

Aston Hill AVIP Trust

MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

The accompanying financial statements of Aston Hill AVIP Trust (the “Fund”) have been prepared by Aston Hill Asset Management Inc. (the “Manager”) and approved by the Board of Directors of the Manager. The Manager is responsible for the information and representations contained in these financial statements and the other sections of the annual report. The Manager maintains appropriate procedures to ensure that relevant and reliable financial information is produced. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in Canada and include certain amounts that are based on estimates and judgments. The significant accounting policies applicable to the Fund are described in note 2 to the financial statements.

The Board of Directors of the Manager is responsible for ensuring that management fulfills its responsibilities for financial reporting and has reviewed and approved these financial statements.

The Manager, with the approval of its Board of Directors, has appointed the external firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the auditors of the Fund. They have audited the financial statements of the Fund in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards to enable them to express to unitholders their opinion on the financial statements.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Killeen'.

Michael J. Killeen
President
Aston Hill Asset Management Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Titley'.

Larry W. Titley
Chief Financial Officer
Aston Hill Asset Management Inc.

March 24, 2014

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Unitholder of Aston Hill AVIP Trust (the Fund)

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Fund which comprise the statement of investment portfolio as at December 31, 2013, the statements of net assets as at December 31, 2013 and 2012 and the statements of operations and deficit, cash flows, and changes in net assets for the years then ended, and the related notes, which comprise a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements of the Fund based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained in our audits is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Fund as at December 31, 2013 and 2012 and the results of its operations, its cash flows, and the changes in its net assets for the years then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.



PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Chartered Accountants

Calgary, Alberta

March 24, 2014

STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS

As at December 31	2013	2012
Assets		
Investments, at fair value	\$ 121,080,775	\$ 119,624,140
Cash	985,041	5,478,540
Short-term investments	199,646	2,996,619
Unrealized gain on foreign currency forward contracts (note 9)	—	201,558
Due from broker	385	22,077
Income receivable	1,322,561	1,219,436
Total assets	123,588,408	129,542,370
Liabilities		
Unrealized loss on foreign currency forward contracts (note 9)	733,650	—
Due to broker	—	335,635
Management fees payable	29,911	32,003
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	14,673	18,847
Total liabilities	778,234	386,485
Unitholders' equity		
Unitholders' capital (note 4)	111,865,542	122,124,052
Contributed surplus (note 4)	54,386,511	51,080,563
Deficit	(43,441,879)	(44,048,730)
Net Assets representing unitholders' equity	\$ 122,810,174	\$ 129,155,885
Units outstanding (note 4)	11,590,727	13,313,921
Net Assets per unit (note 3)	\$ 10.60	\$ 9.70

Approved on behalf of the Manager, Aston Hill Asset Management Inc.



Michael J. Killeen
Director



Larry W. Titley
Director

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS AND DEFICIT

For the years ended December 31	2013	2012
Income		
Dividends	\$ 2,177,404	\$ 3,383,176
Securities lending income (note 10)	17,907	18,732
Interest income	3,822,866	2,780,442
	6,018,177	6,182,350
Expenses		
Management fees (note 7)	376,333	390,542
Audit fees	—	8,088
Custodial fees	36,933	39,954
Unitholder reporting costs	13,564	10,298
Administration fees	1,035	1,011
Interest and bank charges (note 11)	70,436	70,657
	498,301	520,550
Net investment income	5,519,876	5,661,800
Net realized gain on sale of investments	10,433,330	4,393,022
Net realized gain (loss) on foreign currency transactions	13,007	(56,366)
Net realized (loss) gain on foreign currency forward contracts	(1,431,611)	731,454
Net change in unrealized gain on investments	7,062,379	5,312,118
Net change in unrealized (loss) gain on foreign currency forward contracts	(935,208)	311,105
Net change in unrealized loss on short-term investments and foreign exchange	(1,176)	(197,103)
Transaction costs	(167,508)	(149,781)
Increase in Net Assets from operations	20,493,089	16,006,249
Deficit, beginning of year	(44,048,730)	(44,035,808)
Distributions to unitholders (note 6)	(19,886,238)	(16,019,171)
Deficit, end of year	\$ (43,441,879)	\$ (44,048,730)
Increase in Net Assets from operations per unit⁽¹⁾	\$ 1.61	\$ 1.15

⁽¹⁾ Based on the weighted average number of units outstanding for the year (note 4).

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

For the years ended December 31	2013	2012
Operating activities:		
Increase in Net Assets from operations	\$ 20,493,089	\$ 16,006,249
Adjustments to reconcile net cash provided by operations:		
Net realized gain on sale of investments	(10,433,330)	(4,393,022)
Net change in unrealized gain on investments	(7,062,379)	(5,312,118)
Net change in unrealized loss (gain) on foreign currency forward contracts	935,208	(311,105)
Increase in income receivable	(103,125)	(318,116)
Decrease in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(6,266)	(5,636)
Purchase of investments	(140,504,509)	(628,795,051)
Proceeds from sale of investments	159,026,613	645,439,540
Cash provided by operating activities	22,345,301	22,310,741
Financing activities:		
Distributions paid to unitholders (note 6)	(9,838,800)	(15,798,156)
Amounts paid for redemption of units	(17,000,000)	(8,100,000)
Cash used in financing activities	(26,838,800)	(23,898,156)
Net decrease in cash	(4,493,499)	(1,587,415)
Cash, beginning of year	5,478,540	7,065,955
Cash, end of year	\$ 985,041	\$ 5,478,540
Supplemental information:		
Interest paid	\$ 4,811	\$ 4,853

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

For the years ended December 31	2013	2012
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$ 129,155,885	\$ 137,047,792
Operations:		
Increase in Net Assets from operations	20,493,089	16,006,249
Unitholder distributions: (note 6)		
From income	(19,886,238)	(16,019,171)
	(19,886,238)	(16,019,171)
Unitholder transactions: (note 4)		
Reinvested distributions	10,047,438	221,015
Redemption of units	(17,000,000)	(8,100,000)
	(6,952,562)	(7,878,985)
Net decrease in Net Assets	(6,345,711)	(7,891,907)
Net Assets, end of year	\$ 122,810,174	\$ 129,155,885

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

As at December 31, 2013		Cost	Fair Value	% of Portfolio
Par Value (\$)	Fixed income investments			
	Convertible bonds			
1,300,000	Delavaco Properties Inc., Convertible Debenture, 7.500%, due December 20, 2014 ⁽¹⁾	\$ 1,285,245	\$ 1,381,245	
2,300,000	Essar Energy Investment Ltd., 4.250%, due February 1, 2016 ⁽¹⁾	1,720,135	1,808,368	
1,291,000	Tricon Capital Group Inc., 5.600%, due March 31, 2020	1,291,000	1,349,095	
	Total Convertible bonds	4,296,380	4,538,708	3.7%
	High-yield bonds			
2,045,000	ACE Cash Express Inc., 11.000%, due February 1, 2019	1,921,885	1,743,675	
1,700,000	Air Canada, 8.750%, due April 1, 2020	1,753,290	1,919,133	
1,046,000	Algeco Scotsman Global Finance Plc, 10.750%, due October 15, 2019	1,020,629	1,172,496	
1,800,000	American Apparel Inc., 13.000%, due April 15, 2020 ⁽¹⁾	1,793,880	1,773,837	
1,700,000	Century Aluminum Co., 7.500%, due June 1, 2021 ⁽¹⁾	1,644,194	1,761,087	
2,460,000	Crescent Resources, 10.250%, due August 15, 2017	2,546,835	2,842,442	
1,200,000	Eletson Holdings, 9.625%, due January 15, 2022	1,258,726	1,306,870	
1,700,000	Gibson Brands Inc., 8.875%, due August 1, 2018	1,795,738	1,905,587	
1,500,000	Golden Nugget Escrow Inc., 8.500%, due December 1, 2021	1,562,175	1,609,681	
1,700,000	Hockey Merger Sub 2 Inc., 7.875%, due October 1, 2021	1,770,446	1,855,915	
2,000,000	Landrys Holdings II Inc., 10.250% January 1, 2018	1,969,506	2,255,148	
1,500,000	Neiman Marcus Group LTD Inc., 8.750%, due October 15, 2021	1,542,829	1,669,447	
1,200,000	NGL Energy Partners LP, 6.875%, due October 15, 2021	1,245,989	1,306,870	
2,000,000	Shelf Drilling Holdings Ltd., 8.625%, due November 1, 2018	2,014,673	2,294,991	
1,922,000	Vector Group Ltd., 7.750%, due February 15, 2021	1,920,847	2,159,539	
1,600,000	Wok Acquisition Corp., 10.250%, due June 30, 2020	1,695,232	1,846,618	
	Total High-yield bonds	27,456,874	29,423,336	24.3%
	Total Fixed income investments	31,753,254	33,962,044	28.0%
No. of Shares	Equities			
	Financials			
24,080	Bank of Nova Scotia	1,329,105	1,598,912	
47,586	Bankunited Inc.	1,301,219	1,663,927	
24,250	CIT Group Inc.	1,041,762	1,343,415	
68,000	Element Financial Corp Preferred Ser A	1,700,000	1,706,120	
78,000	Gluskin Sheff + Associates Inc.	1,482,000	2,003,040	
51,265	Great-West Lifeco Inc.	1,090,698	1,678,416	
33,615	IGM Financial Inc.	1,440,627	1,885,465	
19,360	Macerich Co.	1,234,841	1,210,951	
80,070	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,447,949	1,677,467	
21,847	Royal Bank of Canada	1,151,161	1,559,876	
252,400	Tricon Capital Group Inc.	1,497,994	1,946,004	
	Total Financials	14,717,356	18,273,593	15.2%

⁽¹⁾ Level 3 financial assets (note 13).

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO (continued)

As at December 31, 2013		Cost	Fair Value	% of Portfolio
No. of Shares	Equities (continued)			
	Energy			
30,375	Altgas Ltd.	\$ 1,040,906	\$ 1,238,389	
209,369	Argent Energy Trust*	1,801,985	1,626,797	
113,900	Cardinal Energy Ltd.	1,242,843	1,315,545	
47,870	Crescent Point Energy Corp.	1,972,615	1,973,680	
32,000	Enbridge Inc.	1,422,706	1,484,480	
178,808	ES Investments Ltd. ⁽¹⁾	286,093	286,093	
42,909	Gibson Energy Inc.	961,304	1,175,707	
65,816	Inception Exploration Ltd. ⁽¹⁾	263,264	263,264	
45,530	Pembina Pipeline Inc.	1,427,147	1,703,733	
130,000	Precision Drilling Corp.	1,206,400	1,290,900	
46,747	Suncor Energy Inc.	1,531,393	1,739,923	
29,000	Tourmaline Oil Corp.	1,148,290	1,296,300	
40,092	Trilogy Energy Corp.	1,146,878	1,106,539	
	Total Energy	15,451,824	16,501,350	13.6%
	Consumer discretionary			
41,620	Autocanada Inc.	1,040,500	1,906,612	
89,910	Bauer Performance Sports Ltd.	1,061,535	1,270,428	
22,080	Dollar General Corp.	1,255,054	1,414,633	
29,220	Dorel Industries Inc.	970,522	1,182,241	
45,183	Thomson Reuters	1,295,314	1,815,001	
	Total Consumer discretionary	5,622,925	7,588,915	6.3%
	Consumer staples			
21,424	Alimentation Couche-Tard Cl B	1,063,072	1,710,706	
14,703	George Weston Limited	997,469	1,138,159	
11,600	Kraft Foods Group Inc.	578,044	664,438	
10,320	Procter & Gamble Co.	673,532	892,548	
	Total Consumer staples	3,312,117	4,405,851	3.6%
	Industrials			
38,900	Boyd Group Income Fund	1,075,736	1,287,201	
29,308	Canadian National Railway Co.	1,005,179	1,774,306	
260,000	CERF Inc.	702,000	759,200	
260,000	CERF Inc., Warrants, <i>January 25, 2015</i> ⁽¹⁾	—	—	
79,420	Fly Leasing Ltd.	1,186,498	1,356,886	
161,350	Horizon North Logistics Inc.	1,157,445	1,602,206	
21,946	MacDonald Dettwiler & Associates Ltd.	1,291,056	1,801,767	
	Total Industrials	6,417,914	8,581,566	7.1%
	Information technology			
706,987	Cenoplex Inc. ⁽¹⁾	887,232	901,405	
52,200	Davis + Henderson Corp.	1,166,489	1,553,994	
15,000	Ethoca Solutions Inc. ⁽¹⁾	963,269	972,184	
89,994	Information Services Corp.	1,478,731	1,552,397	
	Total Information technology	4,495,721	4,979,980	4.1%

⁽¹⁾ Level 3 financial assets (note 13).

* Eric Tremblay, Chairman and Director of Aston Hill Financial Inc., the parent company of the Manager, is also a Director and the Executive Chairman of Argent Energy Trust.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO (continued)

As at December 31, 2013		Cost	Fair Value	% of Portfolio
No. of Shares	Equities (continued)			
	Materials			
311,100	Canexus Corp.	\$ 2,453,225	\$ 2,227,478	
481,600	East Africa Metals Inc.	121,604	60,200	
6,890	PPG Industries Inc.	872,459	1,388,425	
965,000	Western Forest Products Inc.	1,399,160	1,843,150	
965,000	Western Forest Products Inc., Warrants, July 31, 2014	90	308,800	
	Total Materials	4,846,538	5,828,053	4.8%
	Real estate			
34,360	Allied Properties Real Estate Investment Trust	1,134,590	1,124,603	
113,932	Chartwell Retirement Residences	1,090,351	1,138,181	
70,150	Cominar Real Estate Investment Trust	1,461,338	1,290,760	
136,700	Crombie Real Estate Investment Trust	1,770,437	1,850,918	
134,300	Dundee Industrial Real Estate Investment Trust	1,259,565	1,185,869	
174,800	Dundee International Real Estate Investment Trust	1,579,317	1,468,320	
63,180	H&R Real Estate Investment Trust	1,422,216	1,350,788	
165,360	InterRent Real Estate Investment Trust	1,051,131	884,676	
362,200	Pure Industrial Real Estate Trust	1,720,126	1,716,828	
46,030	RioCan Real Estate Investment Trust	1,190,597	1,139,243	
58,000	Slate US Opportunity No 3 Realty Trust Class I Units ⁽¹⁾	602,360	616,248	
103,700	WPT Industrial Real Estate Investment Trust	1,053,281	951,962	
	Total Real estate	15,335,309	14,718,396	12.2%
	Telecommunication services			
25,976	BCE Inc.	829,590	1,193,857	
7,500	Iridium, 7% Series PFD ⁽¹⁾	737,398	810,817	
41,762	Telus Communication	1,327,743	1,526,819	
	Total Telecommunication services	2,894,731	3,531,493	2.9%
	Utilities			
182,110	Algonquin Power & Utilities Co.	1,297,142	1,334,866	
42,700	Pattern Energy Group Inc.	1,003,610	1,374,668	
	Total Utilities	2,300,752	2,709,534	2.2%
	Total Equities	75,395,187	87,118,731	72.0%
	Embedded Broker Commission	(82,418)	—	
	Total Investments in Aston Hill AVIP Trust	\$ 107,066,023	\$ 121,080,775	100.0%

⁽¹⁾ Level 3 financial assets (note 13).

Schedule A Short-Term Investments

As at December 31, 2013		Cost	Fair Value
Par Value	Short-term investments		
	Treasury bills		
200,000	Canadian Treasury Bill, 0.918%, due March 13, 2014	\$ 199,508	\$ 199,646
		\$ 199,508	\$ 199,646

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2013 and 2012

1. OPERATIONS

Aston Hill AVIP Trust (the “Fund”) is a closed-end investment trust created under the laws of the Province of Ontario on January 27, 2006, pursuant to a declaration of trust. Aston Hill Asset Management Inc. is the Trustee and the Manager of the Fund and is responsible for managing the affairs of the Fund. RBC Investor Services Trust is the custodian of the Fund’s assets and prepares the weekly valuations of the Fund. The Fund commenced operations on February 15, 2006. The Fund will be terminated on or about June 29, 2028, if not terminated earlier in accordance with the terms of the declaration of trust.

Aston Hill Advantage VIP Income Fund has a forward agreement (“Forward Agreement”) that provides exposure to the return on the portfolio held by the Fund. The return to investors of Aston Hill Advantage VIP Income Fund is dependent upon the return of the Fund pursuant to the Forward Agreement.

The investment objective of the Fund is to capture the opportunity for capital appreciation. The Fund seeks to achieve its investment objective through active asset and sector allocation and by investing in those income producing securities that the Manager believes represent the best weighting to achieve its investment objective. AVIP Trust has exposure to a diversified portfolio of income producing securities including income trusts, dividend paying common shares, convertible debt, preferred shares and investment grade fixed income investments. Subject to its investment restrictions, AVIP Trust may invest in high yield debt and special situations, such as foreign equities and non-dividend paying equities.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) and they include estimates and assumptions made by management that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of these financial statements and the reported amounts of income and expenses during the periods for which the financial statements report. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

a) Valuation of Investments

Investments are deemed held for trading in accordance with the CPA Canada Handbook Section 3855. The Fund’s investments are valued at fair value. Investments that are publicly traded are valued at their bid price on the valuation date. Investments with no available bid price are valued at their closing price. Short-term investments and bonds are valued at the average bid quotations from recognized investment dealers. The cost of investments is based on their average cost.

Investments in securities having no quoted market value are valued at estimated fair value using valuation techniques as determined by the Manager. Estimated fair value is determined on the basis of the expected realizable value of the investments if they were disposed of in an orderly manner over a reasonable period of time. The Manager uses estimation techniques to determine fair value, including discounted cash flows, multiples of earnings and comparison with other securities that are substantially the same.

b) Cash

Cash consists of cash on hand. Cash is deemed to be held-for-trading and therefore is carried at fair value.

c) Investment Transactions and Income Recognition

Investment transactions are recorded on the trade date, and any realized and unrealized gains or losses are recognized using the average cost of the investments, which excludes broker commissions. Interest income is recognized on an accrual basis. Dividend income is recognized on the ex-dividend date.

d) Transaction Costs

Transaction costs, such as brokerage commissions, incurred in the purchase and sale of securities are expensed and are recognized in the Statements of Operations and Deficit.

e) Income Taxes

The Fund qualifies as a unit trust and is deemed a financial institution under the Income Tax Act (Canada). Provided the Fund makes distributions in each year of its net income and net realized capital gains, the Fund will not generally be liable for income tax. It is the intention of the Fund to distribute all of its net income and net realized and unrealized capital gains on an annual basis. Accordingly, no income tax provision has been recorded.

f) Foreign Exchange

The fair values of investments and other assets and liabilities that are denominated in foreign currencies are translated into Canadian dollars at the noon rate of exchange on each valuation date. Purchases and sales of investments and income derived from investments are translated at the rate of exchange prevailing on the date of such transactions.

g) Foreign Currency Forward Contracts

The Fund may enter into foreign currency forward contracts, which are agreements between two parties to buy and sell currencies at a set price on a future date. The fair value of such contracts will fluctuate with changes in currency exchange rates. The contracts are marked-to-market and the change in fair value is recorded as an unrealized gain or loss. When a contract is closed, the Fund records a realized gain or loss equal to the difference between the value of the contract on the date it was opened and the value on the date it was closed.

h) Securities Lending

The Fund may enter into securities lending transactions. These transactions involve the temporary exchange of securities as collateral with a commitment to deliver the same securities on a future date. Income is earned from these transactions in the form of fees paid by the counterparty and, in certain circumstances, interest paid on securities held as collateral. Income earned from these transactions is recognized on an accrual basis and included in the Statements of Operations and Deficit.

i) Other Assets and Liabilities

For the purposes of categorization in accordance with Section 3855, income receivable and due from broker are designated as receivables and are recorded at amortized cost. Similarly, accounts payable and accrued liabilities and due to broker are designated as financial liabilities and reported at amortized cost. Amortized cost approximates fair value for these assets and liabilities due to their short-term nature.

j) Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of increases and decreases in Net Assets from operations during the reporting period. A significant area requiring the use of management judgements and estimates is the valuation of non-public investments. The resulting values may differ materially from values that would have been used had a readily available market existed for the investments and the prices at which the investments may be sold.

k) Transition to International Financial Reporting Standards

Beginning January 1, 2014, the Fund will prepare its annual financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (“IFRS”), as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (“IASB”), and provide comparative statements on an IFRS basis, including an opening balance sheet as at January 1, 2013 (the transition date). The Fund will also report its interim financial statements for the period ending June 30, 2014, in accordance with IFRS.

The Manager has reviewed and developed the Fund’s IFRS changeover plan, which included performing an impact assessment and identifying differences between existing Canadian generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) and IFRS. Management has monitored developments in IFRS and has assessed the likely impacts on accounting policies, implementation decisions, internal controls, information systems and training. Based on management’s assessment to date, the more significant changes impacting the financial statements may be how the Fund measures the fair values of its investments and the classification of Net Assets representing unitholders’ equity. The Manager does not consider this to be a comprehensive list of the accounting changes required when the Fund adopts IFRS, but in the view of the Manager, it represents the key differences. The differences described in the sections that follow are based on Canadian GAAP as at December 31, 2013 and IFRS that are in effect as of January 1, 2014.

Under Canadian GAAP, the Fund measures the fair values of its investments in accordance with the CPA Canada Handbook Section 3855, Financial Instruments – Recognition and Measurement. This section requires the use of bid prices for the long positions and ask prices for the short positions to the extent that such prices are available. In May 2011, the IASB issued IFRS 13, Fair Value Measurement, which defines fair value, sets out a single IFRS framework for measuring fair value and requires disclosures about fair value measurements. If an asset or a liability measured at fair value has a bid price and an ask price, it requires valuation to be based on a price within the bid-ask spread that is most representative of fair value. The standard allows the use of mid-market pricing or other pricing conventions that are used by market participants as a practical means for fair value measurement within a bid-ask spread. The impact of this may result in the elimination of the differences between the transactional Net Asset Value and Net Assets at the financial statements reporting dates.

The Fund’s outstanding redeemable unit entitlement includes a contractual obligation to deliver cash or another financial asset on the Fund’s fixed termination date, and therefore the ongoing redemption feature is not the Fund’s only contractual obligation. Consequently, the Fund’s outstanding redeemable units will be classified as financial liabilities in accordance with the requirements of International Accounting Standard 32, Financial Instruments: Presentation. The impact of this standard is on classification and disclosure only and does not impact Net Assets per unit. Management will continue to monitor the Fund’s IFRS changeover plan to address the key elements of the IFRS conversion.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

December 31, 2013 and 2012

3. RECONCILIATION OF NET ASSETS TO NET ASSET VALUE

In accordance with National Instrument (“NI”) 81-106, a reconciliation is required between the Net Assets for financial reporting purposes (the “Net Assets”) and the Net Asset Value for reporting other than in the financial statements (the “Net Asset Value”). The reconciliation is as follows:

As at December 31	2013		2012	
	Total	Per Unit	Total	Per Unit
Net Asset Value	\$ 123,035,240	\$ 10.62	\$ 129,466,484	\$ 9.72
Section 3855 adjustment ⁽¹⁾	(225,066)	(0.02)	(310,599)	(0.02)
Net Assets	\$ 122,810,174	\$ 10.60	\$ 129,155,885	\$ 9.70

⁽¹⁾ The Section 3855 adjustment relates to the valuation of investments traded on an exchange at bid price for Net Assets and closing price for Net Asset Value.

4. UNITS OF THE FUND**Authorized**

Each unit of the Fund represents an equal, undivided interest in the Net Assets of the Fund. On termination of the Fund, unitholders are entitled to receive their pro rata share of the assets of the Fund.

Issued

	2013		2012	
	Number of Units	Amount	Number of Units	Amount
Units, beginning of year	13,313,921	\$ 122,124,052	14,157,979	\$ 131,835,318
Redemption of units	(1,723,194)	(20,305,948)	(844,058)	(9,932,281)
Units distributed and consolidated	—	10,047,438	—	221,015
Units, end of year	11,590,727	\$ 111,865,542	13,313,921	\$ 122,124,052

During the year ended December 31, 2013, 1,723,194 (2012 – 844,058) units were redeemed at an average price of \$9.87 per unit (2012 – \$9.60 per unit).

As at December 31, 2013, the Fund had accumulated contributed surplus of \$54,386,511 (2012 – \$51,080,563) since inception. Contributed surplus is recorded when units of the Fund are redeemed at prices per unit which are below the average cost per unit of unitholders’ capital.

The weighted average number of units outstanding for the year ended December 31, 2013 was 12,752,113 (2012 – 13,938,893).

5. CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

Unitholders’ equity is considered to be the source of capital for the Fund. The Fund’s objectives are managing capital to safeguard the Fund’s ability to continue as a going-concern, to provide financial capacity and flexibility to meet its strategic objectives, and to provide an adequate return to unitholders that is commensurate with the level of risk while maximizing the distributions to unitholders.

Since both the revenues and expenses of the Fund are reasonably predictable and stable and since the Fund does not have any externally imposed capital requirements, the Manager believes that the current level of distributions, capital and capital structure are sufficient to sustain ongoing operations. The Manager actively monitors the cash position and financial performance of the Fund to ensure there are resources to meet current distribution levels.

There are currently no externally imposed capital requirements for the Fund.

6. DISTRIBUTIONS PAYABLE TO UNITHOLDERS

The Fund will make distributions to unitholders if, as and when declared by the Manager. For the year ended December 31, 2013, the Fund declared total distributions of \$1.637 (2012 – \$1.14) per unit, which amounted to \$19,886,238 (2012 – \$16,019,171), part of which was a special unit distribution that amounted to \$10,047,438 (2012 – \$221,015). The unit distributions were immediately consolidated so that the number of units outstanding equaled the number of units outstanding immediately prior to the special distribution.

7. MANAGEMENT FEES

Pursuant to management agreements, the Fund, together with Aston Hill Advantage VIP Income Fund, pays a management fee equal to 0.90% per annum of the Net Asset Value of the Fund, plus applicable taxes. The portion of the fee paid by the Fund is equal to 0.25% per annum. The Fund is responsible for all other operating expenses incurred in connection with its operation and administration, such as custodian valuation, trustee, reporting, audit and legal fees.

8. BROKER COMMISSION CHARGES AND SOFT DOLLAR SERVICES

The brokerage commissions paid to dealers included \$6,169 (2012 – \$1,486) that was available for payment to third party vendors, all of which was used for research by the Manager.

9. FOREIGN CURRENCY FORWARD CONTRACTS

The Fund uses foreign currency forward contracts to hedge foreign exchange risks associated with its US dollar investment portfolio.

At December 31, 2013 and 2012, the Fund had entered into the following foreign currency forward contracts with a number of Canadian chartered banks with an AA rating or above:

As at December 31, 2013							
Canadian Dollars Purchased	US Dollars Sold	Delivery Date	Forward Rate (USD/CAD)	Unrealized Loss	Counterparty	Counterparty	Credit Rating
\$ 4,543,044	\$ (4,400,000)	January 15, 2014	0.96851	\$ (133,661)	Bank of Nova Scotia		AA
(2,927,078)	2,800,000	February 14, 2014	0.68328	51,013	Bank of Nova Scotia		AA
515,908	(500,000)	January 15, 2014	0.96917	(15,536)	Canadian Imperial Bank Canada		AA
1,466,842	(1,400,000)	January 15, 2014	0.95443	(21,213)	Canadian Imperial Bank Canada		AA
4,354,262	(4,100,000)	February 12, 2014	0.94161	(6,615)	Canadian Imperial Bank Canada		AA
35,448,552	(33,900,000)	February 14, 2014	0.95632	(607,638)	Royal Bank of Canada		AA+
\$ 43,401,530	\$ (41,500,000)			\$ (733,650)			

As at December 31, 2012							
Canadian Dollars Purchased	US Dollars Sold	Delivery Date	Forward Rate (USD/CAD)	Unrealized Gain	Counterparty	Counterparty	Credit Rating
\$ 34,166,882	\$ (34,100,000)	January 16, 2013	0.99804	\$ 201,558	Royal Bank of Canada		AA+

In the Statements of Net Assets, amounts are netted by counterparties.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

December 31, 2013 and 2012

10. SECURITIES LENDING

The Fund has entered into a securities lending program with its custodian, RBC Investor Services Trust. The aggregate market value of all securities loaned by the Fund cannot exceed 50% of the assets of the Fund. The Fund will receive collateral of at least 102% of the value of the securities on loan. Collateral will generally be comprised of cash and obligations of, or guaranteed by, the Government of Canada or a province thereof, or the United States Government or its agencies, or a permitted supranational agency as defined in NI 81-102. The market values of the securities on loan and the related collateral at December 31, 2013, were \$20.1 million (2012 – \$21.5 million) and \$20.5 million (2012 – \$22.2 million), respectively.

11. LOAN PAYABLE

Pursuant to an agreement with a Canadian chartered bank, the Fund maintains a 364-day revolving credit facility. The revolving credit facility provides for maximum borrowings of \$35.0 million, with borrowing in Canadian currency at either the prime rate of interest or the bankers' acceptance rate, plus a fixed percentage, or US base rate loans or LIBOR rate plus a fixed percentage. During the year ended December 31, 2013, the minimum and maximum amounts of borrowing were nil and nil, respectively. There were no borrowings outstanding under this facility as at December 31, 2013 and 2012.

The credit facility is secured by a first-ranking and exclusive charge on all of the Fund's assets.

12. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

The Fund's investment activities expose it to a variety of financial risks. The Statement of Investment Portfolio presents the securities held by the Fund as at December 31, 2013, and groups the securities by asset type and market segment. The following comparative summary represents the securities by asset type and market segment held by the Fund as at December 31, 2012.

As at December 31, 2012

Investment Sector	Equities	Fixed Income Investments	Total
Consumer discretionary	9.5%	10.9%	20.4%
Financials	13.8%	4.7%	18.5%
Energy	12.1%	4.5%	16.6%
Industrials	6.2%	7.6%	13.8%
Real estate	7.4%	1.1%	8.5%
Consumer staples	4.7%	3.7%	8.4%
Telecommunication services	7.1%	—	7.1%
Information technology	4.2%	—	4.2%
Materials	0.7%	1.8%	2.5%
Total	65.7%	34.3%	100.0%

The Manager attempts to minimize the potential adverse effects of these risks on the Fund's performance by diversifying the investment portfolio within the constraints of the investment objectives and by using financial instruments to hedge certain risk exposures. To assist in managing risks, the Manager also maintains a governance structure that oversees the Fund's investment activities and monitors compliance with the Fund's stated investment strategy and restrictions, internal guidelines, and securities regulations.

Significant risks that are relevant to the Fund are discussed below.

a) Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk arises on interest-bearing financial instruments such as corporate debt. The Fund is exposed to the risk that the value of interest-bearing financial instruments will fluctuate due to changes in the prevailing levels of market interest rates.

The Fund is also exposed to interest rate risk on its variable interest rate loans. Fluctuations in interest rates have a direct impact on the interest payments the Fund makes on its loans.

The tables below summarize the Fund's exposure to interest rate risk as at December 31, 2013 and 2012 by remaining term to maturity.

As at December 31, 2013	Less Than 1 Year	1–3 Years	3–5 Years	> 5 Years	Total
Short-term and fixed income investments	\$ 1,580,891	\$ 1,808,368	\$ 9,298,168	\$ 21,474,263	\$ 34,161,690
As a percentage of Net Assets	1.3%	1.5%	7.6%	17.5%	27.9%

As at December 31, 2012	Less Than 1 Year	1–3 Years	3–5 Years	> 5 Years	Total
Short-term and fixed income investments	\$ 2,996,619	\$ 1,294,408	\$ 13,950,193	\$ 25,757,167	\$ 43,998,387
As a percentage of Net Assets	2.3%	1.0%	10.8%	19.9%	34.0%

As at December 31, 2013, had prevailing interest rates increased by 1%, assuming a parallel shift in the yield curve, with all other variables held constant, Net Assets of the Fund would have decreased by approximately \$1.3 million or 1.1% (2012 – \$1.3 million or 1.0%). Similarly, had prevailing interest rates decreased by 1%, assuming a parallel shift in the yield curve, with all other variables held constant, Net Assets of the Fund would have increased by \$1.4 million or 1.2% (2012 – \$1.3 million or 1.0%). The Fund's sensitivity to interest rate changes was estimated using the weighted average duration of the portfolio and the impact on annual interest expense for the loans payable. In practice, the actual trading results may differ, and the difference could be material.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

December 31, 2013 and 2012

b) Currency Risk

Currency risk is the risk that financial instruments that are denominated in a currency other than the Canadian dollar, which is the Fund's reporting currency, will fluctuate due to changes in exchange rates. As at December 31, 2013, the Fund's exposure of US\$46.7 million in investments and cash and short-term investments (2012 – US\$42.2 million) was substantially hedged through its foreign currency forward contracts of US\$42.3 million notional (2012 – US\$34.1 million); see note 9.

The following tables summarize the Fund's exposure to currency risk in Canadian dollar equivalents as at December 31, 2013 and 2012.

As at December 31, 2013				
Currency (000s)	Financial Instruments Exposure	Derivatives Exposure	Net Exposure	% of Net Assets
US dollar	\$ 49,611	\$ (43,402)	\$ 6,209	5.1%
Total	\$ 49,611	\$ (43,402)	\$ 6,209	5.1%

As at December 31, 2012				
Currency (000s)	Financial Instruments Exposure	Derivatives Exposure	Net Exposure	% of Net Assets
US dollar	\$ 42,222	\$ (34,167)	\$ 8,055	6.2%
Total	\$ 42,222	\$ (34,167)	\$ 8,055	6.2%

As at December 31, 2013, had the Canadian dollar strengthened or weakened by 10% in relation to the US dollar in the Fund, with all other variables held constant, Net Assets of the Fund would have decreased or increased, respectively, by approximately \$620,900 (2012 – \$805,500). In practice, actual results may vary from this analysis, and the difference may be material.

c) Other Price Risk

Other price risk is the risk that the value of financial instruments will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or currency risk), whether caused by factors specific to an individual investment, its issuer, or all factors affecting all instruments traded in a market or market segment. All securities present a risk of loss of capital. The maximum risk of loss resulting from financial instruments is equivalent to their fair value.

The Fund is exposed to other price risk from its investment in equities. As at December 31, 2013, had the prices on the respective stock exchanges for these securities increased or decreased by 10%, with all other variables held constant, Net Assets would have increased or decreased by approximately \$8.7 million or 7.1% of Net Assets (2012 – approximately \$7.9 million or 6.1% of Net Assets). In practice, the actual trading results may differ, and the difference could be material.

d) Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk that a counterparty to a financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation or commitment that it has entered into with the Fund. The Fund's greatest concentration of credit risk is in debt securities. The fair value of debt securities includes consideration of the creditworthiness of the issuer. The carrying amount of income receivable, amounts receivable for investments sold, unrealized gain on foreign currency forward contracts, debt securities and short-term investments, as presented on the Statement of Investment Portfolio and Statements of Net Assets, represents the maximum credit risk exposure as of December 31, 2013 and 2012.

Income receivable will be settled in the short-term. All transactions in securities are settled or paid for upon delivery. The risk of default is considered minimal, as delivery of securities sold is only made once the Fund has received payment. The trade will fail if either party fails to meet its obligation.

The Manager evaluates the credit quality of the securities prior to purchase and performs ongoing monitoring of the credit quality of securities. The Fund will not invest more than 10% of its total assets in the securities of any one issuer in accordance with investment restrictions.

As at December 31, 2013, the Fund had 28.2% (2012 – 34.4%) of its investment portfolio (including short-term investments) invested in debt securities with the following credit ratings. Credit ratings are obtained from Standard & Poor's.

Debt Securities by Rating Category as a % of Net Assets	2013	2012
AAA	0.2%	2.3%
Below BBB-	29.7%	31.9%
Total	29.9%	34.2%

As of December 31, 2013 and 2012, securities rated AAA were comprised of short-term investments.

The Fund has entered into a securities lending program with its custodian; see note 10. Credit risk associated with these transactions is considered minimal as all counterparties have a sufficient, approved credit rating and the value of cash or securities held as collateral must be at least 102% of the fair value of the securities loaned.

The Fund was also exposed to credit risk for the amount of cash and any unrealized gains under the foreign currency forward contracts (note 9) with a Canadian chartered bank with an AA rating.

e) Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Fund will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. Unitholder redemption requests are the main liquidity risk for the Fund. The Fund invests the majority of its assets in investments that are traded in an active market and can be readily disposed of. There can be no assurance that an active trading market for the investments will exist at all times or that the prices at which the securities trade accurately reflect their values. Thin trading in a security could make it difficult to liquidate holdings quickly. To manage liquidity risk, the Fund's investment portfolio comprises readily marketable securities.

The Fund also has a 364-day revolving credit facility, which can be used to fund redemptions or finance investments; see note 11. The credit facility contains several financial covenants that require the Fund to meet certain financial ratios and financial condition tests. The Fund is within its financial covenants with respect to the credit facility. The Manager monitors the use of the credit facility on a regular basis.

All of the Fund's financial liabilities at December 31, 2013 and 2012 had maturities of less than one year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

December 31, 2013 and 2012

13. FAIR VALUE DISCLOSURES

The Fund's assets and liabilities recorded at fair value have been categorized in accordance with the CPA Canada Handbook Section 3862, Financial Instruments – Disclosure.

Section 3862 requires the Fund to classify its investments and derivative assets and liabilities into three categories based on the nature of the inputs used to determine their fair value. The categories and the nature of the inputs used in each category are as follows:

Level 1: Inputs that reflect unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2: Inputs, other than quoted prices, that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, including inputs in markets that are not considered to be active.

Level 3: Inputs that are unobservable. There is little if any market activity. Inputs into the determination of fair value require significant management judgement or estimation.

A financial instrument's level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Short-term notes included in cash and short-term investments are classified as level 2.

Assets at fair value as at December 31, 2013	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Equities	\$ 83,770,738	\$ —	\$ 3,039,193	\$ 86,809,931
Short-term investments	—	199,646	—	199,646
Fixed income investments	—	32,580,799	1,381,245	33,962,044
Warrants	308,800	—	—	308,800
Total	\$ 84,079,538	\$ 32,780,445	\$ 4,420,438	\$ 121,280,421

Liabilities at fair value as at December 31, 2013	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Foreign currency forward contracts	\$ —	\$ (733,650)	\$ —	\$ (733,650)
Total	\$ —	\$ (733,650)	\$ —	\$ (733,650)

Assets at fair value as at December 31, 2012	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Equities	\$ 77,862,530	\$ —	\$ 759,842	\$ 78,622,372
Short-term investments	—	2,996,619	—	2,996,619
Fixed income investments	—	38,635,739	2,366,029	41,001,768
Foreign currency forward contracts	—	201,558	—	201,558
Total	\$ 77,862,530	\$ 41,833,916	\$ 3,125,871	\$ 122,822,317

There were no transfers of financial assets between level 1 and level 2 during the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012.

The following table provides a reconciliation of fair value measurements using level 3 inputs from December 31, 2012 to December 31, 2013:

	December 31, 2013		
	Equities	Fixed Income Investments	Total
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 759,842	\$ 2,366,029	\$ 3,125,871
Purchases	3,002,218	—	3,002,218
Net transfers out	(759,842)	(1,071,621)	(1,831,463)
Unrealized gains	36,975	86,837	123,812
Balance, end of year	\$ 3,039,193	\$ 1,381,245	\$ 4,420,438

The following table provides a reconciliation of fair value measurements using level 3 inputs from December 31, 2011 to December 31, 2012:

	December 31, 2012		
	Equities	Fixed Income Investments	Total
Balance, beginning of year	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Purchases	737,398	2,340,028	3,077,426
Unrealized gains	22,444	26,001	48,445
Balance, end of year	\$ 759,842	\$ 2,366,029	\$ 3,125,871

During the year, investments were reclassified to level 2 as prices based on trades became available.

The change in unrealized gains (losses) during the year for assets held as at December 31, 2013 was \$123,812 (2012 – \$48,445).

As at December 31, 2013, had the fair value of the level 3 investments increased or decreased by 10%, with all other variables held constant, the Net Assets would have increased or decreased by approximately \$442,044 (2012 – \$312,587).

14. INCOME TAXES

As at December 31, 2013, the Fund had accumulated capital losses of \$6,470,008 (2012 – \$6,470,008). The capital losses can be carried forward for an indefinite period.

15. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain prior period numbers have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

CORPORATE INFORMATION

Independent Review Committee

John Crow
Chairman

C. Scott Browning

Robert Falconer

Joseph H. Wright

Directors and Senior Officers of the Manager

Eric Tremblay
Director and Chief Executive Officer

Ben Cheng⁽¹⁾
Co-Chief Investment Officer

Michael J. Killeen
Director and President

Larry W. Titley
Director and Chief Financial Officer

Portfolio Management

Jeffrey Burchell
Co-Chief Investment Officer and
Portfolio Manager

Andrew Hamlin
Vice President and Portfolio Manager

Joanne Hruska
Vice President and Portfolio Manager

Vivian Lo
Vice President and Portfolio Manager

Steve Vannatta
Portfolio Manager

Barry Morrison
Portfolio Manager

Manager and Trustee

Aston Hill Asset Management Inc.

Transfer Agent

Computershare Trust Company of Canada

Custodian

RBC Investor Services Trust

Auditors

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Website

www.astonhill.ca

⁽¹⁾ Mr. Cheng acts as a portfolio manager exclusively to investment funds managed by IA Clarington Investments Inc., and to two other investment funds, not including the fund in this document. See www.astonhill.ca for details.