

HALLGARTEN & COMPANY

Portfolio Strategy

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Model Mining Portfolio:

Crisis of Confidence

Performance Review – April 2017

Model Mining Portfolio

Mining's Crisis of Confidence

- + Yukon rising in the estimation of investors
- + Financings continuing but many are not of a size to advance major drill work for those undertaking them
- ETF dumping by GDXJ, and suspension of a derivative ETF, cast a pall on the larger junior explorers and smaller producers
- Gold and silver looking range-bound
- Base metals giving up ground
- Secondary banking "crisis" in Canada?
- Trump Administration's infrastructure "surge" moved into the too hard (temporarily?) basket

Amateur Hour at GDXJ

When is a passive investment vehicle not a passive investment vehicle? Maybe when it has an asset manager's fingerprints all over it. We have written in the past of the quirkiness of the GDXJ but now the quirkiness has bordered into sleaziness with a big dollop of incompetence on top. The GDX is all well and good. It was born out of the AMEX's gold miners index and was a natural to be tracked by an ETF. It was not without its faults as obviously the AMEX wanted to favour those stocks from Canada and Australia that had dual listings on the American Stock Exchange. The fact that few Australian companies, and virtually none from London, sought listings in the US meant that the end result was skewed towards Canadian names. All well and good. At least there was some science to the process.

The appearance though of the GDXJ was a rather cynical exercise. It contained a ragbag of stocks that did not appear to pay much homage to impartial stock selection and in many cases had names with zero pretense to being juniors.

The problem in recent times is that the GDXJ has not only become the tail that wags the dog, it has become the dog. The travails of the JNUG, a souped-up version of the GDXJ have meant that trading/creation of JNUG has needed to be suspended, which in turn has prompted a wholesale cleanout of "lesser stocks" at the GDXJ, that has correspondingly created a wave of turmoil due to the GDXJ holdings in these stocks being a goodly number of days' worth of trading volume in the names. Tipping them out the door in such a short span of time has sent most into a tailspin and had knock-on effects for the broader mining market as a relatively cash-tight market has tried to absorb all this supply.

The thing that has the conspiracy theorists riled is that the decision to rejig the constituents of the ETF may have been made quite a while ago and that the decision was not kept entirely secret as trading patterns in the stocks concerned (additions and deletions) would appear to reflect "knowledge aforethought".

Below can be seen the projected weighting reduction for the MV Junior Gold Miners Index as at March 17^{th.}

Benchmark	CAD		Est. Index	Est. New	*Est.	3.	3-Mo. ADV		Days to
			Weight	Index	GDXJ			T-1-1	
Ticker ¹	Ticker	Name	Change	Weight	Flow ²	CAD/ US	Other	Total	Trade ⁴
KL CT Equity	KL	KIRKLAND LAKE GOLD INC	-4.06%	2.12%	(12.8)	1.6	-	1.6	8.0
SSRI UW Equity	SSO	SILVER STANDARD RESOURCES INC.	-3.10%	1.62%	(7.3)	2.8		2.8	2.6
RRL AT Equity		REGIS RESOURCES LTD	-3.03%	1.59%	(35.9)	-	3.9	3.9	9.2
TXG CT Equity	TXG	TOREX GOLD RESOURCES INC	-2.82%	1.48%	(4.2)	0.7	-	0.7	5.6
EDV CT Equity	EDV	ENDEAVOUR MINING CORP	-2.72%	1.42%	(5.2)	0.5	-	0.5	9.8
OR UN Equity	OR	OSISKO GOLD ROYALTIES LTD	-2.67%	1.39%	(7.5)	1.3	-	1.3	5.7
CG CT Equity	CG	CENTERRA GOLD INC.	-2.55%	1.33%	(15.0)	2.2	-	2.2	6.9
NG UA Equity	NG	NOVAGOLD RESOURCES INC	-2.27%	1.19%	(18.3)	2.9	-	2.9	6.3
SBM AT Equity		ST BARBARA LTD	-2.21%	1.16%	(28.4)	-	4.6	4.6	6.1
HOC LN Equity		HOCHSCHILD MINING PLC	-2.09%	1.10%	(22.2)	-	2.4	2.4	9.2
GUY CT Equity	GUY	GUYANA GOLDFIELDS INC	-1.98%	1.03%	(13.1)	1.5	-	1.5	8.8
HMY UN Equity		HARMONY GOLD MNG-SPON ADR	-1.88%	0.98%	(24.9)	5.5	2.3	7.8	3.2
FSM UN Equity	FVI	FORTUNA SILVER MINES INC	-1.82%	0.95%	(11.7)	2.9		2.9	4.0
SMF CT Equity	SMF	SEMAFO INC	-1.79%	0.93%	(17.0)	3.3		3.3	5.2
MAG UA Equity	MAG	MAG SILVER CORP	-1.73%	0.90%	(4.6)	0.8		0.8	5.6
MUX UN Equity	MUX	MCEWEN MINING INC	-1.57%	0.82%	(15.1)	4.9		4.9	3.1
SVM CT Equity	SVM	SILVERCORP METALS INC	-1.52%	0.80%	(15.6)	1.6	-	1.6	9.5
SAND UA Equity	SSL	SANDSTORM GOLD LTD	-1.51%	0.79%	(10.5)	2.2		2.2	4.8
SAR AT Equity		SARACEN MINERAL HOLDINGS LTD	-1.44%	0.75%	(33.9)	-	7.6	7.6	4.5
KLDX UA Equity	KDX	KLONDEX MINES LTD	-1.35%	0.71%	(6.5)	2.6	- 7.0	2.6	2.5
ASR CT Equity	ASR	ALACER GOLD CORP	-1.32%	0.69%	(27.1)	2.3		2.3	11.9
AKG UA Equity	AKG	ASANKO GOLD INC	-1.19%	0.62%	(14.6)	4.2		4.2	3.5
SAUN Equity	SEA	SEABRIDGE GOLD INC	-1.19%	0.59%	(2.8)	0.9		0.9	3.5
RSG AT Equity	SEA	RESOLUTE MINING LTD	-1.14%	0.59%	(42.8)	- 0.9	8.1	8.1	5.3
CGG CT Equity	CGG	CHINA GOLD INTERNATIONAL RES	-1.13%	0.59%	(42.8)	0.9	0.3	1.2	19.8
									19.8
RIC UN Equity	RIC	RICHMONT MINES INC	-1.04%	0.55%	(4.7)	1.1	-	1.1	
EXK UN Equity	EDR	ENDEAVOUR SILVER CORP	-1.02%	0.53%	(11.7)	3.2	-	3.2	3.7
PG CT Equity	PG	PREMIER GOLD MINES LTD	-0.96%	0.50%	(14.6)	1.8	-	1.8	8.1
HGM LN Equity		HIGHLAND GOLD MINING LTD	-0.87%	0.45%	(15.0)	-	2.4	2.4	6.2
CNL CT Equity	CNL	CONTINENTAL GOLD LTD	-0.86%	0.45%	(11.2)	1.1	-	1.1	9.9
WGX AT Equity		WESTGOLD RESOURCES PTY LTD	-0.83%	0.43%	(16.8)		2.6	2.6	6.6
WDO CT Equity	WDO	WESDOME GOLD MINES LTD	-0.83%	0.43%	(10.9)	1.4	-	1.4	7.6
FF CV Equity	FF	FIRST MINING FINANCE CORP	-0.79%	0.41%	(52.2)	2.4	-	2.4	21.4
GSS UA Equity	GSC	GOLDEN STAR RESOURCES LTD	-0.77%	0.40%	(35.3)	2.6		2.6	13.5
AR CT Equity	AR	ARGONAUT GOLD INC	-0.76%	0.40%	(13.1)	2.2	-	2.2	5.9
GSV UA Equity	GSV	GOLD STANDARD VENTURES CORP	-0.73%	0.38%	(12.3)	2.2	-	2.2	5.7
KOZAL TI Equity		KOZA ALTIN ISLETMELERI AS.	-0.72%	0.38%	(5.0)		0.8	0.8	6.4
TGZ CT Equity	TGZ	TERANGA GOLD CORPORATION J	-0.63%	0.33%	(41.7)	2.7	-	2.7	15.7
GPL UA Equity	GPR	GREAT PANTHER SILVER LTD	-0.61%	0.32%	(15.6)	2.1	-	2.1	7.4
BDR AT Equity	2001	BEADELL RESOURCES LTD	-0.58%	0.30%	(101.3)	-	7.5	7.5	13.6
PRU AT Equity	PRU	PERSEUS MINING LTD	-0.57%	0.30%	(80.2)	0.5	7.1	7.6	10.6
DRD UN Equity		DRDGOLD LTD-SPONSORED ADR	-0.56%	0.30%	(4.3)	0.4	1.3	1.7	2.5
GORO UA Equity		GOLD RESOURCE CORP	-0.55%	0.29%	(4.7)	0.9	•	0.9	5.2
DPM CT Equity	DPM	DUNDEE PRECIOUS METALS INC	-0.54%	0.28%	(9.8)	0.5		0.5	18.4
SLR AT Equity		SILVER LAKE RESOURCES LTD	-0.49%	0.26%	(44.0)	-	2.7	2.7	16.1
RMS AT Equity		RAMELIUS RESOURCES LTD	-0.44%	0.23%	(49.1)	-	2.6	2.6	18.7
1194 HK Equity		CHINA PRECIOUS METAL RESOURC	-0.33%	0.17%	(623.5)	-	22.7	22.7	27.4
PPP UN Equity	P	PRIMERO MINING CORP	-0.20%	0.10%	(13.5)	2.1	_	2.1	6.5

All this just reflects the dangers inherent in a manager creating an ETF that tracks an index of their own creation. It is all a bit too intellectually incestuous. Beyond that the concept of an ETF of junior stocks is in itself inherently fraught when the ETF grows beyond a certain size and it's the ETF that drives the

stocks, rather than the other way around. Additionally when one includes a sector (mining) that is voraciously hungry for capital and constantly making capital raises then the ETF by dint of its proportional representation on registers is forced to take up the financings (or buy equivalent stock in the market) to maintain its holdings (not wanting the escrowed stock of a financing). The ETF then becomes a party to financings either directly or indirectly. Oh, to be a fly on the wall when financiers come a'calling to the managers of the ETF.

Referring back to our table we can see that the Toronto-listed stock with the most days to clear out the stock is First Mining Finance Corp (FF.v) at over 21 days-worth of volume. Here is its chart.... Any damage caused by the index switch is purely coincidental, honest.



A corporate executive lamented the state of the mining markets to us during the month and we had to do a double take. With gold/silver where they are and base metals having moved to a higher plane and many specialty metals having lifted out of their doldrums, what is he complaining about? Clearly he must be heading one of the companies in the firing line or hit by the backwash of the ETF clean-out for most metals aren't in a particularly bad place. Alas, the ETF is an artificial construct and indeed a dangerous one. If he thinks this is bad imagine what might happen in a market rout with one ETF owning such a mighty chunk of the larger juniors. It's potentially RAB Capital in 2008 all over again.

The truism from all this: "The mining junior that lives by the ETF, dies by the ETF".

Portfolio Changes

There were two portfolio changes during the month.

- Closed a Long position in NewGold. Sold 30,000 shares in NGD.to at CAD\$4.30 per share on the 24th of April
- Added a Long position in Western Copper & Gold. Bought 100,000 shares in WRN.to at CAD\$1.57 per share on the 24th of April

The Portfolio Move

The Model Mining Portfolio ended April at \$4.089mn, which was quite a battering considering that it ended March at \$4.291mn. Net cash declined from \$938,000 to \$917,000.

A slight resurgence in the Lithium space took our Bacanora Short back into negative territory (i.e. it rose) but Galane Gold is doing all the "right" things with some disastrous Q4 results and a looming cash crisis. Seems we might need to find another Short in the near future.

It's worth noting that Scandium International has become a stellar performer of late (up over 170%) as has graphite developer, Talga Resources, up over 200%.

We keep raising our target price for the Palladium ETF and it keeps getting near to it.

Western Copper & Gold - Rolling the Dice at Casino

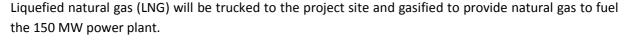
Our paths have crossed with this company various times over the years both in New York and several times recently in London. Western Copper & Gold is focused on developing the Casino project, located in the Yukon Territory. The project is currently in the permitting phase. We had withheld from pulling the trigger as the Yukon seemed like heavy-lifting compared with more accessible mining camps in an era where investors were wary of anything that was "beyond the pale".

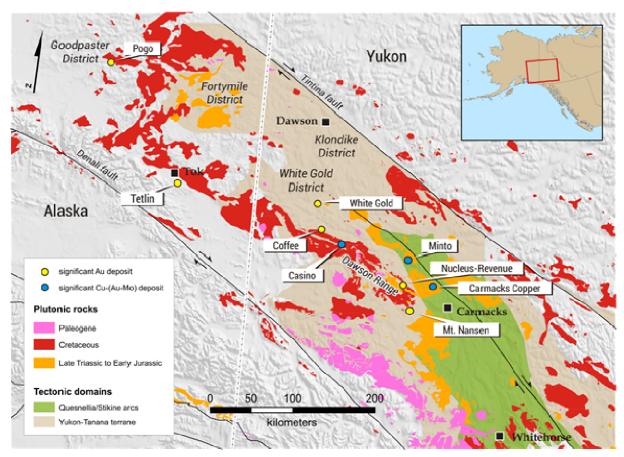
The Casino project is a copper, gold, molybdenum and silver deposit, located about 300 km northwest of Whitehorse and 560 km (350 mi) from year-round port at Skagway, Alaska.

One of the attractions of the deposit is that it ranks among the largest in the world at a time when substantial sized copper deposits in amenable jurisdictions are becoming a rarity. The project is currently in the environmental assessment review stage.

Isolation and logistics are frequently cited concerns of investors (and us) about any project in the Canadian North. In this case access to the project site will be by plane and a new 120 km unpaved road extending from the end of the existing Freegold Road, about 83 km northwest of Carmacks. This proposed road will be an industrial road, and have controlled access.

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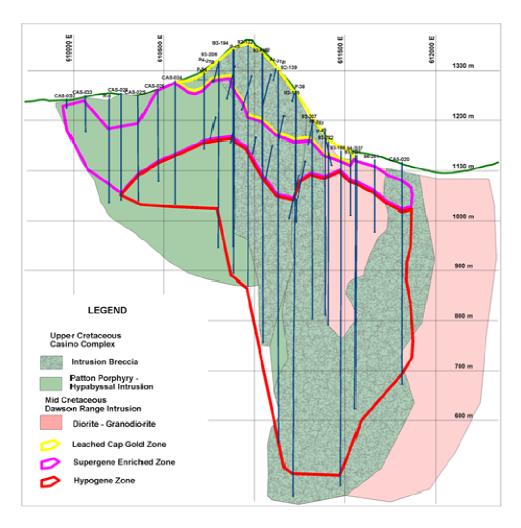




The project is in the Yukon Plateau, a region characterized by weathered bedrock landscape, treed and rolling topography, and moderate to deeply cut valleys. The region is mainly un-glaciated.

Geologically the deposit is centered on the 70-million-year-old, Patton Porphyry, which intrudes older, surrounding rocks from the Dawson Range Batholith and Yukon Crystalline Complex. The intrusion caused brecciation of both the Patton Porphyry and surrounding rocks mainly along their northern, southern and eastern contacts, resulting in contact breccias. This intrusive complex covers an area of about two square kilometres.

The most prevalent mineralization is copper, gold and molybdenum, which was deposited from hydrothermal fluids (hot, mineral-rich solutions) mainly in fractures within the contact breccias and fractured wall rocks. Better metal grades occur in the breccias and gradually decrease outwards away from the contact zone both towards the centre of the Patton Porphyry and outward into the older, surrounding rocks. This is shown in the cross-section on the following page.



The deposit consists of four layers:

- > The Leached Cap Mineralization (CAP): This oxide gold zone is gold-enriched and copperdepleted due to supergene alteration processes.
- ➤ The Supergene Oxide Mineralization (SOX): This zone is copper-enriched, with trace amounts of molybdenite. Where present, the supergene oxide zone averages 10 m thick, and can contain oxide copper minerals
- ➤ The Supergene Sulphide Mineralization (SUS): Supergene copper mineralization occurs in a weathered zone below the leached cap, in the supergene oxide zone, and above the hypogene zone. The top of the zone is 30 to 70 m below the surface and it has an average thickness of 60 m. The copper grades in the Supergene Sulphide zone are almost double the copper grades in the Hypogene (0.43% copper versus 0.23% copper). The

➤ Hypogene Mineralization: Hypogene mineralization occurs throughout the various alteration zones of the Casino deposit, as mineralized stockwork veins and breccias. Hypogene refers to primary ore minerals formed deep below the surface from rising fluids. The pyrite halo in this mineralization is host to the highest copper values on the property.

Reserve & Resource

The Reserve consists of 965mn tonnes of mill ore + 157mn tonnes heap leach (Proven + Probable) containing 4.5bn lbs Cu and 8.9mn oz Au. Then there is the Inferred Resource of 1.7bn tonnes of mill ore containing 5.4bn lbs Cu and 9mn oz Au.

The Plan at Casino

The feasibility statement dates from January 2013 and is the basis for the current plan. Indeed costs may have retreated from those cited at that time. Western Copper is planning for a conventional open-pit, truck and shovel operation to make the project economically viable. Most of the ore is processed by conventional milling to produce a concentrate, and a portion of the ore will be heap leached to recover the gold. The mill is expected to process about 120,000 tonnes of ore per day and the heap leach 25,000 tonnes per day over a 22-year mine life. There will be 600 employees (at peak production) and 1,000 workers (at peak construction). Some of the key metrics of the feasibility study were:

- Post-tax NPV (at an 8% discount rate) is US\$1.83bn
- Post-tax IRR is 20.1%
- CapEx is projected at US\$2.46bn
- Cash Costs, net of by-products, are US\$0.81 per pound of copper

The processing will be undertaken using a conventional flotation mill & gold heap leach with the end-products being Copper-gold and moly concentrates & gold-silver doré.

The company claims that there is 25+ years of additional potential with the Inferred Resource.

An Environment Assessment Application was submitted January 2014 and the project is currently in the Adequacy Phase of the permitting process. The scheduled production would be heap leaching +2 years from final permits and milling start-up +4 years from final permits.

We have added a Long position to the Model Mining Portfolio with a 12-month target price is CAD\$2.74.

Parting Shot

It was not surprising that after such a long drought that the mining industry would go into overdrive with financings. Some companies were down to their last brass farthings, but quite a number of those

with still substantial cushions or even better cashflows have been reappearing at the withdrawal window to refill their coffers.

We have been wary since the recovery appeared to call the turn on the whole sector as we still feel there is little new money. The whole debacle of the ETFs, that we discussed earlier, shows that hot non-mining money has been washing in and out of the space. Sure this has indirectly pumped money into those companies that saw their prices rise and then saw the ETFs dashing to keep weightings providing a captive audience for financings (or part thereof). However, too much of the money invested in financings was flipped as soon as it could be and investors moved on to the next play in a case of wash-and-repeat.

The relative lack of big acquisitions for cash by majors means that another source of fresh money has been lacking. Then we have our perpetual bugbear of lack of dividends in the Canadian market so the likes of **First Majestic** that either claims it is not making money, or even when it does, refuses to pass it on as it is "investing for the future". Fat lot of future the shareholders of 2010 got as the stock wilted and the bottom line evaporated. Life at these companies is all rainy days or saving for a rainy day. Executives never manage to miss a pay cheque though. Anyway, dividends are the way that prosperity in metals is recycled back to shareholders and then into up and coming stories. If the likes of First Majestic hang onto the cash for the security blanket for management's personal peace of mind then that is a disconnect between recovery in metal prices and money filtering into the space.

All of this is leading to a crisis of confidence. Those that were certain that a new age had dawned last year are now starting to have their doubts. Arguably Canadian-listed companies at this juncture have more interesting and prospective properties and projects scattered around the world than Australian-listed ones do. However the Australian-listed entities have the underpinning of the massive Superannuation money pile while the Canadian market has merely the feel good factor from the increasingly overpriced property market (not that Australia does not "suffer" from that same malaise, but at least there it is not regarded as a source of funds or psychological support for the mining equities market). The lack of a "guaranteed" underpinning for the Canadian mining markets in the good times (it goes away everywhere in the bad times) means that ostensibly prices can be rising and some financings being done, but a certain fragility always remains.

With mining as one of Canada's major sources of revenues, exports and jobs maybe it's time that some thought might be given to how the activity might better be underpinned with an indigenous capital base that is not so will-o-the-wisp. Australia's self-directed superannuation funds maybe give a clue as to how this might be done.

Mining Model Portfolio as at: 30-Apr-17

	Milling Model Porti		30-Api-17			D 16 F		T
		* "	•		ice	Portfolio	Increase	Target
	Security	Initiated	Currency	Avg.	Current	Weighting	in Value	
		Long E	quities	1			1	1
V	Country Mining (CC to)	E /20 /2000	CAD	2.22	1.00	1 200/	E4 200/	#2.00
Various Large/Mid-Cap	Capstone Mining (CS.to)	5/29/2009	CAD	2.32	1.06	1.20%	-54.30%	\$2.00
	NevSun (NSU)	3/23/2012	CAD	3.45	3.03	3.60%	-12.20% -49.40%	\$5.00
	Sherritt International (S.to)	7/11/2013	CAD	1.78	0.9	3.20%		\$2.50
	Palladium ETF (PALL)	10/16/2014	USD	72.08	79.17	5.20%	9.80%	\$80.00
	Metals X (MLX.ax)	29/5/2014	AUD	0.98	0.74	2.40%	-24.40%	\$1.00
Uranium	Uranium Participation Corp (U.to)	10/20/2010	CAD	7.01	3.92	2.30%	-44.10%	\$6.00
	Western Uranium (WUC.cx)	7/5/2016	CAD	2.25	1.7	2.40%	-24.40%	\$4.80
	GoviEx (GXU.cx)	6/29/2015	CAD	0.08	0.17	4.90%	106.90%	\$0.50
Zinc/Lead Plays	Zinc ETF (Zinc.L)	1/15/2010	USD	7.04	7.6	2.50%	8.00%	£9.00
	Canadian Zinc (CZN.to)	12/9/2011	CAD	0.82	0.18	0.50%	-78.00%	\$0.70
	Ascendant Resources (ASND.v)	10/31/2016	CAD	0.48	0.66	3.20%	38.90%	\$1.70
	Nyrstar (NYR:BR)	9/28/2009	Euros	65.1	5.2	3.70%	-92.00%	€ 11.00
	Southern Silver Exploration (SSV.v)	8/25/2016	CAD	0.39	0.485	2.90%	24.40%	\$0.94
Gold Producers	Patagonia Gold (PGD.L)	10/2/2013	GBP	3.6	1.7	1.40%	-52.80%	£4.00
	Komet Resources (KMT.v)	11/25/2016	CAD	0.47	0.39	1.90%	-17.00%	\$1.28
	Para Resources (PBR.v)	2/17/2017	CAD	0.23	0.24	2.90%	4.30%	\$0.58
	Westgold (WGX.ax)	12/6/2016	AUD	2.01	1.94	4.30%	-3.50%	\$2.40
	Eldorado Gold (EGO)	6/21/2012	USD	9.12	4.99	4.90%	-45.30%	\$5.50
	Teranga Gold (TGZ.to)	6/21/2012	CAD	1.57	0.66	1.90%	-58.00%	\$1.50
Copper Producer	Coro Mining (COP.to)	2/23/2015	CAD	0.03	0.13	3.10%	333.30%	\$0.30
	Royal Nickel (RNX.to)	11/17/2016	CAD	0.33	0.22	1.60%	-33.30%	\$0.60
Processor	IBC Advanced Alloys (IB.v)	4/29/2016	CAD	0.3	0.38	0.90%	26.70%	\$1.40
Driller	Cabo Drilling (CBE.v)	9/28/2016	CAD	0.025	0.02	1.00%	-20.00%	\$0.08
Tungsten Producer	Almonty Industries (AII.v)	7/31/2015	CAD	0.36	0.25	3.00%	-31.00%	\$1.00
Copper Explorer	Asiamet Resources (ARS.v)	4/28/2016	CAD	0.05	0.05	1.70%	-3.80%	\$0.24
	Western Copper & Gold (WRN.to)	4/25/2017	CAD	1.57	1.5	3.60%	-4.50%	\$2.74
Nickel Explorer	Sama Resources (SME.V)	23/2/2015	CAD	0.16	0.21	4.00%	31.30%	\$0.30
Lithium	Neometals (NMT.ax)	7/31/2014	AUD	0.04	0.31	3.80%	737.80%	\$0.60
	Galaxy Mining (GXY.ax)	6/28/2016	AUD	0.35	0.43	2.30%	24.40%	\$0.70
Scandium Explorer	Scandium International (SCY.to)	8/23/2016	CAD	0.14	0.39	5.60%	178.60%	\$1.00
Graphite Producer	Elcora Resources (ERA.v)	29/5/2014	CAD	0.2	0.29	3.50%	45.00%	\$0.64
Graphite Developer	Talga Resources (TLG.ax)	8/25/2016	AUD	0.27	0.83	10.10%	213.20%	\$0.90
REE Explorer	Northern Minerals (NTU.ax)	6/9/2011	AUD	0.73	0.13	0.50%	-82.20%	\$0.28
	NET CASH					917,748		
	Short Equities					32.,. 10		
	Short Equities Weighting							
Shorts	Bacanora (BCN.v)	12/4/2015	CAD	1.53	1.56	58.60%	-2.00%	\$0.80
-	Galane Gold (GG.v)	4/28/2016	CAD	0.06	0.06	41.40%	0.00%	\$0.03
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Current Cash Position	917,748
Current Liability on Shorts Not Covered	116,496
Net Cash	1,034,244
Current Value of Bonds	0
Current Value of Long Equities	3,055,315
TOTAL VALUE OF PORTFOLIO	4,089,559

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