

The NewGen Credit Strategies Fund, a corporate credit-focused liquid alternative strategy, finished the quarter-ending March 31<sup>st</sup> with a Class C NAV of \$10.79 compared to \$10.56 at the end of prior month and the inception NAV of \$10.00. Our Net Exposure at month-end was 67.5% and Gross Exposure was 87.4%

### Core Corporate Carry (47% of NAV, 21 positions)

Our *Core Corporate Carry* sub-strategy positioning remains unchanged from the prior month. We are tilted towards B+ rated senior secured and unsecured paper from US mid-market publicly traded companies. We continue to prefer this part of the credit universe as we think the flight to quality (“BB”) has investors trading off *lower* credit risk for *higher* interest rate risk. Contrarily, we are shunning the lower end of the high yield market (“CCC”) which while much less correlated to interest rates is very exposed to default risk. We are aligning the portfolio to have a reasonable balance between *interest rate risk* and *credit risk* until we have a clearer picture of where we are in the rate/credit cycle. We favour simple businesses that are FCF positive with no near-term debt maturities. A quick summary of our Core Corporate carry portfolio:

Price	Yield	Credit Spread	Duration	US/Canadian
90.3	8.09%	434 bps	3.75 years	49.9%/50.1%

Positive Performance	Performance Detractors
Canadian Bank AT1 securities	Titan International
Arko Corporation	Bluelinx
Cars.com	Floating Rate Preferreds

All our positions except for one bond were purchased on the secondary market and many of the positions we own are “well seasoned” meaning they have been outstanding for a reasonable period. We have been adding to existing positions when Credit ETFs are selling for liquidity.

### ***Banking Crisis and Canadian Bank AT1s***

The Fund entered the recent Banking Crisis with ~20% cash, no leverage, de minimis exposure to Banks and *zero* positions (long or short) in very volatile “risk-free” governments bonds. When the Banking Crisis started to unfold mid-month, we dropped what we were working on to focus on the headline grabbing Bank AT1 market. We first sold the very small exposure we had in CAD AT1 securities and rotated into a large weighting in two USD Canadian Bank AT1 from TD and BNS that we view as being the cheapest two bonds out of the dozens of AT1 securities issued by Canadian Banks. We actively traded our AT1 positions throughout the month and as a result the largest contributor to Fund’s Core Corporate Carry sub-strategy was our position in TD’s 8.125% 82 USD AT1 security.

	BNS 8.625% USD	BNS 7.023% CAD	TD 8.125% USD	TD 7.283% CAD
Price (March 16 <sup>th</sup> )	100.625	99.23	99.5	101.14
Yield-to-Next Call (2027)	8.55%	7.11%	8.34%	6.98%
Spread-to-Next Call (2027)	487 bps	423 bps	466 bps	392 bps
Yield-to-Maturity	8.22%	7.30%	7.93%	7.10%
Spread-to-Maturity	453 bps	405 bps	430 bps	405 bps

<sup>1</sup>As a reminder, the Fund does not sell short government bonds on a levered basis to buy bonds issued by Banks.

### Event-Driven (~20%, 12 positions)

Our Event-Driven sleeve continues to be the largest driver of returns for the Fund year-to-date. We closed three positions during the month:

- Long IAA 5.50% 2027 bonds against a short position in new issue Ritchie Brothers unsecured bonds. The take-over of IAA by RBA closed successfully, and our bonds bought at ~98.25 were redeemed at 102.75 and we covered the RBA short before settlement.
- Long Intercontinental Exchange ICE 3.65% 2025 with Special Mandatory Redemption. Exited the position after ICE agreed to continue to fight the FTC to close the merger with Black Knight. Our thesis was that the deal was going to break, and we would receive 101 on our bonds.
- Long First Quantum Unsecured Bonds. Company had a positive resolution with the Panama Government around the economic terms and conditions associated with its flagship Cobre Panama Mine and we exited the position bought during the early stages of the dispute.

### Liquidity Provision (~30%)

The Fund had 30% of its NAV in cash and cash equivalents at month-end but this number can fluctuate throughout the month based on our active trading.

### Special Situations/Stressed Credit (~2%, 2 positions)

Our positioning remaining unchanged as we wait patiently for companies with stressed balance sheets that need capital to come to the primary market. We are currently working on a credit file where we think we can deploy some of the Fund's capital into a senior secured performing credit at a 15% yield. The bogey for us to deploy the Fund's capital into more stressed or special situation credits remains very high.

### Risk Management Overlay

- We entered the month with a short position in a *Commercial Real Estate* security as a general risk hedge because of our general worries about the CRE market. However, we ended up monetizing the hedge as the price of the security deteriorated rapidly as the banking Crisis unfolded.
- We initiated a macro short position in US investment grade cash credit spreads during the beginning of the Banking Crisis that helped protect the Fund against a market decline.
- Our bearish option structure on Blackrock's HYG ETF remains intact.

The opportunity set in credit is robust and we hope the ongoing volatility associated with the Banking Sector continues as it opens up more active trading opportunities and gives us a chance to add to our core positions at lower prices.