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**March 2018** 

# The Month Gawne By

### What Happened?

Equity markets declined across the board in March. The Federal Reserve <u>raised the interest rate by 0.25%</u>, and is expected to do so 2 more times this year. While the Central Bank of Canada <u>did not raise their interest rate</u> due to trade uncertainty and housing regulations.

Global trade concerns could have been behind the equity market weakness in March. The US imposed tariffs on imported steel and aluminum, but excluded Canada and Mexico (pending successful NAFTA negotiations). China is the target of the tariffs, with the US looking to trim their trade deficit by \$100 billion. China has implemented tariffs of their own, but it looks like they are negotiating with the US.

*Power Shares Canadian Dividend Index* underwent its annual reconstitution in March. Notable additions include Bank of Nova Scotia, TransCanada, and Enbridge. The yield has decreased slightly to 5.04% vs the TSX yield of 2.82% (Invesco). Income paying equities have underperformed recently with rising interest rates, but we still like the strategy and the inherent value focus.

Lysander-Canso Corporate Value Bond - We visited the offices of Lysander last week and met the CIO of Canso as well as several portfolio managers. Continue to like their investment philosophy, culture, and independence.

## Markets (as of March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018)

Stocks	Benchmark	March	YTD
Canada	S&P TSX Composite	-0.49%	-5.19%
United States	<u>S&amp;P 500</u>	-2.69%	-1.22%
International	MSCI EAFE	-2.41%	-2.37%
Emerging Markets	<u>MSCI Emerging</u> <u>Markets</u>	-2.17%	0.93%
World	MSCI ACWI	-2.44%	-1.48%

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Canada	FTSE TMX Canada Universe Bond	0.75%	0.14%
United States	<u>Bloomberg Barclays</u> <u>US Aggregate</u>	0.74%	-1.65%
World	Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate	1.07%	1.37%
Currency		March	YTD
CAD / USD (Source: ThomsonOne)		0.78%	2.38%

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#### **Articles of Interest**

<u>The Framing Effect</u> – A 14-year-old was able to convince his classmates to <u>ban water</u>

Luck and its role in success

Humans are worse for wildlife than severe radiation

How to download your Facebook data

<u>History of car crashes</u> – we are more tolerant of human error than machine error

<u>Fact #25</u>: An estimated 1 million dogs in the U.S. have been named primary beneficiary in their owners' wills.

Is your dog or cat in your will?

Stephen Hawking

#### Music

<u>Plants and Animals</u> – attended their show at the Horseshoe where they played their first album from start to finish to commemorate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Their opener, <u>Black LeGary</u>, is worth a listen as well.

#### Books

#### The Evolution of Everything, Matt Ridley

Historical figures are often credited with great moments in history; whether they won a battle, invented something, or drove societal change. Ridley looks at how the collective, rather than the individual, was the driver of change through evolutionary processes.



## **TD Wealth**

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