

# NEI

NEI Funds

# **Semi-annual financial statements**

March 31, 2025



# NEI Select Balanced RS Portfolio

## STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION (UNAUDITED)

As at

	March 31 2025 \$	September 30 2024 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash	6,255,277	-
Investments at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL)	2,151,445,883	2,114,008,919
Subscriptions receivable	1,645,383	1,652,602
Receivable for investments sold	-	5,455,000
Interest, dividends and other receivables	268,873	5,288
	<u>2,159,615,416</u>	<u>2,121,121,809</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Bank overdraft	-	116,620
Accrued expenses	1,031,852	978,019
Redemptions payable	1,295,740	1,680,739
	<u>2,327,592</u>	<u>2,775,378</u>
<b>Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Redeemable Units</b>	<u>2,157,287,824</u>	<u>2,118,346,431</u>
<b>Data per Series (Note b)</b>		
<b>Series A</b>		
Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units	<u>1,047,062,811</u>	<u>1,067,554,940</u>
- per unit	<u>8.63</u>	<u>8.76</u>
<b>Series F</b>		
Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units	<u>24,636,977</u>	<u>23,956,972</u>
- per unit	<u>10.39</u>	<u>10.49</u>
<b>Series I</b>		
Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units	<u>40,413,880</u>	<u>41,018,281</u>
- per unit	<u>18.01</u>	<u>18.15</u>
<b>Series O</b>		
Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units	<u>17,797,481</u>	<u>16,912,314</u>
- per unit	<u>12.84</u>	<u>12.89</u>
<b>Series P</b>		
Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units	<u>949,315,890</u>	<u>901,334,596</u>
- per unit	<u>9.87</u>	<u>10.00</u>
<b>Series PF</b>		
Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units	<u>78,060,785</u>	<u>67,569,328</u>
- per unit	<u>10.54</u>	<u>10.62</u>

Approved on behalf of the Board of Directors of  
**Northwest & Ethical Investments Inc.**,  
 acting as general partner of  
**Northwest & Ethical Investments L.P.** as Manager and Trustee



William Packham,  
President and Chief Executive Officer



John H. Bai,  
SVP, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Risk Officer

The Fund's independent auditors have not performed a review of these semi-annual financial statements in accordance with standards established by the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada.

The accompanying Notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# NEI Select Balanced RS Portfolio

## STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (UNAUDITED)

Six-month Periods Ended March 31

	2025 \$	2024 \$
<b>Income</b>		
Interest for distribution purposes	140,070	86,378
Dividends	263,589	-
Distributions from underlying funds	80,723,872	57,645,749
Net realized gain (loss) on investments	28,116,540	(407,052)
Changes in fair value:		
Net unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(65,797,513)	177,382,296
	<u>43,446,558</u>	<u>234,707,371</u>
<b>Expenses (Note 5)</b>		
Management fees	18,112,331	16,011,683
Independent review committee's fees	815	16
Administration fees	2,109,871	1,898,383
Sales taxes	1,425,655	1,277,746
	<u>21,648,672</u>	<u>19,187,828</u>
Commissions and other portfolio transaction costs	29,663	-
	<u>21,678,335</u>	<u>19,187,828</u>
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Redeemable Units</b>	<u>21,768,223</u>	<u>215,519,543</u>
<b>Data per Series</b>		
<b>Series A</b>		
Increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units	<u>9,979,453</u>	<u>117,912,681</u>
- per unit	<u>0.08</u>	<u>0.90</u>
Weighted average units	<u>121,840,526</u>	<u>130,556,845</u>
<b>Series F</b>		
Increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units	<u>372,547</u>	<u>3,129,572</u>
- per unit	<u>0.16</u>	<u>1.12</u>
Weighted average units	<u>2,283,523</u>	<u>2,788,692</u>
<b>Series I</b>		
Increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units	<u>910,099</u>	<u>4,083,146</u>
- per unit	<u>0.39</u>	<u>1.98</u>
Weighted average units	<u>2,339,494</u>	<u>2,060,584</u>
<b>Series O</b>		
Increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units	<u>345,805</u>	<u>801,195</u>
- per unit	<u>0.26</u>	<u>1.44</u>
Weighted average units	<u>1,342,443</u>	<u>558,009</u>
<b>Series P</b>		
Increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units	<u>9,179,544</u>	<u>82,490,544</u>
- per unit	<u>0.10</u>	<u>1.04</u>
Weighted average units	<u>92,563,880</u>	<u>79,215,358</u>
<b>Series PF</b>		
Increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units	<u>980,775</u>	<u>7,102,405</u>
- per unit	<u>0.14</u>	<u>1.15</u>
Weighted average units	<u>6,799,076</u>	<u>6,182,359</u>

The accompanying Notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# NEI Select Balanced RS Portfolio

## STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN FINANCIAL POSITION (UNAUDITED)

Six-month Periods Ended March 31

	<b>Series A</b>		<b>Series F</b>		<b>Series I</b>	
	2025 \$	2024 \$	2025 \$	2024 \$	2025 \$	2024 \$
<b>Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Redeemable Units, Beginning of Period</b>	<b>1,067,554,940</b>	<b>1,020,126,342</b>	<b>23,956,972</b>	<b>27,192,224</b>	<b>41,018,281</b>	<b>31,599,307</b>
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Redeemable Units</b>	<b>9,979,453</b>	<b>117,912,681</b>	<b>372,547</b>	<b>3,129,572</b>	<b>910,099</b>	<b>4,083,146</b>
<b>Redeemable Unit Transactions</b>						
Proceeds from sale of redeemable units	170,412,174	115,603,279	9,981,819	5,928,641	4,441,437	2,719,818
Reinvested distributions	25,398,870	25,967,111	470,556	525,944	1,200,889	1,104,637
Amounts paid for redeemable units redeemed	(200,730,880)	(188,395,116)	(9,568,228)	(11,412,859)	(5,955,937)	(3,850,460)
	(4,919,836)	(46,824,726)	884,147	(4,958,274)	(313,611)	(26,005)
<b>Distributions to Holders of Redeemable Units</b>						
Net investment income	(23,139,519)	(20,157,597)	(522,847)	(545,342)	(1,103,223)	(979,974)
Net realized gain on sale of investments and derivatives	(2,412,227)	(3,959,434)	(53,842)	(101,584)	(97,666)	(124,663)
Return of capital	-	(2,041,132)	-	-	-	-
	(25,551,746)	(26,158,163)	(576,689)	(646,926)	(1,200,889)	(1,104,637)
<b>Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Redeemable Units, End of Period</b>	<b>1,047,062,811</b>	<b>1,065,056,134</b>	<b>24,636,977</b>	<b>24,716,596</b>	<b>40,413,880</b>	<b>34,551,811</b>

Six-month Periods Ended March 31

	<b>Series O</b>		<b>Series P</b>		<b>Series PF</b>	
	2025 \$	2024 \$	2025 \$	2024 \$	2025 \$	2024 \$
<b>Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Redeemable Units, Beginning of Period</b>	<b>16,912,314</b>	<b>5,775,453</b>	<b>901,334,596</b>	<b>690,229,094</b>	<b>67,569,328</b>	<b>57,609,581</b>
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Redeemable Units</b>	<b>345,805</b>	<b>801,195</b>	<b>9,179,544</b>	<b>82,490,544</b>	<b>980,775</b>	<b>7,102,405</b>
<b>Redeemable Unit Transactions</b>						
Proceeds from sale of redeemable units	1,383,913	10,865,133	160,681,937	120,930,116	18,019,408	10,095,444
Reinvested distributions	408,886	206,148	22,284,076	17,828,254	1,420,793	1,180,658
Amounts paid for redeemable units redeemed	(844,551)	(737,650)	(121,659,793)	(98,718,795)	(8,180,023)	(10,475,316)
	948,248	10,333,631	61,306,220	40,039,575	11,260,178	800,786
<b>Distributions to Holders of Redeemable Units</b>						
Net investment income	(370,140)	(182,538)	(20,401,747)	(14,995,474)	(1,590,348)	(1,258,588)
Net realized gain on sale of investments and derivatives	(38,746)	(23,610)	(2,102,723)	(2,681,933)	(159,148)	(221,487)
Return of capital	-	-	-	(358,728)	-	-
	(408,886)	(206,148)	(22,504,470)	(18,036,135)	(1,749,496)	(1,480,075)
<b>Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Redeemable Units, End of Period</b>	<b>17,797,481</b>	<b>16,704,131</b>	<b>949,315,890</b>	<b>794,723,078</b>	<b>78,060,785</b>	<b>64,032,697</b>

The accompanying Notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# NEI Select Balanced RS Portfolio

## STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (UNAUDITED)

Six-month Periods Ended March 31

	2025 \$	2024 \$
<b>Cash Flows from (used in) Operating Activities</b>		
Increase (decrease) in Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Redeemable Units	21,768,223	215,519,543
Adjustments for:		
Net realized (gain) loss on investments and derivatives	(28,116,540)	407,052
Net unrealized (gain) loss on investments and derivatives	65,797,513	(177,382,296)
Non-cash distribution from investments	(80,723,872)	(57,645,749)
Proceeds from sale/maturity of investments	345,058,694	210,830,000
Investments purchased	(339,452,759)	(138,966,108)
Receivable for investments sold	5,455,000	-
Interest, dividends and other receivables	(263,585)	(3,024)
Accrued expenses	53,833	519,804
Interest, dividends and other payables	-	(1,104)
Payable for investments purchased	-	7,000,000
<b>Net Cash Flows from (used in) Operating Activities</b>	<b>(10,423,493)</b>	<b>60,278,118</b>
<b>Cash Flows from (used in) Financing Activities</b>		
Proceeds from sale of redeemable units	364,927,907	264,373,471
Amounts paid for redeemable units redeemed	(347,324,411)	(314,102,084)
Distributions paid to holders of redeemable units, net of reinvested distributions	(808,106)	(819,332)
<b>Net Cash Flows from (used in) Financing Activities</b>	<b>16,795,390</b>	<b>(50,547,945)</b>
Increase (decrease) in cash/bank overdraft	6,371,897	9,730,173
Cash (bank overdraft), beginning of period	(116,620)	1,321,272
<b>Cash (Bank Overdraft), End of Period</b>	<b>6,255,277</b>	<b>11,051,445</b>
<b>Supplemental Information on Cash Flows from (used in) Operating Activities</b>		
Interest received	75,132	57,127
Interest paid	79	3,705

The accompanying Notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# NEI Select Balanced RS Portfolio

## SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO AS AT MARCH 31, 2025 (UNAUDITED)

	NUMBER OF UNITS	COST \$	FAIR VALUE \$
<b>Investment Funds (95.5%)</b>			
NEI Canadian Bond Fund, Series I	24,069,156	289,754,396	273,931,061
NEI Canadian Equity RS Fund, Series I	4,151,679	125,994,268	155,179,784
NEI Canadian Small Cap Equity RS Fund, Series I	2,585,333	72,964,534	85,063,905
NEI Clean Infrastructure Fund, Series I	4,615,937	43,980,945	39,743,216
NEI Emerging Markets Fund, Series I	1,511,960	25,418,444	22,126,176
NEI Environmental Leaders Fund, Series I	2,302,735	47,189,516	52,290,513
NEI ESG Canadian Enhanced Index Fund, Series I	4,933,051	68,908,216	79,071,376
NEI Global Corporate Leaders Fund, Series I	3,039,629	31,275,059	32,047,420
NEI Global Dividend RS Fund, Series I	7,586,334	86,140,370	106,242,820
NEI Global Equity RS Fund, Series I	5,463,530	108,946,425	143,369,035
NEI Global Growth Fund, Series I	4,917,005	31,846,979	34,202,196
NEI Global High Yield Bond Fund, Series I	13,892,021	108,392,960	101,354,794
NEI Global Impact Bond Fund, Series I	9,255,680	89,497,710	81,463,866
NEI Global Total Return Bond Fund, Series I	38,531,057	412,249,385	377,820,128
NEI Global Value Fund, Series I	2,326,765	32,822,859	37,436,719
NEI International Equity RS Fund, Series I	2,957,028	54,939,341	66,113,233
NEI Long Short Equity Fund, Series I	5,329,230	65,281,068	62,804,448
NEI U.S. Equity RS Fund, Series I	10,478,548	212,091,321	310,531,771
<b>Total Investment Funds</b>		1,907,693,796	2,060,792,461

	NUMBER OF SHARES		
<b>Canadian Equities (4.2%)</b>			
<b>Index-Based Investments</b>			
Invesco ESG NASDAQ 100 Index ETF	1,753,030	54,311,445	48,576,461
Invesco S&P 500 ESG Index ETF	187,105	8,423,548	7,847,184
Invesco S&P International Developed ESG Index ETF	1,422,684	34,653,055	34,229,777
<b>Total Canadian Equities</b>		97,388,048	90,653,422
<b>Total Investments (99.7%)</b>		<u>2,005,081,844</u>	<u>2,151,445,883</u>
<b>Other Net Assets (0.3%)</b>			5,841,941
<b>Net Assets (100.0%)</b>			<u>2,157,287,824</u>

The accompanying Notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# NEI Select Balanced RS Portfolio

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – SPECIFIC INFORMATION (UNAUDITED)

### a) Establishment of the Fund (Note 1)

NEI Select Balanced RS Portfolio (the “Fund”) is an unincorporated mutual fund trust. The establishment date for each series of the Fund is the date set out in the simplified prospectus as the start date for that series, as listed below:

Series A	Series F	Series I
December 14, 2009	April 15, 2010	January 3, 2017
Series O	Series P	Series PF
June 29, 2018	December 3, 2018	December 3, 2018

### b) Units (Note 4)

#### Issued and Outstanding Units

	Number of Units, Beginning of Period	Units Issued	Reinvested Units	Units Redeemed	Number of Units, End of Period
Series A					
March 31, 2025	121,896,178	19,432,215	2,907,925	22,858,274	121,378,044
March 31, 2024	132,598,713	14,282,719	3,221,991	23,220,520	126,882,903
Series F					
March 31, 2025	2,283,534	946,617	44,832	903,999	2,370,984
March 31, 2024	2,985,773	618,173	55,008	1,186,203	2,472,751
Series I					
March 31, 2025	2,259,460	243,380	67,236	326,342	2,243,734
March 31, 2024	2,059,098	168,275	69,406	238,941	2,057,838
Series O					
March 31, 2025	1,312,091	107,318	32,121	64,905	1,386,625
March 31, 2024	529,905	916,566	18,235	63,917	1,400,789
Series P					
March 31, 2025	90,104,924	15,996,752	2,231,751	12,141,965	96,191,462
March 31, 2024	78,844,048	13,003,159	1,939,405	10,747,408	83,039,204
Series PF					
March 31, 2025	6,363,062	1,680,550	133,619	767,730	7,409,501
March 31, 2024	6,265,757	1,034,447	121,974	1,084,571	6,337,607

### c) Distributions

All distributions made by the Fund are automatically reinvested in additional units of the same series that paid the distribution unless notification to the contrary is received in writing at least 5 days in advance to receive a cash payment. All distributions reinvested are made without an acquisition charge.

The schedule of distributions, which may consist of net investment income, net realized capital gains and/or return of capital, is as follows:

Series A	Series F	Series I
Monthly	Monthly	Annually
Series O	Series P	Series PF
Annually	Monthly	Monthly

In addition, the Fund will, prior to the end of each year, distribute any excess net income and net realized capital gains to its unitholders.

### d) Management Fees and Other Expenses (Note 5)

The annual management fee rates, for 2025 and 2024, are as follows:

	Series A %	Series F %	Series P %
March 31, 2025	1.90	0.90	1.65
March 31, 2024	1.90	0.90	1.65
	Series PF %		
March 31, 2025	0.65		
March 31, 2024	0.65		

The annual administration fee rates, for 2025 and 2024, are as follows:

	Series A %	Series F %	Series O %
March 31, 2025	0.25	0.20	0.05
March 31, 2024	0.25	0.20	0.05
	Series P %	Series PF %	
March 31, 2025	0.15	0.15	
March 31, 2024	0.15	0.15	

Series I unitholders negotiate and pay management and administration fees directly to the Manager.

Series O unitholders negotiate and pay management fees directly to the Manager.

### e) Related Party Transactions (Note 6)

Accrued expenses payable to related parties presented in the Statements of Financial Position, are as follows :

	March 31, 2025	September 30, 2024
	\$	\$
	1,031,852	978,019

The Fund has received income, during the period, from its investment in underlying funds. This income is presented in the following table:

	March 31, 2025	March 31, 2024
	\$	\$
Distributions from underlying funds	80,723,872	57,645,749

# NEI Select Balanced RS Portfolio

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – SPECIFIC INFORMATION (UNAUDITED) (continued)

### f) Interest in Unconsolidated Structured Entities

The following table presents the Fund's interest in unconsolidated structured entities:

Unconsolidated Structured Entities	March 31, 2025		September 30, 2024	
	Fair Value of the Underlying Fund(s) / ETF(s) (in \$'000's)	Fair Value of the Fund's Investment in the Underlying Fund(s) / ETF(s) (in \$'000's)	Fair Value of the Underlying Fund(s) / ETF(s) (in \$'000's)	Fair Value of the Fund's Investment in the Underlying Fund(s) / ETF(s) (in \$'000's)
Invesco ESG NASDAQ 100 Index ETF	363,707	48,576	N/A	N/A
Invesco S&P 500 ESG Index ETF	434,223	7,847	N/A	N/A
Invesco S&P International Developed ESG Index ETF	124,488	34,230	N/A	N/A
NEI Canadian Bond Fund	947,522	273,931	1,189,901	353,115
NEI Canadian Equity RS Fund	909,495	155,180	885,840	140,335
NEI Canadian Small Cap Equity RS Fund	603,298	85,064	594,119	75,554
NEI Clean Infrastructure Fund	186,049	39,743	363,251	66,853
NEI Emerging Markets Fund	153,307	22,126	213,363	31,813
NEI Environmental Leaders Fund	1,465,026	52,291	1,564,197	43,542
NEI ESG Canadian Enhanced Index Fund	309,251	79,071	213,393	43,967
NEI Global Corporate Leaders Fund	175,414	32,047	147,558	21,627
NEI Global Dividend RS Fund	665,508	106,243	446,463	107,555
NEI Global Equity RS Fund	507,362	143,369	678,228	157,820
NEI Global Growth Fund	159,669	34,202	323,104	76,842
NEI Global High Yield Bond Fund	360,527	101,355	369,197	102,876
NEI Global Impact Bond Fund	465,983	81,464	482,050	81,482
NEI Global Total Return Bond Fund	1,514,365	377,820	1,155,127	287,238
NEI Global Value Fund	211,860	37,437	354,576	76,893
NEI Long Short Equity Fund	332,607	62,804	N/A	N/A
NEI International Equity RS Fund	359,061	66,113	667,112	150,343
NEI U.S. Equity RS Fund	1,602,919	310,532	1,401,761	296,155

### g) Financial Instruments Disclosures (Note 7)

#### Strategy in Using Financial Instruments

##### Investment Objective

The Fund aims to provide long-term capital growth and preservation of capital through exposure to foreign and Canadian equity securities and exposure to foreign and Canadian fixed income securities and money market securities.

To achieve its objective, the Fund will invest in underlying mutual funds, which may be managed by NEI Investments.

The Fund follows a responsible approach to investing, as described in the simplified prospectus of the Fund.

#### Financial Instruments Fair Value Measurement

##### Hierarchy of Financial Instruments Measured at Fair Value

The following tables categorize the Fund's financial assets fair value measurement according to a three-level hierarchy. The methodology used for valuing securities is not necessarily an indication of the risk associated with investing in those securities. Fair value measurement is described in the "Material Accounting Policy Information" section of Note 2.

##### Fair Value Hierarchy (in \$'000)

March 31, 2025	Level 1 \$	Level 2 \$	Level 3 \$	Total \$
<b>Financial assets at FVTPL</b>				
Non Related Index-Based Investments	90,653	-	-	90,653
Related Investment Funds	2,060,793	-	-	2,060,793
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,151,446</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,151,446</b>
<b>September 30, 2024</b>	<b>Level 1 \$</b>	<b>Level 2 \$</b>	<b>Level 3 \$</b>	<b>Total \$</b>
<b>Financial assets at FVTPL</b>				
Related Investment Funds	2,114,009	-	-	2,114,009
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,114,009</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,114,009</b>

##### Transfers between Levels

During the periods ended March 31, 2025 and September 30, 2024, there were no transfers of securities between Levels 1, 2 and 3.

#### Financial Instruments Risks

As the majority of the Fund's Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Redeemable Units are invested in underlying funds, the Fund may be indirectly exposed to currency, interest, concentration or credit risks. Thus, only direct exposure to risks arising from the Fund's financial instruments is presented.

#### Underlying Funds Risk Management

The Fund's portfolio manager makes sure that the underlying funds' portfolio manager manages financial risks. Each month, the Fund's portfolio manager receives the underlying funds' investment portfolios to analyze the management style and compares performance against the Fund's benchmarks. Every quarter, the Fund's portfolio manager receives detailed quarterly documents featuring an analysis of performance, sector allocations and the underlying funds' top positions. To obtain the detail of underlying Funds' risks, you can: view the underlying funds' financial statements on the website [neiinvestments.com](http://neiinvestments.com) or contact NEI Investments using the information in Note 9.

#### Currency Risk

As at March 31, 2025 and September 30, 2024, the majority of the Fund's financial assets and liabilities are denominated in Canadian dollars. As a result, currency risk is not directly significant to the Fund.

#### Interest Rate Risk

As at March 31, 2025 and September 30, 2024, the majority of the Fund's financial assets and liabilities are non-interest bearing. As a result, interest rate risk is not directly significant to the Fund.

# NEI Select Balanced RS Portfolio

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – SPECIFIC INFORMATION (UNAUDITED) (continued)

### Concentration Risk

The following table summarizes the concentration risk, as a percentage of the Fund's Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Redeemable Units:

March 31, 2025		September 30, 2024	
Market Segment	%	Market Segment	%
Investment Funds		Investment Funds	
Growth	56.8	Growth	60.9
Income	38.7	Income	38.9
Canadian Equities	4.2	Other Net Assets	0.2
Other Net Assets	0.3		
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>		<b>100.0</b>

### Price Risk (in \$'000)

The Manager's estimate of the impact on Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Redeemable Units as a result of a reasonably possible change in benchmarks, using a historical beta coefficient (a measure of the sensitivity of a security in comparison to the market) between the Fund's return as compared to the return of the Fund's benchmarks, with all other variables held constant, is included in the following table. A 36-month regression analysis has been utilized to estimate the historical beta coefficient. The regression analysis uses data based on the monthly returns of the Fund.

Benchmarks	Change in Price %	Impact on Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Redeemable Units	
		March 31, 2025 \$	September 30, 2024 \$
40% FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index	1.00	7,746	7,669
15% S&P/TSX Composite TR Index	3.00	8,714	8,628
45% MSCI ACWI NR Index (C\$)	3.00	26,141	25,884

When there is more than one benchmark, the effect of each benchmark must be considered individually, as each benchmark might fluctuate independently from the others.

In practice, actual trading results may differ from these sensitivity analyses and the differences could be significant.

### Credit Risk

As at March 31, 2025 and September 30, 2024, the Fund had no significant investments in either fixed-income securities, money market securities and derivative financial instruments. As a result, credit risk is not directly significant to the Fund.

### Liquidity Risk

For further information on the maturity of financial liabilities and liquidity risk management of the Fund, please refer to Note 7 "Financial Instruments Disclosures".

## h) Seed Capital

The Manager had the following seed capital investments:

	Seed Capital \$	Percentage Ownership %
March 31, 2025	1,473	-
September 30, 2024	1,444	-

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## March 31, 2025, and 2024

Throughout the “Notes to the Financial Statements” section, “we”, “NEI LP”, “NEI” or “Manager” refers to Northwest & Ethical Investments L.P., the Manager of the NEI Funds, and “Unitholders” refers to holders of redeemable NEI Fund units.

### 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FUNDS

NEI LP acts as the Manager of the NEI Funds, collectively called the “Funds”. Its head office is located at 151 Yonge Street, Suite 1200, Toronto, ON, M5C 2W7.

The Funds are all mutual fund trusts or unit trusts established under the laws of Ontario.

The information provided in these financial statements and notes thereto are as at March 31, 2025 and 2024, and September 30, 2024, as applicable, and cover the six-month periods ended on those dates, as applicable.

For any Fund established during the above-noted periods, the “period” represents the period from the beginning of operations of the Fund, described in the “Establishment of the Fund” section under “Notes to the Financial Statements – Specific Information” for each Fund, to March 31 of the applicable period.

Funds	Inception date
NEI Long Short Equity Fund	January 22, 2024
NEI Global Corporate Leaders Fund	July 17, 2024

The main activities of the Funds are disclosed in the section “Notes to the Financial Statements – Specific Information” pertaining to each Fund.

### 2. BASIS OF PRESENTATION AND MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICY INFORMATION

#### BASIS OF PRESENTATION

##### Statement of Compliance

The policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (“IFRS”). These financial statements have been authorized for issue by the NEI LP Board of Directors on May 13, 2025.

#### MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICY INFORMATION

The significant measurement and presentation policies applied to prepare these financial statements are described below.

##### Financial Instruments

The Funds’ financial instruments include, where applicable, cash and equivalents, investments, derivatives, interest, dividends and other receivables, receivable for investments sold, subscriptions receivable, cash guarantees received for repurchase or reverse repurchase transactions, payable for investments purchased, distributions payable to unitholders, accrued expenses, liabilities, redemptions payable, and commitments related to repurchase or reverse repurchase transactions. Financial instruments are recognized on the date that the Funds become a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument, namely, the trade date of the financial instrument.

Financial assets are derecognized when the rights to receive cash flows from the investments have expired or the Funds have transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership.

##### Classification and Measurement

The Funds classify and measure financial instruments in accordance with IFRS 9, *Financial Instruments* (“IFRS 9”). Under IFRS 9, financial assets are measured at amortized cost or at fair value through profit or loss (“FVTPL”), depending on the contractual cash flow characteristics and the business model for managing the financial assets.

The portfolios of financial assets are managed, and performance is evaluated on a fair value basis. The Funds are primarily focused on fair value information and use that information to assess the assets’ performance and to make decisions. The contractual cash flows of the Funds’ debt securities that are solely principal and interest are neither held for the purpose of collecting contractual cash flows nor held both for collecting contractual cash flows and for sale. The collection of contractual cash flows is only incidental to achieving the Funds’ business model’s objective. Consequently, all investments are measured at FVTPL.

The Funds’ obligation concerning net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units is recorded at the redemption amount, which approximates fair value. The accounting policies used to measure the fair value of investments and derivative financial instruments are identical to those used in measuring the net asset value (“NAV”) of transactions with holders of redeemable units, except when the closing price for financial assets and liabilities is not within the bid-ask spread.

NEI Long Short Equity Fund makes short sales, where a borrowed security is sold in anticipation of a decline in its market value, or it may use short sales for various arbitrage transactions. Short sales are held for trading and are consequently classified as financial liabilities at FVTPL.

As at March 31, 2025 and September 30, 2024, there are no differences between the Funds’ NAV per unit for transactions and their net assets per unit attributable to holders of redeemable units in accordance with IFRS.

##### Classification of Units Issued by the Funds

The Funds’ outstanding units qualify as “puttable instruments” as required by IAS 32 *Financial Instruments: Presentation* (“IAS 32”). The Funds’ outstanding units are classified as financial liabilities in these financial statements as they do not meet the definition of puttable instruments to be classified as equity.

##### Impairment of Financial Assets

The impairment model is applicable to financial assets, except for financial instruments at FVTPL or designated at fair value through other comprehensive income.

With respect to other financial assets measured at amortized cost, the Funds consider both historical analysis and forward-looking information in determining any expected credit loss. As at the financial statements date, all financial assets measured at amortized cost are due to be settled within the short term. The Funds consider that the risk of default on these financial assets is low, and that the counterparties have a strong capacity to meet their contractual obligation in the near term. Given the limited exposure of the Funds to credit risk from financial assets recorded at amortized cost, no loss allowance has been recognized as no such impairment will have a significant impact on the financial statements.

##### Determination of the Fair Value of Financial Instruments

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received from selling an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the valuation date. The fair value of financial assets and liabilities traded in active markets are based on quoted market prices at the close of trading on the valuation date. The Funds use the closing price for both financial assets and financial liabilities when this price falls within the bid-ask spread. In circumstances when the closing price is not within the bid-ask spread, the Manager determines the point within the bid-ask spread that is most representative of fair value based on the specific facts and circumstances.

The fair value of financial assets and liabilities that are not traded in an active market, including over-the-counter derivative financial instruments, is determined using valuation techniques. The Funds use a variety of methods and make assumptions that are based on market conditions existing at each valuation date.

Valuation techniques include the use of comparable recent arm’s length transactions, the fair value of other instruments that are substantially the same, discounted cash flow analysis, option pricing models, and other techniques commonly used by market participants and which use observable inputs. Refer to the “Financial Instruments Disclosures” section for further information about the Funds’ fair value measurements.

##### Cash

Cash (bank overdraft) and margin deposited on derivatives (collateral payable) are measured at cost, which approximates fair value.

##### Money Market Securities

Money market securities are recorded at cost including accrued interest, which closely approximates fair value.

##### Equities, Index-Based Investments and Exchange Traded Funds

Equities, index-based investments and exchange traded funds (“ETFs”) are recorded at the closing price of the stock exchange on which the corresponding security is principally traded. ETFs that are thinly traded are valued at the average of the closing bid and ask prices. Unlisted warrants are valued with a recognized valuation model such as the Black-Scholes model.

##### Bonds, Mortgage-Backed Securities and Asset-Backed Securities

Bonds, mortgage-backed securities and asset-backed securities are valued based on closing prices obtained from recognized securities dealers.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

March 31, 2025, and 2024 (continued)

## **Investment Funds**

The underlying funds' units are generally valued based on the NAV per unit provided by the underlying fund's manager at each valuation day, except for private equity funds which are discussed under the "Valuation of Unlisted Securities and Other Investments" section.

## **Derivative Financial Instruments**

Certain Funds may use an array of derivative financial instruments such as foreign currency forward contracts, forward contracts, interest rate swaps, credit default swaps, to-be-announced securities ("TBA"), futures contracts and options for hedging purposes or purposes other than hedging, or both.

### Foreign Currency Forward Contracts, Forward Contracts, Interest Rate Swaps, Credit Default Swaps and TBA

The fair value of these instruments corresponds to the gains or losses that would result upon contract settlement on the valuation date; this value is recorded in "Unrealized appreciation on derivatives" and/or "Unrealized depreciation on derivatives" in the Statements of Financial Position.

### Futures Contracts

Futures contracts are valued at fair value and are settled daily through brokers. Any amounts receivable (payable) from the settlement of futures contracts are recorded in "Receivable on futures contracts" and/or "Payable on futures contracts" in the Statements of Financial Position.

### Options

Options listed on a stock exchange are valued according to fair value based on the closing price of the principal stock exchange on which the option is being traded for long positions and the ask price for short positions. Unlisted options are valued with a recognized valuation model such as the Black-Scholes model.

## **Valuation of Unlisted Securities and Other Investments**

When the above-mentioned valuation principles of the investments are not applicable, fair value is determined according to the Manager's best estimates, based on established valuation procedures and on prevailing market conditions on each valuation date. These procedures cover, among others, securities no longer traded, securities issued by private corporations and illiquid securities. For further information, refer to the "Critical Accounting Judgments, Estimates and Assumptions" section.

## **Other Assets and Liabilities**

Receivable on standardized futures contracts, subscriptions receivable, receivable for investments sold, as well as interest, dividends and other receivables, are measured at amortized cost.

Similarly, accrued expenses, payable on standardized futures contracts, redemptions payable, payable for investments purchased, interest, dividends and other payables, as well as distributions payable and taxes payable, are measured at amortized cost.

Given the short-term nature of other assets and liabilities, their carrying amount closely approximates their fair value.

## **Investment Transactions**

Investment transactions are accounted for on the trade date. Cost is determined on an average cost basis except for money market securities, for which the cost is determined using the first-in, first-out method. The average cost does not include amortization of premiums or discounts on fixed-income securities except for stripped bonds. Portfolio transaction costs, such as brokerage commissions, incurred in the purchase and sale of securities by the Funds are recognized in the Statements of Comprehensive Income. The difference between the unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments at the beginning and at the end of the period is included in "Net unrealized gain (loss) on investments" in the Statements of Comprehensive Income. On disposal of an investment, the difference between the fair value and the cost of the investment is included in "Net realized gain (loss) on investments" in the Statements of Comprehensive Income.

## **Securities Lending Activities and Repurchase Agreements**

Effective June 1, 2020, certain Funds may enter into securities lending and repurchase transactions through the securities lending program of the Funds' custodian, Desjardins Trust Inc. ("Desjardins Trust").

### Securities Lending

The securities on loan are included in the Schedule of Investment Portfolio and are included in the total value in the Statements of Financial Position, as substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of these securities are retained by the Funds.

To limit the risk that the counterparty fails to fulfill its obligations, the Funds obtain collateral, representing at least 102% of the contract amount, determined daily based on the fair value of the previous business day's securities loaned. Securities received as collateral in securities lending are not included in the Statements of Financial Position, as substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of these securities have not been transferred to the Funds. Any cash collateral received is included in the Statements of Financial Position in "cash collateral received for securities on loan", as applicable.

For Funds engaged in securities lending, the amount of securities loaned and the value of collateral received is disclosed in the "Schedule of Investment Portfolio", where applicable.

Revenue generated through Desjardins Trust's securities lending is shared by the Fund and Desjardins Trust at the rate presented in the section "Notes to the Financial Statements – Specific Information" pertaining to each Fund. This revenue is included in "Revenue from securities lending activities" in the Statements of Comprehensive Income if applicable.

### Repurchase and Reverse Repurchase Agreements

In a repurchase agreement, a Fund sells a security to a third party and agrees to buy the same, or substantially the same, security back from the third party at a predetermined price and date. In a reverse repurchase agreement, a Fund buys securities for cash, while at the same time, it agrees to resell the same securities for cash (usually at a higher price) at a later date.

To limit the risk that the counterparty fails to fulfill its obligations, applicable Funds obtain collateral, combination of cash and securities, representing at least 102% of the contract amount, determined daily based on the fair value of the previous business day's repurchase transactions. Securities received as collateral in repurchase or reverse repurchase transactions are not included in the Statements of Financial Position, as substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of these securities have not been transferred to the Funds.

Cash guarantees received for repurchase or reverse repurchase transactions are recognized as financial assets in the Statements of Financial Position, in "Cash guarantee received for repurchase or reverse repurchase transactions", as applicable. A liability representing the obligation to repurchase or reverse repurchase the securities is recognized in "Commitments related to repurchase or reverse repurchase transactions", as applicable. Desjardins Trust, as the Funds' custodian, may use the cash guarantees to buy investments to generate revenue, which is shared by the Fund and Desjardins Trust at the rate presented in the section "Notes to the Financial Statements – Specific Information" pertaining to each applicable Fund. This revenue is included in "Revenue from securities lending activities" in the Statements of Comprehensive Income, if applicable.

## **Leverage**

Leverage occurs when the Fund borrows money or securities, or uses derivatives, to generate investment exposure that would otherwise not be possible.

The aggregate gross exposure of an "alternative mutual fund" under National Instrument 81-102 *Investment Funds* ("NI 81-102") must not exceed three times an alternative mutual fund's NAV and is calculated as the sum of the following: (i) the aggregate value of outstanding indebtedness under any borrowing agreements; (ii) the aggregate market value of all securities sold short; and (iii) the aggregate notional value of the alternative mutual fund's specified derivatives positions, excluding any specified derivatives used for hedging purposes. If an alternative mutual fund's aggregate gross exposure exceeds three times that fund's NAV, the alternative mutual fund must, as quickly as is commercially reasonable, take all necessary steps to reduce the aggregate gross exposure to three times the alternative mutual fund's NAV or less.

As an "alternative mutual fund", NEI Long Short Equity Fund is not subject to certain investment restrictions set out in NI 81-102 that restrict the ability of conventional mutual funds (other than alternative mutual funds) to leverage their assets through borrowing, short sales and/or derivatives. Investment decisions may be made for the assets of NEI Long Short Equity Fund that exceed the NAV of the Fund. As a result, if these investment decisions are incorrect, the resulting losses will be more than if investments were made solely in an unleveraged long portfolio, as is the case in most conventional equity mutual funds. In addition, leveraged investment strategies can also be expected to increase a fund's turnover, transaction and market impact costs, interest and other costs, and expenses.

The Manager, on behalf of NEI Long Short Equity Fund, has received exemptive relief from Canadian securities regulatory authorities permitting NEI Long Short Equity Fund to engage in short selling transactions and cash borrowing up to a combined maximum of 100% of its NAV, which is in excess of the short sale and cash borrowing limits of 50% of a fund's NAV provided for both conventional mutual funds and alternative mutual funds in NI 81-102.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## March 31, 2025, and 2024 (continued)

### Offsetting Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities

A financial asset and a financial liability offset in a Fund's Statements of Financial Position only when the Fund has a legally enforceable and unconditional right to set off the amounts and intends either to settle on a net basis or to realize the asset and settle the liability simultaneously. A Fund has a legally enforceable and unconditional right to set off a financial asset and a financial liability when such right is enforceable in the normal course of business and in the event of default, insolvency or bankruptcy.

Over-the-counter derivative financial instruments, securities lending and repurchase and reverse repurchase agreements, receivable for investments sold and payable for investments purchased are subject to master netting or similar agreements that do not meet the criteria for offsetting in the Statements of Financial Position, as they give a right to an offset that is enforceable only in the event of default, insolvency or bankruptcy.

The table presenting financial assets and liabilities that are subject to a master netting agreement or similar agreement is presented in the "Notes to the Financial Statements – Specific Information" section pertaining to each Fund, if applicable.

### Income

Interest for distribution purposes from investments in debt securities presented in the Statements of Comprehensive Income is recognized as it is earned. The Funds do not amortize premiums paid or discounts received on the purchase of debt securities except for stripped bonds. Dividends are recognized as income on the ex-dividend date. Income received from ETFs and income trusts are included in "Dividends" in the Statements of Comprehensive Income. Notional distributions received from ETFs are considered non-cash transactions and increase the average costs for those ETFs. Amounts from investments that are treated as a return of capital for income tax purposes reduce the average cost of those investments. Foreign interest and dividend income are accounted for on a gross basis and are included in the "Income" section of the Statements of Comprehensive Income.

The net income from the limited partnership includes income attributed for tax purposes and are presented in "Distributions from underlying funds", if applicable. Distributions received from underlying funds are recorded at the date of distribution and are included in "Distributions from underlying funds" in the Statements of Comprehensive Income, if applicable.

Distributions received in the form of units from underlying funds are presented as "Non-cash distribution from investments" in the Statements of Cash Flows, as applicable.

Upon settlement of derivative financial instruments contracts, the gains and losses from derivative financial instruments held for hedging purposes are included in "Net realized gain (loss) on derivatives" in the Statements of Comprehensive Income for applicable Funds. If applicable, gains and losses from derivative financial instruments held for purposes other than hedging are included in "Net income (loss) from derivatives" in the Statements of Comprehensive Income.

### Foreign Currency Translation

The Funds' financial statements, subscriptions and redemptions are denominated in Canadian dollars, which is the Funds' functional and presentation currency. Foreign currency assets and liabilities denominated in a foreign currency are translated into the functional currency at the exchange rate on each valuation date. Purchases and sales of securities, as well as income and expenses denominated in foreign currencies, are translated into the functional currency at the exchange rates prevailing on the transaction dates.

Foreign exchange gains and losses relating to cash are presented as "Foreign exchange gain (loss) on cash" in the Statements of Comprehensive Income and those relating to other financial assets and liabilities are presented within "Net realized gain (loss) on investments" and "Net unrealized gain (loss) on investments" in the Statements of Comprehensive Income.

Amount in currencies are presented using the following abbreviations:

Abbreviation	Currency	Abbreviation	Currency
AED	United Arab Emirates Dirham	KRW	South Korean Won
AUD	Australian Dollar	MXN	Mexican Peso
BRL	Brazilian Real	MYR	Malaysian Ringgit
CAD	Canadian Dollar	NOK	Norwegian Krone
CHF	Swiss Franc	NZD	New Zealand Dollar
CLP	Chilean Peso	PHP	Philippine Peso
CNY	Chinese Yuan Renminbi	PLN	Polish Zloty
CZK	Czech Republic Koruna	RUB	Russian Ruble
DKK	Danish Krone	SAR	Saudi Riyal
EUR	Euro	SEK	Swedish Krona
GBP	Pound Sterling	SGD	Singapore Dollar
HKD	Hong Kong Dollar	THB	Thai Baht
HUF	Hungarian Forint	TRY	Turkish Lira
IDR	Indonesian Rupiah	TWD	Taiwan Dollar
ILS	Israeli Shekel	USD	United States Dollar
INR	Indian Rupee	VND	Vietnamese Dong
JPY	Japanese Yen	ZAR	South African Rand

### Short Selling

The unrealized gains or losses arising from short positions are reflected in the Statements of Comprehensive Income as part of "Net unrealized gain (loss) on investments" and the fair value of short positions is reflected in the Statements of Financial Position as "Investments at fair value through profit or loss (FVPTL)- short", where applicable. When the short position is closed out, gains or losses are realized and included in "Net realized gain (loss) on investments" in the Statements of Comprehensive Income.

There can be no assurance that a Fund will be able to close out a short position at an acceptable time or price. Until a Fund replaces a borrowed security, it will maintain adequate margin with the broker consisting of cash and liquid securities. As at March 31, 2025, the margin maintained with the broker is noted in the Statements of Financial Position in "Margin deposits", if applicable.

### Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Redeemable Units per Unit

The increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units per unit, presented in the Statements of Comprehensive Income, is calculated by dividing the increase (decrease) in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units by the average number of units outstanding during the period.

### Income Taxes

Under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) (the "Tax Act"), each Fund, except the Funds below, qualifies, or intends to qualify, as a mutual fund trust.

The following Funds are considered unincorporated unit trusts:

- NEI Fixed Income Pool;
- NEI Canadian Equity Pool;
- NEI Global Equity Pool; and
- NEI Managed Asset Allocation Pool (collectively, the "Pools").

Each Fund's taxation year-end is December 15 except for NEI Money Market Fund and the Pools, which have a taxation year-end of December 31.

The Funds are taxable on net income and net capital gains not distributed to unitholders. All the Funds' investment income and sufficient net capital gains realized in any year are required to be distributed to unitholders to ensure that the Funds will not be subject to income taxes. As a result, the Funds do not record income taxes. Since the Funds do not record income taxes, the tax benefit of capital and non-capital losses has not been reflected in the Statements of Financial Position as a deferred income tax asset. In some special cases, the Pools may become liable for alternative minimum tax, and may be subject to a special tax under Part XII.2 of the Tax Act. The Manager expects that the Pools will not be subject to tax under Part XII.2, although no assurance can be given that this will not occur.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## March 31, 2025, and 2024 (continued)

Capital losses can be carried forward indefinitely to reduce future capital gains. Non-capital losses incurred in a financial year may be carried forward 20 years to reduce future investment income and capital gains.

Distributions are classified as a return of capital, net investment income or capital gain. The Manager reserves the right to make additional distributions in any year, if determined to be appropriate.

The Funds currently incur withholding taxes imposed by certain countries on foreign investment income and capital gains. Such income and gains are recorded on a gross basis, and the related withholding taxes are shown as a separate expense in the Statements of Comprehensive Income.

The Funds that have exposure to Indian securities accrue a tax liability for unrealized gains that are in excess of unrealized losses.

Each Fund will make an election under section 39(4) of the Tax Act so that all gains or losses realized on the disposition of securities that are "Canadian securities" (as defined in the Tax Act), including Canadian securities acquired in connection with short sales, will be deemed to be capital gains or losses to the Fund.

Refer to the section "Notes to the Financial Statements – Specific Information" pertaining to each Fund for more information on income taxes.

### Investments in Other Investment Entities

The Funds meet the definition of "investment entities" in IFRS 10, *Consolidated Financial Statements*, and account for their investments in underlying funds at FVTPL.

In accordance with IFRS 12, *Disclosure of Interests in Other Entities*, specific information on the Funds' investments in other entities, such as subsidiaries, associates and structured entities has been disclosed, as applicable, in "Notes to the Financial Statements – Specific Information" pertaining to each applicable Fund.

### Subsidiaries

An entity is considered as a subsidiary when it is controlled by another entity. The Fund controls an entity when it has the right to variable returns from its involvement with the entity and through its power over the entity.

### Associates

Associates are investments in entities over which the Fund exercises significant influence without exercising control.

### Structured Entities

Structured entities are designed so that the right to vote and other similar rights are not determining factors in exercising control. The Manager has determined that its investments in underlying funds (including limited partnerships), index-based investments and exchange traded funds, income trusts, mortgage-backed securities, and asset-backed securities are structured entities, unless the specified relationship is different. Total values of those investments in the table "Fair Value Hierarchy" also represent the fair value of investments in structured entities.

### New standards, amendments and interpretations not yet effective

A number of new standards, amendments to standards and interpretations are not yet effective as of March 31, 2025, and have not been applied in preparing these financial statements.

Classification and Measurement of Financial Instruments (Amendments to IFRS 9, *Financial Instruments* and IFRS 7, *Financial Instruments: Disclosures*)

In May 2024, the International Accounting Standards Board ("IASB") issued amendments to IFRS 9 and IFRS 7. Among other amendments, IASB clarified that a financial liability is derecognized on the settlement date and introduced an accounting policy choice to derecognize financial liabilities that will be settled in cash using an electronic payment system before the settlement date. These amendments are effective for annual periods beginning on or after January 1, 2026, with early adoption permitted.

IFRS 18 *Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements*

In April 2024, the IASB issued IFRS 18, which replaces IAS 1, *Presentation of Financial Statements*. It introduces several new requirements that are expected to impact the presentation and disclosure of financial statements. These include:

- The requirement to classify all income and expenses into specified categories and provide specified totals and subtotals in the statement of profit or loss.
- Enhanced guidance on the aggregation, location and labeling of items across the financial statements and the notes to the financial statements.

- Required disclosures about management-defined performance measures.

IFRS 18 is effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after January 1, 2027, with early adoption permitted.

The Funds are currently assessing the effect of the above standard and amendments. No other new standards, amendments and interpretations are expected to have a material effect on the financial statements of the Funds.

## 3. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGMENTS, ESTIMATES AND ASSUMPTIONS

The preparation of financial statements requires the Manager to use judgment in applying its accounting policies and to make estimates and assumptions about the future. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The following paragraphs discuss the most significant accounting judgments and estimates that the Funds have made when preparing the financial statements.

### Fair Value Measurement of Derivative Financial Instruments and Securities not Quoted in an Active Market

The Funds may hold financial instruments that are not quoted in active markets, including derivative financial instruments. Fair value is determined based on models that make maximum use of observable inputs and rely as little as possible on unobservable inputs. The Funds consider the data observable if the market data is readily available, distributed or updated on a regular basis, reliable and verifiable, not proprietary, and provided by independent sources that are actively involved in the relevant market. The models used to determine fair values are validated and periodically reviewed by experienced personnel of the Manager.

When no quoted prices are available, the fair value is estimated using present value or other valuation methods, which are influenced by the assumptions used concerning the amount and timing of estimated future cash flows and discount rates, which reflect varying degrees of risk, including liquidity risk, credit risk, risks related to interest rates, exchange rates, and price and rate volatility.

The calculation of the fair values may fluctuate and affect the reported fair values of financial instruments given the role that judgment plays in applying the valuation techniques and the acceptable estimation. Fair value reflects market conditions at a given date and, for this reason, it may not be representative of future fair value. Refer to Note 7 "Financial Instruments Disclosures" for further information on fair value measurement of financial instruments.

## 4. NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HOLDERS OF REDEEMABLE UNITS

### Structure of Redeemable Units

Each Fund is authorized to issue an unlimited number of series of units and an unlimited number of redeemable units (the units) of each series. Each series unit entitles the holder thereof to participate equally in the distributions of the Fund made to that series. Fractions of units may be issued.

Units of a Fund that are of the same series confer the same rights and privileges except that, in respect of a Fund with more than one series of units, each series of units may have different management fees, dealer compensation structure or distribution structure. As a result, each unit entitles its holder to one vote and to participate equally in distributions made in respect to the series of units by the Fund and, upon liquidation, in the net assets attributable to the series of units remaining after satisfaction of outstanding liabilities. A fraction of a unit will entitle the unitholder to proportionate participation but will not entitle them to vote.

The Funds only issue fully paid units and fractions of units. Unitholders may redeem their units in the manner described in the respective Fund's Declaration of Trust.

The Manager manages the capital of the Funds in accordance with their investment objectives (refer to Note 7). In accordance with securities regulations, the Funds seek to invest subscriptions received in appropriate investments while maintaining sufficient liquidity to meet redemptions, with such liquidity being augmented by short-term borrowings or disposal of investments, where necessary.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

March 31, 2025, and 2024 (continued)

## Authorized Units

The authorized units of the Fund are comprised of the following series of units:

An unlimited number of Series A units, principally targeted at individual investors purchasing units on a front-end sales charge option basis.

An unlimited number of Series C units, intended for investors who have granted their dealer discretionary investment authority to invest through the use of proprietary model portfolios.

An unlimited number of Series F units, intended for investors participating in programs that do not require the payment of sales charges or service fees to investment professionals or dealers.

An unlimited number of Series I units, offered to institutional or other high net worth investors who meet any criteria the Manager may establish from time to time and negotiate and pay management fees directly to the Manager. The Series I management fee will in no circumstances be higher than the management fee payable on Series A units of the Fund.

An unlimited number of Series O units, intended for investors, which may include dealer-sponsored wrap-programs or portfolios that make large initial allocations to the Funds and are approved by the Manager from time to time, who make large investments in a Fund and meet any eligibility criteria which the Manager may establish from time to time. Those investors must enter into an agreement with the Manager which identifies the management fee negotiated and pay management fees directly to the Manager. The Series O management fee will in no circumstances be higher than the management fee payable on Series A units of the Fund.

An unlimited number of Series P units, intended for investors or discretionary managed accounts of an advisor who hold, individually or in aggregate (in the case of discretionary managed accounts only), at least \$100,000 investment in NEI Funds, and whose dealer has entered into a dealer agreement with the Dealer. Series P units may only be purchased on a front-end sales charge option basis.

An unlimited number of Series PF units, intended for investors or discretionary managed accounts of an advisor who hold, individually or in aggregate (in the case of discretionary managed accounts only), at least \$100,000 investment in a single Fund and participate in programs that do not require them to pay sales charges or service fees to investment professionals or dealers, and whose dealer has entered into a dealer agreement with the Dealer.

An unlimited number of Series W units, intended for investors who make an initial investment of at least \$100,000 in NEI Income Private Portfolio, NEI Income & Growth Private Portfolio, NEI Balanced Private Portfolio or NEI Growth Private Portfolio ("NEI Private Portfolios") and whose dealer has entered into a dealer agreement with the Dealer that provides for distribution of Series W units. Series W units may only be purchased on a front-end sales charge option basis. The initial investment criteria may vary from time to time.

An unlimited number of Series WF units, intended for investors who make an initial investment of at least \$100,000 in an NEI Private Portfolio, participating in programs that do not require them to pay sales charges or service fees to investment professionals or dealers, and whose dealer has entered into a dealer agreement with the Dealer that provides for distribution of Series WF units. The initial investment criteria may vary from time to time.

On August 10, 2020, NEI LP discontinued its deferred sales charge ("DSC"), low load, low load 2 and low load 3 (together "LL") sales charge options for those NEI Funds that offered DSC or LL. For investors with existing DSC and/or LL units as of that date, subsequent investments subject to DSC and/or LL sales charges were available until October 2020. On October 5, 2020, DSC and LL sales charge options were closed to new investments. On March 14, 2025, all NEI Fund units held in DSC and LL sales charge options were converted to the corresponding front-end sales charge options (FE) for the same series of applicable Funds. Mature and non-mature units held in DSC sales charge options and LL sales charge options were converted automatically to the corresponding FE sales charge option. As a result of the conversions, any units held in FE sales charge options that meet the eligibility criteria for the Preferred Pricing Program will be automatically switched to the corresponding Preferred Pricing Series.

## Valuation of Units

On each business day and for each series of units of each Fund, the Manager calculates the NAV per unit by dividing the net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units by the number of units outstanding.

The NAV of each series in a Fund corresponds to the proportion of the assets of the Fund attributable to the series, net of the proportion of the Fund's total liabilities attributable to the series and the liabilities of the series. Expenses directly related to a series are applied against this series. Other income and expenses, as well as realized and unrealized capital gains and losses, are applied against each series in proportion to their respective NAV.

## Management of Risks Associated with Units

Units issued and outstanding are considered as the Funds' capital. The Funds are not subject to specific capital requirements concerning subscription and redemption of units, other than certain minimum subscription requirements. Unitholders are entitled to require payment of the NAV per unit for all or any of the units they hold by giving a written redemption request to the Manager within the prescribed time period. Units are redeemable for cash equal to a pro rata share of the Fund's NAV.

## Redemptions

Unitholders may at any time elect to redeem all or part of their units on the valuation date at the current closing NAV per unit. Payment for any unit redeemed will be made by the applicable Fund.

## 5. MANAGEMENT FEES AND OTHER EXPENSES

### Management Fees

As the Manager, trustee, portfolio manager and registrar, NEI LP receives from each Fund, management fees, before taxes, calculated on the NAV of each unit series on each valuation date. Management fees are calculated daily with the NAV of the Funds according to the annual rates presented in "Notes to the Financial Statements – Specific Information" pertaining to each Fund. NEI LP is responsible for the payment of investment fees to Portfolio sub-advisors retained by the Funds.

The management fee varies between Funds and series. Series I and Series O units of the Funds are not subject to management fees, as the unitholders of these series negotiate and pay those fees directly to the Manager.

Certain Funds may invest in other mutual funds ("underlying funds"), including other NEI Funds in order to achieve their investment objectives. There are fees payable by the underlying funds in addition to the fees payable by the investing Fund. No management fees are payable by the Fund that, to a reasonable person, would duplicate a fee payable by the underlying fund for the same service.

### Performance Fees

Subject to the attainment of the high-water mark (described below), the Manager charges a performance fee, payable to the Portfolio Sub-Advisor in respect of NEI Long Short Equity Fund. The performance fees for each series shall be calculated, earned and accrued daily, based on the cumulative total return of the Fund since the last period for which the performance fee was paid, and become a liability of NEI Long Short Equity Fund on each valuation day and shall be paid by the Fund at the end of each calendar quarter.

NEI Long Short Equity Fund pays the Manager a daily performance fee equal to 20% of the positive difference between the unit price on each valuation day and high-water mark less the hurdle amount per unit on the valuation day, multiplied by the number of units outstanding on the applicable valuation day on which the performance fees is determined. This calculation ensures that the performance fee reflects the fund's cumulative total return since the last performance fees period. The high-water mark is the greatest unit price on any previous valuation day since the units of the series were first issued. The hurdle amount per unit for each applicable series on a valuation day is the product of (a) 2% for each calendar year (pro-rated for the number of days in the calendar year); (b) the unit price of each applicable series on the valuation day; and (c) the number of days since the most recently determined high-water mark or the beginning of the current calendar year, whichever is most recent. Once a high-water mark is attained, a performance fee is earned by the sub-advisor and will not be reduced if there is subsequent negative performance by NEI Long Short Equity Fund.

The Manager reserves the right, in its discretion, to discontinue, decrease or waive the performance fees at any time. Performance fees are subject to applicable taxes, including GST/HST.

### Other Expenses

The Manager pays all of the operating expenses (the "Operating Expenses") of the Funds, except for:

- The "Fund Expenses", which are collectively:
  - costs and expenses associated with taxes (including, but not limited to, GST/HST);
  - borrowing costs incurred by the Funds from time to time;
  - the costs associated with the independent review committee ("IRC"), including annual dues, meeting fees and other related expenses such as travel relating to the operation of the IRC

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## March 31, 2025, and 2024 (continued)

- the costs of compliance with any regulatory changes imposed following July 27, 2018;

and

- costs associated with portfolio transactions, including brokerage commissions and research and execution costs.

The Operating Expenses include, but are not limited to, audit fees, fund accounting costs, transfer agency and recordkeeping costs, custodian costs, administration costs and trustee services relating to registered tax plans, costs of printing and disseminating prospectuses, fund facts and continuous disclosure materials, legal fees, bank charges, investor communication costs, and regulatory filing fees.

In return for assuming the obligation to pay the Funds' operating expenses, each Fund pays to the Manager a fixed annual administration fee ("Administration Fee"), which is subject to applicable taxes, including HST. The Administration Fee varies between Funds and series. Administration Fees correspond to a specified percentage of the NAV of the series, calculated and accrued daily. No Administration Fee is charged to Series I units of the Funds because of the fee structures associated with this series.

The annual management fee rate and the annual administration fee rate shown in the "Notes to the Financial Statements – Specific Information" pertaining to each Fund may be lower than the rates presented in the prospectus, as the Manager can absorb a portion of those expenses.

For more information regarding the management fees and other expenses each Fund incurs, please refer to the "Notes to the Financial Statements – Specific Information" section pertaining to each Fund.

## 6. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

NEI LP is the Manager, trustee, portfolio manager and registrar of the Funds. Northwest & Ethical Investments Inc., the general partner of NEI LP, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Aviso Wealth Inc. ("Aviso"). Aviso is the sole limited partner of the Manager. Aviso is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Aviso Wealth LP, which in turn is owned 50% by Desjardins Financial Holding Inc. and 50% by a limited partnership, CU CUMIS Wealth Holdings LP, owned by the five Provincial Credit Union Centrals and The CUMIS Group Limited. Desjardins Financial Holding Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec ("Fédération").

NEI LP is the Manager of the Funds pursuant to the Management Agreement and ensures the daily administration of the Funds. NEI LP provides or ensures the Funds are provided with all services (accounting, custody, portfolio management, record maintenance, transfer agent) required. The Funds pay management and administration fees to NEI LP. Trustee fees and portfolio management fees are entirely at NEI LP's expense.

Desjardins Trust is the custodian of the Funds. Desjardins Trust is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Fédération. The Funds may engage in securities lending transactions, and Desjardins Trust may act as the Funds' securities lending and repurchase and/or reverse repurchase transactions agent ("Agent"). Any revenue earned on such securities lending is split between the Funds and the Agent.

### Underlying Funds

In accordance with their investment objectives, certain Funds invest in Series I units of other NEI Funds. Where applicable, all the underlying funds identified as "Related" in the table "Fair Value Hierarchy" are considered related parties. Refer to Note 7 "Financial Instruments Disclosures" for further information on fair value hierarchy and fair value measurement of financial instruments. All transactions in those investments are executed based on the fair value of those investments as described in the material accounting policy information. No commissions or other fees were paid by the Fund in relation to these transactions.

For more information regarding the related parties for each Fund, please refer to the "Notes to the Financial Statements – Specific Information" pertaining to each Fund.

## 7. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS DISCLOSURES

### Hierarchy of Financial Instruments Measured at Fair Value

The fair value measurement of financial instruments is determined using the following three levels of the fair value hierarchy:

- Level 1 - Measurement based on quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

- Level 2 - Valuation techniques based primarily on observable market data.
- Level 3 - Valuation techniques not based primarily on observable market data.

If inputs of different levels are used to measure the fair value of an asset or liability, the classification within the hierarchy is based on the lowest level input that is significant to the measurement of fair value.

### Measurement Monitoring

The Manager is responsible for establishing the fair value measurements included in the Funds' financial statements, including Level 3 measurements. The Manager obtains prices from a pricing agency and monitors and analyzes these prices daily. A Measurement Monitoring Committee (the "Committee") ensures that appropriate operating procedures and a proper monitoring structure are in place and followed. This Committee meets on a quarterly basis to review fair value situations. Reports are produced monthly and given quarterly to the Committee members. The Committee also examines specific processes carried out by the Investment Fund Portfolio Department. Moreover, the Committee establishes measurement policy orientation. On a quarterly basis, this Committee examines and approves the Level 3 measurements after obtaining confirmation of the measurements from each portfolio manager, as needed. The Committee signs off on any adjustments made to prices or estimates provided by the pricing agency.

### Establishment of Levels

A change in the fair value measurement method could result in a transfer between levels. The Funds' policy is to record the implications of the transfers between levels on the date of the event or change in circumstances behind the transfer.

The following types of investments may be classified as Level 3 if their prices are no longer based on observable inputs.

### Money Market Securities

Money market securities primarily include public sector and corporate securities. The inputs that are significant to valuation are generally observable. Public sector money market securities guaranteed by the federal or provincial government have been classified as Level 1. Other money market securities have been classified as Level 2.

### Equities

Equities are classified as Level 1 when the security is actively traded, and a reliable price is observable. Certain equities do not trade frequently and therefore observable prices may not be available. In such cases, fair value is determined using observable market data and the fair value is classified as Level 2. If the determination of fair value uses significant unobservable data, then the fair value is classified as Level 3. Unlisted warrants are generally classified as Level 2.

### Index-Based Investments and Exchange Traded Funds

Index-based investments and ETFs are classified as Level 1 when the security is actively traded, and a reliable price is observable. ETFs are classified as Level 2 when the security is thinly traded and based primarily on observable market data.

### Bonds

Public sector bonds guaranteed by the federal or provincial government are classified as Level 1. Corporate bonds, which are valued using models with inputs including interest rate curves, credit spreads and volatilities, are usually classified as Level 2.

### Mortgage-Backed Securities and Asset-Backed Securities

Mortgage-backed securities and asset-backed securities consist primarily of corporate securities, which are valued using models with inputs, including interest rate curves, credit spreads and volatilities. Since the inputs that are significant to valuation are generally observable, mortgage-backed securities and asset-backed securities are usually classified as Level 2.

### Investment Funds

Public investment funds are classified as Level 1 when their prospectus is unrestricted, and their price is reliable and observable. Since some investment funds are not public, their price is determined using observable market data and their fair value is classified as Level 2. If the measurement of fair value requires the use of significant unobservable inputs, then it is classified as Level 3.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## March 31, 2025, and 2024 (continued)

### Derivative Financial Instruments

Derivative financial instruments, which consist of foreign currency forward contracts, forward contracts, interest rate swaps, and credit default swaps, for which counterparty credit spreads are observable and reliable or for which the credit-related inputs are determined to be significant to fair value, are classified as Level 2. Options are classified as Level 1 when the option is actively traded, and a reliable price is observable. Unlisted options are generally classified as Level 2.

Detailed information concerning the fair value hierarchy of each Fund is available in their respective "Notes to the Financial Statements – Specific Information". For securities classified as Level 3, the valuation techniques and assumptions are also presented in their respective notes.

### **Management of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments**

Throughout their activities, the Funds are exposed to a variety of risks associated with financial instruments such as market risk (including currency risk, interest rate risk and price risk), concentration risk, credit risk and liquidity risk. The overall risk management strategy of the Funds focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and optimizes the Funds' financial performance. Most investments involve a risk of loss.

The Manager is responsible for the Funds' risk management and for selecting and monitoring portfolio sub-advisors.

The Manager compares the performance of the Funds with benchmark indexes on a monthly basis. This analysis is reviewed quarterly by the Manager's investment committee (the "Investment Committee"). The Manager also ensures that the Funds' investment policies are followed and writes a compliance report, which is reviewed on a quarterly basis by the Investment Committee.

The Manager organizes annual meetings with the sub-advisors in order to keep abreast of any changes in their investment practices.

### **Market Risk**

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows associated with a financial instrument will fluctuate because of a change in the relevant risk variables, such as interest rates, exchange rates, equity prices, political changes, and catastrophic events, such as pandemics or disasters. The Funds' market risk is managed through diversification of the investment portfolios' exposure ratios.

### Currency Risk

Currency risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates.

Currency risk is composed of monetary items (usually including cash, receivable amounts in foreign currencies, investments in fixed-income and money market securities) and non-monetary items (usually including investments in equities and investment funds). The non-monetary assets are classified according to the currency in which the security was purchased.

The Funds are exposed to currency risk by holding assets and liabilities denominated in currencies other than the Canadian dollar, the Funds' functional currency, as the value of the securities denominated in other currencies will fluctuate according to the prevailing exchange rates.

The Funds' exposure to currency risk is shown based on the carrying value of financial assets and financial liabilities (including derivative financial instruments and the notional amount of foreign currency forward contracts and foreign currency futures, if any).

When the Canadian dollar decreases in relation to foreign currencies, the value of foreign investments increases. Conversely, when the value of the Canadian dollar increases, the value of foreign investments decreases.

Currency risk is disclosed when the Funds' foreign currencies exposure is above 5% of net assets.

### Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.

Interest rate risk occurs when an investment fund invests in interest-bearing financial instruments. Generally, the value of these securities increases if interest rates decrease and decreases if interest rates increase. The interest rate risk is managed by calculating and monitoring the average portfolio duration on these securities. The Funds also hold a limited amount of cash subject to variable interest rates, which exposes them to cash flow interest rate price risk.

Changes in the market interest rate may affect the borrowing expenses of the short positions held by NEI Long Short Equity Fund.

### Price Risk

Price risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market price, other than those arising from currency risk or interest rate risk.

The portfolio manager plans to manage this risk by carefully selecting securities and other financial instruments, in accordance with defined limits. The maximum risk resulting from financial instruments is determined by the fair value or contract value of the financial instruments. The Funds' financial instruments are exposed to price risk arising from uncertainties about the future prices of instruments.

### **Concentration Risk**

Concentration risk arises because of the concentration of exposure within the same category, whether it is geographical location or industry sector. For Funds with an international investment strategy, the concentration by geographic location is presented according to, among other things, the country of incorporation or region. For Funds with a domestic investment strategy, the concentration by industry sector is presented according to their investments in the different sectors. Concentration risk is managed through portfolio diversification within the framework of a Fund's investment objective and strategy.

### **Credit Risk**

Credit risk is the risk that the financial instrument counterparty will be unable to pay the full amount at maturity. The Fund's credit risk is managed through an independent credit analysis from the Manager/sub-advisor, in addition to a designated rating organization's analysis.

### Financial Instrument Transactions

The Funds' and the counterparty's respective credit risks are considered when determining the fair value of financial assets and liabilities, including derivative financial instruments. Transactions are settled or paid on delivery using approved brokers. The risk of default is considered limited as delivery of the securities sold is made once the broker has received payment.

Payment is made on a purchase once the securities have been received by the broker. The trade will fail if either party fails to meet its obligations.

However, there are risks involved in dealing with custodians or prime brokers who settle trades as, in rare circumstances, the securities and other assets deposited with the custodian or broker may be exposed to credit risk with regard to such parties. In addition, there may be practical problems or time delays associated with enforcing the Funds' rights to their assets in the case of an insolvency of any such party.

The credit rating for fixed-income securities and money market securities is generally rated by designated rating organizations. In cases where the credit rating organizations do not agree on a credit rating for fixed-income securities and money market securities, they will be classified following these rules:

- If two credit ratings are available, but the ratings are different, the lowest rating is used;
- If three credit ratings are available, the most common credit rating is used;
- If all three credit rating organizations have different ratings, the middle credit rating is used.

The credit rating is then converted to a common credit rating organization format. Generally, the greater the credit rating of a security, the lower the probability of it defaulting on its obligations.

Derivative financial instruments are financial contracts whose value depends on underlying assets and other external factors, such as interest rates and foreign exchange rates. The majority of derivative financial instruments are negotiated by mutual agreement between the Funds and their counterparties and include foreign currency forward contracts. Other transactions are carried out as part of trades and mainly consist of futures contracts.

As NEI Long Short Equity Fund may borrow cash for investment purposes, sell securities short, and post margin as collateral for specified derivatives transactions, some of the Fund's assets may be held in margin accounts at a prime broker. The margin accounts may be less able to segregate customer assets than traditional custody accounts, which could potentially expose the Fund to unanticipated risk if the prime broker faces financial difficulties. In this case, assets of the Fund could potentially be inaccessible, and the Fund may experience losses if the prime broker cannot satisfy claims of its creditors, or the Fund cannot trade the positions in adverse market conditions.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

March 31, 2025, and 2024 (continued)

NEI Long Short Equity Fund transactions are made through an approved broker and are settled on delivery using the Fund's prime broker, RBC Dominion Securities Inc. The risk of default is considered minimal as delivery of investments sold is made only when the Fund has received payment. Payment is made on purchases once the investments have been received by the Fund. Should either party not meet its obligation, the trade will fail.

The credit rating of RBC Dominion Securities Inc. as at March 31, 2025 was A-1+

## Securities Lending, Repurchase Transactions and Reverse Repurchase Transactions

Securities lending, repurchase transactions and reverse repurchase transactions expose the Funds to credit risk. These transactions are governed by the Canadian Investment Regulatory Organization ("CIRO") and provincial securities regulators. The Funds also use netting agreements with counterparties to mitigate credit risk and require a percentage of collateralization (a pledge) on these transactions. The Funds only accept pledges from counterparties that comply with the eligibility criteria defined in the policies of CIRO and the provincial securities regulators. These criteria promote quick realization, if necessary, of collateral in case of default. The collateral received and given by the Funds are mainly cash and government securities. However, a Fund engaging in repurchase and/or reverse repurchase transactions could incur a loss if the value of the securities it has purchased decreases below the value of cash paid by the Fund to the counterparty. Further information on assets pledged and received as collateral is presented in the "Notes to the Financial Statements – Specific Information" pertaining to each Fund.

## **Liquidity Risk**

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Fund will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities.

The Funds are exposed to daily cash redemptions of units. Most of their assets are therefore invested in liquid investments (i.e. investments that are traded in an active market and that can be readily disposed of).

Some Funds may invest in derivative financial instruments, debt securities and unlisted equity investments, which are not traded in an active market. As a result, some Funds may not be able to quickly liquidate their investments at amounts approximating their fair values or be able to respond to specific effects such as deterioration in the creditworthiness of any particular issuer. In addition, the Funds can borrow up to 5% of their NAV for the purposes of funding redemptions.

Each Fund may be exposed to indirect liquidity risk in the event that an underlying fund(s) suspends redemptions resulting in the Fund being unable to redeem their investments.

The majority of the remaining liabilities are due within the next three months. Balances due within 12 months equal their carrying balances, as the impact of discounting is not significant.

## **Short Selling Risk**

Because a "short sale" involves a Fund borrowing securities from a lender and selling those securities in the open market, a Fund will generally see a profit if the securities decrease in value and will generally see a loss if the securities increase in value. The process of a "short sale" requires a Fund to provide collateral to the lender and pay a borrowing fee, which may fluctuate during the borrowing period. Unlike a purchase of securities, where the maximum amount of the loss is limited to the amount invested, there is no such limit to a Fund's exposure on a short sale. The securities loaned for the short sale may be recalled by the lender, and limitations on availability of securities may limit a Fund's freedom of action in connection with short sales. In addition, a Fund may have difficulties repurchasing and returning the borrowed securities if a liquid market does not exist. A Fund may also be indirectly exposed to short selling risk if it invests in an underlying fund that practices short selling.

An alternative mutual fund is subject to different short selling restrictions than those applicable to conventional mutual funds in securities legislation. As an alternative mutual fund, NEI Long Short Equity Fund has received exemptive relief. Subject to the terms and applicability of the exemptive relief, NEI Long Short Equity Fund is permitted to engage in short selling transactions up to a maximum of 100% of its NAV, including selling index participation units ("IPUs") of one or more IPU Issuers short in an aggregate amount of up to 100% of its NAV, which is in excess of the short sale limits provided for both conventional mutual funds and alternative mutual funds in NI 81-102.

## **Leverage Risk**

Alternative mutual funds are not subject to certain investment restrictions set out in NI 81-102 that restrict the ability of conventional mutual funds (other than alternative mutual funds) to leverage their assets through borrowing, short sales and/or derivatives. Investment decisions may be made for the assets of an alternative mutual fund that exceed the NAV of the fund. As a result, if these investment decisions are incorrect, the resulting losses will be more than if investments were made solely in an unleveraged long portfolio, as is the case in most conventional equity mutual funds. In addition, leveraged investment strategies can also be expected to increase an alternative mutual fund's turnover, transaction and market impact costs, interest, and other costs and expenses.

Under the investment restrictions applicable to alternative mutual funds in NI 81-102, an alternative mutual fund's aggregate gross exposure, calculated as the sum of the following, must not exceed three times an alternative mutual fund's NAV: (i) the aggregate value of outstanding indebtedness under any borrowing agreements; (ii) the aggregate market value of all securities sold short; and (iii) the aggregate notional value of the alternative mutual fund's specified derivatives positions excluding any specified derivatives used for hedging purposes. If an alternative mutual fund's aggregate gross exposure exceeds three times that fund's NAV, the alternative mutual fund must, as quickly as is commercially reasonable, take all necessary steps to reduce the aggregate gross exposure to three times the alternative mutual fund's NAV or less. As an "alternative mutual fund", NEI Long Short Equity Fund is not subject to certain investment restrictions set out in NI 81-102 that restrict the ability of conventional mutual funds (other than alternative mutual funds) to leverage their assets through borrowing, short sales and/or derivatives.

## **Additional Information**

For further information on the risks associated with financial instruments to which each Fund is exposed, refer to the section "Notes to the Financial Statements – Specific Information" pertaining to each Fund.

## **8. COMPARATIVE BALANCES**

The comparative financial statements have been reclassified from the statements previously presented in order to conform to the presentation of the current year financial statements.

## **9. OTHER INFORMATION**

Unitholders of the Funds can obtain, without charge, the simplified prospectus, the fund facts sheets as well as the financial statements of the Funds by contacting:

Northwest & Ethical Investments L.P.

151 Yonge Street

Suite 1200

Toronto, ON

M5C 2W7

[www.NEIinvestments.com](http://www.NEIinvestments.com)

Tel.: 1-888-809-3333

These documents may also be obtained at the following Internet address: [www.sedarplus.ca](http://www.sedarplus.ca)

