

## **PORTFOLIO MANAGER COMMENTARY - JUNE 30, 2019**

### **Portfolio Review**

Brompton Oil Split Corp. was up 13.0% in the first half of 2019. This compares to the S&P/TSX Capped Energy Index and the S&P 500 Energy Index, which were up 2.8% and 13.1%, respectively, over the same period. Top performers for the period included Anadarko Petroleum, Hess, Gibson Energy and Devon Energy, all of which were up more than 25% for the period, while Occidental Petroleum and Encana were the biggest underperformers. Anadarko, which was the best performing stock in the portfolio, was up 62.7% for the period after agreeing to be acquired by Occidental Petroleum, which was the worst performing stock in the portfolio, down 15.7% for the period.

We remain bullish on the North American energy sector and believe that oil producers, which have lagged the price of oil over the past several quarters, are attractively valued and present a buying opportunity at this time. In addition to our projection for stronger oil prices in 2019, advancements in drilling and completion technologies continue to have a significant positive impact on the energy sector through rapid productivity gains. As result, the industry's cost structure is down significantly. This will benefit the sector as oil prices rise, since increasing cash flows can be reinvested into profitable projects providing strong shareholder returns. Our belief is that the best and lowest cost producers will be able to generate a rate of return on their capital investments at US\$60-70 oil that is as good, or better than, the rates of return the industry previously generated at US\$100 oil from 2011-2014. In our view, this scenario could result in significantly higher stock prices and strong returns for the energy investor.

The portfolio was rebalanced and reconstituted in March and is currently comprised of 19 North American oil companies – 9 in Canada and 10 in the U.S. – which we believe give investors exposure to the themes discussed above: rising oil prices, reduced cost structure, and improving returns. Until a longer term solution for Canadian oil price discounts is in place, we continue to favour the U.S. producers with a 55% target allocation. Additionally, some of the Canadian names in the portfolio – such as Encana and Enerplus – have significant exposure to U.S. assets. The portfolio holdings are spread across several sub-sectors including integrated oils, exploration & production, and pipelines/storage, and provide investors with exposure to key resource plays that we believe have the strongest return potential.

Given our positive long-term outlook for oil, our view that the sector is currently attractively valued, and the potential for a positive shift in investor sentiment on the back of the resolution of the issues described above, we believe that the current risk/reward proposition presents a buying opportunity for the oil producers.

### **Crude Oil Market Review**

After a peak-to-trough decline of 44.9% in the fourth quarter of 2018, West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil rallied alongside global risk markets in the first half of 2019 to close at US\$58.47 per barrel, up 28.8% for the period. Brent oil prices continue to trade at a premium to WTI and closed the period at US\$66.55 per barrel, while heavy oil spreads in Canada traded at an average discount of US\$11.51 per barrel, significantly narrower than the trading range in 2018 after Alberta's mandatory production cuts went into effect at the beginning of the year.

We believe there are several reasons to remain bullish on crude oil in 2019. First, OPEC continues to support the market and has reversed the production ramp that occurred in the second half of 2018. The Vienna alliance between 26 OPEC and non-OPEC producers met last December and agreed to cut production by 1.2 million bpd. This brought first quarter production back to levels closer to the quotas that were in place prior to the 2018 Saudi-led supply surge and, in our view, has quickly rebalanced the market. These production cuts were extended for another 9 months in early July, and we believe that OPEC will continue to lend some support to the market for the foreseeable future.

Second, in addition to the OPEC cuts, certain oil-exporting countries have seen their production decline as a result of lower oil prices over the past few years. This includes Venezuela, which has lost 1.6 million barrels per day since mid-2015 due to their severe economic difficulties, and Mexico, which has lost over 1.0 million barrels per day since 2010 due to underinvestment. Additionally, Iran's production has declined significantly since sanctions were re-imposed by the U.S. late last year. As such, any increase in geopolitical tensions will likely introduce upside risks to the oil price.

Third, demand growth is strong and is expected to remain strong in light of a global economy that continues to grow in the 3-4% range. For example, China continues to import oil at record levels with imports of approximately 9.3 million barrels per day over the past 12 months compared to 3.5 million barrels per day over the same period 10 years ago. Additionally, in the U.S., which is the largest market for oil, vehicle miles travelled remain at all-time highs on a seasonally adjusted basis as the U.S. economy continues to do well and as consumers continue to purchase trucks and SUVs.

Last, despite the OPEC production surge in the fourth quarter of 2018, U.S. oil inventories remain well below their peak and sit only modestly above the average of the prior five years. The decline in inventories over the past 2 years has come in spite of U.S. production levels continuing to reach new all-time highs with production reaching 12.4 million barrels per day in May before levelling off to 12.2 million barrels per day as of the end of the quarter.

As a result of these factors, the global oil market is likely to remain in balance in the near term. Additionally, given the continued rise in global oil demand, there would likely not be enough global investment in new production capacity at US\$50 oil to meet rising demand and we believe that oil prices need to trade in the US\$65 to US\$75 range in order to keep the market in balance. Furthermore, we believe that there is upside to this forecast should geopolitical tensions escalate further in the Middle East.

Laura Lau, SVP & Sr. PM

Michael D. Clare, VP & PM

June 30, 2019

| Annual Compound Returns <sup>1</sup> | YTD      | 1-Year  | 3-Year  | Since Inception <sup>1</sup> |
|--------------------------------------|----------|---------|---------|------------------------------|
| Brompton Oil Split Corp. - Class A   | 1,927.5% | (79.8%) | (45.1%) | (38.0%)                      |
| S&P/TSX Capped Energy Index          | 2.8%     | 30.2%   | (7.4%)  | (7.9%)                       |
| S&P/TSX Composite Index              | 16.2%    | 3.9%    | 8.4%    | 4.9%                         |
| Brompton Oil Split Corp. - Preferred | 2.5%     | 5.1%    | 5.1%    | 5.1%                         |
| S&P/TSX Preferred Share Index        | (0.9%)   | (9.4%)  | 4.5%    | (0.3%)                       |
| Brompton Oil Split Corp. - Unit      | 13.0%    | (25.4%) | (10.0%) | (9.5%)                       |

<sup>1</sup> Returns are for the periods ended June 30, 2019. Inception date February 24, 2015. The table shows the Fund's compound return on a Class A share, Preferred share and unit since inception compared with the S&P/TSX Capped Energy Index ("Energy Index") and the S&P/TSX Composite Index ("Composite Index") and the S&P/TSX Preferred Share Index ("Preferred Share Index"). The Energy Index is derived from the Composite Index and tracks the performance of equity securities that are in the energy sector of the TSX. The Composite Index tracks the performance, on a market-weight basis, of a broad index of large-capitalization issuers listed on the TSX. The Preferred Share Index tracks the performance, on a market weight basis, of a broad index of preferred shares trading on the Toronto Stock Exchange. The Fund invests, on an approximately equal-weight basis, in a portfolio comprised of at least 15 large-capitalization North American oil and gas companies which are in both the Energy Index and the Composite Index. Since the indices have more diversified portfolios, it is not expected that the Fund's performance will mirror that of the indices. Further, the Energy Index and the Composite Index are calculated without the deduction of management fees and fund expenses, whereas the performance of the Fund is calculated after deducting such fees and expenses.

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There are ongoing fees and expenses associated with owning shares of an investment fund. An investment fund must prepare disclosure documents that contain key information about the Fund. You can find more detailed information about the Fund in the public filings available at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com). The indicated rates of return are the historical annual compounded total returns including changes in share value and reinvestment of all distributions and do not take into account certain fees such as redemption costs or income taxes payable by any securityholder that would have reduced returns. Investment funds are not guaranteed, their values change frequently and past performance may not be repeated.

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