



## **OCP Credit Strategy Fund – Third Anniversary Letter**

### **Introduction**

The Debt Opportunity Strategy (the strategy employed by the OCP Credit Strategy Fund) has an over 11 year track record. OCP has confidence in its continued ability to meet the Fund's stated objectives. These include maximizing total returns for Unitholders while emphasizing the preservation of capital and paying a quarterly distribution, currently 7% per year based upon the initial offering price of \$10 per Unit. To date, all distributions have been treated as return of capital.

Onex Credit Partners is the exclusive credit investing platform of Onex Corp. managing over US\$2.3 billion of assets with a dedicated investment team that focuses on non-investment grade credit.

Our interests and yours remain well aligned; Onex, its affiliates, principals and employees continue to have a meaningful amount invested in the strategy.

### **Fund Overview**

OCP Credit Strategy Fund offers individual investors access to a sophisticated investment strategy typically only available to institutional investors. We continue to believe the Fund is an effective diversifier that makes sense to own at any point in the economic cycle given its flexibility to invest long and short, emphasis on risk management, and low duration profile.

The Fund's Debt Opportunity Strategy is an event-driven approach to non-investment grade credit that does not employ leverage<sup>1</sup>. Our investment team focuses on identifying corporate debt usually trading below par that has a high level of asset and/or cash flow coverage that can provide downside protection. The team also seeks to identify a specific event or catalyst that can unlock value and drive price appreciation with attractive risk / reward characteristics. The focus on debt instruments, including loans, which are senior and secured, can reduce downside risk. Performance is generally driven by a combination of price appreciation and interest income. The portfolio, given its allocation to floating rate loans and its long / short investment approach, has limited duration exposure.

### **Performance Review**

OCP Credit Strategy Fund has delivered a total return from inception through October 2012 of 15.29%<sup>2</sup>. In its first full year, 2010, the Fund returned 8.0% net, which met our expectations, especially since we were carefully building the portfolio. Performance in 2011 was -1.9%, which, while not acceptable in absolute terms, did meet our objective of protecting investor capital in volatile markets. By comparison, the TSX returned -9.1% in 2011. While we never like to incur losses, portfolio losses occurred mainly during August and September following the flare-up of the European debt crisis and the downgrade of U.S. Treasuries. The



Fund rebounded 11.63% from September 2011 through October 2012 and from the beginning of 2012 through October, is up 9.33%, on target to meet our expectations.

The Fund has met its distribution objective since inception, paying \$0.175 per Unit per quarter, for a total of \$2.00 per Unit. The distributions are paid as a return of capital, a result of the Fund's tax structure.

The Fund's long and short exposures have averaged 79% and 20%, respectively, since inception<sup>3</sup>. The strategy generally has an allocation to cash which provides the flexibility to pursue new investment opportunities as they arise, while short exposure serves to generate returns and hedge overall market risk. Short positions are typically comprised of individual corporate bonds, government bonds, and index derivatives. Again, we do not use leverage in the strategy.

### **Market Update**

What a difference a year and trillions of dollars in central bank stimulus make. In the third quarter of 2011, global markets plunged following the downgrade of U.S. Treasury bonds and as fears of imminent European sovereign bond defaults and global recession drove investors to reduce risk quickly and indiscriminately and to seek safety in cash and ironically U.S. Treasury bonds. Over the next 12 months investor sentiment swung 180 degrees aided by aggressive steps taken by the world's two largest central banks including commitments to open-ended asset purchase programs announced in September.

Gains across credit markets, including high-yield bonds, have prompted investors to debate if the market has rallied too far and too fast. Those concerned about valuations point to high-yield prices now hovering near all time highs and all-in yields that have been driven to all time lows. Conversely, more optimistic investors reference spreads that have just reverted close to their 26 year average of 588 bps, still well above their 271 bps low reached in May 2007 and previous low of 307 bps reached in February of 2005 and February of 1997. We believe yields are testing what could be the minimum absolute return investors are willing to accept for the high-yield asset class. Given our continuing view of a slow domestic growth environment, we currently do not expect interest rates to rise meaningfully near-term. While rising treasury rates may be a more distant concern, a modest increase in rates could be absorbed by a compression of bond spreads minimizing the impact to prices. Of course, we are cognizant that resurgence in systemic risk, real and perceived, would materially impact these outlooks.

More important to the Fund, we anticipate that non-investment grade credit markets should remain stable in the near term. Small increases in bond and loan default rates will likely be driven by specific companies or industries. As we've said for some time, U.S. companies in general have benefitted from cost cutting and balance sheet improvements (e.g., deleveraging, cheaper financing, and extended maturities) implemented since the 2008 crisis. In certain cases, we have seen the potential erosion of underwriting standards and the return of other types of deals which over time will provide additional opportunities for the strategy. With high yield bond and leveraged loan markets totaling approximately \$2.5 trillion in combined market value, even a



small pick up in defaults will create event-driven opportunities for a fund the size of OCP Credit Strategy. Defaults in the investment grade, municipal, and non-U.S. issuer bond universes could further expand the Fund's opportunity set.

## **Summary**

In summary, we remain confident in the Fund's ability to achieve its investment objectives going forward. We believe the OCP Credit Strategy Fund is an attractive investment and will continue to find sources of opportunity to meet its investment objectives and support NAV growth. Our confidence is based on our view that events at specific companies will continue to present opportunities for the Fund's event-driven strategy.

Onex Credit Partners, LLC

November 2012

(1) Leverage defined as long positions exceeding equity capital.

(2) Inception was November 20, 2009. Total return and performance calculations are based on the Fund's opening net asset value of \$9.44 per Unit, include distributions paid in the relevant periods and are net of fees and expenses. For 2010, 2011, the 13 months ended October 31, 2012 and year-to-date 2012, respectively: performance of the CS Leveraged Loan Index has been 9.97%, 1.82%, 11.13% and 8.20%; performance of the CS High Yield Bond Index has been 14.42%, 5.47%, 18.92% and 12.17% and performance of the TSX has been 13.8%, -9.1%, 10.2% and 7.2%. Indexes are included to show the general trend in the high-yield, loan and equity markets in the periods indicated. These numbers are not intended to imply that the Portfolio was similar to the indexes either in composition or element of risk. Performance figures for the Fund are based on Canadian generally accepted accounting principles and were based on audited financial statements through December 31, 2011 and unaudited monthly estimates thereafter. Past performance is not an indication of future results.

(3) Excluding inception through May 2010 portfolio ramp-up period.

All amounts in Canadian dollars unless otherwise stated. Certain statements constitute forward-looking statements, including, but not limited to, those identified by the expressions "expect", "intend", "will" and similar expressions to the extent they relate to the Fund. The forward-looking statements are not historical facts but reflect Onex Credit Partners, LLC's current expectations regarding future results or events. These forward-looking statements are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results or events to differ materially from current expectations. Although Onex Credit Partners, LLC believes that the assumptions inherent in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and, accordingly, readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such statements due to the inherent uncertainty therein. Onex Credit Partners, LLC undertakes no obligation to update publicly or otherwise revise any forward-looking statement or information whether as a result of new information, future events or other such factors which affect this information, except as required by law. Commissions, trailing commissions, management fees and expenses all may be associated with an investment in the Fund. Please read the Fund's continuous disclosure documents (found on SEDAR) before investing. The Fund is not guaranteed, its value changes frequently and past performance may not be repeated. The Portfolio refers to the positions held by the underlying fund, OCP Investment Trust. Through a forward agreement, the return of the Fund is dependent on the return of the Portfolio. Returns for the Fund may diverge from the returns for the Portfolio for several reasons including the incurrence of expenses and payment of distributions by the Fund.