

C\$ unless otherwise stated

TSX/NYSE/PSE: MFC SEHK:945

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 19, 2011

Manulife Strategic Income Opportunities Fund Announces Monthly Distribution

TORONTO – Manulife Strategic Income Opportunities Fund (TSX: MSO.UN) (the “Fund”) announced today that a monthly cash distribution in the amount of \$0.05417 per Unit of the Fund will be paid on November 15, 2011 to unitholders of record as of October 31, 2011.

A unitholder who has continually held units since inception will have received a total of \$0.21668 per unit as of the payment date.

About Manulife Investments

Manulife Investments is the brand name describing certain Canadian subsidiaries and operating divisions of Manulife Financial Corporation that offer personal wealth management products and services in Canada. As one of Canada's leading integrated financial services providers, Manulife Investments offers a variety of products and services including segregated fund contracts, mutual funds, annuities, guaranteed interest contracts and structured products. Manulife Structured Products are managed by Manulife Asset Management Limited.

About Manulife Financial

Manulife Financial is a leading Canadian-based financial services group operating in 21 countries and territories worldwide. For more than 120 years, clients have looked to Manulife for strong, reliable, trustworthy and forward-thinking solutions for their most significant financial decisions. Our international network of employees, agents and distribution partners offers financial protection and wealth management products and services to millions of clients. We provide asset management services to institutional customers worldwide as well as reinsurance solutions, specializing in property and casualty retrocession. Funds under management by Manulife Financial and its subsidiaries were Cdn\$481 billion (US\$498 billion) as at June 30, 2011. The Company operates as Manulife Financial in Canada and Asia and primarily as John Hancock in the United States. Manulife Financial Corporation trades as ‘MFC’ on the TSX, NYSE and PSE, and under ‘945’ on the SEHK. Manulife Financial can be found on the Internet at www.manulife.com.

For more information, please contact Manulife Customer Service at 1-888-333-3240.

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