



LESTER ASSET MANAGEMENT

RESPONSIBLE GROWTH



CANADIAN EQUITY REPORT February 29, 2024

INVESTMENT STRATEGY AND PROCESS

Lester Asset Management Inc. ("LAM") launched an actively managed All-Cap Canadian Equity strategy for its segregated accounts in July 2006 and created a pooled version through the LAM Canadian Equity Fund (the "Fund") in January 2012. The strategy's aim is to be different from the S&P/TSX Composite Index and achieve higher returns than the market with lower risk as measured by low market correlation, low cyclical exposure, and better industry diversification. The portfolio is invested in 40 to 50 small, mid and large cap Canadian listed companies selected using a research process based on fundamental bottom-up analysis, strict quantitative and qualitative criteria, and a sound understanding of each company and the industry in which each operates, complemented by a macro-economic outlook. The investment style is value-driven and opportunistic, seeking to buy shares at a discount to a company's true worth, with the goal of maximizing shareholder value through dividend growth, share buybacks, spin-offs or an outright sale.

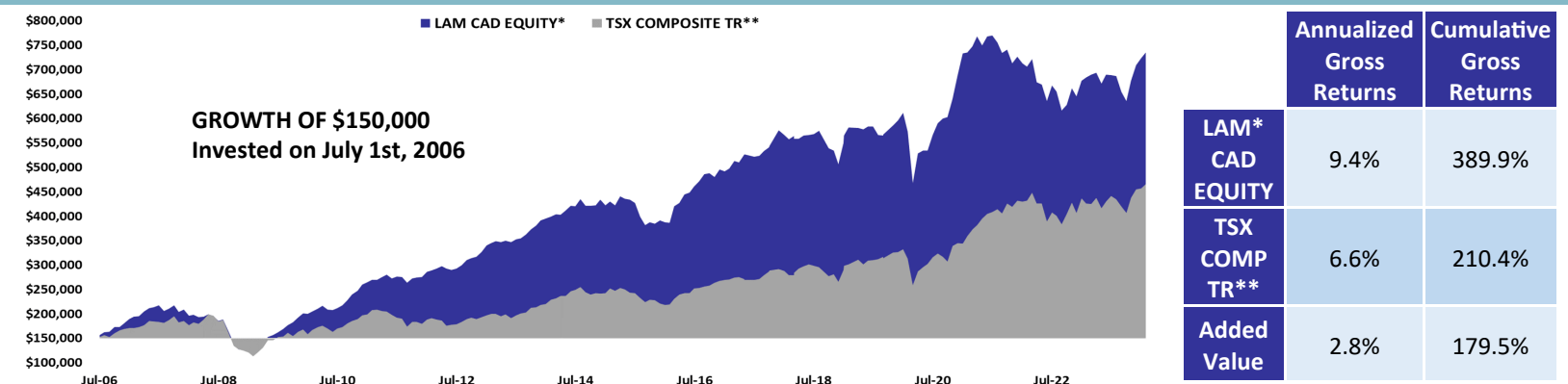
CALENDAR YEAR GROSS RETURNS (except for 2006 which is for 6 months)

	2024 YTD	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
LAM CAD EQUITY*	3.7%	9.8%	-11.2%	5.4%	15.6%	18.0%	-11.9%	15.8%	26.6%	-9.6%	10.5%	19.3%	17.6%	5.8%	29.7%	60.2%	-40.0%	15.4%	20.7%
TSX COMPOSITE	2.4%	11.8%	-5.8%	25.1%	5.6%	22.9%	-8.9%	9.1%	21.1%	-8.3%	10.5%	13.0%	7.2%	-8.7%	17.6%	35.1%	-33.0%	9.8%	12.5%

ANNUALIZED GROSS RETURNS (except for 1 month and 3 months returns)

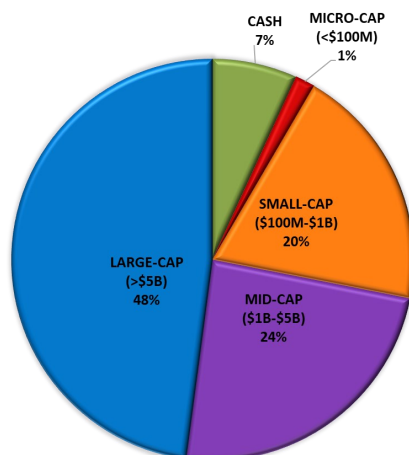
	1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	1 YEAR	3 YEARS	5 YEARS	10 YEARS	SINCE JULY 1, 2006
LAM CAD EQUITY*	1.5%	8.5%	7.4%	0.0%	5.4%	6.3%	9.4%
TSX COMPOSITE TR**	1.8%	6.4%	9.3%	9.0%	9.3%	7.4%	6.6%

CUMULATIVE GROSS RETURNS VERSUS TSX COMPOSITE TR** SINCE JULY 1, 2006



FUND ALLOCATION BY SECTOR AND MARKET CAP

INDUSTRIALS	24.3%
FINANCIALS	13.7%
DISCRETIONARY	10.4%
TECHNOLOGY	10.0%
COMMUNICATIONS	8.6%
CASH & EQUIVALENTS	6.8%
UTILITIES	6.8%
STAPLES	6.4%
MATERIALS	5.0%
REAL ESTATE	4.2%
ENERGY	3.8%
HEALTHCARE	0.0%



TOP 20 FUND HOLDINGS

LARGE CAP	%	SMALL/MID CAP	%
BMO	4.3	AG GROWTH INTL	3.5
ENBRIDGE	3.8	TECSYS	3.3
DEFINITY	3.7	SAVARIA	3.3
CP RAIL	3.6	POLLARD BANKNOTE	3.0
TELUS	3.6	PET VALU	2.9
CGI GROUP	3.5	BORALEX	2.6
ALTAGAS	3.4	PARK LAWN	2.5
CN RAILWAY	3.3	JAMIESON	2.5
WSP GLOBAL	3.0	ALTUS GROUP	2.4
CCL	2.8	QUARTERHILL INC	2.4

MONTHLY COMMENTARY

For the month, **LAM Canadian Equity Fund** rose by **+1.5%** on a gross basis versus **+1.8%** for the TSX Composite Total Return. Year-to-date, the Fund is up **+3.7%** versus **+2.4%** for the TSX. World equity markets climbed again on continued optimism about an end to the rate hiking cycle and strong economic data, despite the U.S. Federal Reserve and the Bank of Canada indicating that rate cuts may be delayed until later in the year. Our slight underperformance versus the TSX was mainly due to our low weightings in the Energy and Financial sectors which rose **+8%** and **+2.3%** respectively. Nevertheless, many of our holdings performed very well releasing strong financial results. Our top contributors included P&C insurance provider **Definity Financial**, global label manufacturer **CCL Industries**, space technology leader **MDA**, asset manager **Guardian Capital**, real estate services & technology provider **Altus Group**, seafood supplier **High Liner**, and global engineering firm **WSP Global**. Our main detractors included automation systems integrator **ATS**, renewable power producer **Boralex**, and intelligent transportation systems provider **Quarterhill**. We continue to have a positive view of equity markets now that interest rates have stabilized and will eventually decline, yet employment remains strong. Nevertheless, we are being very selective about what sectors and companies we are investing in, and remain cognisant of numerous risks including a slowing economy and volatile geopolitics. Our portfolio remains well diversified and invested in economically resilient growing businesses trading at reasonable valuations which should allow us to keep generating attractive risk-adjusted returns.

PORTFOLIO MANAGERS



Stephen Takacsy – CEO, Chief Investment Officer and Lead Manager Canadian Equity

Stephen joined the firm in 2006 as Chief Investment Officer and developed its Canadian Equity and Fixed Income strategies. He became Chief Executive Officer in 2017. Stephen's diverse career in finance spans over 30 years, including roles in corporate lending, investment banking, and managing the cash proceeds from the sale of a publicly traded company where he was Chief Financial Officer. His extensive experience in corporate finance, mergers & acquisitions, valuation analysis and investments has added value to client returns.

Co-Managers: Matthew Kaszel, CFA and Olivier Tardif-Loiselle, CFA

STRATEGY CHARACTERISTICS

Inception Date	July 1st, 2006
Strategy AUM	\$174 million
Style	All –Cap, value-driven and opportunistic
Process	Fundamental bottom-up analysis
Portfolio	40 to 50 diversified holdings
Risk Metrics (since inception)	Low cyclical exposure Low market correlation Beta: 0.78 Upside capture: 84% Downside capture: 58% Portfolio turnover (5 year): 26% Maximum position size: 5% Maximum sector weight: 25%

POOLED FUND TERMS

Inception Date	January 3rd, 2012			
Fund AUM	\$81 million			
Minimum Investment	\$150,000 (or less for accredited investors)			
Eligible Accounts	Non-Registered and Registered (RRSP, RESP, TFSA...)			
Distribution	AB, BC, MB, ON, QC, by way of Offering Memorandum			
Management Expense Ratio (MER)	Management Fee (as listed below) + a maximum of 0.1% for operating expenses, as well as trading and custodial charges			
Fund Units***	SERIES	FUNDSERV CODE	NAV	MGMT. FEE
	F	LAF100	\$21.67	1.5%
	I	LAF101	\$16.59	1.0%
	O	LAF102	\$12.88	TBD

ABOUT THE FIRM

Lester Asset Management is a Montreal-based independent portfolio management firm serving private clients and institutions, with a fiduciary duty to always act in the best interests of its clients. The Firm also manages institutional funds for the *Quebec Emerging Managers Program*. The Firm is committed to preserving and growing the financial wealth of its clients through responsible and ethical investing while also providing a high level of personalized service to meet its clients' evolving needs. The Firm is focused on the active value-added management of its core strategies: Canadian Equity, Canadian Fixed Income, and Global Equity, aiming to outperform the main indices and add value by achieving higher returns than the market with lower risk. In 2021, the Firm received a Global Manager Research (GMR) *Top Performer* award for its 1-year return in the Canadian Fixed Income category, and in 2022 it received two more GMR *Top Performer* awards for its 5-year and 10-year returns in the Canadian Fixed Income Plus category. The Firm is also a signatory of the United Nations' Principles of Responsible Investing and is a member of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosure (TNFD) Forum and the Nature Action 100 engagement team.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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FREQUENT CONTRIBUTOR ON



*Returns for LAM's Canadian Equity strategy are gross of management fees and based on dollar-weighted gross returns for the Canadian Equity composite of segregated portfolios managed by LAM using the same strategy from July 2006 until the launch of the Fund in January 2012, and on gross returns of the LAM Canadian Equity Fund thereafter. **The S&P/TSX Composite Total Return Index is the benchmark that has been used since the inception of LAM's Canadian Equity strategy in July 2006 and the Fund in January 2012, and reflects the policy of investing only in Canadian Equity securities.*** Returns on the different unit series of the Fund will vary due to applicable management fees. Please read the Offering Memorandum before investing in the Fund. Pooled fund returns are not guaranteed as unit values change frequently and past performance may not be repeated.