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# SUN LIFE GLOBAL INVESTMENTS (CANADA) INC.

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## ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE

for the financial year ended December 31, 2019

Sun Life Granite Tactical Completion Fund



# Sun Life Granite Tactical Completion Fund

This annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete financial statements of the investment fund. You can request a free copy of the annual financial statements by calling 1-877-344-1434, by sending an email to us at [info@sunlifeglobalinvestments.com](mailto:info@sunlifeglobalinvestments.com) or by writing to us at Sun Life Global Investments (Canada) Inc., 1 York Street, Suite 3300, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 0B6. Our financial statements are available on our website at [www.sunlifeglobalinvestments.com](http://www.sunlifeglobalinvestments.com) and on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

Unitholders may also contact us 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 Objectives and Strategies

The fundamental investment objectives of the Sun Life Granite Tactical Completion Fund (the "Fund") are to seek long-term capital appreciation by using tactical asset allocation to invest primarily in exchange-traded derivatives and/or exchange-traded funds that track the performance of global equity and/or fixed income asset classes. In pursuing the Fund's investment objective, Sun Life Global Investments (Canada) Inc. (the "Manager") uses an asset allocation strategy to determine the optimal allocation between asset classes, tactically shifting exposure to add value to the Fund. The Manager may review and adjust the asset allocation strategy, in its sole discretion, depending on economic conditions and relative value of each asset class.

### Risk

There were no changes in the Fund's investment objectives or strategies during the period which materially impacted the overall level of risk in the Fund.

### Results of Operations

During the period, the net asset value of the Fund increased from \$692.5 million to \$890.1 million due to positive net sales, as well as positive performance.

During the period, the Fund returned 8.8% for Series I units, this result lagged the Fund's benchmark, which returned 20.7%. The broad-based index 1 returned 21.2% and the broad-based index 2 returned 1.4%. Please refer to the 'Past Performance' section of this report for performance of each series and a definition of the benchmark and broad-based index if applicable.

The Manager was cautious despite the run up in markets. The Manager kept a lower exposure to equities versus previous periods and overweight position to fixed income versus previous periods. This negatively impacted returns as equities outperformed bonds. For defensive purposes, the Manager increased cash levels to help manage risk during the period. An underweight allocation to equities in general detracted from performance as global equity markets roared ahead. Additionally, an overweight allocation to cash detracted from fund performance as global markets delivered good returns.

Positive contributors to Fund performance for the period included being overweight U.S. equities. U.S. markets climbed to highs after the U.S. Federal Reserve ("the Fed") said it would likely cut interest rates. The Fund's underweight position on emerging market equities during the period also contributed positively to performance as emerging markets underperformed due to global trade tensions. The Manager reduced emerging markets equity exposure position during the second part of the period, as emerging markets were sensitive to external risk factors such as the pace of global growth, changes in U.S. monetary policy and the U.S./China trade war.

In terms of fixed income, yields on both U.S. Treasuries and Canadian bonds continued to come down. The spread between the two narrowed on the assumption that the Bank of Canada will be less likely to lower interest rates. The Manager moved from underweight U.S. bonds to overweight U.S. bonds on that basis which contributed positively to fund performance.

### Recent Developments

The Canadian equity market ended the period in double-digit positive territory. The Canadian economy remained resilient despite the fact a federal election resulted in a minority Liberal government, the Bank of Canada (BoC) did not cut interest rates, and global trade tensions dominated world economies.

There were some positive developments later in the year. The U.S. and China agreed to a limited trade deal (phase one), which lowers some tariffs on China-imported goods and allows more access to U.S. farmers to sell goods in China. Also, U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson won a majority Conservative government that gives him a mandate to exit the European Union.

The U.S. equity market ended the year in double-digit positive territory. It was actually one of the best performing years in the past decade. Ironically, the year began with investors' concerns of a global economic slowdown resulting from the U.S.-China trade dispute and an inverted yield curve in the U.S. bond market. An inverted yield curve can sometimes be a signal of an upcoming recession.

Due to this economic uncertainty, the U.S. Federal Reserve (the "Fed") cut interest rates three times in the year. These rate cuts were looked upon as insurance cuts to keep the country's longest economic expansion running and also had a positive effect.

# Sun Life Granite Tactical Completion Fund

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Fixed income markets across most geographies saw double-digit returns. What really drove returns in 2019 was capital appreciation which was driven both by interest rates moving lower and credit markets staying strong. Central banks remained largely on the sidelines and economic activity remained broadly supportive but at a lower gear relative to what the market has seen over recent years.

The Manager cautions that the current global uncertainty with respect to the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and its effect on the broader global economy may have a significant impact to the volatility of the financial market. While the precise impact remains unknown, rapid spread of the virus may have a material adverse effect on global economic activity and disrupt global supply chains, operations, mobility of people, which could affect interest rates, credit ratings, credit risk, inflation, business, financial conditions, results of operations and other factors relevant to fund performance.

## Related Party Transactions

Sun Life Global Investments (Canada) Inc. (the “Manager”) is the manager, trustee and portfolio manager of the Fund. For its services, the Manager receives a management fee that is calculated as a percentage of the average net asset value of the Fund. This fee is calculated daily and payable monthly.

The Manager is responsible for the provision of all general management and administrative services required by the Fund in its day-to-day operations, including providing or arranging for the provision of investment advice, bookkeeping, recordkeeping and other administrative services for the Fund.

As trustee, the Manager holds legal title to the Fund's investments in trust for unitholders.

As portfolio manager, the Manager is responsible for managing the investment portfolio of the Fund directly or through sub-advisors. The Manager has retained Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, an affiliate, to act as a sub-advisor for the Fund.

The Manager is an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Sun Life Financial Inc., but Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada is a direct wholly owned subsidiary.

## Fund Administrative Expenses

The Manager pays certain operating expenses of the Fund (the “Administration Expenses”) in return for a fixed administration fee paid to the Manager by the Fund (“Administration Fee”). The Administration Fee is based on the net asset value of each series of the Fund. The Administration Expenses include, but are not limited to, record keeper fees, accounting, audit and legal fees, bank and interest charges, safekeeping and custodial fees, taxes, administrative and systems costs, costs of reports to investors, prospectuses and other disclosure documents, regulatory filing fees (including those incurred by the Manager) and trustee fees for registered plans. The amount of this charge is disclosed as Fixed annual administration fees in the Fund's Statement of Comprehensive Income found in the annual financial statements.

The Fund also pays certain operating expenses directly (the “Fund Costs”). Fund Costs include: borrowing costs incurred by the Fund from time to time; costs in connection with portfolio transactions; fees and expenses payable to or in connection with the Fund's Independent Review Committee (“IRC”); taxes payable by the Fund; and the costs of complying with any new regulatory or legal requirement imposed on the Fund. The Fund allocates Fund Costs proportionately among each series of the Fund to which they apply. The Fund Costs that are specific to a series of securities are allocated to that series. These amounts are paid out of the assets attributed to each series of securities of the Fund, which reduces the return you may receive.

# Sun Life Granite Tactical Completion Fund

## 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 previous five years or for the periods since inception to December 31, 2019.

### The Fund's Net Asset Value per Unit (\$) <sup>(1)</sup>

Sun Life Granite Tactical Completion Fund - Series I				
	2019	2018	2017	2016
	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
Net assets value, beginning of period	9.71	9.89	10.22	10.00
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>				
Total revenue	0.19	0.15	0.09	0.04
Total expenses	(0.04)	(0.16)	(0.16)	(0.07)
Realized gains (losses) for the period	0.61	(0.07)	0.56	1.40
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	0.07	(0.12)	(0.07)	0.05
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>0.83</b>	<b>(0.20)</b>	<b>0.42</b>	<b>1.42</b>
<b>Distributions:</b>				
From income (excluding dividends)	(0.69)	-	(0.69)	0.32
From dividends	-	-	-	-
From capital gains	-	-	-	0.09
Return of capital	-	-	-	-
<b>Total annual distributions<sup>(3)</sup></b>	<b>(0.69)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(0.69)</b>	<b>0.41</b>
<b>Net assets value, end of period</b>	<b>9.87</b>	<b>9.71</b>	<b>9.89</b>	<b>10.22</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements.

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

<sup>(3)</sup> Distributions were paid in cash, reinvested in additional units of the Fund, or both.

## Ratios and Supplemental Data

Sun Life Granite Tactical Completion Fund - Series I				
	2019	2018	2017	2016
Total net asset value (\$) <sup>(1)</sup>	890,105,954	692,496,734	595,288,390	554,605,586
Number of units outstanding <sup>(1)</sup>	90,154,027	71,299,097	60,209,344	54,273,737
Management expense ratio (%) <sup>(2)</sup>	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorption (%) <sup>(2)</sup>	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06
Trading expense ratio (%) <sup>(3)</sup>	0.29	1.58	1.49	0.72
Portfolio turnover rate (%) <sup>(4)</sup>	113.40	369.03	39.52	485.81
Net asset value per unit (\$) <sup>(1)</sup>	9.87	9.71	9.89	10.22

<sup>(1)</sup> This information is provided as at December 31 of the period shown, as applicable.

<sup>(2)</sup> Management expense ratio is based on total expenses (excluding broker commissions and other portfolio transaction costs) including the Fund's allocated percentage of Fund-on-Funds' expenses for the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average Net Asset Value during the period.

<sup>(3)</sup> 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.

<sup>(4)</sup> The Fund's portfolio turnover ratio indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio manager manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover ratio 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 ratio 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 portfolio turnover rate and the performance of the Fund.

## Management Fees

The maximum annual management fee paid by the Fund is a percentage of the average daily net asset value of each series of securities of the Fund exclusive of any applicable taxes and operating expenses, which is accrued daily and is paid to the Manager monthly in arrears. Management fees pay for portfolio and investment advisory services, oversight of any service providers, marketing and promotional activities, arranging for the distribution and sale of securities of the Fund, general administration of Fund operations and sales and trailing commissions paid to dealers.

There is no management fee charged to the Fund.

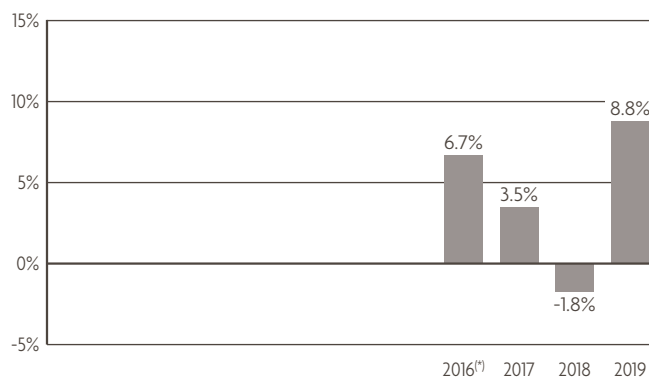
## Past Performance

The performance information shown assumes that all distributions made by the Fund in the periods shown were reinvested in additional securities of the Fund. The performance information does not take into account sales, redemption, distribution, other optional charges or income tax payable by any unitholder that would have reduced returns or performance. How the Fund has performed in the past does not necessarily indicate how it will perform in the future.

## Year-by-Year Returns

The following bar chart shows the Fund's annual performance for the period shown. The chart shows, in percentage terms, how much an investment made on the first day of each financial year would have grown or decreased by the last day of each financial year.

Series I Units – Annual return for the period ended December 31, 2019



<sup>(\*)</sup> for the period of February 11, 2016 to December 31, 2016.

## Annual Compound Returns

The table compares the historical annual compound total returns of Series I units of the Fund with the following benchmark and broad-based index, if applicable:

# Sun Life Granite Tactical Completion Fund

The benchmark (the "Benchmark") is composed of:

34.0% S&P/TSX 60 Index

33.0% S&P 500 Index C\$

27.0% MSCI EAFE Index C\$

6.0% MSCI Emerging Markets Index C\$

The Series I units underperformed the benchmark since inception, over the past three years, and over the past year.

The following are the broad-based index or indices:

Broad-based index 1 - MSCI World Index C\$

Broad-based index 2 - Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate

Bond Index C\$

	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Performance Start Date <sup>(i)</sup>
Series I	8.8%	3.4%	N/A	N/A	4.4%
Benchmark	20.7%	10.1%	N/A	N/A	12.8%
Broad-based index 1	21.2%	11.3%	11.2%	11.8%	12.8%
Broad-based index 2	1.4%	3.1%	4.6%	N/A	1.1%

<sup>(i)</sup> The performance start date for Series I units was February 11, 2016.

## INDEX DESCRIPTION(S)

The S&P/TSX 60 Index is a stock market index of 60 large companies listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

The S&P 500 Index measures the performance of the stock market index based on the market capitalizations of 500 leading companies publicly traded in the U.S. stock market.

The MSCI EAFE Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to measure equity market performance in 21 developed market countries within Europe, Australia and the Far East.

The MSCI Emerging Markets Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to capture large and mid cap representation across 26 Emerging Markets (EM) countries.

The MSCI World Index is a free float adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure global developed market equity performance.

The Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Bond Index measures the performance of the global investment-grade fixed-rate debt markets. It is composed of government, government-related and corporate bonds, as well as asset-backed, mortgage-backed and commercial mortgage-backed securities from both developed and emerging markets issuers.

## Summary of Investment Portfolio\*

as at December 31, 2019

### Top 25 Investments

Holding Name	Percentage of Net Asset Value of the Fund (%)
1 Canadian Treasury Bill, 1.65%, Feb 20, 2020	20.2
2 Canadian Treasury Bill, 1.66%, Mar 05, 2020	10.1
3 Canadian Treasury Bill, 1.67%, Jan 23, 2020	6.8
4 Canadian Treasury Bill, 1.67%, Feb 06, 2020	5.6
5 The Toronto-Dominion Bank, 1.83%, Jan 24, 2020	2.5
6 National Bank of Canada, 1.83%, Jan 24, 2020	2.2
7 The Bank of Nova Scotia, 2.26%, Apr 02, 2020	2.1
8 The Toronto-Dominion Bank, 2.50%, Feb 18, 2020	2.0
9 Bank of Montreal, 1.86%, Mar 09, 2020	2.0
10 Canadian Treasury Bill, 1.65%, Mar 19, 2020	1.8
11 King Street Funding Trust, 1.87%, Feb 24, 2020	1.7
12 Prime Trust, 1.87%, Feb 04, 2020	1.3
13 Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, 1.83%, Feb 03, 2020	1.3
14 Bank of Montreal, 2.24%, Mar 30, 2020	1.1
15 The Toronto-Dominion Bank, 2.01%, Oct 06, 2020	1.1
16 Federation des Caisses Desjardins du Quebec, 2.06%, Dec 17, 2020	1.1
17 The Bank of Nova Scotia, 1.83%, Jan 28, 2020	1.1
18 The Toronto-Dominion Bank, 1.83%, Jan 22, 2020	1.1
19 National Bank of Canada, 1.83%, Jan 08, 2020	1.1
20 Royal Bank of Canada, 1.85%, Feb 27, 2020	1.1
21 Royal Bank of Canada, 1.83%, Jan 06, 2020	1.1
22 Merit Trust, 1.86%, Jan 23, 2020	1.1
23 Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, 1.83%, Jan 10, 2020	1.1
24 Bay Street Funding Trust, 1.87%, Feb 24, 2020	1.1
25 Bank of Montreal, 1.96%, Mar 19, 2020	1.1
<b>72.8</b>	
<b>Total Net Asset Value ('000's)</b>	<b>\$ 890,106</b>

### Asset Allocation<sup>†</sup>

	Percentage of Net Asset Value of the Fund %
Canadian Short-Term Investments	88.1
Canadian Fixed Income	10.6
Cash and Cash Equivalents**	1.6
Derivatives - Long	1.1
Derivatives - Short	(1.4)
<b>100.0</b>	

<sup>(\*)</sup> All information is as at December 31, 2019. The summary of investment portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund. Unless otherwise noted positions are long. You may obtain quarterly updates to these holdings free of charge by calling us at 1-877-344-1434, visiting our website at [www.sunlifeglobalinvestments.com](http://www.sunlifeglobalinvestments.com) or by sending an email to us at [info@sunlifeglobalinvestments.com](mailto:info@sunlifeglobalinvestments.com).

<sup>(†)</sup> The Fund gains exposure to global equity markets through the notional value of derivatives based on the indexes listed.

<sup>(\*\*)</sup> Cash and Cash Equivalents, for the purpose of this chart, includes other assets less liabilities.

# Sun Life Granite Tactical Completion Fund

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## Forward-Looking Statements

*This management report of fund performance may contain forward-looking statements about the Fund, including its strategy, results of operations, performance and condition. Forward-looking statements include statements that are predictive in nature, or that depend upon or refer to future events or conditions. They are based on current beliefs, expectations and projections about future events and are inherently subject to, among other things, risks, uncertainties and assumptions about the Fund and various economic factors. Many factors could cause the Fund's actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements that may be expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. These factors could include, among other things, general economic, political and market factors, including interest and foreign exchange rates, business competition, technological changes, changes in government regulations or in tax laws. Although the forward-looking statements contained in this report are based upon what management currently believes to be reasonable assumptions, the Manager cannot assure current or prospective investors that actual results, performance or achievements will be consistent with these forward-looking statements. The words "may", "could", "would", "should", "believe", "plan", "anticipate", "expect", "intend", "forecast", "objective", and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. The Manager does not undertake any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this document or to reflect new information or the occurrence of unanticipated events, except as required by law.*

## ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE

### Sun Life Granite Tactical Completion Fund

You can find more information about each Fund in our Annual Information Form, and each Fund's management report of fund performance and financial statements, once available. These documents are incorporated by reference into this document, which means that they legally form part of this document just as if they were printed as part of it.

For a free copy of these documents, call us toll-free at **1-877-344-1434** or ask your advisor. These documents and other information about the Funds, such as information circulars and material contracts, are also available at [www.sunlifeglobalinvestments.com](http://www.sunlifeglobalinvestments.com) or [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

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