

## SEMI-ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE

# BMO Discount Bond Index ETF (ZDB) (the “ETF”)

For the six-month period ended June 30, 2017 (the “Period”)

Manager: BMO Asset Management Inc. (the “Manager” and “portfolio manager”)

## Management Discussion of Fund Performance

### Results of Operations

The ETF underperformed the broad-based FTSE TMX Canada Universe Bond Index by 0.50%. However, the more appropriate comparison is to the FTSE TMX Canada Universe Discount Bond Index™ (the “Index”), due to the concentration of the portfolio in Canadian bonds trading near or below par value. The ETF returned 1.86% versus the Index return of 2.09%. The change in total net asset value during the Period from approximately \$222 million to approximately \$499 million had no impact to the performance of the ETF.

The difference in the performance of the ETF relative to the Index during the Period (-0.23%) resulted from the payment of management fees (-0.05%) and the impact of sampling and certain other factors (-0.18%), which may have included timing differences versus the Index, and the limited selection of discount bonds in the market.

### Market Conditions

During the Period, Canadian fixed income markets were up as the Bank of Canada (“BoC”) maintained its current interest rate policy. The portfolio manager believes the strong housing market and consumer debt levels weighed heavily on the BoC’s decision to not raise interest rates, despite improving economic growth and stabilizing oil prices. Canadian bonds returned approximately 2.4%, as measured by the FTSE TMX Canada Universe Bond Index. Canadian bonds posted positive returns across most

maturities and sectors, however, bonds with long-dated maturities generated higher total returns than short-dated bonds. Specifically, long-term bonds (10+ years), which returned approximately 6.1%, with short-term bonds (1 to 5 years) returning approximately 0.3%. Mid-term bonds (5 to 10 years) returned approximately 1.3%. From a sector perspective, Corporate bonds posted returns at approximately 2.9%, Provincial bonds at approximately 3.5% and Federal bonds at approximately 0.9%.

The ETF’s holdings in longer-dated bonds contributed most to its performance, while lower quality bonds in the portfolio added to performance, with A-rated bonds outperforming. Exposure to the Infrastructure and Energy sectors contributed the most to performance, while the Securitization and Financials sectors detracted from performance. Exposure to shorter-dated federal bonds detracted most from performance.

### Recent Developments

The portfolio manager believes that the Canadian economy will continue to strengthen for the remainder of 2017. Canada should remain in a relatively low interest rate environment with the expectation that the BoC will moderately raise interest rates in the coming period. The ETF’s shorter-dated bond holdings, corporate and provincial bond holdings should provide interest rate protection from the potential of rising interest rates. Shorter-dated bonds should outperform longer-dated bonds and corporate bonds should outperform federal and provincial bonds, during this period. The ETF’s longer-dated bond holdings and federal bond holdings should detract from performance.

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This semi-annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete semi-annual or annual financial statements of the ETF. If the semi-annual financial statements of the ETF do not accompany the mailing of this report, you may obtain a copy of the semi-annual or annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling 1-800-361-1392, by writing to us at BMO Asset Management Inc., 250 Yonge Street, 7th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M5B 2M8 or by visiting our website at [www.bmo.com/etflegal](http://www.bmo.com/etflegal) or SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com). You may also contact us using one of these methods to request a copy of the ETF’s proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record and/or quarterly portfolio disclosure.

# BMO Discount Bond Index ETF

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## Related Party Transactions

The Manager, an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Montreal (“BMO”), is the portfolio manager, trustee and promoter of the ETF. From time to time, the Manager may, on behalf of the ETF, enter into transactions or arrangements with or involving other members of BMO Financial Group, or certain other persons or companies that are related or connected to the Manager (each a “Related Party”). The purpose of this section is to provide a brief description of any transactions involving the ETF and a Related Party.

## Designated Broker

The Manager has entered into an agreement with BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc., an affiliate of the Manager, to act as designated broker and dealer for distribution of BMO exchange traded funds, on terms and conditions that are comparable to arm’s length agreements in the exchange traded funds industry. The material terms and conditions of the agreement have been disclosed in the ETF’s prospectus.

The Manager has also entered into agreements with other major dealers in Canada to act as dealers for the creation and redemption of units of BMO exchange traded funds.

## Buying and Selling Securities

### *Trades in Bank of Montreal Debt Securities in the Secondary Market, Trades in Debt Securities with a Related Entity, Trading as Principal and Conducting Inter-Fund Trades*

During the Period, the Manager relied on an approval and standing instruction provided by the ETF’s Independent Review Committee (“IRC”) with respect to the following related party transactions:

- (a) investments in debt securities of BMO, an affiliate of the Manager, in the secondary market;
- (b) trades in debt securities in the secondary market with BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc. who is trading with the ETF as principal; and
- (c) inter-fund trades (each, a “Related Party Transaction”).

In accordance with the IRC’s approval and standing instruction, in making a decision to cause the ETF to make a Related Party Transaction, the Manager, as Manager and portfolio manager of the ETF, is required to comply with the

Manager’s written policies and procedures governing the Related Party Transaction and report periodically to the IRC, describing each instance that the Manager relied on the approval and standing instruction and its compliance or non-compliance with the governing policies and procedures. The governing policies and procedures are designed to ensure the Related Party Transaction (i) is made free from any influence of BMO, BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc. or an associate or affiliate of BMO and/or BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc. and without taking into account any considerations relevant to BMO, BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc. or an associate or affiliate of BMO and/or BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc., (ii) represents the business judgment of the Manager, uninfluenced by considerations other than the best interests of the ETF, and (iii) achieves a fair and reasonable result for the ETF.

## Management Fees

The Manager is responsible for the day-to-day management of the business and operations of the ETF. The Manager monitors and evaluates the ETF’s performance, manages the portfolio and provides certain administrative services required by the ETF. As compensation for its services, the Manager is entitled to receive a management fee payable quarterly and calculated based on the daily net asset value of the ETF at the maximum annual rate set out in the table below.

| Ticker | Maximum Annual Management Fee Rate % |
|--------|--------------------------------------|
| ZDB    | 0.09                                 |

# BMO Discount Bond Index ETF

## Financial Highlights

The following tables show selected key financial information about the ETF and are intended to help you understand the ETF's financial performance for the periods indicated.

### The ETF's Net Assets per Unit<sup>(1)</sup>

| Listed Units   | Period ended<br>Jun. 30, 2017 | Financial years ended Dec. 31 |              |                     | Period ended<br>Jun. 30, 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 <sup>(4)</sup> | Financial years ended Dec. 31 |      |                     |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|------|------|---------------------|-------------------------------|------|---------------------|
|  |                               | 2016                          | 2015         | 2014 <sup>(4)</sup> |                               |      |      |                     | 2016                          | 2015 | 2014 <sup>(5)</sup> |
| Net assets, beginning of period                                | \$ 15.80                      | 15.89                         | 15.64        | 15.00               |                               |      |      |                     |                               |      |                     |
| <b>Increase (decrease) from operations</b>                     |                               |                               |              |                     |                               |      |      |                     |                               |      |                     |
| Total revenue  | \$ 0.16                       | 0.31                          | 0.31         | 0.34                |                               |      |      |                     |                               |      |                     |
| Total expenses   | \$ (0.01)                     | (0.03)                        | (0.03)       | (0.03)              |                               |      |      |                     |                               |      |                     |
| Realized gains (losses) for the period                         | \$ 0.00                       | 0.08                          | 0.06         | 0.22                |                               |      |      |                     |                               |      |                     |
| Unrealized gains (losses) for the period                       | \$ (0.01)                     | (0.18)                        | 0.13         | 0.47                |                               |      |      |                     |                               |      |                     |
| <b>Total increase (decrease) from operations<sup>(2)</sup></b> | <b>\$ 0.14</b>                | <b>0.18</b>                   | <b>0.47</b>  | <b>1.00</b>         |                               |      |      |                     |                               |      |                     |
| <b>Distributions</b>   |                               |                               |              |                     |                               |      |      |                     |                               |      |                     |
| From income (excluding dividends)                              | \$ 0.16                       | 0.30                          | 0.29         | 0.28                |                               |      |      |                     |                               |      |                     |
| From dividends   | \$ —                          | —                             | —            | —                   |                               |      |      |                     |                               |      |                     |
| From capital gains   | \$ —                          | 0.01                          | 0.04         | 0.17                |                               |      |      |                     |                               |      |                     |
| Return of capital  | \$ 0.00                       | 0.01                          | 0.03         | 0.02                |                               |      |      |                     |                               |      |                     |
| <b>Total Annual Distributions<sup>(3)</sup></b>                | <b>\$ 0.16</b>                | <b>0.32</b>                   | <b>0.36</b>  | <b>0.47</b>         |                               |      |      |                     |                               |      |                     |
| <b>Net assets, end of period</b>                               | <b>\$ 15.92</b>               | <b>15.80</b>                  | <b>15.89</b> | <b>15.64</b>        |                               |      |      |                     |                               |      |                     |

| Institutional Units  | Period ended<br>Jun. 30, 2017 | Financial years ended Dec. 31 |              |                     | Period ended<br>Jun. 30, 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 <sup>(4)</sup> | Financial years ended Dec. 31 |      |                     |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|------|------|---------------------|-------------------------------|------|---------------------|
|  |                               | 2016                          | 2015         | 2014 <sup>(4)</sup> |                               |      |      |                     | 2016                          | 2015 | 2014 <sup>(5)</sup> |
| Net assets, beginning of period                                | \$ 15.97                      | 15.95                         | 15.61        | 15.00               |                               |      |      |                     |                               |      |                     |
| <b>Increase (decrease) from operations</b>                     |                               |                               |              |                     |                               |      |      |                     |                               |      |                     |
| Total revenue  | \$ —                          | 0.00                          | 0.01         | 0.00                |                               |      |      |                     |                               |      |                     |
| Total expenses   | \$ —                          | —                             | —            | (0.00)              |                               |      |      |                     |                               |      |                     |
| Realized gains (losses) for the period                         | \$ —                          | 0.00                          | (0.00)       | 0.17                |                               |      |      |                     |                               |      |                     |
| Unrealized gains (losses) for the period                       | \$ 0.14                       | 0.02                          | 0.33         | 0.34                |                               |      |      |                     |                               |      |                     |
| <b>Total increase (decrease) from operations<sup>(2)</sup></b> | <b>\$ 0.14</b>                | <b>0.02</b>                   | <b>0.34</b>  | <b>0.51</b>         |                               |      |      |                     |                               |      |                     |
| <b>Distributions</b>   |                               |                               |              |                     |                               |      |      |                     |                               |      |                     |
| From income (excluding dividends)                              | \$ —                          | —                             | —            | —                   |                               |      |      |                     |                               |      |                     |
| From dividends   | \$ —                          | —                             | —            | —                   |                               |      |      |                     |                               |      |                     |
| From capital gains   | \$ —                          | —                             | —            | —                   |                               |      |      |                     |                               |      |                     |
| Return of capital  | \$ —                          | —                             | —            | —                   |                               |      |      |                     |                               |      |                     |
| <b>Total Annual Distributions<sup>(3)</sup></b>                | <b>\$ —</b>                   | <b>—</b>                      | <b>—</b>     | <b>—</b>            |                               |      |      |                     |                               |      |                     |
| <b>Net assets, end of period</b>                               | <b>\$ 16.11</b>               | <b>15.97</b>                  | <b>15.95</b> | <b>15.61</b>        |                               |      |      |                     |                               |      |                     |

<sup>(1)</sup>This information is derived from the ETF's unaudited and audited financial statements.

<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. This table is not intended to be a reconciliation of beginning to ending net assets per unit.

<sup>(3)</sup>Distributions were either paid in cash or reinvested in additional units of the ETF, or both. The allocation of the distributions from each of income, dividends, capital gains and return of capital is based on the Manager's estimate as at June 30 of the period shown, which is the ETF's semi-annual period end. However, actual allocation of distributions is determined as at December 15, the ETF's tax year-end. Accordingly, the actual allocation among income, dividends, capital gains and return of capital may differ from these estimates.

<sup>(4)</sup>The information shown in this column is for the period beginning January 29, 2014 (the ETF's establishment date) and ending December 31, 2014.

## Ratios and Supplemental Data

| Listed Units  | Period ended<br>Jun. 30, 2017 | Financial years ended Dec. 31 |         |                     | Financial years ended Dec. 31 |      |                     |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|---------------------|-------------------------------|------|---------------------|
|   |                               | 2016                          | 2015    | 2014 <sup>(5)</sup> | 2016                          | 2015 | 2014 <sup>(5)</sup> |
| Total net asset value (000's) <sup>(1)</sup>                          | \$ 498,878                    | 221,697                       | 168,913 | 20,333              |                               |      |                     |
| Number of units outstanding (000's) <sup>(1)</sup>                    | 31,333                        | 14,033                        | 10,633  | 1,300               |                               |      |                     |
| Management expense ratio <sup>(2)</sup>                               | % 0.10                        | 0.15                          | 0.22    | 0.23                |                               |      |                     |
| Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions <sup>(2)</sup> | % 0.10                        | 0.15                          | 0.22    | 0.23                |                               |      |                     |
| Trading expense ratio <sup>(3)</sup>                                  | % —                           | —                             | —       | —                   |                               |      |                     |
| Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(4)</sup>                                | % 26.47                       | 52.81                         | 26.97   | 97.87               |                               |      |                     |
| Net asset value per unit  | \$ 15.92                      | 15.80                         | 15.89   | 15.64               |                               |      |                     |
| Closing market price  | \$ 15.90                      | 15.77                         | 15.87   | 15.59               |                               |      |                     |

| Institutional Units   | Period ended<br>Jun. 30, 2017 | Financial years ended Dec. 31 |                |                     | Financial years ended Dec. 31 |      |                     |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|------|---------------------|
|   |                               | 2016                          | 2015           | 2014 <sup>(5)</sup> | 2016                          | 2015 | 2014 <sup>(5)</sup> |
| Total net asset value (000's) <sup>(1)</sup>                          | \$ 0                          | 0                             | 0              | 0                   |                               |      |                     |
| Number of units outstanding (000's) <sup>(1)</sup>                    | 0                             | 0                             | 0              | 0                   |                               |      |                     |
| Management expense ratio <sup>(2)</sup>                               | % — <sup>*</sup>              | — <sup>*</sup>                | — <sup>*</sup> | — <sup>*</sup>      |                               |      |                     |
| Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions <sup>(2)</sup> | % — <sup>*</sup>              | — <sup>*</sup>                | — <sup>*</sup> | — <sup>*</sup>      |                               |      |                     |
| Trading expense ratio <sup>(3)</sup>                                  | % —                           | —                             | —              | —                   |                               |      |                     |
| Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(4)</sup>                                | % 26.47                       | 52.81                         | 26.97          | 97.87               |                               |      |                     |
| Net asset value per unit  | \$ 16.11                      | 15.97                         | 15.95          | 15.61               |                               |      |                     |

<sup>\*</sup> Management fees are paid directly to the manager as negotiated with the investor.

<sup>(1)</sup>This information is provided as at June 30 or December 31 of the period shown, as applicable.

<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 asset value during the period. For all financial periods listed, no commissions or other portfolio transaction costs were incurred by the ETF. As a result, the trading expense ratio for all the periods was zero.

<sup>(4)</sup>The ETF's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the ETF's portfolio manager manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the ETF buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher an ETF's portfolio turnover rate in a year, the greater the trading costs payable by the ETF 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 an ETF.

<sup>(5)</sup>The information shown in this column is for the period beginning January 29, 2014 (the ETF's establishment date) and ending December 31, 2014.

## Past Performance

The ETF's performance information assumes that all distributions made by the ETF in the periods shown were used to purchase additional units of the ETF and is based on the net asset value of the ETF.

The performance information does not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or other optional charges that, if applicable, would have reduced returns or performance. Please remember that how the ETF has performed in the past does not indicate how it will perform in the future.

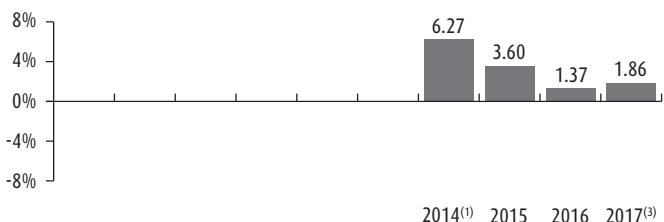
On June 22, 2016, the ETF reduced its maximum annual management fee from 0.20% to 0.09%. This change could have affected the performance of the ETF, had it been in effect throughout the performance measurement periods presented.

# BMO Discount Bond Index ETF

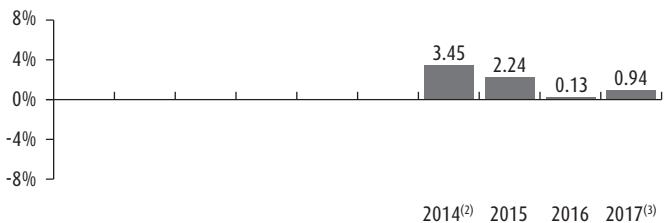
## Year-by-Year Returns

The following bar charts show the performance of the ETF for each of the financial years shown. The charts show, in percentage terms, how much an investment made on the first day of each financial year would have increased or decreased by the last day of each financial year.

### Listed Units



### Institutional Units



## Summary of Investment Portfolio

As at June 30, 2017

| Portfolio Allocation               | % of Net Asset Value |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Federal Bonds .....                | 36.6                 |
| Provincial Bonds .....             | 34.2                 |
| Corporate Bonds & Debentures ..... | 26.8                 |
| Asset-Backed Securities .....      | 1.5                  |
| Cash/Receivables/Payables .....    | 0.9                  |
| <b>Total Portfolio Allocation</b>  | <b>100.0</b>         |

<sup>(1)</sup> Return from February 10, 2014 to December 31, 2014.

<sup>(2)</sup> Return from April 17, 2014 to December 31, 2014.

<sup>(3)</sup> For the six-month period ended June 30, 2017.

# BMO Discount Bond Index ETF

|   | % of Net<br>Asset Value |
|---|-------------------------|
| <b>Top 25 Holdings</b>  |                         |
| Government of Canada, Unsecured, 1.000% Jun 1, 2027 .....                                     | 5.8                     |
| Canada Housing Trust, Mortgage Bonds, Series 64, Secured,<br>1.200% Jun 15, 2020 .....        | 4.4                     |
| Province of Ontario, Unsecured, 2.600% Jun 2, 2025 .....                                      | 4.2                     |
| Government of Canada, Unsecured, 2.750% Dec 1, 2048 .....                                     | 3.4                     |
| Province of Ontario, Unsecured, 2.900% Dec 2, 2046 .....                                      | 3.2                     |
| Government of Canada, Unsecured, 1.500% Mar 1, 2020 .....                                     | 3.2                     |
| Province of Quebec, Unsecured, 2.750% Sep 1, 2025 .....                                       | 2.7                     |
| Canada Housing Trust, Mortgage Bonds, Series 75, Secured,<br>1.150% Dec 15, 2021 .....        | 2.5                     |
| Province of Ontario, Senior, Unsecured, 1.950% Jan 27, 2023 .....                             | 2.3                     |
| Royal Bank of Canada, Deposit Notes, Senior, Unsecured,<br>1.968% Mar 2, 2022 .....           | 2.3                     |
| Government of Canada, Unsecured, 0.750% Sep 1, 2020 .....                                     | 2.2                     |
| Government of Canada, Unsecured, 0.500% Mar 1, 2022 .....                                     | 2.2                     |
| Government of Canada, 0.500% Feb 1, 2019 .....  | 2.0                     |
| Province of Quebec, Unsecured, 3.500% Dec 1, 2048 .....                                       | 2.0                     |
| Canada Housing Trust, Mortgage Bonds, Series 67, Secured,<br>1.950% Dec 15, 2025 .....        | 1.9                     |
| Province of Quebec, Senior, Unsecured, 1.650% Mar 3, 2022 .....                               | 1.6                     |
| Province of Quebec, Unsecured, 3.500% Dec 1, 2045 .....                                       | 1.6                     |
| Province of Ontario, Unsecured, 2.600% Jun 2, 2027 .....                                      | 1.5                     |
| Government of Canada, Unsecured, 0.750% Mar 1, 2021 .....                                     | 1.5                     |
| Canada Housing Trust, Mortgage Bonds, Series 73, Secured,<br>1.900% Sep 15, 2026 .....        | 1.4                     |
| Government of Canada, 1.500% Jun 1, 2026 .....  | 1.4                     |
| Province of British Columbia, Unsecured, 2.800% Jun 18, 2048 .....                            | 1.2                     |
| Province of Ontario, Unsecured, 2.800% Jun 2, 2048 .....                                      | 1.2                     |
| Caisse centrale Desjardins, Medium Term Notes, Senior,<br>Unsecured, 1.748% Mar 2, 2020 ..... | 1.1                     |
| Hydro-Quebec, Unsecured, 1.000% May 25, 2019 .....  | 1.1                     |
| <b>Top Holdings as a Percentage of Total Net Asset Value</b>                                  | <b>57.9</b>             |
| <b>Total Net Asset Value</b>  | <b>\$498,877,714</b>    |

*The summary of investment portfolio may change due to the ETF's ongoing portfolio transactions. Updates are available quarterly.*

This document may contain forward-looking statements relating to anticipated future events, results, circumstances, performance or expectations that are not historical facts but instead represent our beliefs regarding future events. By their nature, forward-looking statements require us to make assumptions and are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties. There is significant risk that predictions and other forward-looking statements will not prove to be accurate. We caution readers of this document not to place undue reliance on our forward-looking statements as a number of factors could cause actual future results, conditions, actions or events to differ materially from the targets, expectations, estimates or intentions expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements. Actual results may differ materially from management expectations as projected in such forward-looking statements for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to market and general economic conditions, interest rates, regulatory and statutory developments, the effects of competition in the geographic and business areas in which the ETF may invest in and the risks detailed from time to time in the ETFs' prospectus. We caution that the foregoing list of factors is not exhaustive and that when relying on forward-looking statements to make decisions with respect to investing in the ETF, investors and others should carefully consider these factors, as well as other uncertainties and potential events, and the inherent uncertainty of forward-looking statements. Due to the potential impact of these factors, BMO Asset Management Inc. does not undertake, and specifically disclaims, any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, unless required by applicable law.

BMO exchange traded funds are managed and administered by BMO Asset Management Inc., an investment fund manager and portfolio manager and separate legal entity from Bank of Montreal.

<sup>®</sup>“BMO (M-bar roundel symbol)” is a registered trade-mark of Bank of Montreal.

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