

MARQUEST MUTUAL FUNDS, INC. EXPLORER SERIES FUND

ANNUAL MANAGEMENT
REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE

Year ended December 31, 2018



## ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE | For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

#### A NOTE ON FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This report contains forward looking statements. These statements primarily relate to assessments of future economic and market conditions. Such information has been included to assist readers with assessing recent developments in the Fund's operating climate and possible future developments that may affect Fund performance. All forward looking statements are based on management's current beliefs and assumptions which are subject to numerous risks and uncertainties. Statements with respect to future economic and market conditions are based on management's beliefs and assumptions with respect to a range of factors, including market conditions generally and within the sectors in which the Fund's investments operate. While management considers such beliefs and assumptions to be reasonable based on information currently available to it, no assurance can be given that such beliefs and assumptions will prove to be correct. As a result, these forward looking statements would typically include words such as "anticipates, believes, intended or estimated". Events or circumstances may cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward looking statements as a result of numerous known and unknown risks and uncertainties, including, but not limited to, those associated with economic and market conditions, political stability and other risks identified in the Fund's prospectus. Most of these factors are beyond the control of the Fund and its Manager. Neither the Fund nor its Manager assumes any obligation to update any of the forward looking statements made in this report.

## ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE | For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

This annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete annual financial statements of the Marquest Mutual Funds Inc. Explorer Series Fund (the "Fund"). You can get a copy of the annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, from Marquest Asset Management Inc. (the "Manager") by calling 1-877-777-1541, by writing to us at 27<sup>th</sup> Floor, 161 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 2S1 or by visiting our website at <a href="https://www.marquest.ca">www.marquest.ca</a> or SEDAR at <a href="https://www.sedar.com">www.sedar.com</a>.

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

## Management Discussion of Fund Performance

### Investment Objectives and Strategies

### Investment Objectives

To achieve long-term capital growth by investing in a diversified portfolio of primarily equity securities of attractive Canadian mining companies, as well as diversified international mining companies which include operations in Canada. The Fund was initially established to enable flow-through limited partnerships formed or acquired by Marquest Asset Management Inc. to complete tax-deferred rollover transactions.

## Investment Strategies

The Fund, may employ some or all of the following strategies:

- analyze financial information to identify under-valued companies with high potential.
- review indicators to identify business cycle and commodity sector trends.
- apply qualitative analysis and management interviews to select investments with the best risk adjusted potential.
- overweight exposure to industry sectors that demonstrate strong potential without exposing the Fund to unreasonable risk.

### Risks

There are risks associated with investing in the Fund. There have been no changes to the Fund which affected the risks associated with investing in the Fund during the year. Specific risk information can be found in the Fund's prospectus available through our website at <a href="https://www.marquest.ca">www.marquest.ca</a> or at SEDAR's website <a href="https://www.sedar.com">www.sedar.com</a>.

## Results of Operations

As at December 31, 2018, the Fund's total NAV was \$10,144,593, a decrease of 40.86% since the prior year end (December 2017: \$17,153,022). The change is primarily due to net realized loss on sale of investments of \$2,763,705, change in net unrealized depreciation on investments of \$743,783 and net redemptions of \$2,873,010.

During the year, sales and redemptions were as follows: Series A Rollover \$27,296,820 and \$29,763,722 respectively (December 2017: \$30,203,795 and \$26,407,113); Series A Regular \$0 and \$305 respectively (December 2017: \$2,091 and \$0) and Series F \$77,959 and \$483,762 respectively (December 2017: \$1,342,567 and \$8,012).

Sales and redemptions of Series A rollover shares are attributable to the rollover of Marquest 2017-I Mining Super Flow-Through Limited Partnership – National Class, Marquest 2017-I Mining Super Flow-Through Limited Partnership – Québec Class, Marquest Mining 2017 - I Super Flow Through LP and Marquest Mining Québec 2017 - I Super Flow Through LP. For more details, please see the "Related Party Transactions" section of the MRFP.

## ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE | For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

### Results of Operations (continued)

Over the past year the fund's Series A/Rollover shares declined 26.7%. This compared to the returns of the S&P/TSX Capped Materials Index of -10.5%, the S&P/TSX Global Gold Index of -4.4%, and the S&P/TSX Global Mining Index of -6.3%. The Fund's return is after the deduction of fees and expenses while the benchmark and broad-based index returns do not include any costs of investing. See the Financial Highlights section for the management expense ratios and the Past Performance section for the returns of any other series, which may vary because of differences in management fees and expenses.

The portfolio's weak results were due to small capitalization companies held in the Fund. Capital raising in the mining sector was very anemic in the past year as investor interest was focused on other sectors. This was particularly harmful to the small cap mining stocks where capital raising is essential to advancing their exploration projects.

## Recent Developments

Late in the year global economic growth began to slow in response to trade tensions between the US and China. There are however, no signs that a recession is likely in the near term. In spite of slowing economic growth, the fundamental backdrop to the metal commodities and mining equities is positive. Demand for metal commodities is remains firm, the metal commodities supply/demand picture is favourable, and the mining industry has been reducing capital expenditures further limiting capacity to expand production in the near term to meet demand. In addition, the mining sector stocks are trading at very low levels compared to historical trends.

The metals commodity supply/demand environment has improved in recent months due to a combination of slowing production and growing demand. As a result, metals inventories have been declining over the past few months. Mining cycles are defined by the ebbs and flows of inventories which can occur with or without recessionary conditions in the economy. The recent decline in inventories suggests that new cycle may be emerging in which metal prices firm and metal stocks recover.

# Related Party Transactions

The Manager of the Fund is responsible for managing all of the Fund's activities, including investment advisory and portfolio management services under a Management Agreement. The Management Agreement does not have a fixed termination date. The Management Agreement may be terminated on 60 days' notice by the Manager if the Fund is not in breach or default of its obligations under the Management Agreement or on 30 days' notice if the Fund is in breach or default of its obligations. The Manager may only be removed by the Fund if a certain specified events of default have occurred or by an extraordinary resolution of unitholders. Management fees are paid by the Fund as set out under "Management Fees" below.

During the year, \$299,970 in management fees (including HST) was paid to the Manager.

The table below summarizes the rollover transactions into the Fund for the year ended December 31, 2018.

Terminating fund	Merger Date	Continuing fund	Series	Net Assets Acquired	Shares Issued	Exchange ratio
Marquest 2017-I Mining Super Flow Through LP - National Class	5/4/2018	Explorer Series Fund	A-Rollover	\$8,574,577	16,672,325	27.5275
Marquest 2017-I Mining Super Flow Through LP - Québec Class	5/4/2018	Explorer Series Fund	A-Rollover	\$8,924,051	17,351,839	19.2147
Marquest Mining 2017-I Super Flow Through LP	11/16/2018	Explorer Series Fund	A-Rollover	\$1,935,882	4,459,529	101.2839
Marquest Mining Québec 2017-I Super Flow Through LP	11/16/2018	Explorer Series Fund	A-Rollover	\$7,862,306	18,111,739	126.1439

During the year the Explorer Series Fund purchased securities pursuant to distributions where Marquest Capital Markets, a division of Marquest Asset Management Inc. acted as a finder/agent. Marquest Capital Markets received customary advisory fees of \$37,625 in respect of such distributions as a result of purchases made by the fund and other arm's length third parties. The purchases were conducted in accordance with standing instructions provided by the Fund's Independent Review Committee.

### ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE | For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

## 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. The information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements.

Marquest Mutual Funds Inc Explorer Se	ries Fund (Serie	s A-Rollover)	+					
Net Assets per Share (\$) (1)								
	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014			
Net assets, beginning of the year <sup>(2)</sup>	0.59	0.49	0.31	0.59	0.86			
Increase (decrease) from operations:								
Total revenue	-	-	-	-	0.01			
Total expenses (excluding distributions)	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.04)	(0.05)			
Realized gains (losses) for the year	(0.10)	0.08	(0.13)	(0.53)	(0.29)			
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year	(0.02)	0.04	0.27	0.28	0.06			
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>(2)</sup>	(0.15)	0.09	0.11	(0.29)	(0.27)			
Distributions:								
From net investment income (excluding dividends)	-	-	=	-	- '			
From dividends	-	-	=	-	- '			
From capital gains	-	-	=	-	- '			
Return of capital	=	-	-	-	-			
Total annual distributions <sup>(3)</sup>	-	-	-	-	-			
Net assets at December 31 <sup>st</sup> of year shown	0.43	0.59	0.49	0.31	0.59			

<sup>(1)</sup> This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements. The net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units per unit presented in the financial statements may differ from the net asset value calculated for fund pricing purposes. An explanation of these differences can be found in the notes to financial statements, if applicable.

<sup>(2)</sup> Net assets 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>(3)</sup> Distributions were paid in cash or re-invested in additional units of the Fund, or both.

<sup>\*</sup>Series A-Rollover shares were first issued on January 15, 2005.

## ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE | For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

## Financial Highlights (continued)

Marquest Mutual Funds Inc	Explorer Series Fund (Series	A-Regular)*					
Net Assets per Share (\$) (1)							
	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014		
Net assets, beginning of the year <sup>(2)</sup>	0.64	0.53	0.35	0.63	0.92		
Increase (decrease) from operations:							
Total revenue	-	-	-	-	0.01		
Total expenses (excluding distributions)	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.04)	(0.05)	(0.06)		
Realized gains (losses) for the year	(0.12)	0.11	(0.09)	(0.56)	(0.33)		
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year	(0.03)	0.02	0.34	0.32	0.14		
Total increase (decrease) from operations (2)	(0.18)	0.10	0.21	(0.29)	(0.24)		
Distributions:							
From net investment income (excluding dividends)	-	-	-	-	-		
From dividends	-	-	-	-	-		
From capital gains	-	-	-	-	-		
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-		
Total annual distributions <sup>(3)</sup>	-	-	-	-	-		
Net assets at December 31 <sup>st</sup> of year shown	0.47	0.64	0.53	0.35	0.63		

<sup>(1)</sup> This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements. The net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units per unit presented in the financial statements may differ from the net asset value calculated for fund pricing purposes. An explanation of these differences can be found in the notes to financial statements, if applicable.

<sup>(2)</sup> Net assets 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>(3)</sup> Distributions were paid in cash or re-invested in additional units of the Fund, or both.

<sup>\*</sup>Series A-Regular shares were first issued on November 27, 2007

## ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE | For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

## Financial Highlights (continued)

Marquest Mutual Funds I	nc Explorer Series Fund (	Series F)*					
Net Assets per Share (\$) (1)							
	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014		
Net assets, beginning of the year <sup>(2)</sup>	0.58	0.47	0.31	0.55	0.79		
Increase (decrease) from operations:							
Total revenue	-	-	-	-	0.01		
Total expenses (excluding distributions)	(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.04)	(0.04)		
Realized gains (losses) for the year	(0.10)	0.09	(0.05)	(0.57)	(0.28)		
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year	(0.03)	0.07	0.25	0.35	0.07		
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>(2)</sup>	(0.15)	0.14	0.18	(0.26)	(0.24)		
Distributions:							
From net investment income (excluding dividends)	-	-	-	-	-		
From dividends	-	-	-	-	-		
From capital gains	-	-	-	-	-		
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-		
Total annual distributions <sup>(3)</sup>	-	-	-	-	-		
Net assets at December 31 <sup>st</sup> of year shown	0.43	0.58	0.47	0.31	0.55		

<sup>(1)</sup> This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements. The net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units per unit presented in the financial statements may differ from the net asset value calculated for fund pricing purposes. An explanation of these differences can be found in the notes to financial statements, if applicable.

<sup>(2)</sup> Net assets 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>(3)</sup> Distributions were paid in cash or re-invested in additional units of the Fund, or both.

<sup>\*</sup>Series F units were first issued on November 27, 2007.

### ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE | For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

## Financial Highlights (continued)

Ratios and Supplemental Data									
Series A-Rollover*		2018		2017		2016	2015		2014
Total net asset value (000's) <sup>(1)</sup>	\$	9,353	\$	15,656	\$	9,837	\$ 5,400	\$	12,630
Number of shares outstanding <sup>(1)</sup>	2	21,657,036	:	26,586,916	:	20,222,379	17,390,822	21,	368,364
Management expense ratio <sup>(2)</sup>		4.14%		3.74%		4.40%	6.26%		5.14%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorption <sup>(5)</sup>		4.14%		3.74%		4.40%	6.26%		5.14%
Trading expense ratio <sup>(3)</sup>		1.06%		1.58%		2.86%	1.32%	1.32%	, 0
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(4)</sup>		243.96%		271.56%		393.41%	282.70%	176.9	6%
Net asset value per share <sup>(1)</sup>	\$	0.43	\$	0.59	\$	0.49	\$ 0.31		\$0.59
Series A-Regular**		2018		2017		2016	2015		2014
Total net asset value (000's) <sup>(1)</sup>	\$	8	\$	12	\$	8	\$ 6	\$	16
Number of shares outstanding <sup>(1)</sup>		18,269		18,846		15,586	18,153		24,749
Management expense ratio <sup>(2)</sup>		4.22%		3.78%		5.07%	6.02%		5.07%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorption <sup>(5)</sup>		4.22%		3.78%		5.07%	6.02%		5.07%
Trading expense ratio <sup>(3)</sup>		1.06%		1.58%		2.86%	1.32%	1.32%	6
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(4)</sup>		243.96%		271.56%		393.41%	282.70%	176.9	6%
Net asset value per share <sup>(1)</sup>	\$	0.47	\$	0.64	\$	0.53	\$ 0.35		\$0.63
Series F***		2018		2017		2016	2015		2014
Total net asset value (000's) <sup>(1)</sup>	\$	783	\$	1,485	\$	8	\$ 4	\$	2
Number of shares outstanding <sup>(1)</sup>		1,837,483		2,554,848		16,099	14,297		2,950
Management expense ratio <sup>(2)</sup>		3.07%		2.89%		3.11%	6.32%		3.98%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorption <sup>(5)</sup>		3.07%		2.89%		3.11%	6.32%		3.98%
Trading expense ratio <sup>(3)</sup>		1.06%		1.58%		2.86%	1.32%	1.32%	6
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(4)</sup>		243.96%		271.56%		393.41%	282.70%	176.9	6%
Net asset value per share <sup>(1)</sup>	\$	0.43		0.58	\$	0.47	\$ 0.31	\$	0.55

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>(1)</sup> The information is provided as at December 31st of the year shown.

<sup>(2)</sup> Management expense ratio is based on total expenses (excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs) 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 assets during the period.

<sup>(4)</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>(5)</sup> Waivers and absorption of certain expenses associated with the Fund are at the Manager's discretion and may be terminated at any time.

<sup>\*</sup>Series A-Rollover units were first issued on January 15, 2005.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Series A-Regular units were first issued on November 27, 2007.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>Series F units were first issued on November 27, 2007.

## ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE | For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

### Management and Performance Fees

The Management fees for each applicable series are calculated daily and are based on the Fund's ending total NAV per series; cumulative daily totals are then paid on a monthly basis. The Manager uses these management fees to pay sales and trailing commissions to registered dealers on the distribution of the Fund shares, as well as for the general investment management expenses.

	As a percentage of	As a percentage of Management fees		
	Maximum Annual Management Fee Rate (%)	Sales & Trailer Commissions (%)	Investment Advisory and Portfolio Management Services (%)	
Series A /Rollover Shares	2.00%	19.93%	80.07%	
Series A/Regular Shares	2.00%	21.93%	78.07%	
Series F Shares	1.00%	0.00%	100.00%	

There are no performance fees or incentive fees in the case of the Fund.

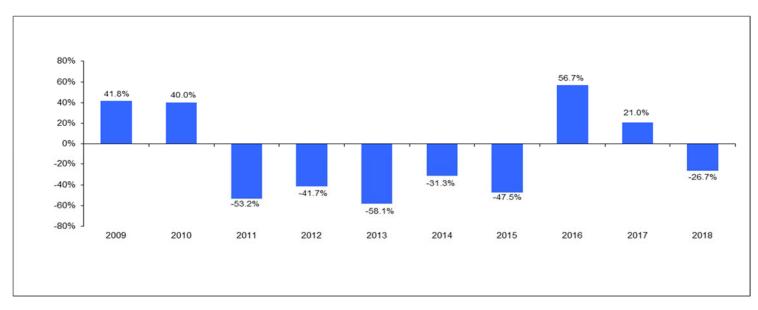
## Past Performance

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, redemptions, distributions or other optional charges 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. Performance differences between series of units are mainly attributable to management fees charged to each series.

## Year-by-Year Returns

The following bar charts show the Fund's annual Series A Rollover, Series A Regular and Series F shares performance for each of the periods shown, and illustrates how the Fund's performance has changed from year to year. In percentage terms, the bar chart shows 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.

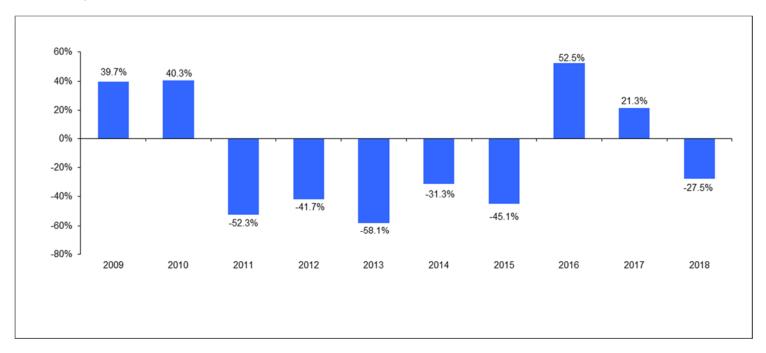
#### **Series A Rollover**



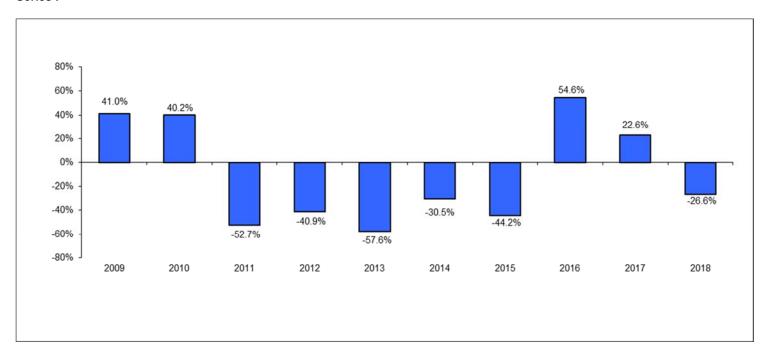
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# Past Performance (continued)

## Series A Regular



#### Series F



## ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE | For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

## **Annual Compound Returns**

The table below compares the annual compounded return of the Series A Rollover, Series A Regular and Series F shares of the Fund against the S&P/TSX Capped Materials Index. The S&P/TSX Capped Materials Index is a modified cap-weighted index, whose equity weights are capped at 25%. This index's constituents are derived from a subset stock pool of S&P/TSX Composite Index stocks.

As the index is made up of a group of securities from various asset classes and market capitalizations, they do not share the same holdings or the same weighted proportions as the Fund and compounded total returns between the two may differ. For greater in-depth discussion regarding the Fund's asset class holdings and performance over the year please see the "Results of Operations – Investment Portfolio" section of the MRFP.

	1	3	5	10
	Year	Years	Years	Years
	%	%	%	%
Series A-Rollover	-26.7%	11.6%	-12.9%	-19.5%
S&P/TSX Capped Materials Index	-10.5%	9.7%	-0.5%	-1.1%
Series A-Regular	-27.5%	10.3%	-12.7%	-19.4%
S&P/TSX Capped Materials Index	-10.5%	9.7%	-0.5%	-1.1%
Series F	-26.6%	11.7%	-11.6%	-18.7%
S&P/TSX Capped Materials Index	-10.5%	9.7%	-0.5%	-1.1%

### ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE | For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

### Summary of Investment portfolio as at December 31, 2018

Total Net Asset Value: \$ 10,144,593

Portfolio Allocation	
	% of Fund's
	Net Asset Value
Precious Metals	39.03%
Base Metals	31.99%
Cash	18.49%
Net Other Assets (Liabilities)	10.11%
Energy	0.38%
	100.00%

Τo	p 25 Holdings	
. •	p 10 Holdings	% of Fund's
		Net Asset Value
1	Cash	18.49%
2	Star Diamond Corp.	14.91%
3	Melkior Resources Inc.	6.80%
4	Galway Metals Inc.	4.72%
5	Wallbridge Mining Company Ltd.	3.54%
6	Metallic Minerals Corp.	4.69%
7	Power Metals Corp.	4.50%
8	Orford Mining Corp.	3.98%
9	Goliath Resources Ltd.	2.48%
10	Explor Resources Inc.	2.07%
11	Focus Graphite Inc.	1.63%
12	Signature Resources Ltd.	1.61%
13	Murchison Minerals Ltd.	1.49%
14	Group Ten Metals Inc.	1.47%
15	Gowest Gold Ltd.	1.39%
16	New Age Metals Inc.	1.38%
17	Juggernaut Exploration Ltd.	1.33%
18	Abcourt Mines Inc.	1.30%
19	Fieldex Exploration Inc.	1.28%
20	Banyan Gold Corp.	0.99%
21	Stratabound Minerals Corp.	0.97%
22	Globex Mining Enterprises Inc.	0.88%
23	Eastmain Resources Inc	0.76%
24	Comstock Metals Ltd.	0.75%
25	Auxico Resources Canada Inc.	0.70%
		84.11%

The investments and percentages shown may change from time to time due to the ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund. The weightings of the positions are calculated based on the total net asset value of the Fund as at December 31, 2018. The Fund does not hold short positions. To obtain a copy of the most recent annual report, semi-annual report, quarterly report or simplified prospectus of the Fund, please contact a member of our client services team or visit our website at <a href="www.marquest.ca">www.marquest.ca</a> or SEDAR at <a href="www.sedar.com">www.sedar.com</a>.

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