BMO Strategic Equity Yield Fund – Update

July 31, 2023

Fund Snapshot

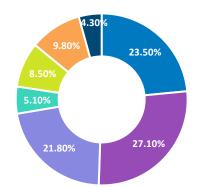
Average Coupon	Average Buffer Level	
9-10%	20 - 30%	

Fund Characteristics

Series	Fund Codes	MER (%)
Advisor (CAD)	BM099290	1.86
F (CAD)	BM095290	0.73

* As the fund is less than one year old, the actual Management Expense Ratio (MER) will not be known until the fund financial statements for the current fiscal year are published. The estimated MER is an estimate only of expected fund costs until the completion of a full fiscal year, and is not guaranteed.

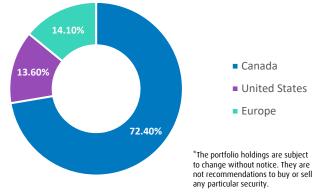
Reference Asset Exposure



Canadian Banks

- Canadian Market
- Canadian Other
- European Automotive
- European Market
- US Banks
- US Market

Reference Asset Regional Exposure



Portfolio Manager Commentary



Duy Le, CFA Portfolio Manager BMO Global Asset Management



Charles-Lucien Myssie, CIMCPortfolio ManagerPBMO Global Asset ManagementB

Chris McHaney, CFA Portfolio Manager

BMO Global Asset Management

The Strategic Equity Yield Fund (SEYF) was launched over six weeks ago and currently is well diversified across 16 positions. In terms of regional allocations, the fund has the following exposures: 72.4% Canadian, 14.10% in European, and 13.60% in US. These regional allocations are within the fund's target weightings and BMO GAM's house view. Our research suggests that Canadian equities are well poised to outperform, as we believe that the underperformance in the Canadian Market (S&P TSX 60 index up 4.87% YTD) relative to the US (S&P 500 index is up 19.82% YTD) is expected to revert.

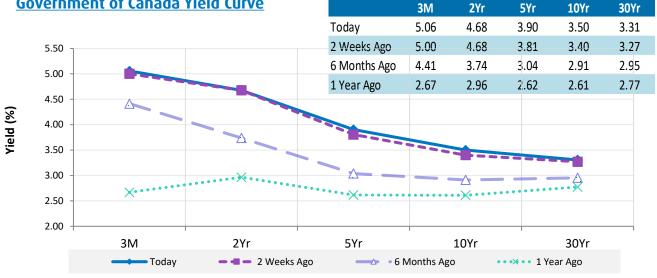
The Fed hiked rates another 25bps on July 26, as widely expected, bringing the overnight target to a 5.25%-5.50% range. US Real GDP growth came in hot at 2.4% annualized in the second quarter and core PCE inflation slowed to 4.1% year over year. North of the border, it looks like the Bank of Canada's tightening policy is working. While there is still some work to do, recent economic data suggests that monetary tightening cycle in Canada and the US could be nearing an end and, the fund is well poised to benefit from a market rally that is expected to follow.

Implied volatility levels have remained mostly flat, currently sitting at a two-week average of 13.70. While bond yields in Canada and the US have moved steadily higher. We continue to expect interest rates to stay elevated in the short-term and volatility to pick up, which should help the pricing of autocallable coupon yields moving forward.

Volatility Still Muted in the Markets



Government of Canada Yield Curve



Source: Bloomberg. Government Yields captured for the period from July 31, 2022 to July 31, 2023

Currently, all autocallable exposures in the fund are well above the target coupon level, hence previous and near-term coupons are expected to be paid into the fund. As for the current performance, market fluctuations in some of the underlyings within the fund are slightly dragging down the fund's performance, resulting in a 0.53% drop since inception. However, these small unrealized losses are expected to reverse in the near-term as markets continue to rally. The fund's average protection level is at 20-30% geared buffers, with an average coupon of 9.00% - 10.00%.

The markets are always moving, and the BMO Strategic Equity Yield Fund seeks to provide stability through its income-driven defined outcome strategy. The objective is to generate consistent yield while mitigating downside risk.

Disclaimer

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