



Financial Statements

Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board

March 31, 2021

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Independent auditor's report

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To the Board of Directors of Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board (the "Loan Board"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2021, and the statement of operations and accumulated surplus, changes in net debt and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board as at March 31, 2021, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Board in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Restated Comparative Information

We draw attention to Note 17 to the financial statements, which explains that certain comparative information presented for the March 31, 2020 year ended has been restated. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

The financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2020, excluding the adjustments that were applied to restate certain comparative information, were audited by another auditor who expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements on August 21, 2020.

As part of our audit of the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2021, we also audited the adjustments applied to restate certain comparative information presented. In our opinion, such adjustments are appropriate and have been properly applied.

Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance 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 financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Loan Board's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to a going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Board or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Loan Board's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Loan Board's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on Tourism's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Board to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

The logo for Grant Thornton LLP, featuring the company name in a stylized, cursive script.

Chartered Professional Accountants

Halifax, Canada
June 23, 2021

Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board Statement of financial position

March 31 2021 2020
(in thousands of dollars)

Financial assets

Accounts receivable	\$ 15	\$ 21
Interest and other receivables, net (Note 4)	1,589	1,725
Loans receivable, net (Note 5)	163,675	159,067
Real estate held for resale (Note 6)	<u>284</u>	<u>320</u>
	<u>165,563</u>	<u>161,133</u>

Liabilities

Due to the Province of Nova Scotia	15	21
Advances from the Province of Nova Scotia (Note 7)	<u>166,240</u>	<u>162,839</u>
	<u>166,255</u>	<u>162,860</u>

Net debt

(692) (1,727)

Non-financial assets

Real estate (Note 8)	<u>692</u>	<u>1,727</u>
	<u>692</u>	<u>1,727</u>

Accumulated surplus

\$ - \$ -

Commitments (Note 15)

On behalf of the Board

DocuSigned by:
Danny Plinney
861D5E1B8E6D4D6... _____ Director

DocuSigned by:
William Versteeg
42E392BC9BFD4FA... _____ Director

Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board

Statement of operations and accumulated surplus

Year ended March 31 Budget 2021 2021 2020
Restated
(Note 17)

(in thousands of dollars)

Revenues

Interest on loans	\$ 6,328	\$ 6,590	\$ 6,416
Loan processing and other fees	231	209	174
Life insurance program revenue, net	<u>22</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>18</u>
	<u>6,581</u>	<u>6,810</u>	<u>6,608</u>

Expenses

Lending expenses (Note 9)	<u>5,811</u>	<u>7,068</u>	10,864
	<u>5,811</u>	<u>7,068</u>	<u>10,864</u>

Annual surplus before distributions from the Province of Nova Scotia	770	(258)	(4,256)
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Contributions from (distributions to) the Province of Nova Scotia	<u>(770)</u>	<u>258</u>	<u>4,256</u>
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Annual surplus for the year and Accumulated surplus – Beginning and End of year	\$ <u> </u> -	\$ <u> </u> -	\$ <u> </u> -
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Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board

Statement of changes in net debt

Year ended March 31
(in thousands of dollars)

	2021	2020
Net surplus	\$ -	\$ -
Net change in real estate held	<u>1,035</u>	<u>1,365</u>
Net debt		
Beginning of year	<u>(1,727)</u>	<u>(3,092)</u>
End of year	\$ <u>(692)</u>	\$ <u>(1,727)</u>

Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board

Statement of cash flows

March 31 2021 2020
(in thousands of dollars)

Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents

Operating

Annual and accumulated surplus	\$ -	\$ -
Net charges (credits) to operations not involving cash		
Valuation allowance for impaired loans (including real estate held for resale)	2,308	5,973
Valuation allowance for real estate	(2)	(77)
Valuation allowance for interest	(416)	5
	<u>1,890</u>	<u>5,901</u>
Net change in non-cash operating working capital balances related to operations		
Decrease in accounts receivable	6	10
Decrease in interest and other receivables	552	161
Decrease in due to the Province of Nova Scotia, net	(6)	(10)
	<u>2,442</u>	<u>6,062</u>

Financing activities

Increase (decrease) in advances from the Province of Nova Scotia, net	<u>3,401</u>	<u>(2,787)</u>
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Investing activities

Increase in loans receivable (including real estate held for resale), net	<u>(5,843)</u>	<u>(3,275)</u>
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Net change in cash and cash equivalents	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
End of year	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board

Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2021

(in thousands of dollars)

1. Nature of operations

Authority

Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board (the "Loan Board") provides loans to the agriculture and forestry sector for farms operating in rural Nova Scotia.

The Board is a provincial agency and operates under the authority of the Agriculture and Rural Credit Act and the Forests Act (for timber loans).

Principal in loans outstanding is limited by regulation to \$200 million. Maximum advances to be disbursed in any given year, are established through the annual budgeting process. For the year ended March 31, 2021, new advances were \$24,791 (2020 - \$30,161). During the year, the Loan Board received repayments of loan principal of \$21,108 (2020 - \$34,580).

Loans in excess of \$5 million and any loan write-offs require approval by Governor in Council.

2. Capital management

As an agency of the Province of Nova Scotia, the Loan Board does not maintain its own capital. Operations are funded by contributions from the Province.

3. Summary of significant accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared by management by applying the principles of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada Public Sector Accounting Standards for other government organizations as defined by the Canadian Public Sector Accounting Board, which sets out generally accepted accounting principles for government organizations.

Restricted cash and accounts receivable

The Loan Board operates as an agency of the Province of Nova Scotia. All cash is received and disbursed through accounts managed centrally by the Province.

Accounts receivable reported consists of funds held by Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada in relation to the Loan Board's Creditor Group Life Insurance Program.

Loans receivable

Loans receivable are the principal portion of loans outstanding, net of the valuation allowance for loan impairment.

Loans are classified as impaired when, in management's opinion, there is no longer reasonable assurance of the timely collection of the full amount of principal and interest.

Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board

Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2021

(in thousands of dollars)

3. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

Valuation for loan impairment

The valuation allowance for loan impairment represents management's best estimate of losses due to impaired loans in the Loan Board's portfolio. The valuation allowance is determined based on management's identification and evaluation of the problem accounts and estimated losses that exist in the portfolio. These judgments are influenced by the composition and quality of the portfolio, general economic conditions and conditions affecting specific commodities, as well as the Loan Board policy to act as a patient lender, providing additional time for repayment where full future repayment appears reasonable.

The Loan Board records a specific valuation allowance based on a loan-by-loan review. Impaired loans are valued at the lower of their recorded investment or the estimated net recoverable value of their underlying security.

In addition, the Loan Board records a collective valuation allowance for loans in the portfolio not assessed in the specific reserve. This is an estimate of incurred but unidentified losses based on a review of historic loan write-offs on an industry sector basis.

Real estate

Real estate acquired through foreclosure is initially recorded at the lower of the recorded investment in the foreclosed loan and the estimated fair value based on the resale value of the security held, less disposal costs.

Net operating costs incurred on real estate are added to the carrying value of the property. The related provision is used to adjust the carrying value to net recoverable value, resulting in inclusion of these costs in bad debt expenses if the carrying value exceeds net recoverable value.

The Loan Board also holds land purchased under a Provincial "Landbank" program. This program has ceased; however, existing properties and leases continue with renewable five-year terms. Property acquired under this program is valued at the lower of cost and recoverable amount. Lease clients are entitled to purchase the related property at its original purchase cost.

Revenue recognition

Interest income is recorded on an accrual basis until such time as a loan is classified as impaired. The loan reverts to an accrual status when all provisions for impairment are reversed and the ultimate collection of the principal and interest is likely.

All loan related fees are reported as revenue in the period in which they were earned.

Government transfers are recognized as revenue when the transfer is authorized, any eligibility criteria are met, and reasonable estimates of the amounts can be made.

Tourism Nova Scotia

Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2020

(in thousands of dollars)

3. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

Measurement uncertainty

Uncertainty in the determination of the amount at which an item is recorded in the financial statements is known as measurement uncertainty. Many items are measured using management's best estimates based on assumptions that reflect the most probable set of economic conditions and planned courses of action and are reviewed annually to reflect new information as it becomes available with adjustments made to the annual surplus or deficit as appropriate. Uncertainty exists whenever estimates are used because it is reasonably possible that there could be a material difference between the recognized amount and another reasonably possible amount.

Measurement uncertainty exists in the accruals for such items as health and retirement obligations. The nature of the uncertainty in the accruals for pension and retirement obligations arises because actual results may differ significantly from Tourism's various assumptions about plan members and economic conditions in the marketplace.

Financial instruments

The Loan Board applies Handbook Section PS3450 "Financial Instruments" and is required to designate its financial instruments into one of the following two categories: (i) fair value; or (ii) cost or amortized cost. All of the Board's financial instruments are measured at amortized cost using the effective interest method.

The Loan Board's financial instruments consist of accounts receivable, interest and other receivables, loans receivable, due to the Province of Nova Scotia and advances from the Province of Nova Scotia and are measured at amortized cost using the effective interest method.

Management estimates

PSAS requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities and disclosure of contingent liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. By their nature, as described further in note 5b, these estimates are subject to measurement uncertainty and any changes in those estimates could have material impact on the results of future period financial statements.

Remeasurement gains and losses

Under PSAS, the Loan Board is required to present a statement of remeasurement gains and losses. As the Board has no remeasurement gains and losses, a statement of remeasurement gains and losses has not been presented.

Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board

Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2021

(in thousands of dollars)

4. Interest and other receivables, net	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Interest receivable	\$ 1,954	\$ 2,613
Accrued interest	1,224	1,153
Other charges	<u>32</u>	<u>60</u>
	3,210	3,826
Less: valuation allowance for interest on impaired loans	106	522
valuation allowance on real estate	<u>1,515</u>	<u>1,579</u>
	\$ 1,589	\$ 1,725

5. Loans receivable

a) Loans receivable, net

The following schedule sets out the scheduled maturities of the principal balances of the financial assets as at March 31, 2021, together with the weighted average interest rates being earned on the financial assets.

	<u>Under</u> <u>1 year</u>	<u>1-5 years</u>	<u>Over</u> <u>5 years</u>	<u>2021</u> <u>Total</u>	<u>2020</u> <u>Total</u>
Performing loans					
Farm loans	\$ 10,226	\$ 34,120	\$ 106,352	\$ 150,698	\$ 144,958
Average effective annual interest rate	3.66%	3.71%	3.81%	3.78%	4.03%
Add: impaired loans				<u>26,480</u>	<u>27,001</u>
Total loans				177,178	171,959
Less: valuation allowance for loan impairment				<u>(13,503)</u>	<u>(12,892)</u>
				\$ 163,675	\$ 159,067

b) Allowance for impaired loans

Loans are considered impaired when they are risk rated as substandard or worse or when the loan is more than 90 days in arrears at year end and there is insufficient collateral security valued at forced sale to cover the balance outstanding. The allowance is comprised of two components, the specific allowance for individually identified impaired loans and a collective allowance for unidentified impaired loans.

Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board

Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2021

(in thousands of dollars)

5. Loans receivable (continued)

b) Allowance for impaired loans (continued)

The specific allowance for individually identified impaired loans was established based upon a review of impaired loans. Primary factors considered in estimating the specific allowance on individual loans were the security pledged and the financial condition of the borrower and/or, where applicable, guarantors.

The collective allowance for unidentified impaired loans is management's best estimate of the loss that is likely to be experienced on impaired loans that were not known to be impaired at the year end. The collective allowance was determined based on management's judgment and recent experience by calculating the average estimated historical loss ratio by loan type and then applying these ratios to the current portfolio of unimpaired loans.

	<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>	
	Impaired loans	Allowance for impairment	Impaired loans	Allowance for impairment
Specific allowance	\$ 26,480	\$ 11,394	\$ 27,001	11,138
Collective allowance	<u>-</u>	<u>2,109</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,754</u>
	<u>\$ 26,480</u>	<u>\$ 13,503</u>	<u>\$ 27,001</u>	<u>\$ 12,892</u>

Significant judgement was exercised by management in making these estimates. As such, actual losses that occur on loans outstanding at March 31, 2021 will differ from these estimates and the differences could be material.

c) Continuity for allowance for impaired loans

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Allowance for impaired loans – beginning of year	\$ 13,414	\$ 15,067
Add: Valuation allowance for impaired loans	1,934	2,024
Less: Amounts written off	(1,738)	(3,665)
Other adjustments	<u>-</u>	<u>(12)</u>
Allowance for impaired loans – end of year	<u>13,610</u>	<u>13,414</u>
Valuation allowance on principal	13,503	12,892
Valuation allowance on interest	<u>107</u>	<u>522</u>
	<u>\$ 13,610</u>	<u>\$ 13,414</u>

Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board

Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2021

(in thousands of dollars)

5. Loans receivable (continued)

d) Loans past due but not impaired

A loan is considered past due when a counterparty has not made a payment by the contractual due date. The following table presents the carrying value of loans that are past due but not classified as impaired because they either (i) have a strong risk rating; (ii) have an arrears amount less than \$1; or (iii) are fully secured and collection efforts are reasonably expected to result in repayment. Loans that are past due but not impaired are as follows:

1-30 days	31-60 days	61-90 days	91 or more days	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
\$ -	\$ 39	\$ -	\$ 3,436	<u>\$ 3,475</u>	<u>\$ 18,756</u>

6. Real estate held for resale

The assets held for sale, comprising land, buildings and equipment, have been written-down to estimated recoverable value. Recoverable value was estimated by management, utilizing external appraisals for the land and buildings, based on the expected selling prices, net of estimated closing costs.

Real estate held for resale has been written down from the original loan amounts as follows:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Original funds advanced	1,722	1,744
Less: valuation allowance for real estate	<u>(1,438)</u>	<u>(1,424)</u>
Real estate held for sale	<u>\$ 284</u>	<u>\$ 320</u>

7. Advances from the Province of Nova Scotia, net

Advances are provided by the Province of Nova Scotia to fund loans issued by the Loan Board. The amortization periods of the advances range from 2 to 30 years. Advances are repayable in quarterly instalments of interest and principal. Interest rates vary from 2.0 % to 6.7% with terms ranging from April 1, 2020 to January 1, 2048. Interest expense is calculated in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding with the Nova Scotia Department of Finance (Note 10).

Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board

Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2021

(in thousands of dollars)

8. Real estate	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Real estate held for long-term use		
Former loan property under lease	\$ 602	\$ 1,626
Land bank	4	15
Property used by community pastures	<u>86</u>	<u>86</u>
	\$ <u>692</u>	\$ <u>1,727</u>

The Board has recorded these properties as former loan properties under lease at the lower of the principal loan balance and the assessed value of the property. Subsequently, the Board entered into lease agreements over the properties to allow the loan clients to continue to operate on the properties. The Board has not recorded amortization on these properties. The Loan Board has recognized a recovery of \$2 (2020 - \$77) against this real estate.

9. Lending expenses	Budget	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u> Restated (Note 17)
Bad debt expense (Note 11)	\$ 233	\$ 1,890	\$ 5,901
Interest expense (Note 10)	4,700	4,334	4,385
Other	-	28	19
Professional services	-	80	26
Salaries and benefits	698	666	467
Supplies and services	147	60	42
Training and development	-	2	4
Travel	<u>33</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>20</u>
	\$ <u>5,811</u>	\$ <u>7,068</u>	\$ <u>10,864</u>

10. Interest expense

Since April 1, 1998, a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") between the Loan Board and the Nova Scotia Department of Finance has formalized the Loan Board's funding arrangement. Under the MOU arrangement, the Loan Board estimates projected lending requirements on a quarterly basis. The Nova Scotia Department of Finance arranges the requested financing for terms requested and provides this financing to the Loan Board at interest rates related to the terms and volumes requested. Funding is maintained to cover the Loan Board's investment in loans receivable and in real estate. The Loan Board tracks the draws arranged with the Nova Scotia Department of Finance and computes the interest cost based on the terms of these draws. Actual financing costs are included as interest costs of the Province.

Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board

Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2021

(in thousands of dollars)

11. Bad debt expense

Bad debt expense (recovery) includes:

	<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>
Allowance for (recovery of) impaired loans	\$ 487	\$	5,234
Impairment of real estate held for resale	989		739
Impairment of (recovery of) real estate	(2)		(77)
Allowance for interest	<u>416</u>		<u>5</u>
	<u>\$ 1,890</u>	\$	<u>5,901</u>

12. Financial instruments

Fair value of financial instruments

The Loan Board is exposed to financial risk that arises from the credit quality of the individuals and entities to which it provides loan services. Credit risk arises from the possibility that the individuals and entities to which the Board provides loan services may experience financial difficulty and be unable to fulfill their obligations.

Risk management

Credit risk

The risk that clients may not pay amounts owing on loans and lease accounts, resulting in a loss to the Loan Board, is managed through an initial assessment of the client's ability to pay, and by review and follow-up of delinquent accounts by loan officers. In cases in which the client is unable to make payments, due to cyclical industry or other temporary difficulties, it is the Loan Board's policy to work with the client on an individual basis to provide time for recovery.

The total of loans receivable at March 31, 2021 is 177,178 (2020 - \$171,959). The majority of loans are secured primarily by real property using mortgage or Agreement of Sale (providing rights similar to a mortgage). Dairy and poultry loans are generally also secured by an irrevocable assignment of production quota. Collateral security may also be provided by equipment, livestock or chattels. The maximum exposure to credit risk is the total loans outstanding.

All clients are involved in agriculture in Nova Scotia. Involvement in processing is limited to on-farm processing. Regulations provide that loans must not exceed 90% of security value without approval by the Loan Board. Collateral held for security is assigned a value by the loan officer considering the loan based on known transactions of similar property, with additional information provided by property assessments and external assessments, where available.

The Loan Board adjusts the valuation allowance for impairment to recognize management's estimate of recoveries on impaired accounts. Impairment is primarily identified by review of arrears, refinanced loans and accounts in sectors experiencing difficulty. A total of \$309 (2020 - \$484) was issued in refinanced loans during 2020 - 2021 to clients with significant arrears.

Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board

Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2021

(in thousands of dollars)

12. Financial instruments (continued)

Liquidity risk

The Province of Nova Scotia provides funding and cash management services to the Loan Board. There is minimal risk that funds will be unavailable to meet lending commitments or payments of other expenses except to the extent of legislative and budgetary limitations on spending authority as identified in Note 1.

Interest rate risk

In order to mitigate the risk that future changes in interest rates may affect net interest revenue, the Board attempts to match terms of loans offered with those of funds drawn through the Province. All loans provide for an optional 10% repayment at any time during each calendar year and an optional full repayment on each 5 year anniversary. Loans may be contracted for the full term of their amortization (from 1 to 30 years) or may be of fixed terms of 3, 5 or 10 years with an amortization period of up to 30 years. Funds drawn through the Province provide for 10% annual and 5-year full optional repayments. A 1% change in interest rates would have a \$1,637 (2020 - \$1,591) impact on interest income and on interest expense.

13. Related party transactions

The Loan Board is related to all other departments, agencies, boards and commissions of the Province of Nova Scotia. The Nova Scotia Department of Finance is the sole source of funding for loans (see Note 1). Transactions with provincial entities were entered into in the normal course of business.

The Province of Nova Scotia pays certain expenses, including rent, building maintenance, computer networks and support, computerized accounting systems and miscellaneous office expenses in relation to building and computer systems, on behalf of the Loan Board with no charge to the Board.

Loans and interest receivable includes \$2,306 (2020 - \$2,505) and interest revenue includes \$97 (2020 - \$97) resulting from outstanding loans to Loan Board members and immediate family of Board members. These loans were issued under normal terms and conditions using market interest rates.

14. Pension and post retirement benefits

All full-time employees of the Loan Board are entitled to receive pension benefits pursuant to the provisions of a pension plan established under the Public Service Superannuation Act. The plan is funded by equal employee and employer contributions. The employer's contributions of \$49 (2020 - \$33) are included in the Loan Board's operating expenses. The Public Service Superannuation Fund is administered by the Public Service Superannuation Plan Trustee Inc. and any unfunded liability, as well as other obligations related to post-retirement benefits, are the responsibility of the pension plan. It is not anticipated that any such future costs would be allocated to the Loan Board.

Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board

Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2021

(in thousands of dollars)

15. Commitments

The Board will hold interest rates for ninety days for any client from the date of loan approval. As of March 31, 2021, the Board has authorized loans of \$19,433 (2020 - \$11,100) which had not been disbursed.

16. Impact of COVID-19

Since December 31, 2019, the spread of COVID-19 has severely impacted many local economies around the globe. In many countries, including Canada, businesses were forced to cease or limit operations for long periods of time. Measures taken to contain the spread of the virus, including travel bans, quarantines, social distancing, and closures of non-essential services have triggered significant disruptions to businesses worldwide, resulting in an economic slowdown. Global stock markets have also experienced great volatility and a significant weakening. Governments and central banks have responded with monetary and fiscal interventions to stabilize economic conditions.

The continued spread of COVID-19 and the actions being taken to limit its spread could adversely impact the Loan Board's operations, including among others, increasing the credit risk and default rates in its loan portfolio, limiting the Loan Board's ability to quickly respond to changes in credit risk and potentially limiting the Loan Board's ability to serve customers. The timing and extent of the economic recovery as vaccines are rolled out and provincial restrictions ease is as of yet unknown. The impact of COVID-19 on our customers may extend beyond the current period as the economy recovers. These could have an adverse impact on the Loan Board's business and financial results.

17. Restatement of prior period financial statements

During the year, management identified that the allocation of common expenses between the Loan Board and the Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Board was incorrectly allocated as a result of the use of legacy measurements of relative lending activity levels, which resulted in certain lending expenses being incorrectly under-allocated to the Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Board, with a corresponding over-allocation to the Loan Board. As a result, the following financial items as at March 31, 2020, have been increased (decreased) as follows:

	<u>As previously reported</u>	<u>Impact of restatement</u>	<u>Restated</u>
Lending expenses	\$ 12,113	\$ (1,249)	\$ 10,864
Contributions from the Province of Nova Scotia	5,505	(1,249)	4,256
Annual and accumulated surplus – beginning and end of year	-	-	-