



**HARBOUR**  
ADVISORS

## Harbour Fund CI Canadian Investment Fund Third-quarter 2019 Commentary

*Peter Hofstra, Chief Investment Officer and Senior Portfolio Manager, CFA*

<b>Class F returns (in %) as at September 30, 2019</b>	<b>Year-to-date</b>	<b>1 year</b>	<b>3 year</b>	<b>5 year</b>	<b>10 year</b>
Harbour Fund	15.0	5.9	5.2	1.9	4.5
CI Canadian Investment Fund	14.5	5.4	7.1	5.0	7.1

Sources: Bloomberg Finance L.P. and Harbour Advisors, as at September 30, 2019.

### Market Overview

) On August 1, 2019, Peter Hofstra, Chief Investment Officer and Senior Portfolio Manager, started managing Harbour Fund (the “Fund”). Mr. Hofstra had been working closely with the prior manager and therefore had a common view on a number of the Fund’s holdings. We are big believers in carefully deployed concentration as an effective way to add value, and thus the Fund’s portfolio will likely have fewer holdings going forward. We typically keep the number of holdings under 40, we maintain a strong quality bias and work to ensure suitable diversification by sector and end markets. Each quarter, we will provide an update as to our broader view of the economic backdrop as well as provide details on contributors and detractors to returns, and we will highlight significant changes to the Fund’s portfolio.

) It was status quo over the third quarter of 2019. The quarter was filled with all the same types of headlines that pervaded the prior quarters, including the U.S.-China trade dispute, what the U.S. Federal Reserve (the “Fed”) should do regarding monetary policy (especially interest rates) and whether U.S. President Donald Trump should be impeached. Plus, we can add the temporary inversion of the U.S. yield curve and the attack on Saudi Arabia’s oil infrastructure. But, in the end, both Canadian and U.S. markets closed higher than when the quarter started, certainly supported by two interest-rate cuts from the Fed. Our broader view remains that we are in a slow-growth environment that will have temporary periods of above-trend growth and temporary periods below trend. A below-trend period could meet the technical definition of a recession (two quarters of negative gross-domestic-product growth), but, at this point, we believe any recession would be mild, and thus we are not moving aggressively to a defensive posture for Harbour Fund and CI Canadian Investment Fund (the “Funds”). The



**HARBOUR**  
ADVISORS



modest growth expectation is supported by the strong employment picture in North America, which is constructive for consumer spending. Business spending is being impacted by the U.S.-China trade dispute, creating odd inventory cycles as companies try to navigate the on/off imposition of tariffs. However, we believe business will find a way to get product to consumers, if there is the appetite to spend.

- ) A heightened level of caution would derive from a significant bump in inflation. If central banks are forced to raise interest rates, it could stifle the economy quickly given the high levels of consumer and government debt. The fallout from the attack on Saudi Arabia is something we monitored closely as a substantial spike in the price of oil would drive inflation higher, but that did not materialize, confirming our thesis that the world is awash in oil thanks to the shale-oil revolution. We have maintained a relatively small exposure for the Funds to the energy sector. The less tangible risk element to consider is investor sentiment, which can turn quickly. However, trade news, impeachment cases and missile attacks all seem to have been shrugged off by consumers and the market, but we will continue to watch for signs of a shift.

### **Performance Summary**

- ) Over the quarter ended September 30, 2019, Class F of Harbour Fund returned 5.6% and Class F of CI Canadian Investment Fund returned 5.5%. The benchmark for both Funds, the S&P/TSX Composite Total Return Index, was up 2.5% over the same period. We had a number of positions in the Funds perform well, with no substantial detractors. The cannabis group detracted from the benchmark's return, but the Funds had zero exposure to this sub-group during the quarter.

### **Contributors to Performance**

- ) Top contributions to the Funds during the quarter came from investments in the TMX Group Ltd., the company that operates the Toronto Stock Exchange amongst other services; Brookfield Asset Management Inc., the global real estate owner and operator; and KLA Corp. (formerly KLA-Tencor Corp.), which sells test equipment to the semiconductor industry.



**HARBOUR**  
ADVISORS



### **Detractors from Performance**

- ) Holdings in Humana Inc., Canadian Natural Resources Ltd. and Canadian Pacific Railway Ltd. detracted modestly from the Funds' performance during the quarter. We continue to hold all three in the Funds.

### **Portfolio Activity**

- ) During the quarter, we reduced the overall number of holdings in the Funds by selling primarily some non-North American companies, including AIA Group Ltd., Ferrovial S.A., Safran S.A., Unilever N.V. and Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson. We also sold Canadian utilities Boralex Inc. and Northland Power Inc., as well as metals companies Lundin Mining Corp. and Wheaton Precious Metals Corp. Generally, we do not carry much exposure to the commodities sector as there are not many companies in the sector that can be viewed as great long-term compounders, but we will participate in the sector if we believe assets are undervalued and there is opportunity for additive trades.
- ) Also during the quarter, we added a few holdings to the Funds, including Canada-based Canadian Tire Corp. and CGI Inc. and U.S.-based Ross Stores, Inc., the discount retailer; Apple Inc.; and KLA. The investment in KLA was timely as that company was among the top three contributors to the Funds' performance for the period.
- ) Other than the aforementioned changes, there were some additions and trims to the Fund portfolios as we always look to rotate to the greatest return opportunities while maintaining the overall quality bias of the portfolios. See the explanation below for more details on our investment process.
- ) It gives us comfort that there were a number of contributors to the Funds' positive performance during the quarter as opposed to a single stock making an outsized contribution, and we will remain diligent in providing diversified portfolios.

### **Outlook**

- ) Looking ahead, we will stay the course. We're holding to our view of continued slow growth with the associated ebbs and flows. There is opportunity for good operators to grow their business, and we will maintain the emphasis on recurring revenue to help protect the Funds through periods of economic slowdown.



**HARBOUR**  
ADVISORS



## Quality Optimized Returns (QOR) Process

We implement our investment philosophy through our QOR process. We utilize concentration to add value, which makes the analytical work on individual companies the most critical input. We target consistent and compelling rolling three-year returns, and we are all analysts. As a team, we have developed a method to rank all potential investments on a grid that considers the business quality and risk-adjusted returns of the Funds' investments.

1. We begin by applying a quality screen to the available universe of stocks to filter out companies that we do not consider to be investable.
2. Of the companies eligible for investment, we conduct bottom-up research to further evaluate the inherent business risk (quality) and estimate the fair value of any given business based on our own internal financial framework. The predictability of the business is captured in the risk adjustment. The current market price, the fair value and the risk adjustment are used to calculate the risk-adjusted return.
3. Every potential investment gets a quality tag such that all opportunities can be mapped onto our grid (see below). The highest quality rank goes to those companies with high returns on capital, predictable revenues, a strong balance sheet and potential to continue to grow by redeploying capital at high rates of return. At the other end of our spectrum would be a commodity company with modest returns on capital, limited predictability and sufficient access to capital to survive a prolonged downturn.
4. The positioning on the grid determines the potential weight of the company in the Fund portfolios, with higher quality and higher risk-adjusted return being the largest weights. This allows us to consistently construct portfolios with a majority of the capital deployed at the higher end of the quality spectrum.
5. The market price of a company's stock and analyst views are continuously updated to ensure we can rotate to the highest return ideas while maintaining our quality bias.

We do not consider the benchmark's composition when constructing the Fund portfolios, but we do impose sector and end-market constraints to ensure diversification and also monitor and maintain ample liquidity.



**HARBOUR**  
ADVISORS



**QOR Grid**

 <b>Risk Adjusted Return</b>	<b>QUALITY</b>						
	<b>Elite</b>						<b>Commodity</b>
	Largest Weight						
							<b>Smallest Weight</b>

**IMPORTANT DISCLAIMERS**

*Commissions, trailing commissions, management fees and expenses all may be associated with mutual fund investments. Please read the prospectus before investing. The indicated rates of return are the historical annual compound total returns net of fees (except for figures of one year or less, which are simple total returns), including changes in security value and reinvestment of all distributions, and do not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or optional charges or income taxes payable by any securityholder that would have reduced returns. Mutual funds are not guaranteed, their values change frequently and past performance may not be repeated.*

*Certain statements contained in this communication are based in whole or in part on information provided by third parties and CI Investments Inc. has taken reasonable steps to ensure their accuracy. Market conditions may change which may impact the information contained in this document.*

*This commentary is published by CI Investments Inc. The contents of this piece are intended for informational purposes only and not to be used or construed as an endorsement or recommendation of any entity or security discussed. The information should not be construed as investment, tax, legal or accounting advice, and should not be relied upon in that regard. Individuals should seek the advice of professionals, as appropriate, regarding any particular investment. Investors should consult their professional advisors prior to implementing any changes to their investment strategies. These investments may not be suitable to the circumstances of an investor. Some conditions apply.*

*Certain statements in this document are forward-looking. Forward-looking statements (“FLS”) are statements that are predictive in nature, depend upon or refer to future events or conditions, or that include words such as “may,” “will,” “should,” “could,” “expect,” “anticipate,” “intend,” “plan,” “believe,” or “estimate,” or other similar expressions. Statements that look forward in time or include anything other than historical information are subject to risks and uncertainties, and actual results, actions or events could differ materially from those set forth in the FLS. FLS are not guarantees of future performance and are by their nature based on numerous assumptions. Although the FLS contained herein are based upon what CI Investments Inc. and the portfolio manager believe to be reasonable assumptions, neither CI Investments Inc. nor the portfolio manager can assure that actual results will be consistent*



*with these FLS. The reader is cautioned to consider the FLS carefully and not to place undue reliance on FLS. Unless required by applicable law, it is not undertaken, and specifically disclaimed that there is any intention or obligation to update or revise FLS, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.*

*The comparison presented is intended to illustrate the mutual fund's historical performance as compared with the historical performance of widely quoted market indexes or a weighted blend of widely quoted market indexes or another investment fund. There are various important differences that may exist between the mutual fund and the stated indexes or investment fund that may affect the performance of each. The objectives and strategies of the mutual fund result in holdings that do not necessarily reflect the constituents of and their weights within the comparable indexes or investment fund. Indexes are unmanaged and their returns do not include any sales charges or fees. It is not possible to invest directly in market indexes.*

*Harbour Advisors logo and design are registered trademarks of CI Investments Inc. Harbour Advisors is a division of CI Investments Inc.*

*CI Investments® and the CI Investments design are registered trademarks of CI Investments Inc.*

*© CI Investments Inc. 2019. All rights reserved. "Trusted Partner in Wealth™" is a trademark of CI Investments Inc.*

*Published October 31, 2019.*