

Tax Loss & Discount Bond Opportunity

Fixed income prices have fallen largely due to inflation concerns, which have caused central banks to be more hawkish on expected overnight interest rates and has also shifted the interest rate curve higher across the maturity spectrum as markets adjust.

Fixed income still plays an important part in a portfolio, providing long-term portfolio protection and diversification. Fixed income ETFs continue to magnify the general benefits of ETFs; **higher liquidity, better diversification, cost efficiency, and tax efficiency.**

The Opportunity

There is an opportunity to take advantage of a tax loss selling strategy and move your non-registered fixed income positions into more tax efficient discount bond ETFs (tax loss selling is not applicable in registered plans).

ZDB, ZSDB and ZCDB can help investors reduce taxable interest income relative to traditional bond funds with similar exposures. BMO's Discount Bond ETFs invest in bonds where the current yield is near or below par value. By investing in lower coupon bonds, and ensuring coupon and yield to maturity (YTM) are more aligned, helps improve tax efficiency. In a taxable account the higher the coupon, the higher tax the investor will pay. This does not impact the before tax total return, where coupons and price movement generally equal yield to maturity over time. [Click here](#) to learn more about the advantages of Discount Bond ETFs.

Sell			Buy	
Ticker	Name	YTD Gain/Loss (%)	Ticker	Name
VAB	Vanguard Canadian Aggregate Bond ETF	-10.46	ZDB	BMO Discount Bond Index ETF
XBB	iShares Core Canadian Universe Bond ETF	-10.31	ZDB	BMO Discount Bond Index ETF
HBB	Horizons CDN Select Universe Bond ETF	-10.31	ZDB	BMO Discount Bond Index ETF
ZAG	BMO Aggregate Bond Index ETF	-10.29	ZDB	BMO Discount Bond Index ETF
CACB	CIBC Active Investment Grade Corp Bond ETF	-9.71	ZCDB	BMO Corporate Discount Bond ETF
XCB	iShares Core Canadian Corp Bond ETF	-9.59	ZCDB	BMO Corporate Discount Bond ETF
VCB	Vanguard Canadian Corporate Bond ETF	-8.95	ZCDB	BMO Corporate Discount Bond ETF
Mutual Fund*	RBC Core Plus Bond Pool F	-7.59	ZDB	BMO Discount Bond Index ETF
Mutual Fund*	Manulife Strategic Income F	-7.19	ZDB	BMO Discount Bond Index ETF

Source: Morningstar Direct, Mar 31, 2022.

* Check to ensure DSC charges do not apply to sale of Mutual Fund.

Beware of “Superficial Losses”

While executing a tax loss strategy where the two securities (in this case, ETFs) are considered “identical properties” a capital loss on the sale of one followed by an immediate re-purchase (or re-purchase within 30 days) of the other would be considered a “superficial loss” for tax purposes. A best practice to avoid this is to ensure the two ETFs do not track the same index.

Reminder on Fixed Income Conversions

For fixed income trading at a loss, institutions and financial advisors can contact their BMO ETF Specialist and potentially convert them into a BMO ETF. By doing so, investors can realize losses on an individual security but remain invested in an asset class through a BMO ETF. For further details on the conversion please [Click here](#) or contact your BMO ETF Specialist.



Let's connect

 Call us at 1-800-668-7327  bmo.com/gam/ca/advisor

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For a summary of the risks of an investment in the BMO ETFs, please see the specific risks set out in the prospectus. BMO ETFs trade like stocks, fluctuate in market value and may trade at a discount to their net asset value, which may increase the risk of loss. Distributions are not guaranteed and are subject to change and/or elimination.

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