# INTERIM MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE

**June 30 2017** 

# **CHOU BOND 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 Bond Fund's (the "Fund") objective is to provide conservation of principal and income production with capital appreciation as a secondary consideration. The Fund invests primarily in Canadian and U.S. fixed income instruments considered by Chou Associates Management Inc. (the "Manager") to be undervalued. These fixed income instruments include, but are not limited to Government of Canada, provincial, municipal and corporate issues, including convertibles and high yield fixed income instruments. The Fund may also invest in fixed income instruments outside of Canada and the U.S.

#### 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.choufunds.com">www.choufunds.com</a> and SEDAR at <a href="https://www.sedar.com">www.sedar.com</a>.

During the period ended June 30, 2017, there were no material changes that affected the Fund's overall level of risk.

#### **Results of Operations**

For the period ended June 30, 2017, the Fund decreased by 4.9% for Series A units and 4.8% for Series F units after fees and expenses, while Barclays Capital U.S. Corporate High Yield Index returned 1.4% in Canadian dollars. In U.S. dollars, the Fund decreased by 1.5% for Series A units and 1.4% for Series F units, while Barclays Capital U.S. Corporate High Yield Index returned 4.9%.

High-yield corporate bond spreads tightened in the first half of 2017, but not without some intermittent volatility. The sharp decline in crude oil prices during the first half of March led to price declines in the high-yield energy sector, highlighting the ongoing unease over the future of oil and gas producers with U.S. production ramping up and supply-glut concerns resurfacing. Tight spreads continue to reflect an optimistic outlook on corporate earnings and the promise of pro-growth fiscal policies. While earnings are improving as expected, fiscal policy uncertainty is rising. The improving economic health of global markets has been supportive for risk assets and has created a strong backdrop for corporate profits heading into earnings season.

Major positive contributors of the Fund in the first half of 2017 were the debt securities of Resolute Forest Products 5.875% due May 2023, as well as equity holdings of WOW Unlimited and Valeant Pharmaceuticals.

The major decliners in the Fund's performance include the equity holdings of Resolute Forest Products and SandRidge Energy, as well as the debt securities of UkrLandFarming PLC 10.875%, due March 2018, and Avangardco Investments Public Limited 10.00%, due October 2018.

New additions to the Fund in the period were International Automotive Components Group 9.125%, due Jun 2018, and preferred shares of Sears Roebuck Acceptance. The Fund also increased holdings in EXCO 1.75L term loan due October 2020.

The Fund sold all equities in Catalyst Paper Corp., and reduced holdings in the bonds of Avangardco Investments Public Limited 10.00%, due October 2018, and Atlanticus Holdings 5.875%, due November 2035.

### CHOU BOND FUND

The Fund's net redemptions for the period ended June 30, 2017 were approximately \$2,412,371 for Series A units and approximately \$505,754 for Series F units. The Fund's average month-end cash position for the period was 15.0% of the Fund's net assets.

In the first half of 2017, the Fund received \$1,812 in income from its securities lending program.

The Fund had no covered call options in its portfolio as at June 30, 2017.

## **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 measured at the exchange amounts.

During the period ended June 30, 2017, there were no transactions with related parties except in the capacities and instances set out above.

# **CHOU BOND FUND**

### **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, 2017, and for each of the past five years ended December 31, as applicable.

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

	<u>J</u>	un 2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	_	2012
Net Assets, beginning of period	\$	8.79	\$ 8.78	\$ 9.96	\$ 9.64	\$ 8.30	\$	7.98
Increase (decrease) from operations:								
Total revenue	\$	0.20	\$ 0.23	\$ 0.98	\$ 0.77	\$ 0.71	\$	0.74
Total expenses	\$	(0.07)	\$ (0.13)	\$ (0.15)	\$ (0.16)	\$ (0.15)	\$	(0.12)
Realized gains (losses) for the period	\$	0.06	\$ 0.08	\$ (0.02)	\$ 0.49	\$ 0.39	\$	(0.37)
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	\$	(0.61)	\$ 0.57	\$ (1.14)	\$ (0.22)	\$ 1.07	\$	0.76
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>2</sup>	\$	(0.42)	\$ 0.75	\$ (0.33)	\$ 0.88	\$ 2.02	\$	1.01
Distributions:								
From income (excluding dividends)	\$	-	\$ 0.77	\$ 0.83	\$ 0.62	\$ 0.64	\$	0.72
From dividends	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$	-
From capital gains	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$	-
Return of capital	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$	-
Total Distributions <sup>3</sup>	\$	-	\$ 0.77	\$ 0.83	\$ 0.62	\$ 0.64	\$	0.72
Net Assets, end of period	\$	8.37	\$ 8.79	\$ 8.78	\$ 9.96	\$ 9.64	\$	8.30
Net Assets, end of period (USD)	\$	6.45	\$ 6.55	\$ 6.34	\$ 8.58	\$ 9.07	\$	8.34

# Ratios and Supplemental Data - Class A Units

	Jυ	m 2017		2016		2015		2014		2013		2012
Total Net Asset Value (000s) <sup>4</sup>	\$ .	34,775	\$	38,982	\$	39,631	\$	45,810	\$	38,761	\$	36,850
Number of Units Outstanding	4,13	56,880	4,	432,708	4,	515,187	4,	599,226	4,	020,643	4,	434,113
Management Expense Ratio <sup>5</sup>		1.52%		1.54%		1.45%		1.41%		1.52%		1.45%
Management Expense Ratio before waivers or absorptions <sup>6</sup>		1.52%		1.54%		1.45%		1.41%		1.52%		1.45%
Trading Expense Ratio <sup>7</sup>		0.03%		0.05%		0.00%		0.05%		0.01%		0.01%
Portfolio Turnover Rate <sup>8</sup>	,	26.33%		50.15%		4.44%		23.91%		13.42%		11.59%
Net Asset Value per Unit	\$	8.37	\$	8.79	\$	8.78	\$	9.96	\$	9.64	\$	8.31

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

	J	un 2017	 2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Net Assets, beginning of period	\$	8.94	\$ 8.85	\$ 10.05	\$ 9.72	\$ 8.33	\$ 7.99
Increase (decrease) from operations:							
Total revenue	\$	0.21	\$ 0.23	\$ 0.99	\$ 0.78	\$ 0.69	\$ 0.74
Total expenses	\$	(0.06)	\$ (0.12)	\$ (0.13)	\$ (0.14)	\$ (0.13)	\$ (0.11)
Realized gains (losses) for the period	\$	0.06	\$ 0.08	\$ (0.02)	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.23	\$ (0.40)
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	\$	(0.63)	\$ 0.77	\$ (1.16)	\$ (0.14)	\$ 1.55	\$ 0.75
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>2</sup>	\$	(0.42)	\$ 0.96	\$ (0.32)	\$ 1.00	\$ 2.34	\$ 0.98
Distributions:							
From income (excluding dividends)	\$	-	\$ 0.74	\$ 0.85	\$ 0.64	\$ 0.61	\$ 0.72
From dividends	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
From capital gains	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Return of capital	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 
Total Distributions <sup>3</sup>	\$	-	\$ 0.74	\$ 0.85	\$ 0.64	\$ 0.61	\$ 0.72
Net Assets, end of period	\$	8.51	\$ 8.94	\$ 8.85	\$ 10.05	\$ 9.71	\$ 8.33
Net Assets, end of period (USD)	\$	6.56	\$ 6.66	\$ 6.40	\$ 8.66	\$ 9.14	\$ 8.37

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

	J	un 2017	_	2016	_	2015	2014	2013	_	2012
<b>Total Net Asset Value (000s)</b> <sup>4</sup>	\$	2,944	\$	3,611	\$	3,174	\$ 3,691	\$ 3,527	\$	7,180
Number of Units Outstanding	3	346,028		403,615		358,475	367,482	362,911		861,551
Management Expense Ratio <sup>5</sup>		1.35%		1.37%		1.28%	1.25%	1.35%		1.29%
Management Expense Ratio before waivers or absorptions <sup>6</sup>		1.35%		1.37%		1.28%	1.25%	1.35%		1.29%
Trading Expense Ratio <sup>7</sup>		0.03%		0.05%		0.00%	0.05%	0.01%		0.01%
Portfolio Turnover Rate <sup>8</sup>		26.33%		50.15%		4.44%	23.91%	13.42%		11.59%
Net Asset Value per Unit	\$	8.51	\$	8.94	\$	8.85	\$ 10.05	\$ 9.71	\$	8.33

<sup>(1)</sup> This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual and unaudited semi-annual financial statements. For financial reporting purposes, prior to January 1, 2013, under Canadian GAAP, the net assets per security presented in the financial statements differ from the net asset value calculated for fund pricing purposes.

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

<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.

<sup>(8)</sup> Information from 2013 and thereafter is in accordance with IFRS. Information for years prior to 2013 is reported under Canadian GAAP.

#### **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 1.15% per annum for Series A units and 1.0% per annum for Series F units, payable monthly. The Manager pays 15 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 2017 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 since inception and for the one-, three-, five- and ten-year periods ended on June 30, 2017. Also shown for the same periods are the respective historical annual compound total returns or changes of the Barclays U.S. Corporate High Yield Index (the "Index"). The Index is a broad-based benchmark that measures the non-investment grade, fixed-rate, taxable, corporate bond market. It includes \$US-denominated securities publicly issued by U.S. and non-U.S. industrial, utility and financial issuers that meet specified maturity, liquidity, and quality requirements. The 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, 2017	Past Year	Past 3 Years	Past 5 Years	Past 10 Years
Chou Bond Fund	11.85%	-0.58%	8.63%	3.43%
Barclays U.S. Corp. High Yield Index (\$CAN)	12.80%	11.57%	12.21%	9.86%

#### Series F

June 30, 2017	Past Year	Past 3 Years	Past 5 Years	Past 10 Years
Chou Bond Fund	12.04%	-0.41%	8.80%	3.57%
Barclays U.S. Corp. High Yield Index (\$CAN)	12.80%	11.57%	12.21%	9.86%

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

# **CHOU BOND FUND**

# **Summary of Investment Portfolio**

The following tables provide a summary of the Fund's portfolio as at June 30, 2017.

<b>Geographic Distribution</b>	% of Fund's Net Assets
United States	46.5%
Canada	34.3%
Continental Europe	9.8%
Net Cash & Equivalents	9.4%
Total Portfolio	100.0%
Total Issuers	% of Fund's Net Assets
(excluding cash equivalents)	
Equities	
SandRidge Energy Inc.	9.3%
Wow Unlimited Media Inc.	6.2%
Resolute Forest Products Inc.	5.9%
Catalyst Paper Corporation	3.2%
Sears Roebuck Acceptance Corp. (Preferred)	0.9%
EXCO Resources Inc.	0.1%
Total Equities	25.6%
Held for Trading	
Dex Media LLC, Warrants, August 15, 2023	0.0%
Bonds	
Fortress Paper Limited, 7.000%, December 31, 2019, Convertible Bonds, Callable	e 11.6%
Exco Resources Inc., 1.75L term loans, October 26, 2020	9.8%
Atlanticus Holdings Corporation, 5.875%, November 30, 2035, Convertible Bonds	9.8%
Ascent Capital Group Inc., 4.000%, July 15, 2020, Convertible Bonds	7.4%
Valeant Pharmaceuticals International Inc., 6.125%, April 15, 2025, Callable	5.8%
UKRLANDFARMING Public Company Limited, 10.875%, March 26, 2018	5.4%
Catalyst Paper Corporation, term loan, October 31, 2021	1.2%
Resolute Forest Products Inc., 5.875%, May 15, 2023, Callable	3.4%
Taiga Building Products Limited, 14.000%, September 1, 2020, Callable	2.8%
International Automotive Components Group SA, 9.125%, June 1, 2018, Callable	2.6%
Dex Media West Inc., term loans, December 31, 2017	2.0%
Avangardco Investments Public Limited, 10.000%, October 29, 2018	1.8%
EXCO Resources Inc., 8.500%, April 15, 2022, Callable	1.4%
Total Bonds	65.0%
Total Holdings	90.6%

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, 2017 will be in the Quarterly Portfolio Disclosure and will be posted on our website www.choufunds.com on or before October 31, 2017.

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# **Recordkeeping and Custodian**

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### **Auditors**

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# **Legal Counsel**

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