

# Counsel Essentials Balanced Portfolio Series I

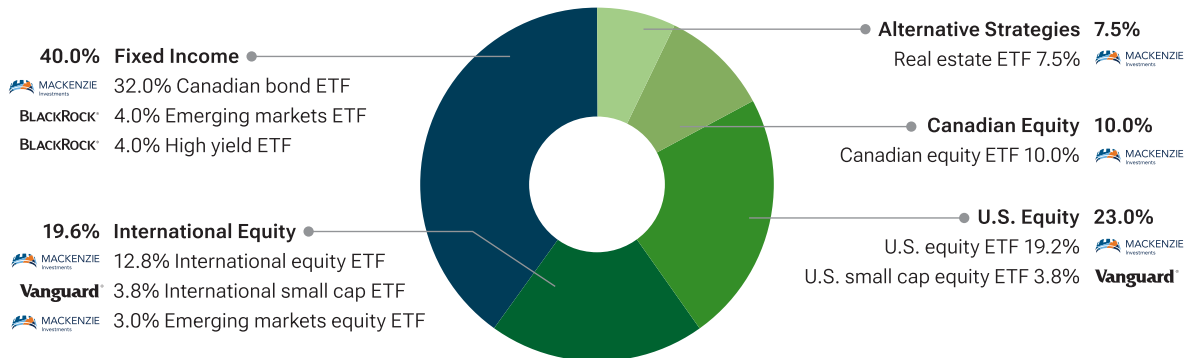
May 31, 2026

A diversified portfolio of exchange traded funds (ETFs) that seeks to provide a balance of income and long-term capital appreciation by investing primarily in a globally diversified portfolio of ETFs. The portfolio may also invest in other mutual funds or in securities directly.

## Is this portfolio right for you?

- Provides access to an all-in-one ETF portfolio that is designed to provide the growth potential of diversified equities with the safer elements of fixed income.
- Designed to be a lower cost solution.
- Monthly distributions.

## Neutral portfolio allocation<sup>1</sup>



The asset allocation weights depicted above represent the neutral allocations as at January 20, 2025.

## Annualized performance (%)

Period	1 mth	3 mths	6 mths	1 yr	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr	Inception return
Series I	3.6	4.2	7.1	19.2	14.7	8.7	-	7.3

## Performance (%) calendar year returns

Period	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	YTD
Series I	-	-	-	13.4	3.5	10.5	-11.0	12.3	16.7	11.3	8.1

## Historical performance (%) Current value of \$10,000



## Key data

Fund type	Global Neutral Balanced
Fund code	CGF292
Inception date	September 13, 2018
Mgmt. fee	0.35%
Admin. fee	0.15%
MER	0.18%

## Distribution frequency

Income	Monthly
Capital gains	Annual
Distributions	-

Distributions represent the annual distributions paid during 2025

## Risk tolerance

Low to Medium

## Portfolio characteristics

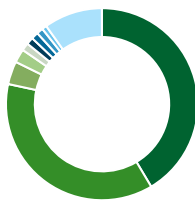
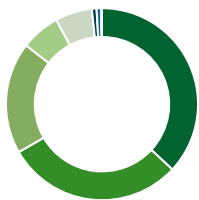
Dividend yield	2.5%
Yield to maturity	4.0%
Duration (years)	6.1
Average credit rating	A

## Investment

Min.	Subsq.	RRSP eligible
\$500	\$100	Yes

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How the fund is invested<sup>2</sup> as at Mar 31, 2026



Asset allocation	(%)	Geographic allocation	(%)	Sector allocation	(%)
US Equity	36.9	United States	41.6	Fixed Income	36.0
Domestic Bonds	29.8	Canada	37.1	Technology	15.9
International Equity	18.8	Japan	3.9	Financial Services	9.7
Canadian Equity	6.6	United Kingdom	2.3	Real Estate	7.7
Foreign Bonds	6.2	Switzerland	1.3	Healthcare	4.8
Income Trust Units	0.8	Australia	1.2	Consumer Services	4.5
Cash and Equivalents	0.8	France	1.2	Industrial Goods	4.3
Other	0.1	Germany	1.1	Consumer Goods	4.2
		Taiwan	0.8	Basic Materials	3.4
		Other	9.9	Other	9.8

## Top holdings

Underlying funds/holdings	(%) of NAV
Mackenzie US Large Cap Equity Index ETF (QUU)	31.0
Mackenzie Canadian Aggregate Bond Index ETF (QBB)	28.4
Mackenzie International Equity Index ETF (QDX)	11.7
Mackenzie Canadian Equity Index ETF (QCN)	6.4
Mackenzie Developed Markets Real Est In ETF (QRET)	5.5
Mackenzie Canadian Short-Term Bond Index ETF (QSB)	3.3
Vanguard Small-Cap Index ETF (VB)	3.2
Vanguard FTSE All-World exUS SmlCap Idx ETF (VSS)	3.2
iShares Broad USD High Yield Corp Bond ETF (USHY)	3.0
Mackenzie Emerging Markets Equity Index ETF (QEE)	2.4

Top fixed income holdings	(%) of NAV
Canada Government 1.25% 01-Jun-2030	1.1
Canada Government 0.50% 01-Dec-2030	0.6
Ontario Province 4.60% 02-Jun-2039	0.6
Canada Government 2.00% 01-Dec-2051	0.5
Canada Government 3.00% 01-Jun-2034	0.5
Canada Government 2.75% 01-Dec-2055	0.4
Canada Government 1.50% 01-Jun-2031	0.4
Canada Government 2.00% 01-Jun-2028	0.4
Canada Housing Trust No 1 4.25% 15-Mar-2034	0.4
Canada Government 1.50% 01-Dec-2031	0.3

Top equity holdings	(%) of NAV
NVIDIA Corp	2.5
Apple Inc	2.1
Microsoft Corp	1.6
Amazon.com Inc	1.2
Alphabet Inc Cl A	1.0
Broadcom Inc	1.0
Alphabet Inc Cl C	0.9
Tesla Inc	0.7
Meta Platforms Inc Cl A	0.6
Micron Technology Inc	0.5

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## Why Invest with Counsel Portfolios

Our Portfolio Management team builds and maintains our portfolios based on in-depth analysis to align to a broad range of investor risk profiles. We take an unbiased approach when choosing our money managers by incorporating a proprietary and disciplined methodology for researching and selecting independent asset managers from across the globe. Each manager is monitored and held accountable to their mandate to help ensure our investors have the best chance at achieving their financial goals.

## Q1 2026 Fund Commentary

*Commentary and opinions are provided by Portfolio Solutions Group*

### Market Commentary

Global equities declined over the first quarter of 2026 and underperformed global bonds, which posted a small loss. (All returns are in Canadian-dollar terms on a total-return basis.) Global equities lost momentum as tensions in the Middle East escalated, causing economic uncertainty. The conflict largely closed off the Strait of Hormuz to oil shipments, which sent oil prices higher, raising concerns about inflation and whether central banks will need to lift interest rates this year.

The U.S. equity market declined, posting a low single-digit loss. The financials sector was the weakest-performing sector. Canadian equities increased and outperformed U.S. equities, getting robust performance from the energy sector. EAFE equities posted a small gain, underperforming Canadian equities but outperforming U.S. equities. Equities in the U.K. and Japan performed well. Emerging markets equities also gained and outperformed their developed market peers, with equities in Brazil and Mexico performing well.

The FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index posted a total return of 0.2% over the quarter. Government bond prices increased, while government yields edged higher. Government bonds outperformed corporate bonds, which posted a small gain. Corporate bond prices were hindered from widening credit spreads (the difference in yield between corporate and government bonds). Securitization bonds posted the largest increase in the corporate bond sector. High-yield bond prices rose on a total-return basis and outperformed investment-grade corporate bonds.

Global bond yields moved higher over the quarter, and global bond prices posted a small loss. The Bank of Canada, U.S. Federal Reserve Board, Bank of England, European Central Bank and Bank of Japan all held their policy interest rates steady over the quarter. The yield on 10-year Government of Canada bonds rose from 3.43% to 3.47%. Sovereign bond yields in the U.S., the U.K., Germany and Japan also increased.

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## Outlook

The first quarter of 2026 marked a transition in market leadership, with supply issues and geopolitical risks overtaking demand cycles as the primary drivers of volatility. Escalating tensions in the Middle East pushed oil prices sharply higher, reviving inflation concerns and increasing uncertainty around economic growth without yet showing clear evidence of economic deterioration. While headline volatility has eased at times, elevated implied volatility suggests markets are increasingly pricing a wider range of outcomes as global fragmentation, energy constraints and supply chokepoints weigh on investor confidence.

In this environment, the sub-advisor's focus remains on portfolio resilience. The sub-advisor continues to emphasize broad diversification across regions and return drivers, avoiding overreliance on a smooth disinflation or predictable easing path. Core exposure to structural growth themes such as artificial intelligence remains important, but the sub-advisor is mindful of rising concentration risk and greater macro sensitivity in earnings expectations.

Within portfolios, alternatives, including managed futures, volatility strategies and risk parity, play a growing role in navigating markets that can shift quickly. Fixed income remains a useful stabilizer, although less reliable than in past cycles, reinforcing the need for broader sources of diversification and liquidity as buffers against episodic shocks.

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Commissions, trailing commissions, management fees and expenses all may be associated with mutual fund investments. Please read the prospectus before investing. Mutual funds are not guaranteed, their values change frequently, and past performance may not be repeated.

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Note: Occasionally, a negative value may be reported for Cash holdings that reflects the sale of securities and/or redemption transactions that have not settled at month end.

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