BMO Nesbitt Burns Group of Funds

# Semi-Annual Management Report of Fund Performance

RMO NESRITT BURNS

BMO NESBITT BURNS BALANCED FUND (the "Fund")

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2013

Manager: BMO Nesbitt Burns (the "Manager")

Portfolio Manager: BMO Asset Management Inc. (the "Portfolio Manager" or "BMO AM"), Toronto, Ontario

This semi-annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights, but does not contain semi-annual or annual financial statements of the Fund. If the semi-annual or annual financial statements of the Fund do not accompany the mailing of this report, you can get 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 Nesbitt Burns Inc., 1 First Canadian Place, 37th Floor, P.O. Box 150, Toronto, Ontario, M5X 1H3 or by visiting our website at **www.bmonesbittburns.com** or SEDAR at **www.sedar.com**. You 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 and/ or quarterly portfolio disclosure.

## MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION OF FUND PERFORMANCE

## **Results of Operations**

The Fund's Class A units returned 0.83% whereas the blended benchmark, 55% TSX/S&P Composite Index ("S&P/TSX") and 45% Dex Universe Bond Index, returned -1.20% for the six month period ended June 30, 2013.

Two significant events occurred in the second half of the period which resulted in a correction in most asset classes around the world. Firstly, the chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve (the "Fed"), Ben Bernanke, announced that the Fed's current Quantitative Easing program would likely begin to be "tapered" (lower the amount of bonds it was purchasing) in late 2013 and halt purchases altogether in mid-2014. Although the Portfolio Manager recognizes that tapering is less easing and not tightening, fixed income markets responded aggressively by moving the 10-year U.S. Treasury bond yield sharply higher (similar to the move in the 10-year Government of Canada bond yield) and the U.S. dollar strengthened.

Secondly, China withheld liquidity from their financial system by driving interbank rates to almost 8%. The new government in China is trying to reduce lending before it produces a wave of bad debts. The new regime is less focused on achieving extraordinary Gross Domestic Product ("GDP") targets and more focused on achieving a path toward more sustainable, long-term growth. The implications of these two events were significant. In Canada, the divergence in performance between commodity and non-commodity sectors widened considerably. The Materials sector, which was down 31% in

the period, was responsible for the majority of the decline in the S&P/TSX, Health Care rose 36% and Information Technology, Industrials and the Consumer sector increased over 14%.

Within equities, the Fund's overweight position in Consumer Staples contributed to performance, while an underweight in Health Care detracted from returns. The Portfolio Manager's posture within the Financials sector contributed to performance with an overweight to insurance companies and underweight to banks and Real Estate Investment Trusts ("REITs"). As a result of the significant run-up in bond yields, insurance companies significantly outperformed both banks and REITs.

Stock selection contributed to performance in Fund holdings such as Peyto Exploration & Development Corporation, CGI Group Inc. and Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc. which all delivered strong double-digit returns in the period. The Fund's underweight position in Valeant Pharmaceuticals International, Inc., which was among the strongest S&P/TSX performers, detracted from relative performance along with gold holdings Kinross Gold Corporation and Alamos Gold Inc.

With fixed income, the Fund was negatively impacted by the steepening of the yield curve as it held an overweight position in



the middle portion of the curve where the rise in yields was most pronounced. The yield curve steepened by more than half a percentage point during the first half of the year. Contributing to performance was the Fund's overweight position to provincial bonds, as provincial bonds outperformed their Government of Canada benchmarks for the period. For the six month period, the Fund held an overweight allocation to equities versus fixed income. This positioning was positive for relative performance as equities outperformed bonds.

For information on the Fund's longer-term performance and composition, please refer to the Past Performance section and Summary of Investment Portfolio section of this report.

#### **Recent Developments**

In the first half of 2013, the markets reacted negatively to the combination of the withdrawal of liquidity and increasing concerns over growth. The Portfolio Manager believes equities will learn to live with higher yields if economic re-acceleration becomes more apparent in the data. The corporate sector is now well positioned for growth after a period of cost cutting. Companies appear ready to transition to a growth-oriented strategy if economic re-acceleration confirms the recent increase in interest rates. However, the Portfolio Manager believes an above-average cash position is warranted at this time as the market moves through this transition phase. Within the Fund's fixed income holdings the Portfolio Manager anticipates that interest rate sensitivity will be between neutral and underweight compared to its benchmark.

Lower Chinese GDP growth expectations have had a severe impact on commodity prices and the Portfolio Manager does not expect this trend to reverse in the short term. As a result, the Fund remains cautious in its Energy and Materials equity exposure, the two sectors that have a greater sensitivity to any slowdown in Chinese economic growth. The Fund's largest overweights are in Consumer Staples and Telecommunication Services sectors. If the Portfolio Manager begins to see tangible progress in the real economy, portfolio strategy will be prepared to shift its allocation toward higher cyclical sectors and stocks.

#### **Future Accounting Standards**

Canadian investment entities will be required to prepare their financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"), as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board, for fiscal years beginning on or after January 1, 2014. For reporting periods commencing January 1, 2014, the Fund will adopt IFRS as the basis for preparing its financial statements. The Fund will report its financial results for the interim period ending June 30, 2014, prepared on an IFRS basis. It will also provide comparative data on an IFRS basis, including an opening balance sheet as at January 1, 2013 (transition date). A summary of the significant standards impacting the Fund under IFRS are outlined below.

Based on the Fund's analysis to date, the more significant accounting changes that will result from its adoption of IFRS will be in the areas of fair valuation, cash flow presentation, consolidation of investments and classification of net assets representing unitholders' equity. The differences described in the sections that follow are based on Canadian generally accepted accounting principles ("Canadian GAAP") and IFRS that are in effect as of this date. This should not be considered a comprehensive list of the main accounting changes when the Fund adopts IFRS.

The framework for fair valuation is set out under IFRS 13 Fair Value Measurement, which includes the requirements for the measurement and disclosure of fair value. If an asset or liability measured at fair value has a bid price and an ask price, the standard requires valuation to be based on a price within the bid-ask spread that is most representative of fair value. The standard allows the use of mid-market pricing or other pricing conventions that are used by market participants as a practical means for fair value measurements within a bid-ask spread. Thus, this standard will impact the net assets per unit for financial statement reporting purposes compared to current standards, and may also result in the elimination of the differences between the net asset per unit and net asset value per unit ("NAVPU") at the financial statement reporting date. The Manager has not identified any changes that will impact NAVPU as a result of the transition to IFRS.

Where the Fund holds controlling interest in an investment, it is the Manager's expectation that the Fund will qualify as an Investment Entity in accordance with IFRS 10 Consolidated Financial Statements. As such, the Fund will not be required to consolidate its investments, but rather to fair value its investments regardless of whether those investments are controlled. If the Fund fair values investments that it controls, it may be required to make additional financial statement disclosures on its controlled investments in accordance with IFRS 12 Disclosure of Interests in Other Entities. IFRS 12 also requires additional disclosures if the Fund is determined to qualify as an investment entity while not possessing all of the typical characteristics of an investment entity.

The criteria contained within IAS 32 Financial Instruments: Presentation may require unitholders' equity to be classified as a liability within the Fund's Statement of Net Assets, unless certain conditions are met. The Manager is currently assessing the Fund's unitholder structure to confirm classification.

## **Related Party Transactions**

BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc., an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Montreal, is the Manager, and principal distributor of the Fund. From time to time, the Manager may, on behalf of the Fund 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 (a "Related Party").

#### Portfolio Manager

The Manager has hired BMO AM, a Related Party, to provide investment advice and make investment decisions for the Fund's investment portfolio. BMO AM receives an investment advisory fee based on assets under management that is calculated daily and payable monthly. BMO AM is paid by the Manager and not by the Fund.

#### **Distribution Services**

The Manager sells units of the Fund through its sales representatives. The Manager pays trailer fees to these sales representatives based on the amount of assets held in the investor's account and additionally, in some cases, on the amount of the initial purchase. There may be other fees and expenses payable in respect to the operation of the investor's account with the Manager that could affect the investment in units of the Fund, if the investor receives special services, such as switch fees and registered plan fees. The amount of these fees should be discussed with your sales representative at the time of purchase or switch and when your account or registered tax plan is established.

#### **Unitholder Services**

The Fund is provided with certain facilities and services by Related Parties. Unitholder services, such as fund accounting, record keeping and purchase/redemption order processing, are provided by the Bank of Montreal Ireland p.l.c. and BMO AM, in its capacity as the Fund's registrar. Fees associated with these services are paid by the Manager and charged to the Fund. The fees charged to the Fund during the period were as follows:

	Six-month period ended June 30, 2013	Six-month period ended June 30, 2012
Unitholder Servicing Fees	\$18,183	\$26,582

#### **Buying and Selling Securities**

Trades in Debt Securities with a Related Entity, Trading as Principal

During the period, the Manager relied on an approval and standing instruction provided by the Fund's IRC to enable the Fund to trade in debt securities in the secondary market with the Manager who is trading with the Fund as principal (each, a "Related Party Transaction"). In accordance with the IRC's approval and standing instruction, in making a decision to cause the Fund to make a Related Party Transaction, the Manager and portfolio manager of the Fund are 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 and/or portfolio manager relied on the approval and standing instruction and their 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, the Manager or an associate or affiliate of BMO and/or the Manager and without taking into account any considerations relevant to BMO, the Manager or an associate or affiliate of BMO and/or the Manager, (ii) represents the business judgment of the portfolio manager, uninfluenced by considerations other than the best interests of the Fund, and (iii) achieves a fair and reasonable result for the Fund.

#### **Management Fees**

As Manager of the Fund, BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc. is responsible for the day-to-day management of the business and operations of the Fund. It monitors and evaluates the Fund's performance, pays for the investment advice provided by BMO AM and provides certain administrative services required by the Fund. As compensation for its services, BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc. is entitled to receive a management fee payable monthly, calculated based on the daily net asset value of each class of the Fund at the maximum annual rate set out in the below table.

		gement Fees		
	Annual Management Fee Rate*	Dealer Compensation	General Administration Investment Advice and Profit	
	%	0/0	0/0	
Class A Units Class F Units	1.75 0.75	71.43	28.57 100.00	

As a perceptage

<sup>\*</sup> No service fees are payable in respect of Class F units.



# 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 periods indicated.

## The Fund's Net Assets per Unit<sup>1</sup>

CLASS A PO	Periods ended December 31					
Ju	ne 30, 2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
		(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
Net Assets, beginning of year	13.72	13.32	14.09	12.98	11.70	14.90
Increase (decrease)						
from operations:						
Total revenue	0.24	0.45	0.40	0.42	0.42	0.45
Total expenses	(0.13)	(0.27)	(0.27)	(0.25)	(0.23)	(0.24)
Realized gains (losses)						
for the period	0.51	0.40	0.19	0.24	(0.40)	(0.40)
Unrealized gains (losses)						
for the period	(0.48)	(0.03)	(0.92)	0.84	1.68	(2.94)
Total increase (decrease)						
from operations <sup>2</sup>	0.14	0.55	(0.60)	1.25	1.47	(3.13)
Distributions:						
From income						
(excluding dividends)	-	-	-	-	0.06	-
From dividends	0.12	0.19	0.16	0.14	0.17	0.21
From capital gains	-	-	-	-	-	-
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total annual distributions <sup>3</sup>	0.12	0.19	0.16	0.14	0.23	0.21
Net Assets, end of period	\$13.68	\$13.72	\$13.32	\$14.09	\$12.98	\$11.70

CLASS F	Periods ended December 31					
Jı	une 30, 2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	20084
		(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
Net Assets, beginning of yea	r 14.20	13.79	14.46	13.27	11.88	12.10
Increase (decrease)						
from operations:						
Total revenue	0.25	0.47	0.42	0.43	0.43	0.09
Total expenses	(0.06)	(0.13)	(0.13)	(0.11)	(0.13)	(0.02)
Realized gains (losses)						
for the period	0.53	0.39	0.14	0.23	(0.07)	(0.56)
Unrealized gains (losses)						
for the period	(0.49)	0.01	(0.92)	1.00	1.56	0.33
Total increase (decrease)						
from operations <sup>2</sup>	0.23	0.74	(0.49)	1.55	1.79	(0.16)
Distributions:						
From income						
(excluding dividends)		-	-	0.12	0.14	0.03
From dividends	0.19	0.35	0.19	0.10	0.13	-
From capital gains		-	-	-	-	-
Return of capital		-	-	-	-	-
Total annual distributions <sup>3</sup>	0.19	0.35	0.19	0.22	0.27	0.03
Net Assets, end of period	\$14.08	\$14.20	\$13.79	\$14.46	\$13.27	\$11.88

- <sup>1)</sup> This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements and unaudited June 30, 2013 semi-annual financial statements. The net assets per unit presented in the financial statements differs from the net asset value per unit calculated for Fund pricing purposes. An explanation of these differences can be found in the notes to the Fund's financial statements.
- 2) 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.
- 3) Distributions were paid in cash or reinvested in additional units of the Fund, or both, where applicable.
- 4) The information shown in this column is for the period beginning October 31, 2008 (the class' inception date) and ending December 31, 2008.



## **Ratios and Supplemental Data**

CLASS A Period ended		Periods ended December 31					
Jui	ne 30, 2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	
Total net asset value (000's) <sup>1</sup>	\$24,679	\$28,857	\$40,151	\$52,351	\$52,220	\$47,312	
Number of units outstanding <sup>1</sup>	1,798,749	2,100,637	3,009,395	3,710,872	4,017,943	4,034,893	
Management expense ratio <sup>2</sup>	1.85%	1.91%	1.85%	1.85%	1.83%	1.75%	
Management expense ratio before waivers or							
management absorptions <sup>2</sup>	1.85%	1.91%	1.85%	1.85%	1.83%	1.75%	
Trading expense ratio <sup>3</sup>	0.02%	0.06%	0.07%	-	-	-	
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>4</sup>	66.32%	70.73%	84.28%	56.62%	81.62%	125.01%	
Net asset value per unit	\$13.68	\$13.74	\$13.34	\$14.11	\$13.00	\$11.73	

CLASS F Pe	riod ended		Periods	ended Dec	ember 31	
Jun	e 30, 2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	20085
Total net asset value (000's)1	\$202	\$299	\$362	\$350	\$172	\$16
Number of units outstanding <sup>1</sup>	14,278	21,040	26,198	24,211	12,920	1,330
Management expense ratio <sup>2</sup>	0.83%	0.86%	0.83%	0.80%	0.97%	0.98%
Management expense ratio before waivers or						
management absorptions <sup>2</sup>	0.83%	0.86%	0.83%	0.80%	0.97%	0.98%
Trading expense ratio <sup>3</sup>	0.02%	0.06%	0.07%	0.02%	-	-
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>4</sup>	66.32%	70.73%	84.28%	56.62%	81.62%	125.01%
Net asset value per unit	\$14.08	\$14.22	\$13.81	\$14.47	\$13.29	\$11.90

- 1) This information is provided as at June 30 or December 31 of the period shown, as applicable.
- 2) Management expense ratio ("MER") 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. In the period a fund is established, the MER is annualized from the date of inception to December 31.

The Manager absorbed certain expenses or waived certain fees otherwise payable by a class. In doing so, the Manager attempts to maintain the overall MER of the Fund at a relatively consistent level. The Manager may discontinue the absorption or waiver at any time

- 3) The trading expense ratio represents the total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period
- The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's Portfolio Manager 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. The rate is calculated based on the lesser of purchases or sales of investments divided by the average market value of the portfolio investments, excluding short-term investments.
- 5) The information shown in this column is for the period beginning October 31, 2008 (the class' inception date) and ending December 31, 2008.



## PAST PERFORMANCE

#### General

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

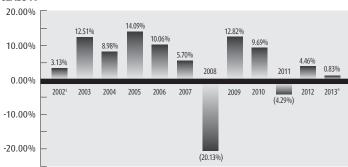
The performance information does not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or other optional charges that, if applicable, would have reduced returns or performance. Please remember, how the Fund has performed in the past does not indicate how it will perform in the future.

The Fund offers more than one class and the class returns may differ for a number of reasons, including if the class was not issued and outstanding for the entire reporting period and because of the different levels of management fees payable by each class.

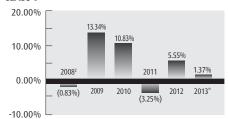
## **Year-by-Year Returns**

The following bar charts show the performance for each class of the Fund 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 the financial year.

#### **CLASS A**



#### **CLASS F**



<sup>\*</sup> For the six-month period ended June 30, 2013.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For the period beginning November 1, 2002 to December 31, 2002.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> For the period beginning October 31, 2008 to December 31, 2008.



# SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

As at June 30, 2013

## **Portfolio Allocation**

#### % of Net Asset Value

Financials	22.2
Corporate Bonds	15.3
Energy	14.7
Provincial Government Bonds	10.1
Government and Government Guaranteed Bonds	8.9
Materials	8.4
Industrials	5.0
Telecommunication Services	4.2
Consumer Staples	2.8
Consumer Discretionary	2.6
Money Market Investments	2.0
Information Technology	1.1
Healthcare	0.7
Cash/Receivables/Payables	2.0

## **Top 25 Holdings**

### % of Net Asset Value

Toronto-Dominion Bank, The	5.3
Bank of Nova Scotia, The	5.0
TransCanada Corporation	4.6
Veresen Inc.	3.7
Royal Bank TD 0.95% July 2, 2013	3.4
TELUS Corporation	3.1
Manulife Financial Corporation	3.1
Government of Canada, 2.250%, August 1, 2014	2.7
Peyto Exploration & Development Corporation	2.6
International Forest Products Limited,	2.4
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce	2.4
Canadian National Railway Company	2.1
Government of Canada, 8.000%, June 1 2023	2.1
Royal Bank of Canada	1.9
Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc., Class B	1.9
Government of Canada, 4.000% June 1, 2041	1.8
Province of Ontario, 3.150%, June 2, 2022	1.8
Aecon Group Inc.	1.7
Thomson Reuters Corporation	1.6
Agrium Inc.	1.3
Canadian Government Treasury Bill, July 3, 2013	1.2
Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc.	1.2
Suncor Energy Inc.	1.1
Brookfield Asset Management Inc., Class A	1.1
Government of Canada, 5.750% June 1, 2029	1.1
Top holdings as a percentage of total net asset value	60.2
Total Net Asset Value	\$24.8 Million

The summary of investment portfolio may change due to the Fund'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 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 Fund may invest and the risks detailed from time to time in BMO Nesbitt Burns Group of Funds' simplified 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 Fund, 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 Nesbitt Burns 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.

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