Consolidated Financial Statements 2024

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Consolidated Financial Statements of

NOVA SCOTIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

March 31, 2024

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Governors of the Nova Scotia Community College

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Nova Scotia Community College (the "Entity"), which comprise:

- the consolidated statement of financial position as at March 31, 2024
- the consolidated statement of operations and accumulated surplus for the year then ended
- the consolidated statement of changes in net financial assets for the year then ended
- the consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

(Hereinafter referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of the Entity as at March 31, 2024, and its consolidated results of operations, its consolidated changes in net financial assets and its consolidated 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 auditor's report.

We are independent of the Entity 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.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the 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 Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity'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 the 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 Entity'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 the Entity'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 Entity 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.
- 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.

KPMG LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

Halifax, Canada
June 20, 2024

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NOVA SCOTIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Consolidated Statement of Financial Position
March 31

	2024	2023
Financial assets		
Cash	**$ 63,187,115**	$ 78,763,379
Investments (Note 13 (b))	**36,212,105**	33,149,823
Accounts receivable (Note 3)	**53,285,147**	31,593,640
Provincial receivable - future health benefits (Note 11)	**87,138,191**	84,297,300
Inventory for resale	**1,458,510**	1,474,518
	241,281,068	229,278,660
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	**74,089,273**	66,862,896
Deferred revenue - restricted funding (Note 5)	**22,621,451**	23,303,099
Deferred revenue - Foundation (Note 6)	**33,497,935**	29,494,193
Employee future benefit obligations (Note 11)	**108,183,937**	106,768,837
Accrued obligation for other compensated absences (Note 12)	**2,531,368**	2,358,488
	240,923,964	228,787,513
Net financial assets	**357,104**	491,147
Non-financial assets		
Tangible capital assets (Note 4)	**30,492,994**	29,927,193
Prepaid expenses	**1,277,023**	2,126,644
	31,770,017	32,053,837
Accumulated surplus (Note 8)	**$ 32,127,121**	$ 32,544,984

Commitments (Note 14)
See accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements

On behalf of the Board:

Chair

President

NOVA SCOTIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Consolidated Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus
Year ended March 31

	Budget	**2024**	2023
Revenues			
Advanced Education - core grant	$161,455,500	**$ 167,452,473**	$ 156,801,644
Advanced Education - retirement health benefits	-	**3,900,757**	4,856,100
Labour, Skills and Immigration	21,118,854	**21,793,226**	20,716,616
Tuition and fees	40,592,827	**43,018,456**	40,290,913
Contract training and service contracts	1,532,681	**2,135,170**	1,634,338
Other (Note 7)	21,103,727	**39,235,627**	31,539,556
	245,803,589	**277,535,709**	255,839,167
Expenditures			
Salaries and benefits	194,312,500	**204,770,532**	190,674,625
Operating supplies and services	29,322,652	**39,668,846**	33,662,442
Equipment, rentals and other administration	8,492,701	**16,233,768**	16,332,837
Utilities and maintenance	10,292,360	**12,317,643**	11,148,737
Amortization of tangible capital assets	4,833,000	**5,279,226**	5,158,822
	247,253,213	**278,270,015**	256,977,463
Annual deficit before the undernoted	(1,449,624)	**(734,306)**	(1,138,296)
Net revenue from Foundation operations	427,000	**316,443**	216,246
Annual deficit	(1,022,624)	**(417,863)**	(922,050)
Accumulated surplus, beginning of year	32,544,984	**32,544,984**	33,467,034
Accumulated surplus, end of year	$ 31,522,360	**$ 32,127,121**	$ 32,544,984

See accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements

NOVA SCOTIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Consolidated Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets
Year ended March 31

	Budget	**2024**	2023
Annual deficit	$ (1,022,624)	**$ (417,863)**	$ (922,050)
Change in tangible capital assets			
Purchase of tangible capital assets	(3,000,000)	**(5,845,027)**	(4,263,850)
Amortization of tangible capital assets	4,833,000	**5,279,226**	5,158,822
	1,833,000	**(565,801)**	894,972
Net change in prepaid expenses	-	**849,621**	(390,720)
(Decrease) increase in net financial assets	810,376	**(134,043)**	(417,798)
Net financial assets, beginning of year	491,147	**491,147**	908,945
Net financial assets, end of year	$ 1,301,523	**$ 357,104**	$ 491,147

See accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements

NOVA SCOTIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows
Year ended March 31

	2024	2023
Increase in cash		
Operating		
Annual deficit	$ **(417,863)**	$ (922,050)
Adjustments for:		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	**5,279,226**	5,158,822
Employee future benefit obligations	**1,415,100**	3,448,080
Provincial receivable - future health benefits	**(2,840,891)**	(3,906,600)
Accrued obligation for other compensated absences	**172,880**	159,597
Changes in non-cash working capital (Note 9)	**(13,975,548)**	26,190,937
	(10,367,096)	30,128,786
Capital		
Purchase of tangible capital assets	**(4,336,807)**	(4,158,128)
	(4,336,807)	(4,158,128)
Investing		
Proceeds on the sale of investments	**6,241,793**	26,115,502
Purchase of investments	**(6,537,389)**	(6,241,793)
Net purchase of investments - Foundation	**(576,765)**	(1,171,910)
	(872,361)	18,701,799
Net (decrease) increase in cash	**(15,576,264)**	44,672,457
Cash, beginning of year	**78,763,379**	34,090,922
Cash, end of year	$ **63,187,115**	$ 78,763,379

See Note 9 for additional cash flow information

See accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements

1. OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS

Nova Scotia Community College (the "College") was established as a post-secondary public education corporation under the authority of the Community College Act of Nova Scotia effective April 1, 1996.

The College, with 14 campuses across the Province of Nova Scotia (the "Province"), is responsible for enhancing the economic and social well-being of Nova Scotia by meeting the occupational training requirements of the population and the labour market.

The College established a Foundation entitled "Nova Scotia Community College Foundation" (the "Foundation") on May 15, 2001 in the Province of Nova Scotia under the Societies Act. The purpose of the Foundation is to support the Nova Scotia Community College and related activities.

The College and the Foundation are government not-for-profit organizations and, as such, are exempt from income taxes under the Income Tax Act (Canada).

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The consolidated financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards ("PSAS") of the Public Sector Accounting Board ("PSAB") of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada ("CPA").

Basis of preparation

The consolidated financial statements reflect the assets, liabilities, revenues, and expenditures of the reporting entity, which are controlled by the College and include the Foundation. All inter-company accounts and transactions between these organizations are eliminated upon consolidation.

Cash

Cash consists of cash on hand and amounts held by financial institutions, upon which interest is paid at commercial rates.

Financial instruments

Financial assets and liabilities are measured at fair value on initial recognition. The carrying amounts subsequent to initial recognition of the financial assets and liabilities of the College by measurement basis are summarized as follows:

- Cash and investments-Foundation are measured at fair value
- Investments-College are measured at amortized cost
- Accounts receivable and Provincial receivable – future health benefits are measured at amortized cost
- Accounts payable and accrued liabilities are measured at amortized cost

Unrealized changes in fair value of restricted and endowment investments are recognized in the Statement of Remeasurement Gains and Losses until they are realized, when they are transferred to the Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Financial instruments (continued)

All financial assets are assessed for impairment on an annual basis. When a decline is determined to be other than temporary, the amount of the loss is reported in the Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus, and any unrealized gain is adjusted through the Statement of Remeasurement Gains and Losses.

The College does not have unrealized gains or losses related to unrestricted investments, nor unrealized foreign exchange gains or losses and therefore has not presented a Statement of Remeasurement Gains and Losses. Unrealized gains and losses related to restricted or endowed funds are deferred until such time that the funds are used for their intended purpose.

Tangible capital assets

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost. Computer equipment, furniture and equipment and leasehold improvements are amortized on a straight-line basis over the following estimated useful lives as follows:

Computer equipment	3 years
Furniture and equipment	5 years
Leasehold improvements	2 to 20 years

Buildings are amortized on a declining balance basis at 4%.

Land and buildings used in the delivery of the College's services that are owned by the Province are not reflected in the assets of the College. Improvements made to these buildings are therefore expensed in the year incurred. Improvements made to buildings with leases in place are capitalized and amortized over their useful life or the term of the lease, whichever is less.

Write-down of tangible capital assets

When capital assets no longer contribute to the College's service potential or when the value of the future economic benefits associated with the capital assets are less than the net book value, the cost of the capital asset will be reduced to reflect the decline in the value of the capital asset. The excess of the net book value over the residual value will be recognized as an expense in the Consolidated Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus.

Inventory for resale

Inventory for resale consists of merchandise and supplies held for resale and is valued at the lower of weighted average cost and net realizable value. Administrative and program supplies and library periodicals are not inventoried.

Revenue recognition

Tuition and fees, contract training and service contracts and other revenue earned from the sale of goods and services is recognized when the associated performance obligations have been met and when collection is reasonably assured.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Revenue recognition (continued)

Government funding and other contributions are recognized as revenue in the period the transfer is authorized, and all eligibility criteria have been met, except when the transfer includes stipulations which have not yet been met. Government funding and other contributions with stipulations are initially deferred and recognized as revenue as the related stipulations are met.

Unrestricted donations and gifts are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amounts to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Externally restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year the related expenses are recognized. Endowment contributions, by their nature, are not recognized as revenue but held as a deferred contribution indefinitely.

Investment income is recorded on an accrual basis. Restricted investment income, either as a result of external restrictions or the terms of endowment agreements, is recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are recognized. Unrestricted investment revenue, including income related to internally restricted funds, is recognized when earned. Investments are recorded on a trade-date basis. All transaction costs associated with acquisition and disposition of investments are expensed to the Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus as incurred.

Pension Plans

The employees of the College belong to the Nova Scotia Public Service Superannuation Plan or the Nova Scotia Teachers' Union Pension Plan, which are multi-employer joint trustee plans. These plans are defined benefit plans, providing a pension on retirement based on the member's age at retirement, length of service and highest earnings averaged over five years. Inflation adjustments are contingent upon available funding. The College accounts for these plans as defined contribution plans. The contributions to the plans required during the year are recorded as an expense.

Employee future benefit obligations

The College pays the cost of life insurance and health care benefits for all retirees or surviving spouses of retirees. The program is funded each year by the payment of the required premiums.

The College accrues its benefit liabilities as the employees render the services necessary to earn the future benefits. The cost of post-retirement benefits earned by employees is actuarially determined using the projected unit method pro-rated on service and management's best estimate of salary escalation, retirement ages of employees and expected health care costs (Note 11).

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Accrued obligation for other compensated absences

Certain employees of the College are entitled to sick-pay benefits, which accumulate but do not vest. In accordance with Canadian Public Accounting Standards ("PSAS") for post-employment benefits and compensated absences, the College recognizes the liability for accumulative sick-pay benefits in the period in which the employee renders service (Note 12).

Statement of re-measurement gains and losses

The College has not presented a statement of re-measurement gains and losses as financial instruments measured at fair value relate to deferred revenue and unrealized gains and losses are deferred with the original contribution.

Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with PSAS requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Significant areas requiring the use of management estimates include the allowance for doubtful accounts, amortization periods for tangible capital assets and deferred revenue, employee future benefits, and certain accrued liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

3. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

	2024	2023
Organizations	**$ 7,016,649**	$ 4,278,660
Student tuition and fees	**2,072,253**	2,032,019
Government funding	**42,634,199**	24,040,748
Harmonized sales tax	**1,952,909**	1,744,332
Allowance for doubtful accounts	**(390,863)**	(502,119)
	$ 53,285,147	$ 31,593,640

4. TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

	2024			2023
	Cost	**Accumulated Amortization**	**Net Book Value**	Net Book Value
Land	**$ 1,378,787**	**$ -**	**$ 1,378,787**	$ 1,378,787
Buildings	**309,079**	**102,620**	**206,459**	215,062
Computer equipment	**10,975,617**	**9,998,820**	**976,797**	503,836
Furniture and equipment	**60,773,023**	**53,702,598**	**7,070,425**	5,599,358
Leasehold improvements	**34,287,540**	**13,427,014**	**20,860,526**	22,230,150
	$ 107,724,046	**$ 77,231,052**	**$ 30,492,994**	$ 29,927,193

5. DEFERRED REVENUE – RESTRICTED FUNDING

Deferred revenue represents the unearned portion of amounts received for specific purposes and is summarized as follows:

		2024		2023
Early Childhood Education Initiatives	**$**	**5,733,584**	$	7,094,250
Applied research		**4,354,062**		4,556,448
Other		**3,721,458**		3,080,578
Healthcare initiatives		**2,202,552**		2,006,885
Achieve		**1,189,115**		1,245,486
Adult learning program		**1,130,253**		901,807
Continuing education		**1,008,999**		593,769
Technology program initiatives		**973,538**		809,061
Forestry initiatives		**965,109**		1,136,237
Accessibility resources		**390,887**		386,004
International		**327,648**		396,536
Apprenticeship		**316,978**		800,000
Differential programs		**307,268**		296,038
	$	**22,621,451**	$	23,303,099

6. DEFERRED REVENUE – FOUNDATION

The Foundation's deferred contributions include amounts received from donors and funders that have been restricted or endowed for scholarships, bursaries, projects and other program expenditures that will occur in the future. The terms of these external restrictions and endowments also restrict the use of net investment income earned on these funds.

		Restricted Fund		Endowment Fund		Total
Balance, March 31, 2022	$	7,419,988	$	21,926,043	$	29,346,031
Contributions		2,868,765		2,353,245		5,222,010
Investment income		117,402		629,893		747,295
Unrealized loss on investments		(194,449)		(1,480,912)		(1,675,361)
Gain on sale of investments		15,931		67,137		83,068
Revenue recognized		(3,301,292)		(927,558)		(4,228,850)
Balance, March 31, 2023	$	6,926,345	$	22,567,848	$	29,494,193
Contributions		**6,287,069**		**1,011,785**		**7,298,854**
Investment income		**118,783**		**761,795**		**880,578**
Unrealized gain on investments		**266,933**		**856,344**		**1,123,277**
Gain on sale of investments		**172,917**		**907,840**		**1,080,757**
Revenue recognized		**(5,164,514)**		**(1,215,210)**		**(6,379,724)**
Balance, March 31, 2024	**$**	**8,607,533**	**$**	**24,890,402**	**$**	**33,497,935**

The Foundation has restricted investments of $29,674,716 (2023 - $26,908,030) related to externally restricted and endowment funds. The balance is in cash and operating funds.

7. OTHER REVENUE

	2024	2023
Miscellaneous revenue	**$ 9,475,404**	$ 8,435,018
Other revenue - Province of Nova Scotia	**9,439,525**	7,472,236
Applied research	**4,291,732**	2,805,222
Bookstore revenue	**3,968,499**	3,719,933
Interest	**3,966,584**	2,450,827
Other revenue - Federal funding	**2,813,164**	1,503,519
Campus housing	**1,688,461**	1,504,918
Food sales	**1,371,796**	1,211,894
Recoveries	**1,244,745**	1,835,625
Printing revenue	**620,935**	331,107
Rental revenue	**354,782**	269,257
	$ 39,235,627	$ 31,539,556

8. ACCUMULATED SURPLUS

Specific funds have been internally restricted by the Board of the College to ensure that the funds are used solely for College development projects. The Board of the College has restricted $4,722,923 (2023 - $4,722,923) for this purpose. Internally restricted funds are subject to internally imposed stipulations specifying the purpose for which they must be used. The College is in compliance with all restrictions applicable to these funds.

	2024	2023
Accumulated surplus - College operating	**$ 26,387,580**	$ 27,121,886
Accumulated surplus - internally restricted for College development	**4,722,923**	4,722,923
Accumulated surplus - Foundation	**1,016,618**	700,175
	$ 32,127,121	$ 32,544,984

9. CHANGES IN NON-CASH WORKING CAPITAL

	2024	2023
Accounts receivable	**$ (21,691,507)**	$ 2,364,466
Inventory for resale	**16,008**	(235,362)
Prepaid expenses	**849,621**	(390,720)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities - operating	**5,718,157**	20,904,566
Deferred revenue - restricted funding	**(681,648)**	1,807,976
Deferred revenue - Foundation	**1,813,821**	1,740,011
Changes in non-cash working capital from operations	**$ (13,975,548)**	$ 26,190,937

The change in accounts payable and accrued liabilities, related to the purchase of tangible capital assets, is $1,508,220 (2023 – $105,722).

The change in deferred revenue-Foundation includes $1,123,277 of unrealized gains (2023 - $1,675,361 of unrealized losses), $349,890 of reinvested fund distributions (2023 - $91,419), and a $716,754 gain from sale of investments (2023 - $7,907 loss from sale of investments).

10. PENSION PLANS

The College contributes to two defined benefit pension plans separately administered by the Public Service Superannuation Plan Trustee Inc. and the Teachers' Pension Plan Trustee Inc. The College accounts for these pensions as defined contribution plans.

Nova Scotia Public Superannuation Plan

In the first plan, the Nova Scotia Public Service Superannuation Plan, the Public Service Superannuation Plan Trustee Inc. assumes the actuarial and investment risk. The College matches employees' contributions calculated as follows: 8.4% (2023 - 8.4%) on the part of their salary that is equal to or less than the "Year's Maximum Pensionable Earnings" ("YMPE") under the Canada Pension Plan ("CPP") and 10.9% (2023 – 10.9%) on the part of their salary that is in excess of YMPE. Under this plan, the College has recognized contributions of $11,743,411 (2023 - $11,125,816) for the year.

Actuarial valuations of the plan are conducted annually and provide an estimate of the accrued pension obligation (plan liabilities) calculated using various economic and demographic assumptions, based on membership data as at the valuation date.

The plan's consulting actuaries, Mercer, performed a valuation as at December 31, 2022, and issued their report in June 2023. The report indicated that the plan had a funding excess of $75,847,000 (December 31, 2021 - $143,512,000 funding excess). The College is not responsible for, and cannot benefit from, deficits or surpluses of the plan other than changes to employer contribution rates.

10. PENSION PLANS (continued)

Nova Scotia Teachers' Union Pension Plan

In the second plan, the Nova Scotia Teachers' Union Pension Plan, the Province of Nova Scotia along with the Nova Scotia Teachers' Union ("NSTU") assumes the actuarial and investment risk. The College matches employees' contributions calculated as follows: 11.3% (2023 - 11.3%) on the part of their salary that is equal to or less than the YMPE under the CPP and 12.9% (2023 - 12.9%) on the part of their salary that is in excess of YMPE. Under this plan, the College has recognized contributions of $20,738,390 (2023 - $19,996,431) for the year.

Actuarial valuations of the plan are required every year by the Teachers' Pension Act (the "Act") provide an estimate of the accrued pension obligation (Plan liabilities) calculated using various economic and demographic assumptions, based on membership data as at the valuation date.

The plan's consulting actuaries, Eckler Limited, performed a valuation as at December 31, 2023, and issued their report in April 2024. The report indicated that the plan had an unfunded liability of $1,617,042,000 (2022 - $1,818,807,000). The College is not responsible for and cannot benefit from, deficits or surpluses of the plan other than changes to employer contribution rates.

11. EMPLOYEE FUTURE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

College employees are entitled to several benefits as follows:

	2024	2023
College service award	**$ 371,095**	$ 369,787
Non-pension retirement benefits - NSGEU and non-union employees	**20,674,651**	22,101,750
Non-pension retirement benefits - NSTU	**31,067,156**	31,285,700
Non-pension retirement benefits - AAU	**56,071,035**	53,011,600
Employee future benefit obligations	**$ 108,183,937**	$ 106,768,837

Employee future benefit obligations are funded as follows:

	2024	2023
Receivable from the Province of NS	**$ 87,138,191**	$ 84,297,300
Funded from future operations	**21,045,746**	22,471,537
	$ 108,183,937	$ 106,768,837

College Service Award

An employee hired on or after August 1, 1998, who retires because of age or mental or physical incapacity, will be granted a College service award ("CSA") equal to 1% of the employee's annual salary for each year of continuous service to a maximum of 25 years. Effective April 1, 2015, the CSA was frozen with no further years of service permitted. Adjustments to the benefit related to salary increases remained consistent with the existing agreement. There are no employee contributions in respect of the CSA. There is no distinct fund held in respect of the CSA benefits, but sufficient cash is maintained to cover the obligation, with benefits paid from unrestricted cash. The benefits paid during the year were $5,830 (2023 - $34,613).

11. EMPLOYEE FUTURE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS (continued)

College Service Award (continued)

An actuarial valuation was completed as of March 31, 2023, and extrapolated to March 31, 2024, and the College's obligation relating to these benefits includes:

		2024		2023
College service award accrued benefit obligation	**$**	**351,000**	$	357,000
Unamortized actuarial gain		**20,095**		12,787
Benefit obligation - College service award	**$**	**371,095**	$	369,787

The total expense related to the College service award benefit includes the following components:

		2024		2023
Interest expense	**$**	**10,481**	$	10,130
Amortization of actuarial gains		**(3,343)**		(2,653)
Total expense related to the obligation	**$**	**7,138**	$	7,477

The significant actuarial assumptions adopted in estimating the College's obligation are as follows:

Future salary increase	3% per annum (2023 - 3% per annum)
Discount rate	3.18% per annum (2023 – 2.96% per annum)
Retirement age	10% at age 59; 20% at age 60; 10% each year from ages 61-64; 50% each year from ages 65-69; 100% at age 70; 20% each year on or after 80 points (age + service) is reached for employees hired before April 6, 2010 (85 points for employees hired on or after April 6, 2010), if greater than age based rate; 40% when 35 years of service is reached if greater than previously described rates.
Expected Average Remaining Service Life (EARSL)	8 years (2023 – 8 years)

Non-pension retirement benefits – NSGEU and non-union employees

In fiscal 2008, the Province required the College to assume the future liability for non-pension retirement benefits for the College's non-teaching staff and non-union employees.

The College maintains sufficient cash and investments to cover the obligations associated with this liability. The amount of cash and investments in this account offsets the liability as noted below and is grouped with cash on the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position. The benefits paid during the year were $328,542 (2023 - $279,692).

11. EMPLOYEE FUTURE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS (continued)

Non-pension retirement benefits – NSGEU and non-union employees (continued)

An actuarial valuation was completed as of October 31, 2023, and extrapolated to March 31, 2024, and the College's obligation relating to these benefits includes:

		2024		2023
NSGEU and non-union employees accrued benefit obligation	**$**	**8,755,574**	$	8,893,926
Unamortized actuarial gain		**11,919,077**		13,207,824
Benefit obligation - NSGEU and non-union employees	**$**	**20,674,651**	$	22,101,750

The total expense related to the NSGEU benefit include the following components:

		2024		2023
Current period benefit costs	**$**	**449,502**	$	639,157
Interest expense		**265,050**		361,515
Amortization of actuarial gain		**(1,813,109)**		(1,152,364)
Total surplus related to the obligation	**$**	**(1,098,557)**	$	(151,692)

The significant actuarial assumptions adopted in estimating the College's obligation are as follows:

Discount rate	3.18% per annum (2023 – 2.96% per annum)
Retirement age	10% at age 59; 20% at age 60; 10% each year from ages 61-64; 50% each year from ages 65-69; 100% at age 70; 20% at each year on or after 80 points (age + service) is reached for employees hired before April 6, 2010 (85 points for employees hired on or after April 6, 2010), if greater than age based rate; 40% when 35 years of service is reached if greater than previously described rates. Disabled employees are assumed to retire at age 65.
EARSL	12 years (2023 – 12 years)

Non-pension retirement benefits - NSTU

In fiscal 2008, the Province transferred the future liability for the non-pension retirement benefits for the College's teaching and professional support staff to the College. The Province also transferred a corresponding receivable that directly offsets the liability. There is no impact on the annual surplus or net financial position of the College as a result of the transfers. The benefits paid during the year were $563,088 (2023 - $570,500).

11. EMPLOYEE FUTURE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS (continued)

Non-pension retirement benefits – NSTU (continued)

An actuarial valuation was completed as of December 31, 2021, and extrapolated to March 31, 2024. The College's obligation relating to these benefits includes:

	2024	2023
NSTU accrued benefit obligation	**$ 27,512,500**	$ 28,294,700
Unamortized actuarial gain	**3,554,656**	2,991,000
Benefit obligation - NSTU	**$ 31,067,156**	$ 31,285,700

The total expense related to the NSTU benefit include the following components:

	2024	2023
Current period benefit costs	**$ 60,700**	$ 62,500
Interest expense	**855,700**	879,900
Amortization of actuarial (gain) loss	**(571,856)**	407,300
Total expense related to the NSTU obligation	**$ 344,544**	$ 1,349,700

The significant actuarial assumptions provided by the Province are as follows:

Discount rate	3.18% per annum (2023 – 2.96% per annum)
Retirement age	50% at rule of 85, remainder at earlier of 35 years of credited service, age 62 with 10 years of credited service, and age 65 with 2 years of credited service.
EARSL	7 years (2023 – 7 years)

Non-pension retirement benefits – Atlantic Academic Union (AAU)

Effective July 1, 2018, AAU employees (formerly in NSCCAU) were transferred to the NSCC Group Insurance and Benefits Plan from the Teachers' Retirement Health Benefits Plan (the Teacher's Plan). The plan provides the same post-retirement benefits as the Teachers' Plan. Current retirees and former NSTU staff that moved to management remain in the original post-retirement health benefits plan

The Province continues to assume responsibility for non-pension benefits of these employees for past and future service. As a result, a corresponding receivable that directly offsets the liability is recognized.

There is no impact on the annual surplus or net financial position of the College as a result of the transfers. The benefits paid during the year were $496,778 (2023 - $379,000).

11. EMPLOYEE FUTURE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS (continued)

Non-pension retirement benefits – AAU (continued)

An actuarial valuation was completed as of December 31, 2021 and extrapolated to March 31, 2024. The College's obligation relating to these benefits includes:

	2024	2023
AAU accrued benefit obligation	**$ 49,070,667**	$ 47,649,900
Unamortized actuarial gain	**7,000,368**	5,361,700
Benefit obligation - AAU	**$ 56,071,035**	$ 53,011,600

The total expense related to the AAU benefit includes the following components:

	2024	2023
Current period benefit costs	**$ 2,611,600**	$ 2,347,500
Interest expense	**1,479,800**	1,378,400
Amortization of actuarial (gain)	**(535,187)**	(219,500)
Total expense related to the AAU obligation	**$ 3,556,213**	$ 3,506,400

The significant actuarial assumptions provided by the Province are as follows:

Discount rate	3.18% per annum (2023 – 2.96%)
Retirement age	50% at rule of 85, remainder at earlier of 35 years of credited service, age 62 with 10 years of credited service, and age 65 with 2 years of credited service.
EARSL	11 years (2023 – 11 years)

12. ACCRUED OBLIGATION FOR OTHER COMPENSATED ABSENCES

AAU College employees receive sick leave that accumulates at varying amounts per month based on services rendered by employees. Unused hours can be carried forward for future paid leave. Employees can accumulate up to a maximum number of hours. An actuarial estimate for this future liability has been completed as at August 15, 2023, and forms the basis for the estimated liability reported in these financial statements. The benefits paid during the year were $600,214 (2023 - $605,700).

12. ACCRUED OBLIGATION FOR OTHER COMPENSATED ABSENCES (continued)

At March 31, 2024, the College's accrued obligation for other compensated absences costs and obligations consists of:

	2024	2023
Accrued obligation for compensated absences	**$ 4,062,214**	$ 3,689,723
Unamortized actuarial loss	**(1,530,846)**	(1,331,235)
Accrued benefit obligation for other compensated absences	**$ 2,531,368**	$ 2,358,488

The total expense related to the accrued obligation for compensated absences includes the following components:

	2024	2023
Current period benefit costs	**$ 419,565**	$ 413,658
Interest expense	**106,542**	99,514
Amortization of actuarial loss	**246,987**	252,125
Total expense related to the obligation	**$ 773,094**	$ 765,297

The significant actuarial assumptions adopted in estimating the College's obligation are as follows:

Future salary increases	3% per annum (2023 - 3% per annum)
Discount rate	3.18% per annum (2023 – 2.96% per annum)
Retirement age	50% of members who achieve eligibility for unreduced retirement under the rule of 85 prior to age 62 will retire when first eligible; remaining members retire as the earliest of age 65 with at least 2 years of service, 35 years of service or age 62 with at least 10 years of service.
EARSL	11 years (2023 – 11 years)

13. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

a) Financial risk factors

The College has exposure to credit risk, liquidity risk, and market risk. The College's Board of Governors has overall responsibility for the oversight of these risks and reviews the College's policies on an ongoing basis to ensure that these risks are appropriately managed. The source of risk exposure and how each is managed is outlined below:

13. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

a) Financial risk factors (continued)

(i) Credit risk

Credit risk arises with the uncertainties of predicting the financial difficulties students and corporations may experience that could cause them to be unable to fulfill their commitments to the College. The College mitigates this risk by having a diversified mix of students and corporations, thereby limiting the exposure to a single individual or corporation. The College's credit risk is limited to the recorded amount of accounts receivable, investment and cash. The College performs a continuous evaluation of its accounts receivable balance and records an allowance for doubtful accounts as required. The amount of accounts receivable disclosed on the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position is net of allowances for bad debts, estimated by management based on prior experience and their assessment of the current economic environment. The College also manages credit risk by holding its cash and investments with high quality financial institutions in Canada. Management considers there to be no significant credit risk as at March 31, 2024.

(ii) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the College will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they become due. As at March 31, 2024, the College had cash of $63,187,115 (2023 - $78,763,379), and investments of $6,537,389 (2023 - $6,241,793) before considering Foundation investments. Management considers there to be no significant liquidity risk as at March 31, 2024.

(iii) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates, market prices and changes in foreign exchange rates.

The College, through the Foundation invests in funds managed by a third party financial institution in accordance with the Foundation's Investment Policy. The value of the third party managed funds are sensitive to market fluctuations including interest rates, market prices and foreign currency impacting the underlying investments of the fund. An immediate hypothetical decline of 10% in the unit value of funds will impact the Foundation's investments by an approximate loss of $3,000,000 (2023 - $2,700,000). A hypothetical increase of 10% in unit values would have an equal increase. Gains or losses from the Foundation's investment would result in an increase or decrease in deferred revenue as these funds have donor restrictions as to their use and therefore would increase or decrease funds available for the specified use in future periods.

13. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

b) Fair value

The College evaluated the fair values of its financial instruments based on the current interest rate environment, related market values and current pricing of financial instruments with comparable terms. The carrying values of cash, accounts receivable, investments - College and accounts payable and accrued liabilities are considered to approximate fair values due to their short-term maturity. The carrying value of the Provincial receivable – NSTU/AAU Future Health Benefits approximates fair value based on the actuarial valuation performed on non-pension retirement (Note 11). Investments – Restricted Fund and Endowment Fund are investments in pooled funds. Their fair value is approximated by their respective fund's net asset value, which is determined based on the fair value of the assets held by the fund less any liabilities.

Financial instruments recorded at fair value are classified using a fair value hierarchy that reflects the significance of the inputs used in making the measurements. The fair value hierarchy has the following levels:

- Level 1 fair value measurements are those derived from quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.
- Level 2 fair value measurements are those derived from inputs other than quoted prices included with Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (i.e. as prices) or indirectly (i.e. derived from prices).
- Level 3 fair value measurements are those derived from valuation techniques that include inputs for the assets or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

The following table presents the financial instruments recorded at fair value in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position, classified using the fair value hierarchy described above:

	March 31, 2024	March 31, 2023
	Fair Value	Fair Value
Level 1		
Investments - stock - Foundation	**$ 3,106,500**	$ 3,076,100
Level 2		
Cash	**$ 63,187,115**	$ 78,763,379
Investments - College	**6,537,389**	6,241,793
Investments - Foundation	**26,568,216**	23,831,930
	$ 99,399,220	$ 111,913,202

There has been no significant transfer of financial instruments between levels, during the year. There were no fair value measurements classified as level 3.

c) Gain from fund distribution

During the year, the College received non-cash distributions on investments totaling $349,890 (2023 - $91,419). These distributions represent a distribution of units by the respective investments in lieu of cash.

14. COMMITMENTS

The College is committed to the following lease and maintenance agreement payments over the next five years:

2025	$ 2,038,602
2026	1,589,578
2027	1,197,648
2028	817,971
2029	586,452
	$ 6,230,251

15. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The College is related to the Province of Nova Scotia as it was created in 1996 through the Community College Act of Nova Scotia. The College receives funding from the Nova Scotia Department of Advanced Education. The majority of land and buildings the College uses to fulfill its mandate are owned by the Province of Nova Scotia. No compensation is paid for the use of the assets.

16. COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

The financial statements have been reclassified, where applicable, to conform to the presentation in the current year.

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