

DECEMBER 31, 2018

2018 ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT OF  
FUND PERFORMANCE

iShares®  
by BLACKROCK®

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This annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain either semi-annual or annual financial statements of the investment fund(s). You may obtain a copy of the semi-annual or annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling 1-866-iShares (1-866-474-2737), by visiting our website at [www.blackrock.com/ca](http://www.blackrock.com/ca) or SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com) or by writing to us at iShares ETFs, c/o BlackRock Asset Management Canada Limited, 161 Bay Street, Suite 2500, P.O. Box 614, Toronto, ON M5J 2S1.

Unitholders may also contact us using one of these methods to request a copy of the investment fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosure.

This report may contain forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties and are predictive in nature and actual results could differ materially from those contemplated by the forward-looking statements.

# Annual Management Report of Fund Performance

*For the year ended December 31, 2018*

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# iShares S&P/TSX Capped Financials Index ETF Management Report of Fund Performance

For the year ended December 31, 2018

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## Management Discussion of Fund Performance

BlackRock Asset Management Canada Limited (“BlackRock Canada”) is pleased to provide you with the Management Report of Fund Performance (“MRFP”) for the iShares S&P/TSX Capped Financials Index ETF (the “Fund”) for the year ended December 31, 2018. You and your financial advisor can use this information along with the annual and interim financial statements of the Fund to assess the Fund’s performance and how your investment in the Fund aligns with your overall financial plan.

The Fund is an exchange-traded fund which trades on the Toronto Stock Exchange (the “Exchange”). Investors typically buy and sell units of the Fund through a brokerage account. The Fund’s Exchange ticker symbol is XFN.

References to “net assets” or “net assets per unit” in this MRFP are references to net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units determined in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (“IFRS”) as presented in the Fund’s financial statements. All references to “net asset value” or “net asset value per unit” in this MRFP are references to net asset value determined in accordance with National Instrument 81-106 – *Investment Fund Continuous Disclosure* which is used for all purposes except for the financial statements, including for Fund pricing purposes in connection with subscriptions, exchanges and redemptions.

### **This report includes:**

- Investment objective and strategies
- Risk
- Results of operations
- Recent developments
- Related party transactions
- Financial highlights
- Management fees
- Past performance
- Summary of investment portfolio

# iShares S&P/TSX Capped Financials Index ETF Management Report of Fund Performance

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## Investment Objective and Strategies

The investment objective of the Fund is to provide long-term capital growth by replicating, to the extent possible, the performance of the S&P/TSX Capped Financials Index (the "Index"), net of expenses. Under normal market conditions, the Fund will primarily invest in equity securities issued by Canadian issuers participating in the financial sector. The Index is comprised of constituents of the S&P/TSX Composite Index in Global Industry Classification Standard Sector 40. Individual constituents are capped at 25% weight.

The investment strategy of the Fund is to invest primarily in and hold the securities of the constituent issuers included in the Index in substantially the same proportion as they are reflected in the Index.

## Risk

Effective March 29, 2018, the Fund's risk rating was updated from "medium to high" to "medium". The risks of investing in the Fund are described in the prospectus.

## Results of Operations

The Fund's net asset value decreased from \$1,159.6 million at December 31, 2017 to \$1,041.5 million at December 31, 2018. This change in net asset value represents an increase of \$12.5 million due to net subscriptions to the Fund and a decrease of \$130.6 million due to investment operations less distributions paid.

For the year ended December 31, 2018, the Fund returned -9.76% versus the Index return of -9.22%. The main reasons for the difference in performance of -0.54% between the Fund and the Index were management fees (-0.55%) and other miscellaneous factors (+0.01%).

The Fund has a distribution policy that requires it to distribute sufficient net income and net realized capital gains so that it will not be liable to pay income tax under Part I of the *Income Tax Act* (Canada). Amounts included in the calculation of net income and net realized capital gains of the Fund for a taxation year, that must be distributed in accordance with the distribution policy, sometimes include amounts that have not actually been received by the Fund.

The Fund may borrow cash in accordance with the restrictions in National Instrument 81-102 – *Investment Funds*, and, in accordance with the terms of exemptive relief, as a temporary measure to fund the portion of any distributions payable to unitholders that represents amounts that have not yet been received by the Fund. Pursuant to such relief, the borrowing may not be for a period longer than 45 days, and the Fund is limited to borrowing up to the amount of the distribution that is payable to, but has not yet been received, by the Fund and, in any event, not more than 5% of the net assets of the Fund. For the year ended December 31, 2018, the Fund did not borrow any cash.

## Recent Developments

### ***Director & Officer Appointments***

Effective July 1, 2018, Jeffrey Berman was appointed as a director and officer of BlackRock Canada.

# iShares S&P/TSX Capped Financials Index ETF Management Report of Fund Performance

For the year ended December 31, 2018

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Effective October 30, 2018, Michelle Daly was appointed as Chief Financial Officer of BlackRock Canada.

## ***Director & Officer Resignations***

Effective March 16, 2018, Lee Wanie resigned as a director and officer of BlackRock Canada.

Effective June 30, 2018, Warren Collier resigned as a director and officer of BlackRock Canada.

Effective October 30, 2018, Saurabh Pathak resigned as Chief Financial Officer of BlackRock Canada.

## ***Strategic Alliance with RBC Global Asset Management***

On January 8, 2019, BlackRock Canada and RBC Global Asset Management Inc. (“RBC GAM”) announced that they have entered into a strategic alliance with regard to their ETF businesses in Canada whereby the ETF families offered by BlackRock Canada and RBC GAM are brought together under one brand – RBC iShares (the “Strategic Alliance”). The Strategic Alliance is a long-term contractual strategic alliance without the establishment of a joint venture entity. Under the Strategic Alliance, each of BlackRock Canada and RBC GAM provide the other party with support and certain services in relation to administration, distribution support, marketing and management of the ETFs managed by each of BlackRock Canada and RBC GAM (collectively, the “Strategic Alliance ETFs”). In connection with the provision of these mutual services, BlackRock Canada and RBC GAM provide each other with certain limited information, review and consent rights in relation to the Strategic Alliance ETFs. In addition, as consideration for these mutual services provided as part of the Strategic Alliance, BlackRock Canada and RBC GAM agree to share management fee revenue earned from the Strategic Alliance ETFs. Although BlackRock Canada and RBC GAM provide services to each other, the two firms continue to maintain separate fund management and portfolio advisory responsibilities for the Strategic Alliance ETFs for which they serve as investment fund manager or portfolio adviser. The Strategic Alliance Agreement contemplates that BlackRock Canada and RBC GAM will work together on new product development and ongoing review and rationalization of the product lineup.

## **Related Party Transactions**

### ***Trustee, Manager and Portfolio Advisor***

BlackRock Canada, an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of BlackRock, Inc. (“BlackRock”), is the trustee, manager, and portfolio advisor of the Fund and is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Fund. The Fund pays annual management fees to BlackRock Canada as consideration for its services.

The Fund is permitted to purchase, sell and hold securities of certain issuers that are directly or indirectly related to BlackRock Canada (currently including, but not limited to, BlackRock and PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.). With respect to investment in related issuers, BlackRock Canada has relied on the approval that it has received from the IRC. The approval requires BlackRock Canada to comply with its current policy and procedures regarding investments in related issuers and to report periodically to the IRC.

# **iShares S&P/TSX Capped Financials Index ETF**

## **Management Report of Fund Performance**

*For the year ended December 31, 2018*

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The Fund may execute inter-fund trades. Inter-fund trading is the buying and selling of portfolio securities between funds for which BlackRock Canada serves as trustee and manager and managed accounts to which BlackRock Canada serves as manager. With respect to inter-fund trades, BlackRock Canada has relied on the approval that it has received from the IRC. The approval requires BlackRock Canada to comply with its current policy and procedures regarding inter-fund trading and to report periodically to the IRC.

BlackRock Canada has agreed to be responsible for the fees and expenses of the Fund except the management fees, any expenses related to the implementation and on-going operation of an IRC under NI 81-107, brokerage expenses and commissions, income taxes, withholding taxes, any applicable harmonized sales tax ("HST"), goods and services tax ("GST") or other sales taxes.

### ***Securities Lending Agents***

The Fund has engaged BlackRock Institutional Trust Company, N.A. ("BTC") and BlackRock Advisors (UK) Limited ("BRAL"), affiliates of BlackRock Canada, as securities lending agents. To mitigate risks from securities lending, the Fund benefits from a borrower default indemnity provided by BlackRock, an affiliate of BlackRock Canada. BlackRock's indemnity allows for full replacement of securities lent in the event that the borrower defaults on its obligation to return the loaned securities and collateral received is insufficient to reconstitute the portfolio of loaned securities. BTC and/or BRAL bear all operational costs directly related to securities lending as well as the cost of borrower default indemnification. For the year ended December 31, 2018, the Fund earned \$57,134 from counterparties in securities lending income. BTC and BRAL are entitled to receive a portion of the total securities lending income earned from counterparties for their role as lending agents.

BlackRock Canada relies on a positive recommendation and standing instruction that it has received from the IRC with respect to the securities lending activities of the Fund, including the appointment of and payment to its affiliates as securities lending agents. The standing instruction requires BlackRock Canada to comply with its current policy and procedures regarding securities lending and to report periodically to the IRC.

### ***Sub-Advisor***

BlackRock Canada has appointed its affiliate, BTC, as the sub-advisor of the Fund. As compensation for its services as sub-advisor, BlackRock Canada pays BTC a portion of the management fees paid by the Fund to BlackRock Canada.

With respect to the appointment of and payment to its affiliate as sub-advisor for the Fund, BlackRock Canada has relied on the positive recommendation that it has received from the IRC. The recommendation requires BlackRock Canada to comply with its current policy and procedures regarding the selection of an affiliated sub-advisor and to report periodically to the IRC.

# iShares S&P/TSX Capped Financials Index ETF

## Management Report of Fund Performance

For the year ended December 31, 2018

### Financial Highlights

The following tables show selected key financial information about the Fund and is intended to help you understand its financial performance for the past five years.

	December 31,				
	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
<b>Net Assets per Unit<sup>1</sup></b>					
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>	\$ 38.65	\$ 35.33	\$ 29.58	\$ 31.64	\$ 29.12
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>					
Total revenue	\$ 1.38	\$ 1.30	\$ 1.25	\$ 1.21	\$ 1.09
Total expenses	(0.23)	(0.22)	(0.19)	(0.19)	(0.19)
Realized gains (losses) for the year	2.18	4.06	0.98	1.50	4.19
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year	(6.80)	(0.81)	4.61	(3.61)	(1.60)
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>2</sup>	\$ (3.47)	\$ 4.33	\$ 6.65	\$ (1.09)	\$ 3.49
<b>Distributions:</b>					
From income (excluding dividends)	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
From dividends	(1.07)	(1.01)	(1.00)	(0.88)	(0.82)
From capital gains	(0.17)	(0.14)	—	(0.07)	(0.11)
Return of capital	(0.00) <sup>3</sup>	—	—	—	—
Total distributions <sup>4,5</sup>	\$ (1.24)	\$ (1.15)	\$ (1.00)	\$ (0.95)	\$ (0.93)
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	\$ 33.81	\$ 38.65	\$ 35.33	\$ 29.58	\$ 31.64

### Ratios and Supplemental Data<sup>6</sup>

Total net asset value (000s)	\$1,041,470	\$1,159,616	\$1,119,984	\$913,894	\$977,579
Number of units outstanding (000s)	30,800	30,000	31,700	30,900	30,900
Management expense ratio <sup>7</sup>	0.61%	0.61%	0.61%	0.63%	0.61%
Trading expense ratio <sup>8</sup>	0.00% <sup>9</sup>				
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>10</sup>	103.12%	100.32%	118.16%	80.27%	81.24%
Net asset value per unit	\$ 33.81	\$ 38.65	\$ 35.33	\$ 29.58	\$ 31.64
Closing market price <sup>11</sup>	\$ 33.82	\$ 38.65	\$ 35.34	\$ 29.59	\$ 31.68

<sup>1</sup> This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements and is not a reconciliation of the beginning and ending net assets per unit. The net assets per unit presented in the financial statements is the same as the net asset value per unit calculated for Fund pricing purposes.

<sup>2</sup> Net assets and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase (decrease) from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the year.

<sup>3</sup> Rounded to less than \$0.01.

<sup>4</sup> Distributions were paid in cash or automatically reinvested in additional units of the Fund, or both.

<sup>5</sup> The tax characteristics of distributions are reported annually by the Fund to CDS Clearing and Depository Services Inc. ("CDS"). CDS makes this information available to brokers who provide it to unitholders through standard tax reporting.

<sup>6</sup> This information is provided as at December 31 of the years shown.

<sup>7</sup> Management expense ratio ("MER") is based on total fees and expenses (excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs) for the stated year, including the Fund's proportionate share of the MER, if any, of any underlying fund in which the Fund has invested, and is expressed as an annualized percentage of average daily net asset value during the year.

<sup>8</sup> The trading expense ratio ("TER") represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of average daily net asset value during the stated year. Where the Fund invests in any underlying fund, the TER includes the Fund's proportionate share of the commissions of any underlying fund in which the Fund has invested.

<sup>9</sup> Rounded to less than 0.01%.

<sup>10</sup> The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio manager trades its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher a fund's portfolio turnover rate in a year, the greater the trading costs payable by the fund in the year, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the year. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a fund.

<sup>11</sup> Closing market price on the last trading day of the year as reported on the Exchange.

# iShares S&P/TSX Capped Financials Index ETF Management Report of Fund Performance

For the year ended December 31, 2018

## Management Fees

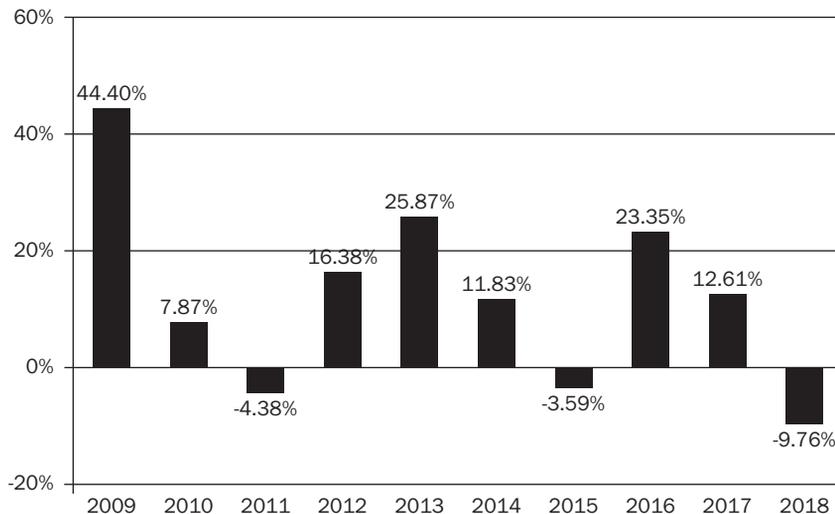
The management fees are calculated based on 0.55% per annum of the average daily net asset value of the Fund. The fees are accrued daily and are generally paid monthly, but in any case not less than quarterly. For the year ended December 31, 2018, the Fund accrued \$5,811,948 (excluding GST and HST in the amount of \$615,129) in management fees. These management fees were received by BlackRock Canada for managing the portfolio, maintaining portfolio systems used to manage the Fund, maintaining the [www.blackrock.com/ca](http://www.blackrock.com/ca) website, and providing all other services including marketing and promotion.

## Past Performance

The following chart shows past performance for the Fund. The indicated rates of return (a) are the historical total returns including changes in net asset value per unit, and (b) assume reinvestment of all distributions during the period in additional units at the net asset value per unit at the time of the distribution. The reinvestment of distributions increases returns. These returns do not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or optional charges or income taxes payable by any unitholder that would have reduced returns. These returns do not indicate how the Fund will perform in the future.

## Year-by-Year Returns

The bar chart below shows the Fund's annual performance for each of the years shown and illustrates how its performance has changed from year to year. The chart shows, in percentage terms, how much an investment made in the Fund on the first day of each year would have grown or decreased by the last day of the year.



# iShares S&P/TSX Capped Financials Index ETF

## Management Report of Fund Performance

For the year ended December 31, 2018

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### ***Annual Compound Returns***

The following table shows the Fund's annual compound total return for the years ended on December 31, 2018. The annual compound return is compared to the returns of the Index calculated on the same basis. See Results of Operations section of this report for further information regarding the current year performance of the Fund relative to the Index.

	<b>1 Year</b>	<b>3 Years</b>	<b>5 Years</b>	<b>10 Years</b>
XFN	-9.76%	7.82%	6.21%	11.42%
Index	-9.22%	8.50%	6.88%	12.16%
Difference	-0.54%	-0.68%	-0.67%	-0.74%

# iShares S&P/TSX Capped Financials Index ETF

## Management Report of Fund Performance

For the year ended December 31, 2018

### Summary of Investment Portfolio

The Fund held no short positions as at December 31, 2018. The following Top Holdings table shows the 25 largest positions (or all positions if the total number of positions is less than 25) held by the Fund as at December 31, 2018 based on the fair value of the position, expressed as a percentage of the Fund's net asset value.

#### TOP HOLDINGS

Position	% of Net Asset Value
Royal Bank of Canada	20.34
Toronto-Dominion Bank (The)	18.81
Bank of Nova Scotia (The)	12.62
Bank of Montreal	8.62
Brookfield Asset Management Inc. Class A	6.91
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce	6.80
Manulife Financial Corp.	5.81
Sun Life Financial Inc.	4.13
National Bank of Canada	2.84
Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd.	2.52
Intact Financial Corp.	2.08
Power Corp. of Canada	1.36
Great-West Lifeco Inc.	1.18
Power Financial Corp.	0.95
Onex Corp.	0.92
Industrial Alliance Insurance & Financial Services Inc.	0.72
CI Financial Corp.	0.59
Element Fleet Management Corp.	0.45
IGM Financial Inc.	0.40
TMX Group Ltd.	0.38
Canadian Western Bank	0.35
Laurentian Bank of Canada	0.24
Genworth MI Canada Inc.	0.23
ECN Capital Corp.	0.17
Home Capital Group Inc.	0.14
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>99.56</u></b>
<b>Total Net Asset Value (000s)</b>	<b>\$1,041,470</b>

#### PORTFOLIO ALLOCATION

Sector/Investment Type	% of Net Asset Value
Banks	70.76
Insurance	18.98
Diversified Financials	9.91
Cash	0.14
Other assets, less liabilities	0.21
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>100.00</u></b>

This summary of investment portfolio may change due to the ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund and quarterly updates are available on the internet at [www.blackrock.com/ca](http://www.blackrock.com/ca).

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For more information visit [www.blackrock.com/ca](http://www.blackrock.com/ca) or call 1-866-iShares (1-866-474-2737)

Additional information about the iShares® Funds, including information about index provider licensing and trademark matters, can be found in the relevant fund's prospectus, available at [www.blackrock.com/ca](http://www.blackrock.com/ca) or on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

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