

Covered Call Strategies, Explained

October 2025

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1 What Are Call Options?

Call options contracts are financial derivatives that give a buyer the right, but not the obligation, to purchase a security at a pre-determined price, called the **strike price**.

Conversely, the seller of an option **must sell the security at that strike price** if the buyer chooses to exercise the option.

Options do not create value, but merely transfer value from one party to another. They can be used for a variety of different strategies such as making leveraged bets on securities, managing risk, and generating income.

The price of the option paid by the buyer, otherwise known as the **premium**, is influenced by the strike price, level of volatility, the option's time to expiration and the price of the underlying security.

2 What is a Covered Call Strategy?



A covered call is a popular **risk management and income-generating strategy**, that seeks to **generate income for investors by selling options**.

A covered call consists of **an investor both***:

Owning a stock and selling a call option on that stock

a



John's Expectation

John owns stock XYZ (current market price of \$100) and thinks that the price of the stock is unlikely to rise above \$105 over the next 30 days.



Anna's Expectation

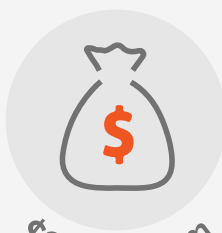
Anna thinks that the stock XYZ (current market price of \$100) is going to rise above \$105 and decides to purchase a call option on stock XYZ.

Call Option Contract



Decision

Anna purchases a call option from John on stock XYZ at a strike price of \$105, for a premium of \$3 per share.



\$3 Premium

b Upon Contract Expiration

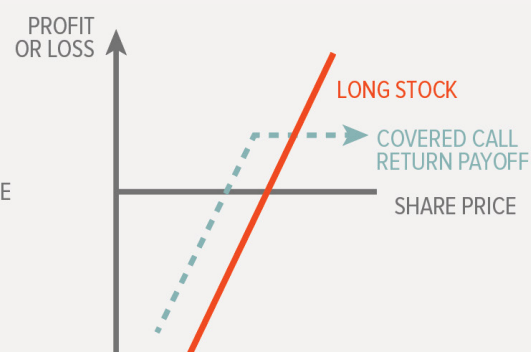
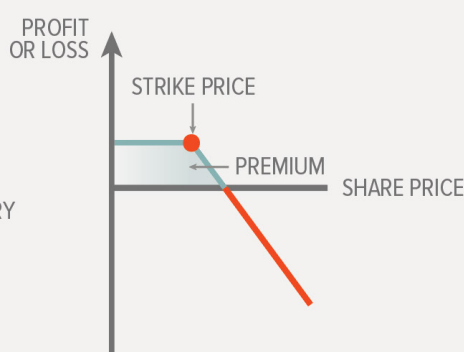
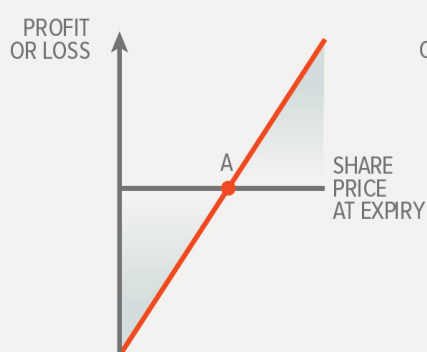
Potential Outcomes	 John takes on price risk , should the option's value move against him, but earns a steady income stream in any outcome.	 Anna has unlimited upside potential , should stock XYZ rise beyond the option's strike price.
Stock XYZ price rises above \$105	John has an obligation to sell the stock for \$105 to Anna, which is less than the market price, but will earn a \$3 premium from the contract.	Anna has the option (but not an obligation) to purchase the stock XYZ at \$105 from John even though the stock is above \$105, earning all the differences above \$105.
Stock XYZ price is exactly \$105	John earns a \$3 premium regardless of Anna's decision to purchase stock XYZ from him.	Anna is indifferent between purchasing stock XYZ from John, and simply foregoing the option.
Stock XYZ price falls below \$105	John keeps both stock XYZ and the \$3 premium from the contract.	Anna has no reason to buy the stock for \$105 which is more than the market price.

The term '**covered call**' comes from the fact that the seller of the option also owns the underlying stock i.e. the call option position is covered by the existing stock ownership.

A **covered call** is considered a conservative strategy because it **helps mitigate the risk of stock ownership while providing additional income**; however, it limits the upside potential on significant price increases.

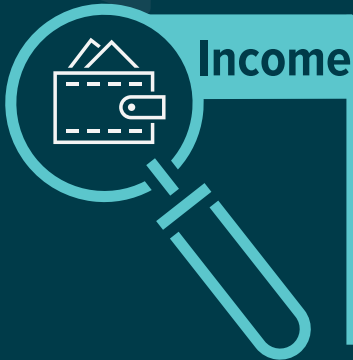
Covered Call Strategy Payoff

Buy a Stock + Sell a Call = Covered Call



3 Why Include a Covered Call Strategy in your Portfolio?

Covered call strategies can be used strategically in income focused portfolios, or tactically for investors who believe that the underlying stock or index will not rise significantly from current levels.

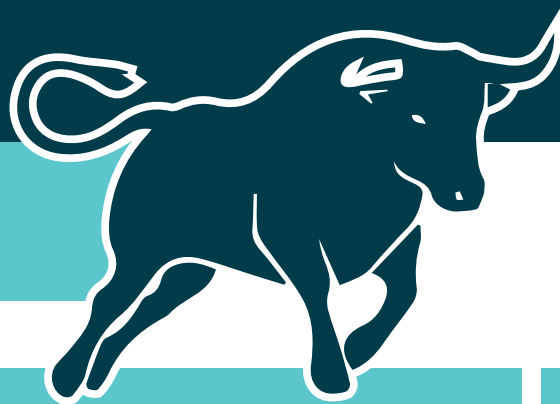


Covered call strategies provide **income-driven investors** with a means by which to **increase the yield** on their existing portfolios while **diversifying away some of the market risk** that is typically inherent in traditional income-generating securities. They offer an **opportunity to benefit from rising levels of volatility** that might otherwise have a negative impact on bonds or dividend paying stocks.

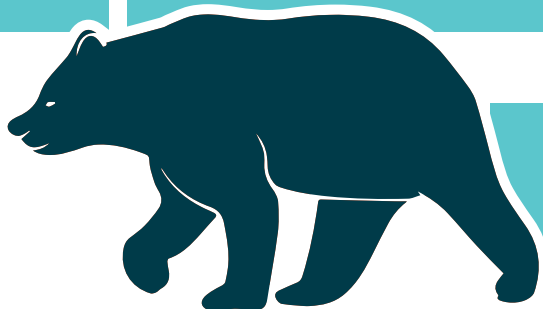


More tactical portfolios may find use cases for covered call strategies as well. Below, we show at a broad level how investors in covered call strategies could expect to fare in **different market environments**.

Bull Market: An investor may underperform the market as they keep the option premium, but forfeit some or all of the upside as the price increases.



Flat Market: The investor may outperform as the markets go sideways, but the investor keeps the premium from selling the call option.

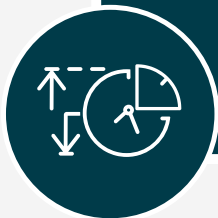


Bear Market: The investor may outperform the market as they keep the premium received from selling the call option, which offsets some of the stock's decline.

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What Distinguishes Different Covered Call Approaches?

1. Active Covered Call ETFs



This approach aims to **maximize income and potentially outperform the market**, while requiring more time, effort, and market monitoring. It also allows for adjusting to market conditions and individual security movements.

2. Passive Covered Call ETFs

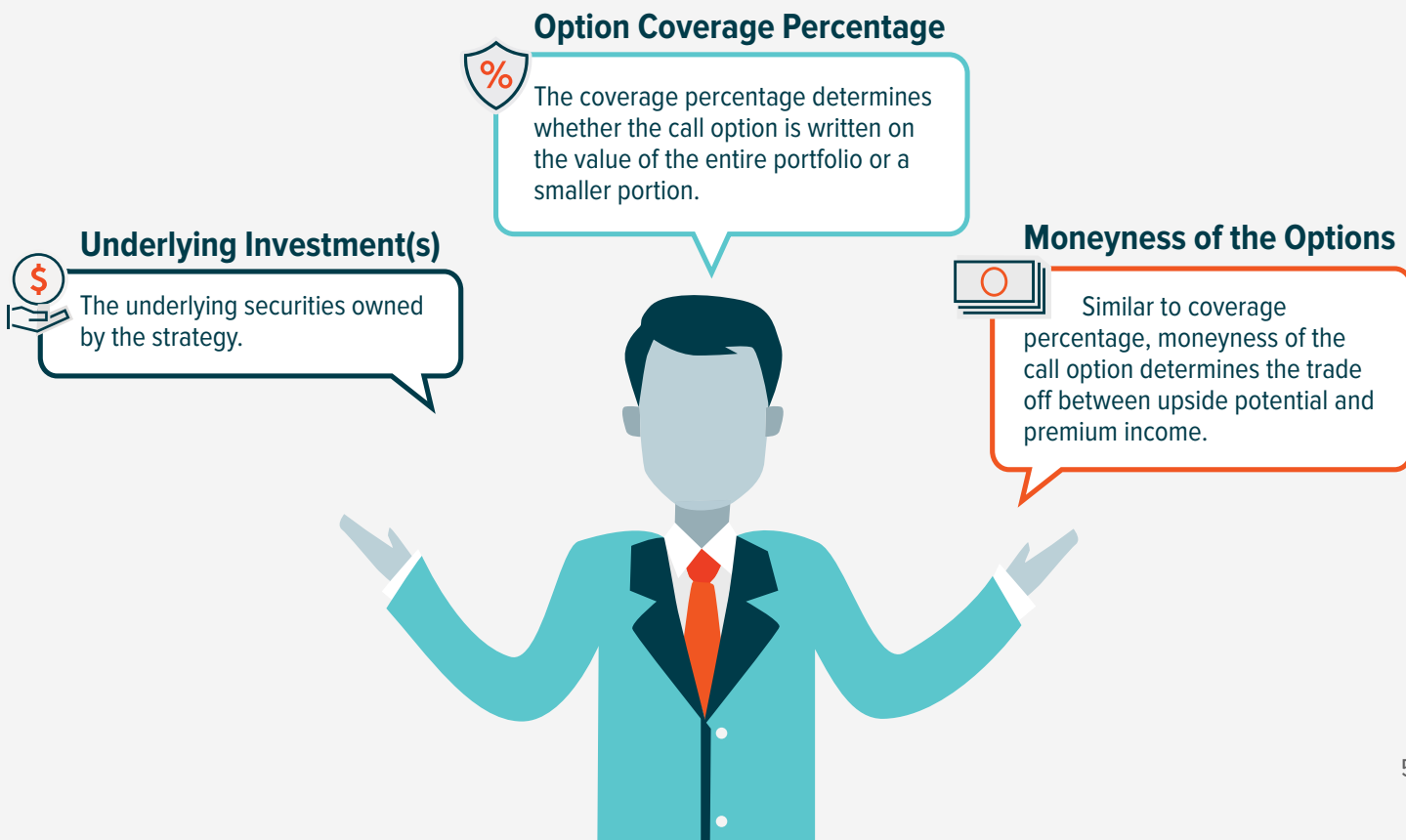


This approach typically involves **less frequent trading and focuses on steady income generation with less emphasis on market timing**. It often uses a more systematic approach, such as writing calls at regular intervals or at a certain moneyness.

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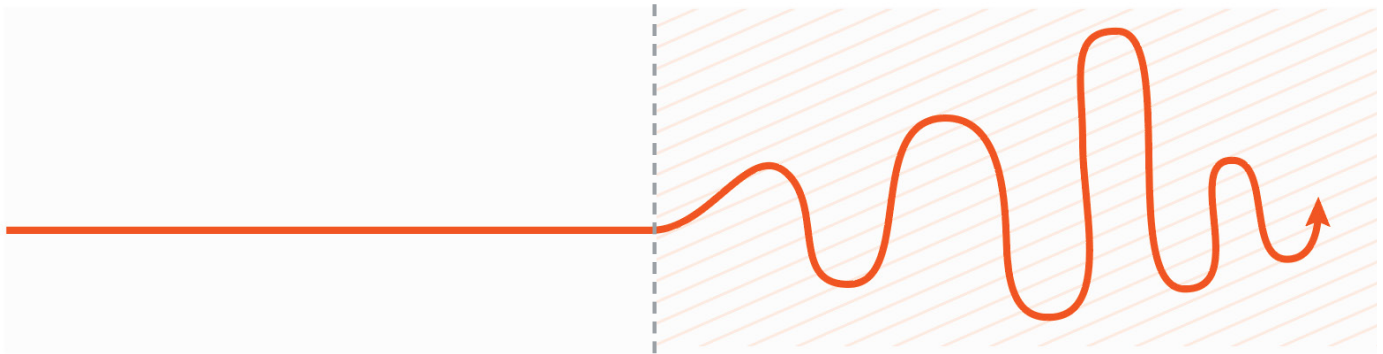
What Factors Impact Covered Call Performance?

There are numerous ways to implement a covered call strategy, but three of the most important factors to consider include:





Underlying Investment(s)*



↓ Lower Volatility
↓ Lower Premiums

CANADIAN BROAD MARKET STOCKS

Market Conditions: Well-suited for diverse market conditions, as it provides exposure to a wide range of sectors, that can offer stability during market fluctuations.

Risk and Reward: Lower potential income from premiums, but less risk of having the stock called away due to low volatility. Suitable for investors seeking a balance between growth and stability, with steady income with lower risk.

↑ Higher Volatility
↑ Higher Premiums

TECHNOLOGY STOCKS

Market Conditions: Better suited for bullish or volatile markets where higher premiums can be commanded.

Risk and Reward: Higher potential income from premiums, but greater risk of having the stock called away due to high volatility. Suitable for investors willing to trade-off potential capital appreciation for higher income.



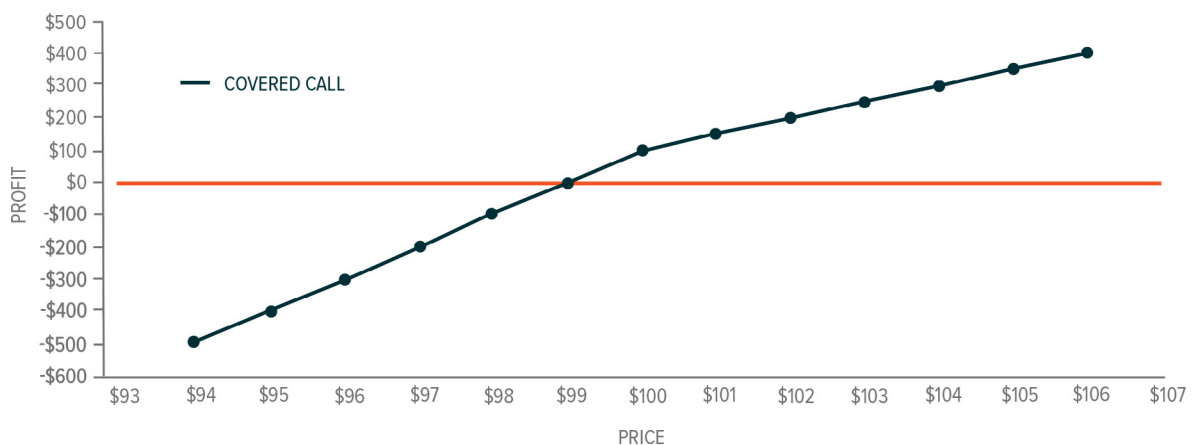
Coverage Percentage*

100% Covered Portfolio

Maximizes the premium income, but forfeits all upside.

50% Covered Portfolio

Half of the premium income, but participates in half the upside of the underlying securities.

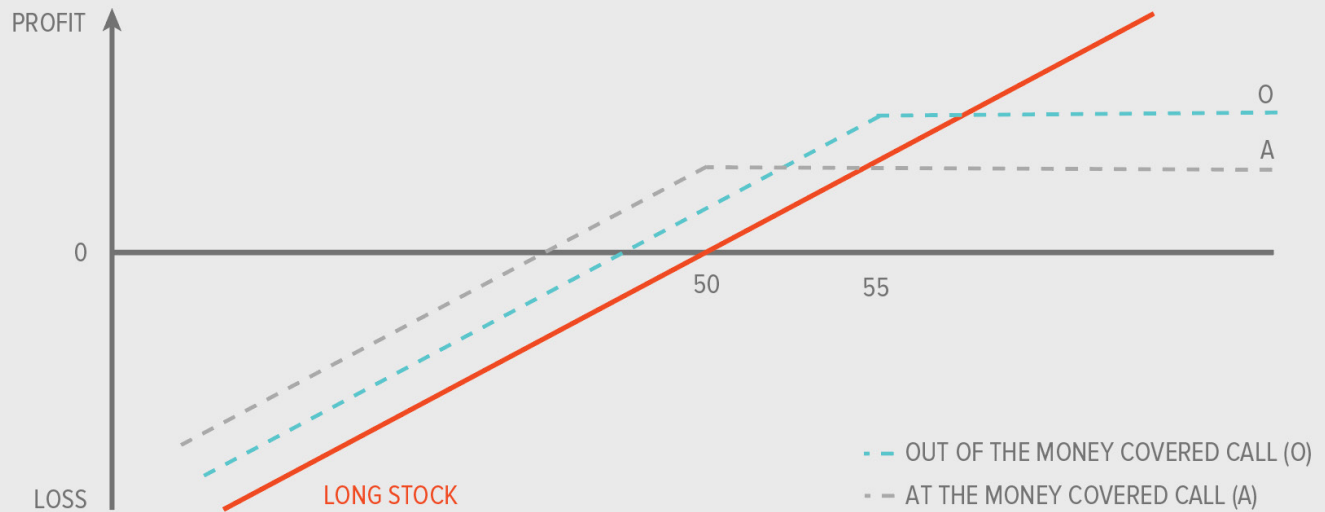




Moneyiness of the Options*

The further out of the money the call options are written, the lower the chance of the option being exercised. However, this results in lower premiums since it is less likely that the underlying will reach the strike price.

At the Money/Out of the Money Covered Calls



Global X's Enhanced Income Covered Call Strategies

Global X's Covered Call ETFs combine equity exposure with regular distributions, potential capital growth, and reduced volatility compared to direct equity holdings. This strategy leverages three sources of return: equity appreciation, dividend income, and option premiums.



INDEX ETFs

	CNCC	CNCL	USCC/USCC.U ²
	Global X S&P/TSX 60 Covered Call ETF	Global X Enhanced S&P/TSX 60 Covered Call ETF	Global X S&P 500 Covered Call ETF
Fund Overview	Get consistent and competitive monthly income from some of the largest and most liquid large-cap companies listed in Canada, through an active covered call strategy.	Get consistent and competitive monthly income from some of the largest and most liquid large-cap companies listed in Canada, through an active covered call strategy and light leverage of approximately 125% to enhance growth potential and yield.	Get consistent and competitive monthly income from some of the largest and most liquid U.S. companies, through an active covered call strategy.
Management Fee¹	0.39%	0.65%	0.39%

	USCL	QQCC/QQCC.U ²	QQCL
	Global X Enhanced S&P 500 Covered Call ETF	Global X Nasdaq-100 Covered Call ETF	Global X Enhanced Nasdaq-100 Covered Call ETF
Fund Overview	Get consistent and competitive monthly income from some of the largest and most liquid U.S. companies, through an active covered call strategy.	Get consistent and competitive monthly income with an opportunity for growth from 100 of the largest non-financial companies listed on the NASDAQ stock exchange (currently, the NASDAQ-100® Index) through an active covered call strategy.	Unlock the growth potential of some of the largest and most liquid stocks listed on the NASDAQ stock exchange - (currently, the NASDAQ-100® Index) with QQCL, which uses a covered call strategy and light leverage of approximately 125% to enhance growth potential and yield.
Management Fee¹	0.65%	0.65%	0.85%

	EACC	EACL	EMCC
	Global X MSCI EAFE Covered Call ETF	Global X Enhanced MSCI EAFE Covered Call ETF	Global X MSCI Emerging Markets Covered Call ETF
Fund Overview	Get consistent monthly income along with potential long-term capital growth from leading companies across diverse industries in the EAFE region, that have demonstrated strong growth potential.	Unlock the growth potential of 750+ large and mid-cap companies across developed markets including countries in Europe, Australasia and the Far East with EACL, which uses a covered call strategy and light leverage of approximately 25% to enhance growth potential and yield.	Get consistent monthly income along with potential long-term capital growth from large and mid-sized companies across 24 emerging markets, as tracked by the MSCI Emerging Markets Index, that accounts for nearly 11% of the global equity opportunity set.
Management Fee¹	0.49%	0.75%	0.65%

¹ Plus applicable sales tax. ² Trades in U.S. dollars.

	EMCL	RSCC/RSCC.U ²	RSCL
	<u>Global X Enhanced MSCI Emerging Markets Covered Call ETF</u>	<u>Global X Russell 2000 Covered Call ETF</u>	<u>Global X Russell 2000 Covered Call ETF</u>
Fund Overview	Unlock the growth potential of 1300+ large and mid-cap companies across 24 emerging markets countries with EMCL, which uses a covered call strategy and light leverage of approximately 25% to enhance growth potential and yield.	Access a comprehensive and unbiased small-cap barometer that can unlock the long-term growth potential of 2000 U.S. small-cap equities in a single fund. Designed to provide a consistent monthly income with an opportunity for growth.	Unlock the long-term growth potential of 2,000 U.S. small-cap equities with RSCL, which uses a light leverage of 125% to enhance growth potential and yield.
Management Fee¹	0.85%	0.65%	0.85%



SECTOR ETFs

	BKCC	BKCL	ENCC
	<u>Global X Equal Weight Canadian Bank Covered Call ETF</u>	<u>Global X Enhanced Equal Weight Canadian Banks Covered Call ETF</u>	<u>Global X Canadian Oil and Gas Equity Covered Call ETF</u>
Fund Overview	Get equal-weight exposure to the performance of the core dividend paying Canadian Big Six banks, along with a consistent monthly income.	Unlock high monthly cash distributions and the opportunity for capital appreciation by investing, on a levered basis with BKCL that offers equal-weight exposure to the performance of the dividend-paying Canadian Big Six banks.	Get equal-weight exposure to the performance of some of the largest and most liquid Canadian companies involved in the crude oil and natural gas industry, along with a consistent monthly income.
Management Fee¹	0.39%	0.65%	0.65%

	ENCL	GLCC	GLCL
	<u>Global X Enhanced Canadian Oil and Gas Equity Covered Call ETF</u>	<u>Global X Gold Producer Equity Covered Call ETF</u>	<u>Global X Enhanced Gold Producer Equity Covered Call ETF</u>
Fund Overview	Unlock high monthly cash distributions and the opportunity for capital appreciation by investing, on a levered basis with ENCL that offers some of the largest and most liquid Canadian oil and natural gas companies.	Get consistent and competitive monthly income from some of the largest and most liquid North American-listed gold producers, through an active covered call strategy.	Unlock the growth potential of the largest and most liquid North American-listed gold producers with GLCL, which uses a light leverage of 125% to enhance growth potential and yield.
Management Fee¹	0.85%	0.65%	0.85%

¹Plus applicable sales tax. ²Trades in U.S. dollars.

AGCC**HGY****Global X Silver Covered Call ETF****Global X Gold Yield ETF**

Fund Overview	Get consistent and competitive monthly income from silver bullion exposure through an active covered call strategy that aims to optimize income while managing risk.	Get consistent and competitive monthly income from gold bullion, that offers a hedge against economic uncertainty and reduces market risk, through an active covered call strategy.
Management Fee¹	0.60%	0.60%

RNCC**RNCL****Global X Equal Weight Canadian Telecommunications Covered Call ETF****Global X Enhanced Equal Weight Canadian Telecommunications Covered Call ETF**

Fund Overview	Get targeted exposure to market-leading Canadian companies across integrated and wireless telecommunication services, along with a consistent monthly income.	Unlock the growth potential of Canada's telecommunications industry with RNCL, which uses a light leverage of 125% to potentially enhance growth and yield.
Management Fee¹	0.39%	0.65%

**CRYPTOCURRENCY ETFs****BCCC/BCCC.U²****BCCL/BCCL.U²****Global X Bitcoin Covered Call ETF****Global X Enhanced Bitcoin Covered Call ETF**

Fund Overview	Get exposure to Bitcoin and the opportunity to generate consistent semi-monthly income through a covered call strategy.	Unlock the growth potential of Bitcoin with BCCL, which uses a light leverage of 125% to help enhance growth potential and yield.
Management Fee¹	0.65%	0.85%

¹Plus applicable sales tax. | ²Trades in U.S. dollars.



ASSET ALLOCATION ETFs

GRCC	EQCC	EQCL
<u>Global X Growth Asset Allocation Covered Call ETF</u>	<u>Global X All-Equity Asset Allocation Covered Call ETF</u>	<u>Global X Enhanced All-Equity Asset Allocation Covered Call ETF</u>

Fund Overview	Get consistent and high monthly income with moderate long-term capital growth through from a 80% equity / 20% fixed income portfolio with GRCC that helps investors unlock a new income stream through a dynamic option writing program.	Get consistent and high monthly income with potential long-term capital growth through a globally diversified 100% equity portfolio, with an active covered call strategy.	Unlock the growth potential long-term capital growth through a globally-diversified 100% equity portfolio with EQCL, which uses a covered call strategy and light leverage of approximately 25% to enhance growth potential and yield.
Management Fee¹	0.49%	0.49%	0.75%



FIXED INCOME ETFs

PAYS	PAYM	PAYL
<u>Global X Short-Term Government Bond Premium Yield ETF</u>	<u>Global X Mid-Term Government Bond Premium Yield ETF</u>	<u>Global X Long-Term Government Bond Premium Yield ETF</u>

Fund Overview	Get consistent and high monthly income and option premiums through a dynamic option writing program with PAYS, with exposure to the performance of mostly Government of Canada debt securities, generally targeting a duration less than 3 years.	Get consistent and high monthly income and option premiums through a dynamic option writing program with PAYM, with exposure to the performance of mostly Government of Canada debt securities, generally targeting a duration between 5 and 10 years.	Get consistent and high monthly income and option premiums through a dynamic option writing program with PAYL, with exposure to the performance of mostly Government of Canada debt securities, generally targeting a duration over 10 years.
Management Fee¹	0.40%	0.45%	0.50%

SPAY/SPAY.U ²	MPAY/MPAY.U ²	LPAY/LPAY.U ²
<u>Global X Short-Term U.S. Treasury Premium Yield ETF</u>	<u>Global X Mid-Term U.S. Treasury Premium Yield ETF</u>	<u>Global X Long-Term U.S. Treasury Premium Yield ETF</u>

Fund Overview	Get consistent and high monthly income and option premiums through a dynamic option writing program with SPAY/SPAY.U, with exposure to the performance of U.S. Treasuries, generally targeting a duration of less than 3 years.	Get consistent and high monthly income and option premiums through a dynamic option writing program with MPAY/MPAY.U, with exposure to the performance of U.S. Treasuries, generally targeting a duration between 5 and 10 years.	Get consistent and high monthly income and option premiums through a dynamic option writing program with LPAY/LPAY.U, with exposure to the performance of U.S. Treasuries, generally targeting a duration over 10 years.
Management Fee¹	0.35%	0.40%	0.45%

¹Plus applicable sales tax. ²Trades in U.S. dollars.

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