

# JANUARY 2025 MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY 12, 2025

## Market and Fund Performance Update

The S&P 500 got off to a strong start in 2025. With the fourth quarter earnings reporting season in full swing, the financial markets are reacting to specific corporate results. Overall, the markets are especially fixated on the widely telegraphed U.S. tariffs and the risk of looming trade wars.

#### **OUR VIEW**

Bifurcation was a predominant feature of 2024. Last year, the U.S. stock market became evermore concentrated as the rally continued to be driven by the Magnificent Seven—Nvidia, Tesla, Microsoft, Amazon, Apple, Alphabet (Google) and Meta (Facebook). The U.S. economy was similarly powered by the largest American companies and high-income American consumers. Small-cap shares underperformed the S&P 500 index; small and midsize businesses which employ the majority of American workers along with low-income consumers continued to struggle with inflation which remained sticky for most of the year.

As we stated in our recently published Annual Report, given continued uncertainty over the global economy and geopolitical events, we expect elevated market volatility in 2025. We continue to actively look for and research investment opportunities amid the volatility. Opportunities abound given the limited stock market breadth and extreme concentration of market returns over the past years. However, our outlook for U.S. stocks is biased toward caution after two strong years of S&P 500 returns supported by narrow market leadership.

As always, we remain focused on individual stock analysis that adheres to our "Growth at a Reasonable Price" investment philosophy. We engage in active stock selection as opposed to macro-driven investment decisions.

#### U.S. EQUITY ADVISOR FUND, SERIES F

In January, the North Growth U.S. Equity Advisor Fund, Series F gained 3.4%. The Fund outperformed all the indices we regularly follow except for the S&P 400 MidCap which increased 3.9%. For the month, the S&P 500 was up 2.8%, the S&P 600 SmallCap appreciated 2.9%, and the NASDAQ Composite advanced 1.7%. A weaker Canadian currency boosted the Fund's Series F January return to 4.1% in Canadian dollars versus the S&P 500's 3.5% Canadian-dollar monthly return.

#### CANADIAN EQUITY FUND, SERIES F

The North Growth Canadian Equity Fund, Series F, declined -0.6% compared to a return of 3.5% for the S&P/TSX Composite Index during January.

As we highlighted in our Annual Report, we expect 2025 to be a volatile year for Canadian equities. The market will over-react as it usually does, but volatility brings about opportunity. We are not day traders, but long-term investors. As famous investor, Warren Buffett, once said, "The stock market is a device for transferring money from the impatient to the patient."

We remain focused on our "Growth at a Reasonable Price" investment philosophy which guides our stock picking and has helped us generate long-term outperformance. The team views any pullbacks in the market as opportunities to add to or upgrade the portfolio.

# North Growth U.S. Equity Advisor Fund

### SHORT TERM RATES OF RETURN (%) FOR PERIODS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2025

	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	YTD
North Growth U.S. Equity Advisor Fund \$CDN (Series F)	4.05	13.73	17.14	4.05
North Growth U.S. Equity Advisor Fund \$CDN (Series D)	4.03	13.65	16.96	4.03
S&P 500 in \$CDN	3.46	10.56	15.50	3.46
North Growth U.S. Equity Advisor Fund \$U.S. (Series F)	3.37	9.27	11.67	3.37
North Growth U.S. Equity Advisor Fund \$U.S. (Series D)	3.34	9.19	11.51	3.34
S&P 500 \$U.S.	2.78	6.22	10.12	2.78

### ANNUALIZED RATES OF RETURN (%) FOR PERIODS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2025

	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs	Since Inception*
North Growth U.S. Equity Advisor Fund \$CDN (Series F)	34.82	12.83	14.96	13.03	14.58
North Growth U.S. Equity Advisor Fund \$CDN (Series D)	34.41	12.50	14.62	12.69	14.16
S&P 500 \$CDN	36.63	16.86	17.26	15.25	16.49
North Growth U.S. Equity Advisor Fund \$U.S. (Series F)	24.70	8.04	12.90	11.57	12.21
North Growth U.S. Equity Advisor Fund \$U.S. (Series D)	24.33	7.73	12.57	11.23	11.80
S&P 500 \$U.S.	26.38	11.91	15.17	13.76	14.08

*Source: Bloomberg "Total Return Analysis" as of January 31, 2025* \*Date of inception: October 23, 2009.

# North Growth Canadian Equity Fund

### SHORT TERM RATES OF RETURN (%) FOR PERIODS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2025

	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	YTD
North Growth Canadian Equity Fund Series F	-0.55	2.84	0.72	-0.55
North Growth Canadian Equity Fund Series D	-0.57	2.77	0.57	-0.57
S&P/TSX Composite Index	3.48	6.47	12.11	3.48

### ANNUALIZED RATES OF RETURN (%) FOR PERIODS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2025

	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs	Since Prospectus*
North Growth Canadian Equity Fund Series F	14.43	4.14	8.64	8.38	11.64
North Growth Canadian Equity Fund Series D	14.09	3.83	8.32	8.05	11.05
S&P/TSX Composite Index	25.19	9.97	11.45	8.99	9.79

Source: Bloomberg "Total Return Analysis" as of January 31, 2025

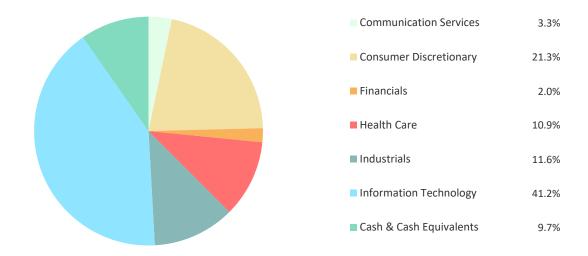
\* The S&P/TSX Composite Index since Prospectus return is calculated from the Series F date of prospectus inception, June 15, 2012. The Series D date of prospectus inception is June 29, 2012

## Equity Fund Holdings and Composition

### U.S. EQUITY ADVISOR FUND — TOP 10 HOLDINGS AS AT JANUARY 31, 2025

Ranking	Security	% of Net Assets
1	Jabil Inc.	7.34
2	Ciena Corp.	6.33
3	Brinker International Inc.	4.86
4	Applied Materials Inc.	4.36
5	Coherent Corp.	4.10
6	Motorola Solutions Inc.	3.93
7	Lumentum Holdings Inc.	3.06
8	Tapestry Inc.	2.80
9	Tempur Sealy International	2.65
10	Booking Holdings Inc.	2.65
Тор 10		42.08
Total Equities		90.30
Cash		9.70
<b>Total Ass</b>	ets	100.00

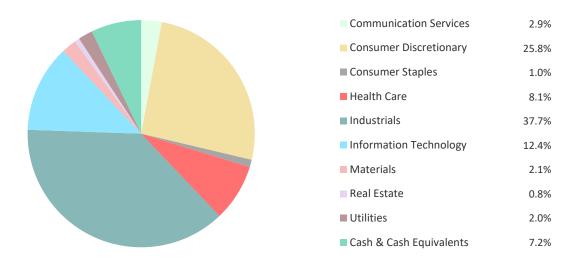
### U.S. EQUITY ADVISOR FUND — SECTOR MIX AS AT JANUARY 31, 2025



Ranking	Security	% of Net Assets
1	Bombardier Inc., Class B	8.23
2	Leon's Furniture Ltd.	7.47
3	Aritzia Inc.	7.35
4	TFI International Inc.	7.17
5	ATS Corporation	5.36
6	Zymeworks Inc.	4.47
7	Constellation Software Inc.	4.36
8	CAE Inc.	4.33
9	Open Text Corporation	4.22
10	Bird Construction Inc.	4.10
Тор 10		57.06
Total Equities		92.83
Cash		7.17
Total Asse	ets	100.00

### CANADIAN EQUITY FUND — TOP 10 HOLDINGS AS AT JANUARY 31, 2025

### CANADIAN EQUITY FUND — SECTOR MIX AS AT JANUARY 31, 2025



### Investing with Us

### INVESTING WITH NORTH GROWTH MANAGEMENT:

North Growth Management is a focused firm. Our objective is to achieve consistent, superior, long term returns on our equity funds based on our "Growth at a Reasonable Price" investment philosophy.

#### **FUND CODES**

**Canadian Equity Fund** (only Canadian dollar investments)

**U.S. Equity Advisor Fund** (for investments in Canadian dollars)

**U.S. Equity Advisor Fund** (for investments in U.S. dollars)

Series D reference Fund Code NGM 272 Series F reference Fund Code NGM 270

Series D reference Fund Code NGM 372 Series F reference Fund Code NGM 370

Series D reference Fund Code NGM 373 Series F reference Fund Code NGM 371

For any questions contact: **Marcus Vander Leek, CFA**  *Director of Business Development and Client Service* Email: marcus@northgrowth.com Phone: 604-354-9275

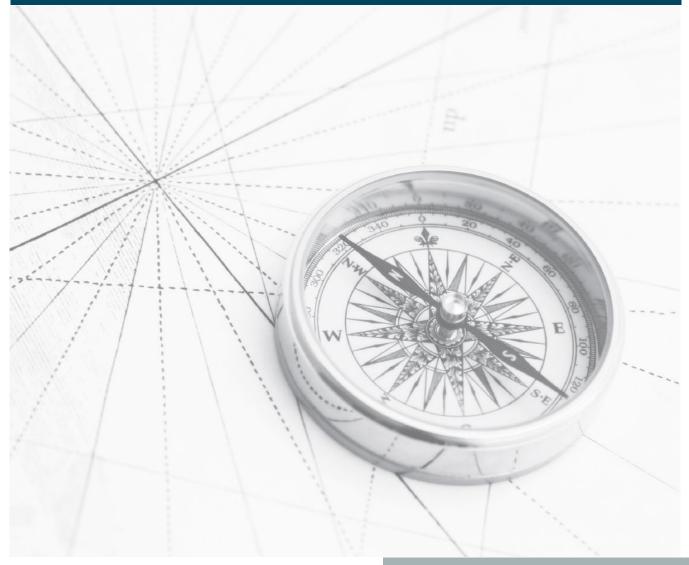
### A NOTE ON FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This report may contain forward-looking statements that reflect our current expectations or forecasts of future events. Forward-looking statements are inherently subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions that could cause actual events, results, performance or prospects to differ materially from those expressed in, or implied by, these forward-looking statements. These risks, uncertainties and assumptions include general economic, political and market factors in North America and internationally, interest and foreign exchange rates, the volatility of global equity and capital markets, business competition, technological change, changes in government regulations, changes in tax laws, unexpected judicial or regulatory proceedings and catastrophic events. The foregoing list of important risks, uncertainties and assumptions is not exhaustive. Please consider these and other factors carefully and do not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements. Any forward-looking information contained in this report is current only as of the date of this report.

Commissions, trailing commissions, management fees and expenses all may be associated with mutual fund investments. Please read the prospectus before investing. The indicated rates of return are the historical annual compounded total returns including changes in unit value and reinvestment of all distributions and do not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or optional charges or income taxes payable by any unitholder that would have reduced returns. Mutual funds are not guaranteed, their values change frequently and past performance may not be repeated.



### NORTH GROWTH MANAGEMENT



Suite 830, One Bentall Centre 505 Burrard Street, Box 56 Vancouver, BC V7X 1M4

T: 604-688-5440 F: 604-688-5402 info@northgrowth.com

northgrowth.com