# INTERIM MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE

June 30 2018

# **CHOU ASSOCIATES FUND**

CHOU ASSOCIATES MANAGEMENT INC.

This interim management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete financial statements of the Fund. You can get a copy of the interim or annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling Toll-free: 1-888-357-5070, by writing to us at 110 Sheppard Ave. East, Suite 301, Box 18, Toronto, Ontario M2N 6Y8 or by visiting our website at <a href="https://www.sedar.com">www.sedar.com</a>. and SEDAR at <a href="https://www.sedar.com">www.sedar.com</a>.

Unitholders 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, or quarterly portfolio disclosure.

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 or implied 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 the Fund's 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, the family of Chou Funds 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.

Chou Associates Management Inc. ("the Manager") manages the overall business of the Fund, including the selection of the securities in the Fund's portfolio and promoting sales of the Fund's units. For the purposes of this document, the terms Chou Associates Management Inc. and "the Manager" are interchangeable. Full contact information for the Manager is located at the end of this report.

## **Management Discussion of Fund Performance**

#### **Investment Objective and Strategies**

Chou Associates Fund's (the "Fund") objective is to provide long-term growth of capital by investing primarily in equity securities of United States ("U.S.") and foreign businesses considered by Chou Associates Management Inc. (the "Manager") to be undervalued. The Fund may also invest in the equity securities of Canadian businesses. The Fund's investments may include common and preferred shares, convertible debentures, warrants, government and corporate bonds and short-term indebtedness.

The Fund's investment strategy follows a strong discipline with regard to the prices paid to acquire portfolio investments. The level of investments in a particular entity's securities is generally commensurate with the current price of the company's securities in relation to the Manager's assessment of such entity's intrinsic value as determined by various factors. This approach is designed to provide an extra margin of safety, which in turn, serves to reduce the Fund's overall portfolio risk.

#### Risk

The risks of investing in the Fund are disclosed in the Fund's most recently filed Simplified Prospectus which can be found on the Fund's website at <a href="https://www.sedar.com">www.sedar.com</a>.

During the first half of 2018, there were no material changes that affected the Fund's overall level of risk.

As at June 30, 2018, Fairfax Financial Holdings held 31.2% of the units of the Fund. If Fairfax redeems its units, a significant portion of the Fund's investments may have to be liquidated in order to effect this transaction. The timing of such a liquidation may not be appropriate and all investors may suffer a proportionate loss as a result of such a liquidation.

#### **Market Review**

U.S. equities began strong early in 2018, supported by ongoing strength in economic data, positive corporate earnings and the tax reform package. However, the favourable macroeconomic environment was balanced by announcements from the Trump administration to impose tariffs on Chinese imports, with the risk of retaliatory efforts. Furthermore, the escalating trade tensions extended to members of the European Union and Canada. The continuing trade sanctions caused some market turbulence, drove oil prices higher and weighed on longer-term growth expectations.

There were also worries that the Federal Reserve (Fed) may become more proactive in raising interest rates in order to keep inflationary pressures under control. As expected, the Fed did raise rates by 25 basis points (bps) from 1.5% to 1.75% in March 2018. The overall rate projection of three hikes for 2018 remained the same.

Overall, the energy, consumer discretionary and technology sectors of the market performed well, led by the major technology stocks such as Amazon, Apple, Netflix and Google. Meanwhile, interest rate sensitive sectors such as financials, utilities and telecom were weaker, suffering from the rise in North American bond yields.

#### **Results of Operations**

For the period ended June 30, 2018, the Fund decreased 2.2% for Series A units and 1.9% for Series F units, after fees and expenses, while the S&P 500 Total Return Index increased 7.7% in Canadian dollars. In U.S. dollars, the Fund decreased by 6.4% for Series A units and 6.2% for Series F units, while the S&P 500 Total Return Index returned 2.7%.

The biggest positive contributors to the Fund's performance in the first half of 2018 include the equity holdings of MBIA Inc. and Nokia.

The Canadian currency depreciated against the US dollar, which also positively affected the Fund.

Equities of Ascent Capital Group, Sears Holdings Corporation, Wells Fargo, as well as EXCO Resources 1.75 lien term loan were the main negative contributors to the Fund's performance in the first half of 2018.

During the period, the Fund decreased its holding in Nokia. New additions during the period included equity stakes in Valeant Pharmaceuticals, Allegiant Travel Company and Spirit Airlines. The previous holdings in Valeant Pharmaceuticals were sold before year-end 2017.

In the first half of 2018, the Fund received \$834,145 in income from its securities lending program.

The Fund had no covered call options in its portfolio as at June 30, 2018.

The Fund did not enter into any foreign currency contracts during the period ended June 30, 2018.

The Fund's net redemptions for the period ended June 30, 2018 were approximately \$22,250,822 for Series A units and approximately \$1,593,735 for Series F units. The Fund's average month-end cash position for the period was 8.3% of the Fund's net assets.

#### **Recent Developments**

There have been no recent market developments of particular note, aside from the normal fluctuations of the markets that are expected to have an undue influence on the portfolio of the Fund when compared to its benchmark.

## **Related Party Transactions**

The Manager manages the overall business of the Fund, including selection of the securities in the Fund's portfolio and promoting the sale of the Fund's units.

The Manager is also the trustee of the Fund. Investors receive units of a trust when they invest in the Fund. The Manager, as trustee, holds actual title to the property in the Fund, the cash and portfolio securities, on behalf of the Fund's investors.

The Manager, its officers and directors invest in units of the Fund from time to time in the normal course of business. All transactions with the Manager are carried out at the Fund's net asset value as at the transaction date. As of June 30, 2018, the Manager does not hold any units of the Fund.

During the period ended June 30, 2018, there were no transactions with related parties except in the capacities and instances set out above.

## **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 period ended June 30, 2018, and for each of the past five years ended December 31, as applicable.

The Fund's Net Assets per Unit<sup>1</sup> - Series A Units

	 Jun 2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Net Assets, beginning of period	\$ 112.16	\$ 110.60	\$ 115.50	\$ 124.04	\$ 111.35	\$ 81.21
Increase (decrease) from operations:						
Total revenue	\$ 0.78	\$ 4.38	\$ 2.11	\$ 0.01	\$ 1.94	\$ 1.91
Total expenses	\$ (1.14)	\$ (2.33)	\$ (2.06)	\$ (2.38)	\$ (2.18)	\$ (2.00)
Realized gains (losses) for the period	\$ 0.62	\$ 2.42	\$ 12.19	\$ 7.31	\$ 4.36	\$ 11.72
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	\$ (2.96)	\$ (0.98)	\$ (17.19)	\$ (13.35)	\$ 9.19	\$ 21.42
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>2</sup>	\$ (2.70)	\$ 3.49	\$ (4.95)	\$ (8.41)	\$ 13.31	\$ 33.05
Distributions:						
From income (excluding dividends)	\$ -	\$ 2.63	\$ 1.54	\$ -	\$ 0.71	\$ 0.10
From dividends	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.05
From capital gains	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.04	\$ 0.07	\$ -	\$ 3.14
Return of capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.06	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Distributions <sup>3</sup>	\$ -	\$ 2.63	\$ 1.64	\$ 0.07	\$ 0.71	\$ 3.29
Net Assets, end of period	\$ 109.75	\$ 112.16	\$ 110.60	\$ 115.50	\$ 124.04	\$ 111.35
Net Assets, end of period (USD)	\$ 83.49	\$ 89.23	\$ 82.37	\$ 83.47	\$ 106.88	\$ 104.72

## Ratios and Supplemental Data - Series A Units

	Jun 2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
<b>Total Net Asset Value (000s)</b> <sup>4</sup>	\$ 306,308	\$ 336,325	\$ 403,678	\$ 468,191	\$ 514,449	\$ 469,149
Number of Redeemable Units Outstanding	2,790,869	2,998,503	3,650,048	4,053,774	4,142,334	4,208,995
Management Expense Ratio <sup>5</sup>	2.01%	1.89%	1.87%	1.82%	1.81%	1.82%
Management Expense Ratio before waivers or absorptions <sup>6</sup>	2.01%	1.89%	1.87%	1.82%	1.81%	1.82%
Trading Expense Ratio <sup>7</sup>	0.05%	0.15%	0.05%	0.02%	0.03%	0.06%
Portfolio Turnover Rate	0.55%	26.03%	16.55%	4.06%	7.73%	9.14%
Net Asset Value per Unit	\$ 109.75	\$ 112.16	\$ 110.60	\$ 115.50	\$ 124.04	\$ 111.35

### The Fund's Net Assets per Unit<sup>1</sup> - Series F Units

	 Jun 2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Net Assets, beginning of period	\$ 111.51	\$ 110.03	\$ 114.76	\$ 123.33	\$ 110.76	\$ 81.01
Increase (decrease) from operations:						
Total revenue	\$ 0.78	\$ 4.40	\$ 2.11	\$ 0.01	\$ 1.95	\$ 1.88
Total expenses	\$ (0.83)	\$ (1.72)	\$ (1.50)	\$ (1.69)	\$ (1.52)	\$ (1.44)
Realized gains (losses) for the period	\$ 0.63	\$ 2.56	\$ 12.15	\$ 7.27	\$ 4.35	\$ 11.54
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	\$ (2.70)	\$ (1.67)	\$ (15.42)	\$ (13.89)	\$ 8.99	\$ 21.94
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>2</sup>	\$ (2.12)	\$ 3.57	\$ (2.66)	\$ (8.30)	\$ 13.77	\$ 33.92
Distributions:						
From income (excluding dividends)	\$ -	\$ 3.35	\$ 2.03	\$ -	\$ 1.40	\$ 0.68
From dividends	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.33
From capital gains	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.03	\$ 0.84	\$ -	\$ 3.14
Return of capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.06	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Distributions <sup>3</sup>	\$ -	\$ 3.35	\$ 2.12	\$ 0.84	\$ 1.40	\$ 4.15
Net Assets, end of period	\$ 109.41	\$ 111.51	\$ 110.03	\$ 114.76	\$ 123.33	\$ 110.76
Net Assets, end of period (USD)	\$ 83.23	\$ 88.71	\$ 81.95	\$ 83.47	\$ 106.27	\$ 104.16

#### Ratios and Supplemental Data - Series F Units

	Jun 2018	201	7	2016	2015	2014	2013
<b>Total Net Asset Value (000s)</b> <sup>4</sup>	\$ 38,149	\$ 40,484	\$ 45	074	\$ 45,520	\$ 43,059	\$ 33,864
Number of Redeemable Units Outstanding	348,668	363,060	409	648	396,647	348,701	305,457
Management Expense Ratio <sup>5</sup>	1.45%	1.339	6 1.	32%	1.26%	1.24%	1.26%
Management Expense Ratio before waivers or absorptions <sup>6</sup>	1.45%	1.339	6 1.	32%	1.26%	1.24%	1.26%
Trading Expense Ratio <sup>7</sup>	0.05%	0.159	% 0.	05%	0.02%	0.03%	0.06%
Portfolio Turnover Rate	0.55%	26.039	6 16	55%	4.06%	7.73%	9.14%
Net Asset Value per Unit	\$ 109.41	\$ 111.5	\$ 11	0.03	\$ 114.76	\$ 123.33	\$ 110.76

<sup>(1)</sup> This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual and unaudited semi-annual financial statements.

<sup>(2)</sup> Net assets and distributions are based on the actual number of redeemable units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase/decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of redeemable units outstanding over the financial period.

<sup>(3)</sup> Distributions were reinvested in additional units of the Fund or paid in cash upon request.

<sup>(4)</sup> This information is provided as at year end shown and is rounded to the nearest thousand.

<sup>(5)</sup> 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 weekly average net asset value during the period. The Manager may, at its discretion, waive or absorb certain operating expenses. MER includes the waiver or absorption by the Manager of certain operating expenses, while the MER before absorption shows the MER prior to operating expenses being waived or absorbed by the Manager.

<sup>(6)</sup> The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of weekly average net asset value during the year.

<sup>(7)</sup> The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio adviser 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.

#### **Management Fees**

The Manager manages the Fund. The Manager is entitled to an investment management fee calculated daily as a percentage of the market value of the net assets equal to 1.5% per annum for Series A units and 1.0% per annum for Series F units, payable monthly. The Manager pays 50 basis points per year trailer fees to dealers out of management fees for Series A units. There is no trailer fee paid out for Series F units.

#### **Past Performance**

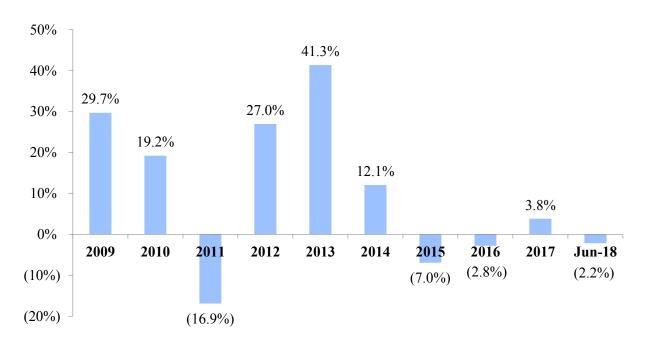
#### General

The following charts and tables show the Fund's past performance. Rates of return are historical total returns that include changes in unit prices and assume the reinvestment of all distributions. These returns do not take into account any sales charges, redemption fees, other optional expenses or income taxes that the Fund's investors have to pay and which could reduce these returns. The Fund's past performance does not necessarily indicate its future performance.

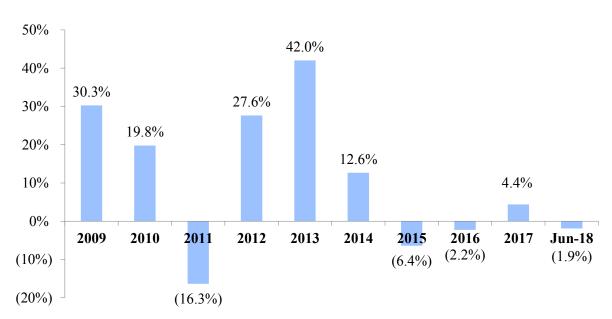
#### Year-by-Year Returns

The following bar charts show the annual performance for each of the Series A and Series F units of the Fund for each of the years shown. Each chart shows, in percentage terms, how an investment on January 1 would have increased or decreased by December 31 for each of the years, and how the performance of the Fund varied from year to year. The return for 2018 is for the six-month period from January 1 to June 30.

#### Series A







#### **Annual Compound Returns**

The following tables<sup>(1)</sup> show the annual compound total return for each of the Series A and Series F units of the Fund. The tables outline the Fund's past performance for the one-, three-, five-, ten-, and fifteen-year periods ended on June 30, 2018 for Series A units and since inception and for the one-, three-, five- and ten-year periods ended on June 30, 2018 for Series F units. Also shown for the same periods are the respective historical annual compound total returns of the S&P 500 (the "Index"). The Index is based on the market capitalizations of 500 leading companies publicly traded in the U.S. stock market representing all major industries, as determined by Standard & Poor's. The Index is one of the most commonly followed equity indices and has been widely regarded as the best single gauge of the large cap U.S. equities market since the Index was first published in 1957. The benchmark Index is calculated without the deduction of management fees and fund expenses, whereas the performance of the Fund is calculated after deducting such fees and expenses.

#### Series A

June 30, 2018	Past Year	Past 3 Years	Past 5 Years	Past 10 Years	Past 15 Years
Chou Associates Fund	-1.27%	-1.93%	3.03%	5.55%	5.81%
S&P 500 (\$CAN)	15.72%	13.86%	18.54%	13.01%	9.08%

#### Series F

June 30, 2018	Past Year	Past 3 Years	Past 5 Years	Past 10 Years	Since Inception
Chou Associates Fund	-0.71%	-1.37%	3.60%	6.14%	5.66%
S&P 500 (\$CAN)	15.72%	13.86%	18.54%	13.01%	9.75%

<sup>(1)</sup> Tables assume the reinvestment of all dividend

## **Summary of Investment Portfolio**

The following tables provide a summary of the Fund's portfolio as at June 30, 2018.

Financials 44. Health Care 24. Materials 13.	
Materials 13.	2%
Oil & Gas 9.	4%
Consumer Discretionary 3.	0%
Information Technology 1.	6%
Industrials 0.	9%
Net Cash & Equivalents 3.	3%
Total Portfolio 100.	)%
<u>Total Issuers</u> <u>of Fund's Net Ass</u>	e ts
(excluding cash equivalents)	
Equities	
Berkshire Hathaway Inc., Class 'A' 16.	2%
Resolute Forest Products Inc. 13.	2%
Valeant Pharmaceuticals International Inc. 12.	0%
The Goldman Sachs Group Inc. 6.	3%
Sanofi, ADR 6.	0%
Citigroup Inc. 5.	4%
DaVita Inc. 3.	7%
MBIA Inc. 3.	7%
Endo International PLC 2.	9%
Nokia OYJ, ADR	4%
Sears Hometown and Outlet Stores Inc.	1%
Sears Holdings Corporation 1.	0%
Spirit Airlines Inc. 0.	7%
Overstock.com Inc., Class 'B' 0.	5%
Ascent Capital Group Inc., Series 'A' 0.	3%
Allegiant Travel Company 0.	2%
Overstock.com Inc. 0.	1%
Total Equities 74.	7%
Warrants	
3 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	4%
	0%
Total Warrants 12.	1%
Bonds	
Exco Resources Inc., 1.75 Lien Term Loans, October 26, 2020 9.	2%
	2%
Dex Media LLC Term Loans, December 31, 2018 0.	2%
Total Bonds 9.	5%
Total Holdings 96.	<b>7%</b>

The summary of the Fund's investment portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund. The next quarterly update as at September 30, 2018 will be in the Quarterly Portfolio Disclosure and will be posted on our website www.choufunds.com on or before October 31, 2018.

## **Chou Associates Management Inc.**

110 Sheppard Ave. East Suite 301, Box 18 Toronto, Ontario M2N 6Y8

Tel: 416-214-0675

Toll Free: 1-888-357-5070

Fax: 416-214-1733

Web: www.choufunds.com E-mail: admin@choufunds.com

# **Recordkeeping and Custodian**

CIBC Mellon 1 York Street, Suite 900 Toronto, Ontario M5J 0B6

Tel: 416-643-5540

Toll Free: 1-866-379-3266

Fax: 1-855-884-0493

## **Auditors**

Grant Thornton LLP 15 Allstate Parkway, Suite 200 Markham, Ontario L3R 5B4

# **Legal Counsel**

Owens Wright LLP 20 Holly Street Suite 300 Toronto, Ontario M4S 3B1