FUND RESEARCH NOTE · CANADIAN LISTED ETFs · U.S. DIVERSIFIED COVERED CALL

HYLD — Hamilton Enhanced U.S. Covered Call ETF

Hamilton's Flagship U.S. Income Fund — Diversified, Leveraged, and a Strong Recent Track Record

July 17, 2026 | Prepared by Dividend North Research | For education & informational purposes only — not investment advice

VERDICT	
BUY FOR INCOME + GROWTH	HYLD holds a diversified, S&P-500-like sector mix through Hamilton's own U.S. sector covered-call ETFs, with modest 25% leverage. It currently yields roughly 11–12% and has delivered a one-year total return in the 33–38% range — a materially better outcome than concentrated, single-strategy alternatives like BIGY covered elsewhere in this series.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HYLD is Hamilton's U.S. equivalent to HDIV: a fund-of-funds holding a diversified, multi-sector portfolio of primarily Hamilton-managed covered-call ETFs, with an overall sector mix broadly similar to the S&P 500, plus roughly 25% cash-borrowed leverage. Hamilton eliminated HYLD's direct management fee in January 2024 by internalizing the fund's holdings into its own YIELD MAXIMIZER suite, removing the fee-on-fee problem that affected the fund's earlier structure.

The result has been a strong run: a trailing yield around 11–12%, monthly cash distributions, and a one-year total return in the 33–38% range depending on the data source — meaningfully ahead of a plain S&P 500 index fund over the same period, while also paying substantially more income.

FUND SNAPSHOT

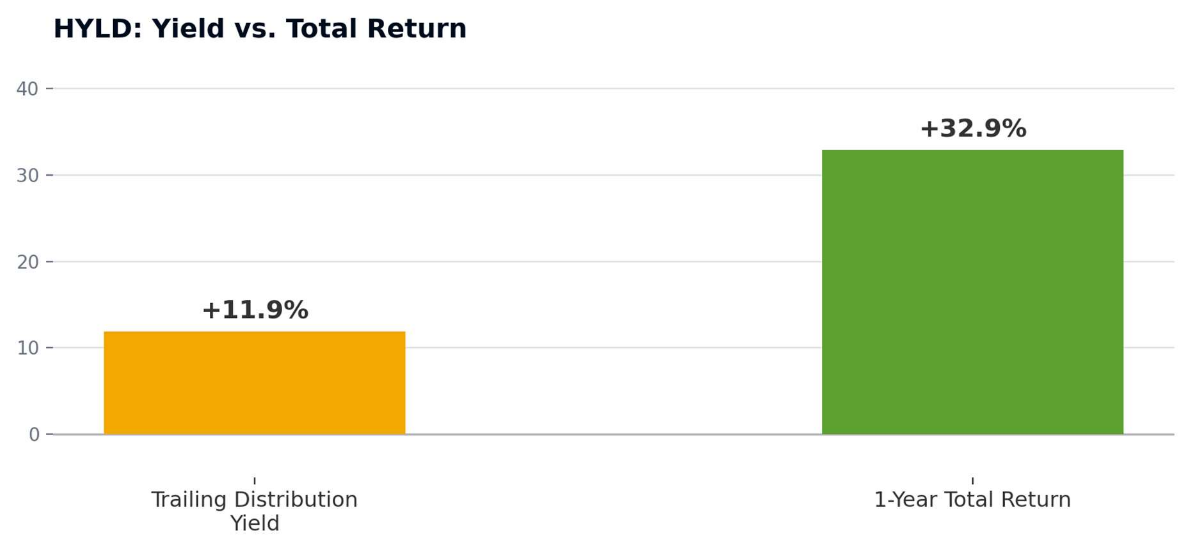
FIELD	DETAIL	FIELD	DETAIL
Ticker	HYLD — Toronto Stock Exchange	**Inception Date**	February 4, 2022
Issuer	Hamilton ETFs (Hamilton Capital Partners Inc.)	**NAV (Jul 2026)**	~$16.14
Management Fee	0% at HYLD level (embedded in holdings)	**Assets Under Mgmt.**	~$1.14B CAD
Strategy	Diversified U.S. sector covered-call fund-of-funds	**Distribution Freq.**	Monthly (cash)
Trailing 12-Month Yield	~11.3–12.0%	**Registered Accounts**	TFSA, RRSP, RRIF, FHSA, RESP
Leverage	Modest, ~25% of NAV	**1-Year Total Return**	~33–38%

Source: Hamilton ETFs (hamiltonetfs.com/etf/hyld), Yahoo Finance, stockanalysis.com, as at July 2026.

HOW IT'S BUILT

Like HDIV, HYLD builds diversification by holding a basket of Hamilton's own covered-call ETFs, weighted to broadly mirror the S&P 500's sector composition (heavily technology, with financials, healthcare, communication services, and other sectors represented). Leverage of roughly 25% is layered on top via cash borrowing, and Hamilton charges no separate management fee at the HYLD level, having restructured the fund in 2024 to hold only internally-managed ETFs.

This is meaningfully different from single-basket, concentrated leveraged products (like BIGY, covered separately in this series) — HYLD's sector diversification is the main reason its total return has held up so much better through the same period.



HYLD trailing 12-month distribution yield vs. one-year total return, as at mid-2026. Figures vary modestly by data provider and date; always confirm current values with Hamilton ETFs.

THE BULL CASE

- Diversified, S&P-500-like sector exposure. HYLD's underlying sector mix is designed to resemble the broad U.S. market rather than concentrate in a handful of names, which has proven a key differentiator versus narrower leveraged income products.
- No direct management fee. As with HDIV, Hamilton eliminated fee-on-fee drag by restructuring the fund to hold only its own ETFs.
- Strong recent total return alongside high income. A ~33–38% one-year total return combined with an 11–12% yield is a rare combination among leveraged income products.
- Established track record. Trading since February 2022, HYLD has now weathered a full rate-hiking cycle and multiple market regimes.

KEY RISKS & CONSIDERATIONS

- Leverage remains a real risk. Roughly 25% leverage will amplify losses in a broad U.S. equity downturn just as it has amplified recent gains.
- Heavy technology weighting. Because the underlying sector mix mirrors the S&P 500, HYLD carries significant technology-sector concentration risk, consistent with the broader index's current composition.

- Covered calls cap upside on the written portion of the portfolio, meaning HYLD will typically lag a plain, unlevered S&P 500 fund in the sharpest bull-market months even as leverage helps it keep pace over fuller cycles.
- Fee-on-fee transparency. While there's no direct HYLD-level fee, investors are still indirectly paying the fees of the underlying Hamilton ETFs; confirm current all-in costs.
- Distributions are not guaranteed and may be adjusted based on option income and market volatility.

WHO IT'S FOR

HYLD suits investors seeking diversified, leveraged U.S. equity income exposure who are comfortable with the amplified risk that comes with 25% leverage. Its diversification is the key advantage over narrower, concentrated leveraged income products, making it a more defensible core-income holding for those who want yield without betting on a handful of names.

FINAL VERDICT

VERDICT **BUY FOR INCOME + GROWTH**	HYLD stands out in this comparison group for combining real sector diversification with modest leverage, no direct management fee, and a genuinely strong recent total return alongside a high monthly yield. It is one of the stronger candidates here for investors who want U.S. equity income with leverage, provided they accept that the same leverage will amplify losses in a broader market downturn.