



**Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board
Financial Statements
March 31, 2017**



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STATEMENT OF MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY

The accompanying financial statements are the responsibility of management of the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board ("Board") and have been prepared in compliance with legislation and generally accepted accounting principles established by the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada. The integrity and objectivity of these financial statements are management's responsibility.

Management is also responsible for implementing and maintaining a system of internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that reliable financial information is produced.

The Chair of the Board is responsible for ensuring that management fulfills its responsibilities for financial reporting and internal control and exercises these responsibilities through regular meetings with them. The Chair met with management and its external auditors to review a draft of the financial statements and to discuss any significant financial reporting or internal control matters prior to approval of the financial statements.

The external auditors, Levy Casey Carter MacLean, conducted an independent examination, in accordance with Canadian auditing standards, and expressed their opinion on the financial statements. The external auditors have full and free access to the financial management of the Board and meet with Board staff when required.

On behalf of management of the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board:



Paul G. Allen, CPA, CA
Executive Director



Sheri L. Aisthorpe, MPA, CPA, CMA
Controller

June 27, 2017

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements, which comprise the statement of financial position of the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board as at March 31, 2017 and the statement of operations and accumulated surplus, changes in net financial assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Board's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Board's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board as at March 31, 2017, and the results of its operations, accumulated surplus, changes in net financial assets and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Levy Casey Carter MacLean

Chartered Professional Accountants
Licensed Public Accountants

Halifax, Nova Scotia
June 27, 2017

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NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
MARCH 31, 2017

FINANCIAL ASSETS	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 471,669	\$ 528,255
Investments (note 4)	1,560,922	1,630,175
Accounts receivable	1,689,548	1,965,650
Due from related parties (note 10)	<u>476,961</u>	<u>555,881</u>
	<u>4,199,100</u>	<u>4,679,961</u>
LIABILITIES		
Payables and accruals	798,411	1,195,090
Due to related parties (note 10)	18,704	8,229
Advances for working capital (note 5 and note 10)	125,000	125,000
Post retirement benefits liability (note 7)	<u>1,717,641</u>	<u>1,703,508</u>
	<u>2,659,756</u>	<u>3,031,827</u>
Net financial assets	<u>1,539,344</u>	<u>1,648,134</u>
NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Tangible capital assets (page 16)	97,940	79,892
Prepaid expenses	<u>95,478</u>	<u>67,324</u>
	<u>193,418</u>	<u>147,216</u>
Accumulated surplus (page 17)	<u>\$ 1,732,762</u>	<u>\$ 1,795,350</u>
Contractual obligations (note 11)		

**NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND ACCUMULATED SURPLUS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017**

REVENUES	2017 Budget (Note 14)	2017 Actual	2016 Actual
Government operating grants (note 2 and 10)	\$ 1,970,000	\$ 1,970,000	\$ 1,970,000
Recoveries (note 8)	1,632,000	4,333,999	4,302,520
Assessments to utilities (note 2)	2,092,000	2,092,000	2,066,680
Interest income	40,000	29,796	30,623
	<u>5,734,000</u>	<u>8,425,795</u>	<u>8,369,823</u>
EXPENDITURES			
Quasi-judicial (page 18)	5,804,000	8,396,913	8,388,756
Motor carrier administration and enforcement (page 18)	91,000	91,470	67,248
	<u>5,895,000</u>	<u>8,488,383</u>	<u>8,456,004</u>
Operating deficit	(161,000)	(62,588)	(86,181)
Accumulated surplus, beginning of the year	<u>1,795,350</u>	<u>1,795,350</u>	<u>1,881,531</u>
Accumulated surplus, end of the year (page 17)	<u>\$ 1,634,350</u>	<u>\$ 1,732,762</u>	<u>\$ 1,795,350</u>

NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET FINANCIAL ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017

	2017 Budget (Note 14)	2017 Actual	2016 Actual
Operating deficit	<u>\$ (161,000)</u>	<u>\$ (62,588)</u>	<u>\$ (86,181)</u>
Acquisition of tangible capital assets (page 16)	<u>(50,000)</u>	<u>(71,998)</u>	<u>(77,379)</u>
Amortization of tangible capital assets (page 16)	<u>71,000</u>	<u>53,950</u>	<u>57,744</u>
	<u>21,000</u>	<u>(18,048)</u>	<u>(19,635)</u>
Acquisition of prepaid expense	<u>(60,000)</u>	<u>(95,478)</u>	<u>(67,324)</u>
Use of prepaid expense	<u>60,000</u>	<u>67,324</u>	<u>78,607</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>(28,154)</u>	<u>11,283</u>
Change in net financial assets	<u>(140,000)</u>	<u>(108,790)</u>	<u>(94,533)</u>
Net financial assets, beginning of the year	<u>1,648,134</u>	<u>1,648,134</u>	<u>1,742,667</u>
Net financial assets, end of the year	<u>\$ 1,508,134</u>	<u>\$ 1,539,344</u>	<u>\$ 1,648,134</u>

**NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017**

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Operating activities		
Operating deficit	\$ (62,588)	\$ (86,181)
Amortization of tangible capital assets	53,950	57,744
Net change in non-cash working capital balances related to operations (note 9)	<u>(45,203)</u>	<u>533,462</u>
Cash provided (used) by operating activities	<u>(53,841)</u>	<u>505,025</u>
Capital activities		
Purchase of tangible capital assets	<u>(71,998)</u>	<u>(77,379)</u>
Cash used by capital activities	<u>(71,998)</u>	<u>(77,379)</u>
Investing activities		
Purchases of investments	(723,851)	(1,034,696)
Proceeds on redemption of investments	<u>793,104</u>	<u>550,897</u>
Cash provided (used) by investing activities	<u>69,253</u>	<u>(483,799)</u>
Decrease in cash during the year	(56,586)	(56,153)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of the year	<u>528,255</u>	<u>584,408</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, end of the year	<u>\$ 471,669</u>	<u>\$ 528,255</u>

NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2017

1. Incorporation

The Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (Board) was created on December 14, 1992, through the proclamation of the *Utility and Review Board Act*, Chapter 11 of the Acts of 1992. The Act consolidated the operations of the former Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities, Municipal Board, Expropriations Compensation Board, and Tax Review Board. All assets and liabilities of the former boards were transferred to and assumed by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.

2. Authority

The Board has those functions, powers and duties conferred upon it through Section 4 of the *Utility and Review Board Act*. Section 15 of the *Public Utilities Act* requires the Board to estimate its expenses in administering that Act and assess them against the public utilities of the Province. Regulations made pursuant to Sections 41 and 42 of the *Gas Distribution Act* and Section 44 of the *Pipeline Act* allow the Board to recover certain expenses for activities relating to those Acts. Regulations made pursuant to Section 16AA of the *Insurance Act* permit the Board to recover direct and indirect costs incurred for activities under that Act by way of levies against insurers. Regulations made under the *Petroleum Products Pricing Act* permit the Board to recover direct and indirect costs relating to setting prices for gasoline and diesel oil by way of a monthly assessment fee against wholesalers and wholesaler - retailers. The *Assessment Appeal Cost Recovery Regulations*, made under the *Assessment Act*, require the Board to recover direct and indirect costs incurred for assessment appeals from Property Valuation Services Corporation. Expenses incurred by the Board in administering all other Acts are recovered from the Province of Nova Scotia. Any operating surpluses or deficits are allocated to the Province and the public utilities based on the prorata share of revenue contributed in each year.

3. Significant accounting policies

These financial statements have been prepared using the following significant accounting policies:

(a) Basis of presentation

These financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards as issued by the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada.

(b) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include balances with banks and short-term investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and that are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2017

3. Significant accounting policies (continued)

(c) Non-financial assets

Non-financial assets are not available to discharge existing liabilities and are held for use in the provision of services. They have useful lives extending beyond the current year and are not intended for sale in the ordinary course of operations. The change in non-financial assets during the year, together with the operating surplus or deficit, provides the change in net financial assets for the year.

(d) Tangible capital assets

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost, which includes all costs directly attributable to the acquisition, construction, development, installation or betterment of the tangible capital asset. The Board capitalizes assets with a value greater than \$2,500 and a useful life greater than one year. The asset is amortized over its useful life as follows:

Furniture	straight line over 10 years
Computer equipment	straight line over 3 years
Computer software	straight line over 3 years
Equipment	straight line over 5 years
Leaseholds	straight line over remaining term of lease

(e) Revenues

Revenues are recorded on an accrual basis. Revenues are recognized in the period in which the transactions or events occurred that gave rise to the revenues. Recoveries revenue is recognized as the related expenditures occur. Assessment revenue is recognized when invoiced. Government transfers are recognized as revenue in the period during which the transfer is authorized and any eligibility criteria are met except, when and to the extent, stipulations by the transferor gives rise to an obligation that meets the definition of a liability. Stipulations by the transferor may require that the funds only be used for providing specific services or the acquisition of tangible capital assets. For transfers with stipulations an equivalent amount of revenue is recognized as the liability is settled.

(f) Financial instruments

All financial instruments are measured using either the amortized cost method or the fair value method. Financial instruments included in the amortized cost category are recorded at either cost or amortized cost using the effective interest rate method. Transaction costs are included in the initial cost of financial instruments recognized using the cost method. Financial instruments included in the fair value category are initially recorded at fair value with each subsequent change in fair value recognized in the statement of remeasurement gains and losses (see note 12) until such time that the financial instrument is derecognized. When the financial instrument is derecognized the accumulated remeasurement gain or loss is reversed and recognized on the statement of operations. Transaction costs associated with financial instruments in the fair value category are expensed when incurred.

**NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2017**

3. Significant accounting policies (continued)

(f) Financial instruments (continued)

Accounts receivable, payables and accruals, and post retirement benefits liability are recorded using the amortized cost method. Cash and investments are recorded using the fair value method utilizing quoted prices in active markets to determine the fair value.

(g) Measurement uncertainty

Uncertainty in the determination of the amount at which an item is recorded in the financial statements is known as measurement uncertainty. Such uncertainty exists when there could be a material difference between the recognized amount and another reasonably possible amount, as there is whenever estimates are used. The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with Canadian public sector accounting standards requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reporting amounts of assets and liabilities, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities, at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. The post retirement benefits liability is an item requiring the use of significant estimates because actual results may differ significantly from the various assumptions about plan members and economic conditions in the marketplace.

Estimates are based upon the best information available at the time of preparation of the financial statements and are reviewed annually to reflect new information as it becomes available. Measurement uncertainty exists in these financial statements and actual results could differ from these estimates.

4. Investments

Investments include a two year laddered GIC portfolio with an average yield of 1.6% maturing between May 1, 2017 and April 3, 2018. The post-retirement benefits liability of \$1,717,641 (2016 - \$1,703,508) is funded through a combination of investments and an allocation of cash.

5. Advances for working capital

An amount of \$125,000 is owed to the Province of Nova Scotia as an advance for working capital. The advance is non-interest bearing with no set terms of repayment.

6. Pensions

(a) Public service superannuation fund

Pursuant to Section 10 of the *Utility and Review Board Act*, all full time employees of the Board are entitled to receive pension benefits under the *Public Service Superannuation Act*. The plan is funded by equal employee and employer contributions. The employer's contributions are included in the Board's operating expenses and totaled \$310,308 (2016 - \$297,182). The Board is not responsible for any unfunded liability.

NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2017

7. Post retirement benefits

The Board sponsors two defined benefits retirement programs, other than the pensions, for substantially all of its employees. First, Public Service Awards are paid on similar conditions to those found in the *Civil Service Act* to eligible employees retiring from service. Next, the Board contributes 65% of the cost of medical plan premiums on behalf of retiring employees and their survivors.

The accrual of service under the Public Service Award ceased August 11, 2015. Benefits payable under the Public Service Award, for service accrued to August 11, 2015, continue to be paid upon retirement based on the employee's salary at retirement.

The Board is responsible for funding and eventual payment of all benefit programs as described above. The Board may fund post retirement benefit obligations through a combination of cash, investments and other assets. This obligation is fully funded as of March 31, 2017.

Actuarial valuations for accounting purposes are performed triennially. The most recent actuarial report was prepared at March 31, 2017. The valuation was based on a number of assumptions about future events, such as inflation rates, interest rates, medical inflation rates, wage and salary increases, and employee turnover and mortality. The assumptions used reflect the Board's best estimates.

Specific assets earmarked to fund the post retirement benefits are currently held in investments and cash and are valued at market value. However, these assets have not been recognized in the disclosure presented below. Instead, the post retirement benefit fund assets are discussed in note 4.

Information about the post retirement obligations as at March 31, 2017 is as follows:

	March 31 2017	March 31 2016
<i>Post retirement benefits accrued benefit obligation</i>		
Accrued benefit obligation, beginning of year	\$ 1,667,388	\$ 1,582,875
Cost of Public Service Award freeze - curtailment	-	22,980
Retirement benefit service cost for the year	46,793	42,457
Past Service Cost	17,766	-
Benefit payments	(61,348)	(20,514)
Interest on accrued benefit obligation	33,203	36,379
Actuarial losses at end of year	<u>187,575</u>	<u>3,211</u>
Accrued benefit obligation, end of year	<u>\$ 1,891,377</u>	<u>\$ 1,667,388</u>
<i>Unamortized gains (losses)</i>		
Unamortized actuarial gains, beginning of year	\$ 36,120	\$ 25,687
Actuarial losses - accrued benefit obligation	(187,575)	(3,211)
Amortization recorded during the year	<u>(22,281)</u>	<u>13,644</u>
Unamortized actuarial gains (losses) end of year	<u>\$ (173,736)</u>	<u>\$ 36,120</u>

NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2017

7. Post retirement benefits (continued)

	March 31 2017	March 31 2016
<i>Liability recorded on the Statement of Financial Position</i>		
Accrued benefit obligation, closing balance	\$ 1,891,377	\$ 1,667,388
Unamortized actuarial (losses) gains	<u>(173,736)</u>	<u>36,120</u>
Post retirement benefits liability	<u>\$ 1,717,641</u>	<u>\$ 1,703,508</u>
<i>Post retirement benefits expense</i>		
Retirement benefit service cost for the year	\$ 46,793	\$ 42,457
Past Service Cost	17,766	-
Cost of Public Service Award freeze - curtailment	-	22,980
Interest on accrued benefit obligation	33,203	36,379
Amortization of actuarial losses (gains)	<u>(22,281)</u>	<u>13,644</u>
Post retirement benefits expense	<u>\$ 75,481</u>	<u>\$ 115,460</u>

The significant assumptions adopted in measuring the Board's accrued benefit obligations are as follows:

Liability discount rate	
Fiscal 2017 Expense:	2.00% per year at March 31, 2014
Fiscal 2017 disclosure and projected Fiscal 2018 expense:	1.50% per year at March 31, 2017
General inflation	
Fiscal 2017 Expense:	2.00% per year at March 31, 2014
Fiscal 2017 disclosure and projected Fiscal 2018 expense:	2.00% per year at March 31, 2017
Extended health care cost increases	
Fiscal 2017 expense:	0% for the period ending April 1, 2015; 5.00% for period ending April 1, 2016; 6.50% for the period ending April 1, 2017; decreasing at 0.167% per year to an ultimate rate of 4.50% per year
Fiscal 2017 disclosure and projected Fiscal 2018 expense:	6.33% for the period ending April 1, 2018; decreasing at 0.167% per year to an ultimate rate of 4.5% per year
Rate of compensation increase	0.00% to 2.50% depending on age

**NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2017**

8. Recoveries

Consultants are engaged by the Board to provide advice related to matters such as utility and natural gas operations and to provide expert testimony during hearings. Consulting fees for specific hearings are generally recovered directly from the entities involved. Expenses and recoveries relating to large hearings cannot be reasonably predicted or estimated in advance. Accordingly, no provision is made for these activities in the budget figures shown in the Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus.

Section 15 of the *Public Utilities Act* requires the Board to estimate its expenses in administering that Act and assess them against the public utilities of the Province.

Certain direct and indirect expenses incurred by the Board in relation to its duties pursuant to the *Municipal Government Act*, *Halifax Regional Municipal Charter*, *Liquor Control Act*, *Gaming Control Act*, *Theatre and Amusements Act*, and *Consumer Protection Act* may be recovered from the Province of Nova Scotia. Regulations made pursuant to Sections 41 and 42 of the *Gas Distribution Act* and Section 44 of the *Pipeline Act* allow the Board to recover certain expenses for activities relating to those Acts from permit holders and licensees. The Board recovers direct and indirect costs incurred for activities under the *Insurance Act* by way of levies against insurers.

Regulations made under the *Petroleum Products Pricing Act* permit the Board to recover direct and indirect costs relating to setting prices for gasoline and diesel oil by way of a monthly assessment fee against wholesalers and wholesale-retailers.

The *Assessment Appeal Cost Recovery Regulations*, made under the *Assessment Act*, require the Board to recover direct and indirect costs incurred for assessment appeals from Property Valuation Services Corporation.

The Board also recovers certain transcription, copying and other expenses from various sources. Recoveries by mandate are as follows:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Public utilities	\$ 2,641,796	\$ 2,406,315
Automobile insurance	643,285	698,253
Natural gas	362,693	388,297
Petroleum products pricing	253,638	248,567
Assessment	223,117	315,445
Motor carrier	55,198	58,893
Alcohol, gaming and amusements	16,076	8,841
All other recoveries	<u>138,196</u>	<u>177,909</u>
	<u>\$ 4,333,999</u>	<u>\$ 4,302,520</u>

NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2017

9. Net change in non-cash working capital balances related to operations

Increase (decrease) in cash from changes in:	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Accounts receivable	\$ 276,102	\$ (35,956)
Due from related parties	78,920	118,912
Prepaid expenses	(28,154)	11,283
Due to related parties	10,475	2,074
Post retirement benefits liability	14,133	94,946
Payables and accruals	<u>(396,679)</u>	<u>342,203</u>
	<u>\$ (45,203)</u>	<u>\$ 533,462</u>

10. Related party transactions

The Board is a quasi-judicial tribunal operating independently from the Government of the Province of Nova Scotia. A significant amount of the funding for the Board is provided from the Consolidated Fund of the Province through a public service vote.

Direct expenses incurred by the Board in relation to its duties pursuant to the *Liquor Control Act* and *Theatre and Amusement Act*, the regulation of petroleum products pricing under the *Petroleum Products Pricing Act*, and payday loans under the *Consumer Protection Act* were recovered from the Office of Service Nova Scotia.

Transactions with the Province by financial statement category are as follows:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<i>Statement of Operations</i>		
Grant from the Province of Nova Scotia	\$ 1,970,000	\$ 1,970,000
Recoveries		
Alcohol, gaming and amusements adjudicative costs	\$ 16,076	\$ 8,841
Petroleum products pricing mandate	\$ 253,638	\$ 248,567
Motor Carrier Division (Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal)	\$ 55,198	\$ 58,893
Labour Board (Labour and Advanced Education)	\$ 104,511	\$ 112,620
Other recoveries	\$ 36,722	\$ 35,678
<i>Statement of Financial Position</i>		
Due from related parties	\$ 476,961	\$ 555,881
Due to related parties	\$ 18,704	\$ 8,229
Advances for working capital	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000
Surplus	\$ 992,409	\$ 1,044,604

The transactions described above were recorded at the exchange amount which was the agreed upon amount by the parties.

NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2017

11. Contractual obligations

The Board has entered into lease agreements for its premises until October 31, 2024. The annual rent consists of a minimum rent plus the Board's portion of common costs such as maintenance, power, water and property taxes. Minimum rent payable for premises, including common costs, in aggregate and for the next five years is as follows:

2018	630,205
2019	630,205
2020	630,205
2021	630,205
2022	630,205
Subsequently	<u>1,628,030</u>
	<u>\$ 4,779,055</u>

Approximately 1,508 square feet of the Board's premises has been sublet to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal for space occupied by the Motor Carrier Division and approximately 3,131 square feet has been sublet to the Labour Board.

12. Statement of remeasurement gains and losses

The Board has no significant remeasurement gains or losses, therefore no statement of remeasurement gains or losses has been provided.

13. Financial instruments

The following are the significant risks that the Board is exposed to through its financial instruments:

(a) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation. The carrying amount of financial assets represents the maximum credit exposure. The Board's main credit risks relate to its accounts receivable. In order to reduce its credit risk, the Board has adopted credit policies which include the analysis of the financial position of its customers and the regular review of their credit limits. The Board does not have a significant exposure to any individual customer or counterpart. Management reviews accounts receivable on a case by case basis to determine if an allowance is necessary to reflect an impairment in collectability.

**NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2017**

13. Financial instruments (continued)

(b) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Board has investments in GIC's which bear interest at fixed rates. Consequently, the Board's exposure to interest rate risk on these investments is minimal. The Board has an authorized line of credit of \$250,000 with interest payable monthly at a rate of prime plus 0.50%. As security, the Board has pledged certain accounts receivable. Changes in the bank's prime lending rate can cause fluctuation in interest payments and cash flows. There was no balance outstanding on this facility as of March 31, 2017.

(c) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices.

(d) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Board will encounter difficulty in meeting its obligations associated with its financial liabilities as they become due. The Board's ability to meet its obligations depends on the receipt of funds whether in the form of revenue or advances. Annually, the Board estimates its working capital requirements and may restrict a certain portion of its surplus every year for the purpose of ensuring there is adequate funds available to meet working capital requirements. Management believes its exposure to liquidity risk is low.

14. Budget Information

The budget figures presented are for comparison purposes and are unaudited. The budget is approved annually by the Chair of the Board.

**NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD
SCHEDULE OF TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017**

	2017								Net Book Value
	Cost				Accumulated Amortization				
	Opening	Additions	Disposals	Closing	Opening	Amortization	Disposals	Closing	
Furniture	\$ 237,988	\$ -	\$ 2,730	\$ 235,258	\$ 223,435	\$ 4,954	\$ 2,730	\$ 225,659	\$ 9,599
Computer equipment	74,394	-	2,650	71,744	45,087	14,653	2,650	57,090	14,654
Computer software	167,904	23,075	10,433	180,546	146,528	19,057	10,433	155,152	25,394
Equipment	182,655	48,923	7,149	224,429	167,999	15,286	7,149	176,136	48,293
TOTAL	\$ 662,941	\$ 71,998	\$ 22,962	\$ 711,977	\$ 583,049	\$ 53,950	\$ 22,962	\$ 614,037	\$ 97,940

	2016								Net Book Value
	Cost				Accumulated Amortization				
	Opening	Additions	Disposals	Closing	Opening	Amortization	Disposals	Closing	
Furniture	\$ 235,275	\$ 2,713	\$ -	\$ 237,988	\$ 217,988	\$ 5,447	\$ -	\$ 223,435	\$ 14,553
Computer equipment	93,478	43,958	63,042	74,394	89,297	18,832	63,042	45,087	29,307
Computer software	165,303	27,041	24,440	167,904	155,238	15,730	24,440	146,528	21,376
Equipment	211,191	3,667	32,203	182,655	182,467	17,735	32,203	167,999	14,656
TOTAL	\$ 705,247	\$ 77,379	\$ 119,685	\$ 662,941	\$ 644,990	\$ 57,744	\$ 119,685	\$ 583,049	\$ 79,892

**NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD
SCHEDULE OF ACCUMULATED SURPLUS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017**

	2017				2016			
	Province of Nova Scotia	Petroleum Products Pricing	Public Utilities	TOTAL	Province of Nova Scotia	Petroleum Products Pricing	Public Utilities	TOTAL
Internally restricted								
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 767,990	\$ -	\$ 491,010	\$ 1,259,000	\$ 753,350	\$ -	\$ 481,650	\$ 1,235,000
Transferred (to) from general	(124,000)	-	(76,000)	(200,000)	14,640	-	9,360	24,000
Balance, end of year	<u>643,990</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>415,010</u>	<u>1,059,000</u>	<u>767,990</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>491,010</u>	<u>1,259,000</u>
Capital assets								
Balance, beginning of year	67,309	2,196	10,387	79,892	57,329	2,928	-	60,257
Current year purchases	34,559	-	37,439	71,998	37,916	-	39,463	77,379
Amortization of capital assets	(25,545)	(732)	(27,673)	(53,950)	(27,936)	(732)	(29,076)	(57,744)
Balance, end of year	<u>76,323</u>	<u>1,464</u>	<u>20,153</u>	<u>97,940</u>	<u>67,309</u>	<u>2,196</u>	<u>10,387</u>	<u>79,892</u>
Capital assets - future acquisitions								
Balance, beginning of year	104,870	-	109,130	214,000	98,500	-	102,500	201,000
Current year funding	19,889	-	26,009	45,898	44,286	-	46,093	90,379
Capital asset purchases	(34,559)	-	(37,439)	(71,998)	(37,916)	-	(39,463)	(77,379)
Balance, end of year	<u>90,200</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>97,700</u>	<u>187,900</u>	<u>104,870</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>109,130</u>	<u>214,000</u>
General								
Balance, beginning of year	104,435	86,163	51,860	242,458	149,062	143,782	92,430	385,274
Operating (deficit) surplus	(52,195)	46,152	(56,545)	(62,588)	(13,637)	(58,351)	(14,193)	(86,181)
Transferred from capital assets	(9,014)	732	(9,766)	(18,048)	(9,980)	732	(10,387)	(19,635)
Transferred to capital assets - future	14,670	-	11,430	26,100	(6,370)	-	(6,630)	(13,000)
Transferred from (to) internally restricted	124,000	-	76,000	200,000	(14,640)	-	(9,360)	(24,000)
Balance, end of year	<u>181,896</u>	<u>133,047</u>	<u>72,979</u>	<u>387,922</u>	<u>104,435</u>	<u>86,163</u>	<u>51,860</u>	<u>242,458</u>
Total accumulated surplus	<u>\$ 992,409</u>	<u>\$ 134,511</u>	<u>\$ 605,842</u>	<u>\$ 1,732,762</u>	<u>\$ 1,044,604</u>	<u>\$ 88,359</u>	<u>\$ 662,387</u>	<u>\$ 1,795,350</u>

The internally restricted surplus represents amounts restricted for working capital to ensure the ongoing and future operations of the Board.

The capital assets surplus represents the Board's net investment in capital assets.

The capital assets - future acquisitions surplus represents funds set aside by the Board for future capital asset acquisitions.

**NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017**

	2017 Budget			2017 Actual			2016 Actual		
	Quasi-judicial	Motor carrier	TOTAL	Quasi-judicial	Motor carrier	TOTAL	Quasi-judicial	Motor carrier	TOTAL
Salaries, wages and benefits	\$ 4,232,000	\$ -	\$ 4,232,000	\$ 4,181,161	\$ -	\$ 4,181,161	\$ 4,109,995	\$ -	\$ 4,109,995
Consulting and legal fees	381,000	30,000	411,000	2,971,124	34,965	3,006,089	2,945,819	6,725	2,952,544
Rent and business taxes	594,000	49,000	643,000	643,848	53,509	697,357	687,878	54,769	742,647
Transcribing and printing	43,000	-	43,000	116,486	2,145	118,631	130,126	3,303	133,429
Equipment	35,000	-	35,000	111,299	-	111,299	26,235	-	26,235
Travel	114,000	3,000	117,000	57,914	566	58,480	61,801	528	62,329
Staff training and development	76,000	-	76,000	58,467	-	58,467	59,090	-	59,090
Amortization	71,000	-	71,000	53,950	-	53,950	57,744	-	57,744
Dues and fees	38,000	-	38,000	52,158	-	52,158	45,927	-	45,927
Books and reports	42,000	-	42,000	51,530	100	51,630	55,231	-	55,231
Office supplies and services	74,000	-	74,000	42,186	43	42,229	54,743	33	54,776
Advertising	15,000	9,000	24,000	18,617	-	18,617	47,531	1,537	49,068
Telecommunications	22,000	-	22,000	13,218	-	13,218	17,015	-	17,015
Sundry expenses	24,000	-	24,000	12,923	35	12,958	31,965	10	31,975
Maintenance	43,000	-	43,000	12,032	107	12,139	57,656	343	57,999
TOTAL	\$ 5,804,000	\$ 91,000	\$ 5,895,000	\$ 8,396,913	\$ 91,470	\$ 8,488,383	\$ 8,388,756	\$ 67,248	\$ 8,456,004

Consultants are engaged by the Board to provide advice related to matters such as utility and natural gas operations and to provide expert testimony during hearings. Consulting fees for specific hearings are generally recovered directly from the entities involved. Expenses and recoveries relating to large hearings cannot be reasonably predicted or estimated in advance, accordingly, no provision is made for these activities in the budget.