

	<b>SERIES F1</b>				
	<b>Dec 31,</b>	<b>Dec 31,</b>	<b>Dec 31,</b>	<b>Dec 31,</b>	<b>Dec 31,</b>
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Total Net Asset Value (\$) <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>7,327,157</b>	4,717,879	15,399,415	13,221,139	5,269,642
Number of shares outstanding <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>488,019</b>	400,229	1,347,374	972,330	417,085
Management expense ratio <sup>(2) (5)</sup>	<b>5.27%</b>	2.33%	3.93%	4.29%	2.94%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorption <sup>(2) (5)</sup>	<b>5.27%</b>	2.33%	3.93%	4.29%	2.94%
Management expense ratio excluding performance fees <sup>(5)</sup>	<b>2.82%</b>	2.33%	2.24%	2.33%	2.94%
Trading expense ratio <sup>(3) (5)</sup>	<b>0.69%</b>	0.85%	1.17%	1.18%	1.21%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(4)</sup>	<b>111.62%</b>	112.69%	170.82%	190.36%	187.49%
Net Asset Value per share (\$)	<b>15.01</b>	11.79	11.43	13.60	12.63

(1) The information is provided as at December 31 of the period(s) shown, as applicable.

(2) Management expense ratio is based on total expenses (excluding broker commissions and other portfolio transaction costs before income taxes) for the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average Net Asset Value during the period. The decision to waive and/or absorb management fees and operating expenses is at the discretion of the Manager. The practice of waiving and/or absorbing management fees and operating expenses may continue indefinitely or may be terminated any time without notice to shareholders.

(3) The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average Net Asset Value during the period.

(4) The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio advisor 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 in a period, 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 the Fund.

(5) Percentages are annualized.

(6) Shares of series A for this Fund were first issued on May 29, 2015 and series F were first issued on May 22, 2015.

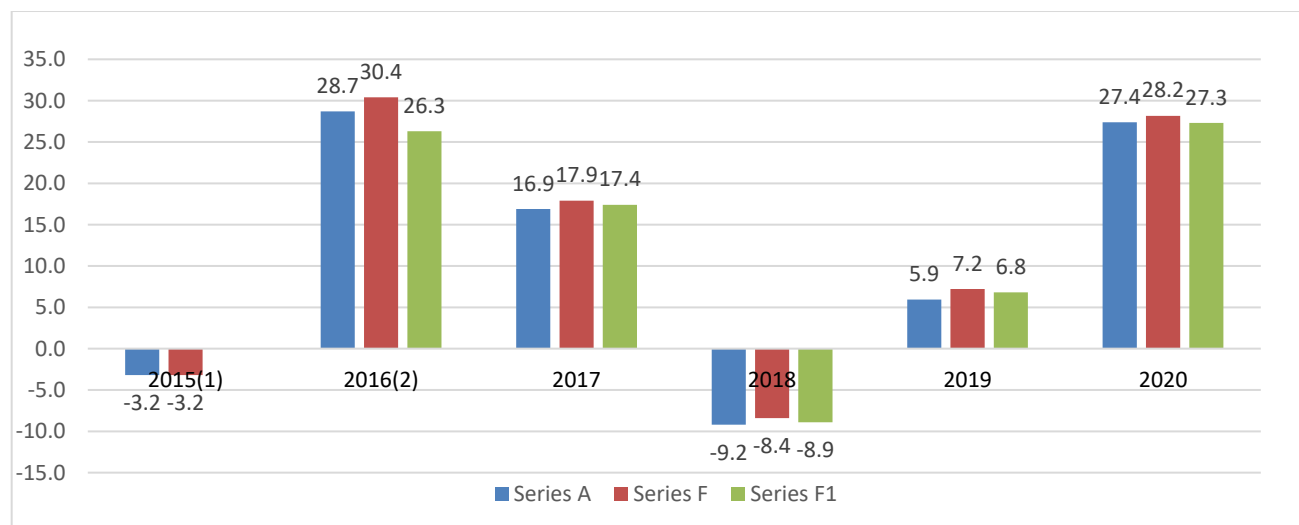
(7) Shares of series F1 for this Fund were first issued on May 31, 2016.



## Past Performance

### A) Annual Total Returns (%)

The bar chart shows the investment fund's performance in percentage terms of Series A and F of the Fund, since inception of the fund to December 31, 2015 and Series A, Series F, and Series F1 for the period ending December 31, 2020.



(1) Returns for Series A and Series F, are from May 29 and May 22, 2015 respectively, to December 31, 2015.

(2) Returns for Series F1 is from May 31, 2016 to December 31, 2016.

### B) Annual Compound Returns

The table below shows the annual compound return of each Series of the Fund, for each period indicated, in comparison to the Fund's benchmark.

	Series A				Series F			
	Since Inception (May 22/15)	1 year	3 years	5 years	Since Inception (May 22/15)	1 year	3 years	5 years
LDIC North American Small Business Fund 70%/30% Blended Index <sup>(3)</sup>	10.9%	27.4%	7.0%	13.0%	11.8%	28.2%	8.0%	14.1%
	5.7%	15.0%	4.6%	10.1%	5.7%	15.0%	4.6%	10.1%

	Series F1		
	Since Inception (May 22/15)	1 year	3 years
LDIC North American Small Business Fund 70%/30% Blended Index <sup>(3)</sup>	14.2%	27.3%	7.4%
	5.7%	15.0%	4.6%

(3) The benchmark is blend of 70% S&P TSX Small Cap index (CAD) & 30% Russel 2000 Index (USD)

### **About the Fund's Benchmark**

#### **S&P TSX Small Cap Index (70%)**

The S&P/TSX Small Cap Index measures the performance of small cap Canadian equity securities listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange. Securities in the index are selected by S&P using its industrial classifications and guidelines for evaluating issuer capitalization, liquidity and fundamentals. The index is float adjusted and market cap weighted and was developed with industry input as the ideal benchmark for those with small cap exposure of the Canadian equity market.

#### **Russel 2000 Index (30%)**

The Russell 2000 Index measures the performance of the small-cap segment of the U.S. equity universe. The Russell 2000 Index is a subset of the Russell 3000® Index representing approximately 10% of the total market capitalization of that index. It includes approximately 2000 of the smallest securities based on a combination of their market cap and current index membership. The Russell 2000 is constructed to provide a comprehensive and unbiased small-cap barometer and is completely reconstituted annually to ensure larger stocks do not distort the performance and characteristics of the true small-cap opportunity set.

### **Summary of Investment Portfolio as at December 31, 2020**

#### **Top 25 Investments as of December 31, 2020**

	<b>% of Funds Net Asset Value</b>
1 Xebec Adsorption Inc.	7.4
2 iShares Russell 2000 ETF	6.0
3 Lightspeed POS Inc.	5.7
4 Thunderbird Entertainment Group Inc.	5.2
5 Docebo Inc.	4.6
6 Chorus Aviation Inc.	4.4
7 Converge Technology Solutions Corp.	4.2
8 Kinaxis Inc.	3.7
9 Enghouse Systems Ltd.	3.3
10 Cargojet Inc.	3.3
11 Interfor Corp.	3.3
12 Calian Group Ltd.	3.2
13 StorageVault Canada Inc.	3.2
14 Trisura Group Ltd.	3.0
15 Waterloo Brewing Ltd.	2.9
16 GDI Integrated Facility Services Inc.	2.7
17 Profound Medical Corp.	2.6
18 Park Lawn Corp.	2.5
19 Zymeworks Inc.	2.5
20 Tourmaline Oil Corp.	2.5
21 Parex Resources Inc.	2.3
22 Cash	2.3
23 Jamieson Wellness Inc.	2.1
24 Akumin Inc.	2.0
25 Exchange Income Corp.	1.9

Total Net Asset Value of the Fund as at December 31, 2020: \$19,542,141

As of December 31, 2020, the fund is holding only long positions.

<b>Sector Mix</b>	<b>% of Funds Net Asset Value</b>
Communication Services	6.7
Consumer Discretionary	4.1
Consumer Staples	5.0
Energy	6.7
Financials	4.0
Health Care	13.3
Industrial	23.9
Information Technology	22.2
Materials	4.5
Real Estate	3.2
Funds	6.0
Cash	2.3
Net Other Assets/Liabilities	(1.9)
	<u>100.0</u>

<b>Geographic Mix</b>	<b>% of Funds Net Asset Value</b>
Canada	93.6
United States of America	6.0
Cash	2.3
Net Other Assets/Liabilities	(1.9)
	<u>100.0</u>

The summary of investment portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the investment fund. A quarterly update is available. For more information please contact LDIC Inc. using the corporate information included below.

### **Corporate Information**

#### **Corporate Address**

LDIC Inc.

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#### **Auditors**

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