

New Brunswick Public Service Pension Plan  
(formerly operating as Public Service Shared Risk Plan)

Financial Statements

December 31, 2016



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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Trustees of the New Brunswick Public Service Pension Plan

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the New Brunswick Public Service Pension Plan (formerly operating as Public Service Shared Risk Plan) (the Entity), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2016, the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits and statement of changes in pension obligations for the year then ended, and notes, comprising 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 accounting standards for pension plans, 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.

### *Auditors' 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 an audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from 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 our 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, we consider internal control relevant to the entity'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 entity'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, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity as at December 31, 2016 and the changes in net assets available for benefits and changes in pension obligations for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for pension plans.

Chartered Professional Accountants  
August 29, 2017  
Fredericton, Canada

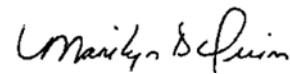
**NEW BRUNSWICK PUBLIC SERVICE PENSION PLAN**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
*(In thousands of Canadian dollars)*  
**AS AT DECEMBER 31**

	2016	2015
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Investments <i>(notes 3 and 4)</i>	\$ 7,215,370	\$ 6,910,862
Contributions receivable from employers <i>(note 12)</i>	15,552	14,542
Contributions receivable from employees <i>(note 12)</i>	13,196	6,408
Other receivable	322	14
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>7,244,440</b>	<b>6,931,826</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities <i>(note 12)</i>	3,458	5,090
Net assets available for benefits	7,240,982	6,926,736
Pension obligations <i>(note 6)</i>	6,656,100	6,477,100
<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$ 584,882</b>	<b>\$ 449,636</b>

*See accompanying notes to the financial statements.*

Commitments *(note 13)*  
 Indemnification *(note 14)*

Approved on behalf of the Board of Trustees:



Marilyn Quinn  
 Chair



Leonard Lee-White  
 Vice Chair

**NEW BRUNSWICK PUBLIC SERVICE PENSION PLAN**  
**Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits**  
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)  
**YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Increase in net assets</b>		
Net investment income (note 9)	\$ 450,077	\$ 481,205
Employer pension contributions (note 12)	145,333	140,950
Employee pension contributions (note 12)	97,072	96,776
	<u>692,482</u>	<u>718,931</u>
<b>Decrease in net assets</b>		
Pension benefits (note 10)	351,983	336,509
Refunds and transfers (note 10)	12,496	9,470
Administration expenses (note 11)	13,757	13,561
	<u>378,236</u>	<u>359,540</u>
<b>Increase in net assets available for benefits</b>	314,246	359,391
<b>Net assets available for benefits, beginning of year</b>	<u>6,926,736</u>	<u>6,567,345</u>
<b>Net assets available for benefits, end of year</b>	<u>\$ 7,240,982</u>	<u>\$ 6,926,736</u>

*See accompanying notes to the financial statements.*

**NEW BRUNSWICK PUBLIC SERVICE PENSION PLAN**  
**Statement of Changes in Pension Obligations**  
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)  
**YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Pension obligations, beginning of year</b>	\$ 6,477,100	\$ 6,277,300
<b>Change in pension obligations:</b>		
Interest accrued on benefits	302,400	293,200
Experience losses	9,400	22,200
Normal actuarial cost	141,700	137,500
Benefits paid	(364,500)	(346,000)
Cost of living adjustment	90,000	92,900
	<u>179,000</u>	<u>199,800</u>
<b>Pension obligations, end of year</b>	<u>\$ 6,656,100</u>	<u>\$ 6,477,100</u>

*See accompanying notes to the financial statements.*

## **NEW BRUNSWICK PUBLIC SERVICE PENSION PLAN**

### **Notes to Financial Statements**

*(In thousands of Canadian dollars)*

#### **AS AT AND FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2016**

##### **1. Description of the Plan**

The following description is intended as a summary only. For complete information, reference should be made to the plan text.

On January 1, 2014, the defined benefit pension plan created by the *Public Service Superannuation Act* (“PSSA”) was converted to the New Brunswick Public Service Pension Plan (the “NBPSPP” or “Plan”), a shared risk plan registered under the *Pension Benefits Act of New Brunswick* (the “Act”). The NBPSPP is governed by a Board of Trustees consisting of an equal number of individuals appointed by the Province of New Brunswick, as the major employer, and by bargaining agents representing certain employees covered by the pension plan. At least one appointee must be a retired member of the pension plan.

The primary purpose of the NBPSPP is to provide secure pensions to plan members upon retirement and until death in respect of their service as plan members and their survivors. A shared risk pension plan uses a risk management approach set out in its funding policy to ensure that a base pension benefit is provided in most potential future economic scenarios. Accordingly, future cost of living adjustments and other ancillary benefits such as early retirement subsidies will only be provided to the extent that the pension assets are sufficient to pay such benefits as determined by the Board of Trustees in accordance with applicable laws and the plan’s funding policy (*note 7*).

All members of the PSSA and certain members of the Pension Plan for Part-Time and Seasonal Employees of the Province of New Brunswick became members of the NBPSPP. All new full-time employees, term employees, and contract employees after February 1, 2014 are required to join the NBPSPP. All other employees will become members of the NBPSPP upon the date of completion of twenty-four successive months of employment provided the employee has earned at least 35% of the YMPE in each of the preceding two calendar years.

Initial employee contribution rates of 5.8% of eligible earnings up to the Yearly Maximum Pension Entitlement (“YMPE”) and 7.5% of eligible earnings in excess of the YMPE increased to 7.5% and 10.7% respectively effective April 1, 2014. The employer contribution rates of 8.932% up to the YMPE and 11.55% above YMPE were adjusted to 11.25% of eligible earnings on April 1, 2014. In addition, unless the funding level is 140% of the estimated pension obligations, the employer will make temporary contributions of 0.5% of eligible earnings for a five-year period from January 1, 2014, and 0.75% of eligible earnings for the ten-year period from January 1, 2014. Employee and employer contribution rates will become equal after fifteen years. Contribution rates are subject to change in accordance with triggers identified in the funding policy for the NBPSPP (*note 7*).

Pension benefits vest on the earlier of: (i) five years of continuous employment; or (ii) two years of membership in the NBPSPP, including membership in any predecessor plan (the PSSA or the Pension Plan for Part-Time and Seasonal Employees of the Province of New Brunswick). The normal retirement date is at age 65. Early retirement may be taken at any time between the ages of 55 and 65.

**1. Description of the Plan (continued)**

A member's annual pension payable up to age 65 is equal to the sum of:

- 1) In respect of service before January 1, 2014, the product of:
  - a) The number of years of pensionable service before January 1, 2014 up to the annual average YMPE; and
  - b) 2% of the annual average of the best five consecutive years of earnings at January 1, 2014; and
  - c) An early retirement factor;

And

- 2) In respect of service from January 1, 2014, the sum of the product (a), (b) and (c) below for each calendar year or portion thereof:
  - a) 2% of annualized earnings;
  - b) The number of hours worked for which contributions are made divided by the full-time equivalent hours;
  - c) An early retirement factor; and
  - d) Such cost of living adjustments as may be granted by the Board of Trustees.

A member's annual retirement pension payable after age 65 is equal to the sum of:

- 1) In respect of service before January 1, 2014, the product of:
  - a) The number of years of pensionable service before January 1, 2014; and
  - b) 1.3% of the annual average of the best five consecutive years of earnings at January 1, 2014 up to the annual average YMPE for the three years prior to January 1, 2014, plus 2% of the excess of the annual average of the best five consecutive years of earnings at January 1, 2014 over the annual average YMPE for the three years prior to January 1, 2014;

And

- 2) In respect of service from January 1, 2014, the sum of (a) and (b) below for each calendar year or portion thereof:
  - a) 1.4% of annualized earnings up to the YMPE and 2.0% of annualized earnings in excess of the YMPE;
  - b) The number of hours worked for which contributions are made divided by the full-time equivalent hours; and
  - c) Such cost of living adjustments as may be granted by the Board of Trustees.

An early retirement discount of 3/12% per month that the pension commences prior to age 60 is applicable to all service earned prior to January 1, 2014, while an early retirement discount of 5/12% per month that the pension commences prior to age 65 is applicable to all service earned on or after January 1, 2014.

A legislative guarantee protects members' base pension benefits that were earned, accrued or vested as of December 31, 2013.

The form of pension must be selected at retirement and includes a joint and survivor pension (with survivor benefit at 50%, 60% or 100% of benefit payable) or a life pension with a guaranteed payment period of either five, ten or fifteen years.

## **1. Description of the Plan (continued)**

In the case of termination prior to retirement, employees whose pension benefits have not vested will receive a refund of contributions with accumulated interest. All other employees will have a choice of deferring commencement of their pension benefit until age 65 for an unreduced benefit or deferring commencement of their pension until a date between age 55 or later and age 65 for a reduced benefit. An employee terminating before age 55 may also defer their pension between the ages of 55 to 65 (subject to the applicable early retirement reduction) or may transfer their termination value in a lump sum to a locked-in retirement account, a life income fund or to a pension plan offered by their new employer (certain restrictions apply).

In the case of death prior to retirement, the surviving spouse or designated beneficiaries of an employee whose pension has not vested will receive a refund of employee contributions with accumulated interest. In the case of death when pension benefits have vested, a surviving spouse may receive a monthly pension of 50% of the pension payable at age 65 for their lifetime or the termination value in a lump sum payment. In the case of death when pension benefits have vested and there is no surviving spouse, the designated beneficiary will receive the termination value in a lump sum payment, unless the designated beneficiary is an eligible dependent, in which case they would receive a monthly pension of 50% of the pension payable at age 65 while they are an eligible dependent.

## **2. Significant Accounting Policies**

### *(a) Basis of presentation*

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for pension plans in Part IV of the Chartered Professional Accountants' (CPA) of Canada Handbook. They are prepared to assist Plan members and others in reviewing the activities of the Plan for the fiscal year but they do not portray the funding requirements of the Plan (*note 7*) or the benefit security of individual plan members.

All investment assets and liabilities are measured at fair value in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") 13, *Fair Value Measurements*. In selecting or changing accounting policies that do not relate to its investment portfolio, Canadian accounting standards for pension plans require the Plan to comply on a consistent basis with either IFRS in Part I of the CPA Handbook or with Canadian accounting standards for private enterprises in Part II of the CPA Handbook. The Plan has chosen to comply on a consistent basis with IFRS.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the significant accounting policies set out below. These financial statements were authorized for issue by the Board of Trustees on August 29, 2017.

### *(b) Basis of measurement*

These financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis except for investments, which are measured at fair value through the Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits.

**2. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

*(c) Financial instruments*

*(i) Classifications, recognition and measurement*

Financial assets and financial liabilities are initially recognized in the Statement of Financial Position on the trade date, which is the date on which the Plan becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. A financial asset or liability is measured initially at fair value. Transaction costs are recognized in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits as incurred.

Financial assets, on initial recognition, are required to be classified as measured at amortized cost, fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI) or fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL) according to the business model used for managing them and their contractual cash flow characteristics. Financial liabilities are classified as measured at amortized cost unless they are measured at FVTPL.

The Plan makes an assessment of the objective of a business model because this best reflects the way the business is managed and information is provided. The information considered includes:

- the stated policies and objectives and the operation of those policies in practice. In particular, whether strategy focuses on earning contractual interest revenue, maintaining a particular interest rate profile, matching the duration of the financial assets to the duration of the liabilities that are funding those assets or realising cash flows through the sale of assets;
- how performance is evaluated and reported;
- the risks that affect the performance of the business model (and the financial assets held within that business model) and how those risks are managed;
- how managers of the business are compensated – e.g. whether compensation is based on the fair value of the assets managed or the contractual cash flows collected; and
- the frequency, volume and timing of sales in prior periods, the reasons for such sales and its expectations about future sales activity. However, information about sales activity is not considered in isolation, but as part of an overall assessment of how the Plan’s stated objective for managing the financial assets is achieved and how cash flows are realised.

Financial assets that are held for trading or managed and whose performance is evaluated on a fair value basis are measured at FVTPL because they are neither held to collect contractual cash flows nor held both to collect contractual cash flows and to sell financial assets.

All investments consist of units of the NBIMC Pooled Funds offered by Vestcor Investment Management Corporation (“VIMC”). The investments are managed and their performance is evaluated on a fair value basis. As such, the Plan classifies all investments as FVTPL with changes in fair value being recognized in net investment income in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits.

The fair value of each investment in units of the NBIMC Pooled Funds is based on the calculated daily net asset value per unit multiplied by the number of units held, and represents the Plan’s proportionate share of the underlying net assets at fair values determined using closing market prices.

The underlying investments held in the NBIMC Pooled Funds are valued at fair value as of the date of the financial statements. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date in the principal or, in its absence, the most advantageous market to which the NBIMC Pooled Funds have access at that date.



**2. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

The fair value of the underlying securities in the NBIMC Pooled Funds that are traded in active markets (such as exchange-traded derivatives, debt and equity securities) are based on quoted market prices at the close of trading on the reporting date.

If there is no quoted price in an active market, then the NBIMC Pooled Funds use valuation techniques that maximize the use of the relevant observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. The chosen valuation technique incorporates all of the factors that market participants would take into account in pricing a transaction.

Certain of the Plan's financial assets and financial liabilities such as contributions and other receivables and accounts payable and accrued liabilities are subsequently measured at amortized cost, which is the cost at initial recognition, minus any reduction for impairment. The carrying amount of these assets and liabilities approximates fair value due to their short settlement period. At the reporting date, the Plan assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset at amortized cost is impaired. If such evidence exists, the Plan recognizes an impairment loss as the difference between the amortized cost of the financial asset and the present value of the estimated future cash flows.

(ii) Derecognition

The Plan derecognizes a financial asset when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or are transferred in a transaction in which substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset are transferred.

On derecognition of a financial asset, the difference between the carrying amount of the asset and the consideration is recognized in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits as net investment income.

The Plan derecognizes a financial liability when its contractual obligations are discharged or cancelled or expire.

(d) *Pension obligations*

The pension obligations recognized in the Statement of Financial Position are the actuarial present value of accrued pension benefits determined by using the accrued benefit (or unit credit) actuarial cost method in accordance with the requirement of paragraph 14(7)(a) of Regulation 2012-75 under the Act and actuarial assumptions which reflect management's best estimate for the future.

(e) *Functional and presentation currency*

The financial statements are presented in Canadian dollars, which is the functional currency of the Plan.

## 2. Significant Accounting Policies (*continued*)

### (f) *Use of estimates and judgments*

The preparation of the Plan's financial statements requires judgments, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the Statement of Financial Position. Significant estimates and judgments are required in determining the reported estimated fair value of private investments, which are included in the underlying investments held in the NBIMC Pooled Funds and the measurement of pension obligation, since these determinations may include estimates of expected future cash flows, rates of return, rates of retirement, mortality, rates in termination, discount rates, and the impact of future events. Actual results may differ from those estimates. Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an on-going basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognized in the period in which the estimates are revised and in any future years affected.

### (g) *Taxes*

The Plan is a Registered Pension Plan as defined in the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) and is not subject to income taxes.

### (h) *Contributions*

Contributions from the employers and pension plan members are recorded in the period that payroll deductions are made.

### (i) *Net investment income*

Investment transactions are recognized by the underlying unit trusts as of their trade date. Net investment income includes interest, dividends, and realized and unrealized gains and losses in the value of the units held in each of the unit trusts.

### (j) *Foreign currency translation*

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies held by the NBIMC Pooled Funds are translated at the prevailing rates of exchange at the date of the Statement of Financial Position. Investment income and expenses are translated at the exchange rates prevailing on the transaction date. Realized and unrealized exchange gains and losses are included in net investment income.

## 3. Investments

The Plan invests in certain pooled unit trust funds established by VIMC, the investment manager for the Plan. Each NBIMC Pooled Fund has a specific investment mandate. Investing in the NBIMC Pooled Funds enables the Plan to achieve its required asset class weights in accordance with its Statement of Investment Policies ("SIP"). Following is a description of each NBIMC Pooled Fund in which an interest is held by the Plan as at December 31, 2016:

### *NBIMC Nominal Bond Fund*

This fund invests primarily in investment grade bonds (a minimum of triple-B rated by a major rating agency) of G-7 countries and Canadian provinces paying a nominal rate of interest. The performance objective is to add 20 basis points to its benchmark, the FTSE TMX Canada All Government Bond Index, over a four-year rolling average.

### **3. Investments (continued)**

#### *NBIMC Corporate Bond Fund*

This fund invests primarily in investment grade corporate bonds (a minimum of triple-B rated by a major rating agency) paying a nominal rate of interest. The performance objective is to add 20 basis points to its benchmark, the FTSE TMX All Corporate Bond Index, over a four-year rolling average.

#### *NBIMC New Brunswick Fixed Income Opportunity Fund*

This fund invests primarily in fixed income issued to finance economic activity in New Brunswick. The performance objective is to add 20 basis points to its benchmark, the FTSE TMX Canada All Government Bond Index, over a four-year rolling average.

#### *NBIMC Money Market Fund*

This fund invests primarily in fixed income securities having a maturity of less than one year. The performance objective is to add 20 basis points to its benchmark. The benchmark is calculated as 93% of the FTSE TMX Canada 91 Day T-Bill Index and 7% of the One-day Canadian Call Loan Rate.

#### *NBIMC Student Investment Fund*

This fund is managed by students at the University of New Brunswick who are registered in the Student Investment Fund Program. Its initial capital of \$1 million, funded in 1998, has been invested using the same general investment policies and guidelines as are used by VIMC. The overall benchmark for this fund is composed of 50% S&P/TSX60 Total Return Index, 45% FTSE TMX Canada All Government Bond Index, 4.65% FTSE TMX Canada 91 Day T-Bill Index and 0.35% One-day Canadian Call Loan Rate. VIMC staff closely monitor the activities of this fund, including executing and processing all transactions on behalf of the students.

#### *NBIMC Canadian Equity Index Fund*

This fund invests in physical securities and derivative strategies to gain exposure to various segments of the S&P/TSX Composite Index. Leverage on derivative products is avoided by ensuring each derivative product is supported by an appropriate value of short-term investments. The performance objective is to match the return of the S&P/TSX Total Return Composite Index over four-year rolling periods.

#### *NBIMC Low Volatility Canadian Equity Fund*

This fund actively invests in securities to gain exposure to the MSCI Canada Minimum Volatility Total Return Index, Gross. The objective is to achieve a long-term rate of return equivalent to this index, net of fees, on an annualized four-year rolling average.

#### *NBIMC External Canadian Equity Fund*

This fund is managed by external managers and invests in publicly traded Canadian equities. The performance objective is to add 150 basis points to its benchmark, the S&P/TSX Total Return Composite Index, over a four-year rolling average.

### **3. Investments (continued)**

#### *NBIMC Canadian Equity Active Long Strategy Fund*

This fund seeks to add value through prudent selection of individual securities and sector allocations through overweighting and underweighting of the index. The performance objective is to add 150 basis points to its benchmark, the S&P/TSX Total Return Composite Index.

#### *NBIMC External International Equity Fund*

This fund is managed by external managers and invests in publicly traded equities in markets in Europe, Australasia and the Far East. The performance objective is to add 150 basis points net of fees to its benchmark, the MSCI EAFE Total Return Index in \$C, Net, over a four-year rolling average.

#### *NBIMC EAFE Equity Index Fund*

This fund invests in securities in the MSCI EAFE Total Return Index in \$C, Net. The performance objective is to add 20 basis points net of fees to its benchmark, the MSCI EAFE Total Return Index in \$C, Net, over a four-year rolling average.

#### *NBIMC Low Volatility International Equity Fund*

This fund actively invests in securities in the MSCI EAFE Minimum Volatility (USD) Total Return Index, \$C. The objective is to achieve a long-term rate of return equivalent to this index, net of fees, on an annualized four-year rolling average.

#### *NBIMC Low Volatility Emerging Markets Equity Fund*

This fund was created on February 18, 2015 to actively invest in securities in the MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility (USD) Total Return Index in \$C, Net. The objective is to achieve a long-term rate of return equivalent to this index, net of fees, on an annualized four-year rolling average.

#### *NBIMC U.S. Equity Index Fund*

This fund passively invests in physical securities and derivatives to gain exposure to the S&P 500 Index. Leverage on derivative products is avoided by ensuring each derivative product is supported by an appropriate value of short-term investments. The performance objective is to match the return of the S&P 500 Total Return Index in \$C.

#### *NBIMC Low Volatility U.S. Equity Fund*

This fund actively invests in securities to gain exposure to the MSCI USA Minimum Volatility (USD) Total Return Index in \$C, Net. The objective is to achieve a long-term rate of return equivalent to this index, net of fees, on an annualized four-year rolling average.

#### *NBIMC Inflation-Linked Securities Fund*

This fund invests primarily in fixed income instruments that are adjusted for inflation of G-7 countries. The performance objective is to add 10 basis points to its benchmark, the FTSE TMX Canada Real Return Bond Index, over a four-year rolling average.

#### *NBIMC Canadian Real Estate Fund*

This fund invests in private Canadian real estate investments, directly through a wholly owned subsidiary, NBIMC Realty Corp., or indirectly through limited partnerships or similar investment vehicles. The benchmark is inflation, as measured by the percentage change in the twelve-month average CPI-Canada All Items Index, plus 4%.

### **3. Investments (continued)**

#### *NBIMC Canadian Real Estate Investment Trust Fund*

This fund invests in publicly traded Canadian real estate investment trust securities. The performance objective is to match the return of the S&P/TSX Capped REIT Total Return Index.

#### *NBIMC Non-Canadian Private Real Estate Fund*

This fund invests in private non-Canadian real estate investments directly or indirectly through limited partnerships or similar investment vehicles. The benchmark is inflation, as measure by the percentage change in the twelve-month average CPI-Canada All Items Index, plus 4%.

#### *NBIMC International Real Estate Fund*

This fund is managed by an external manager that invests primarily in publicly traded securities of international Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs). The performance objective is to add 150 basis points to the countries' blended REIT Equity Indices in \$C, net of fees, over the long-term.

#### *NBIMC Public Infrastructure Fund*

This fund was created to provide additional investment diversification by providing infrastructure-like exposure with enhanced liquidity. The benchmark is inflation, as measured by the percentage change in the twelve-month CPI-Canada All Items Index, plus 4%.

#### *NBIMC Infrastructure Fund*

This fund was created to provide additional investment diversification through direct investment in infrastructure through co-investment structures. The performance objective is to achieve a 4% real rate of return over a long-term investment horizon.

#### *NBIMC North American Market Neutral Fund*

This fund focuses on adding value through security selection within its universe of the S&P/TSX Total Return Composite Index as well as certain publicly traded US-listed stocks. Favored securities are purchased and offset by a corresponding short position in another security within the same sector. The portfolio is supported by a cash underlay and its performance objective is to add 350 basis points annually over a four-year moving average basis to its benchmark. The benchmark is calculated as 93% of the FTSE TMX Canada 91 Day T-Bill Index and 7% of the One-day Canadian Call Loan Rate.

#### *NBIMC Quantitative Strategies Fund*

This fund seeks to add value by investing in either long or short positions where announced mergers or dual class share structures present arbitrage potential. Short positions are supported by cash underlay. The objective is to add 350 basis points over its benchmark. The benchmark is calculated as 93% of the FTSE TMX Canada 91 Day T-Bill Index and 7% of the One-day Canadian Call Loan Rate.

#### *NBIMC Quantitative Equity Strategic Beta Fund*

This fund was created on April 26, 2016 to add value by investing in either long or short positions, primarily in equities in the MSCI ACWI Index. Short positions are supported by cash underlay. The objective is to add 350 basis points over its benchmark. The benchmark is calculated as 93% of the FTSE TMX Canada 91 Day T-Bill Index plus 7% One-day Canadian Call Loan Rate.

**3. Investments (continued)**

*NBIMC New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada Equity Opportunity Fund*

This fund invests in public and private equities or instruments convertible into equities of New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada companies. The performance objective is to achieve a 4% real rate of return over a long-term investment horizon.

*NBIMC Private Equity Fund*

This fund is managed by external managers that invest primarily in non-publicly traded securities of U.S. and European companies. The performance objective is to exceed the performance of its benchmark, a blend of the respective countries' total return indices in \$C.

*NBIMC Asset Mix Strategy Fund*

This fund was created to add value through active asset mix decisions by the VIMC's internal Asset Mix Strategy Committee. The objective is to add 10 basis points of absolute return.

**3. Investments (continued)**

Following are details of NBIMC Pooled Fund holdings as at December 31:

<i>(\$ thousands)</i>	<b>Number of Units (rounded)</b>	<b>Unit Value (in dollars)</b>	<b>Fair Value 2016</b>	<b>Fair Value 2015</b>
<b>Fixed Income</b>				
NBIMC Nominal Bond Fund	464,358	2,623	\$ 1,218,213	\$ 1,168,306
NBIMC Corporate Bond Fund	1,028,789	1,243	1,278,613	1,218,803
NBIMC New Brunswick Fixed Income Opportunity Fund	2,344	3,189	7,475	8,145
NBIMC Money Market Fund	64,157	1,609	103,217	127,336
NBIMC Student Investment Fund	485	3,428	1,664	1,507
			2,609,182	2,524,097
<b>Equities</b>				
NBIMC Canadian Equity Index Fund	153,111	3,423	524,052	509,888
NBIMC Low Volatility Canadian Equity Fund	229,870	1,567	360,135	341,946
NBIMC External Canadian Equity Fund	36,214	4,070	147,378	124,406
NBIMC Canadian Equity Active Long Strategy Fund	59,607	1,367	81,488	96,070
NBIMC External International Equity Fund	66,291	2,080	137,876	141,759
NBIMC EAFE Equity Index Fund	146,313	1,427	208,727	179,231
NBIMC Low Volatility International Equity Fund	184,230	1,954	359,937	347,124
NBIMC Low Volatility Emerging Markets Equity Fund	225,289	948	213,506	205,264
NBIMC U.S. Equity Index Fund	133,174	2,656	353,771	331,184
NBIMC Low Volatility U.S. Equity Fund	135,190	2,655	358,937	343,814
			2,745,807	2,620,686
<b>Inflation-Linked Assets</b>				
NBIMC Inflation-Linked Securities Fund	101,401	3,609	365,941	346,630
NBIMC Canadian Real Estate Fund	44,560	4,281	190,744	156,316
NBIMC Canadian Real Estate Investment Trust Fund	61,186	1,245	76,151	90,108
NBIMC Non-Canadian Private Real Estate Fund	10,469	937	9,814	8,939
NBIMC International Real Estate Fund	9,228	7,577	69,922	93,610
NBIMC Public Infrastructure Fund	131,969	1,039	137,070	138,093
NBIMC Infrastructure Fund	64,353	1,531	98,531	68,882
			948,173	902,578
<b>Alternative Investments</b>				
NBIMC North American Market Neutral Fund	117,602	1,338	157,324	154,803
NBIMC Quantitative Strategies Fund	161,450	1,431	231,096	396,774
NBIMC Quantitative Equity Strategic Beta Fund	182,037	1,035	188,400	—
NBIMC New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada Equity Opportunity Fund	3,592	5,026	18,056	17,660
NBIMC Private Equity Fund	99,089	2,959	293,252	287,069
			888,128	856,306
<b>Tactical Asset Allocation</b>				
NBIMC Asset Mix Strategy Fund	21,196	1,136	24,080	7,195
			\$ 7,215,370	\$ 6,910,862

#### 4. Fair Value of Financial Instruments

Investments are valued at fair value with changes in fair values over time recognized in net investment income.

The determination of fair value is dependent upon the use of measurement inputs with varying degrees of subjectivity. The level of subjectivity can be classified and is referred to as the fair value hierarchy. The fair value hierarchy levels are:

**Level 1** - Quoted market prices in active markets. This is considered to be the most reliable input for fair value measurement. A financial instrument is regarded as quoted in an active market if quoted prices are readily or regularly available from an exchange or prices represent actual and regularly occurring market transactions on an arm's length basis.

**Level 2** – Inputs (other than quoted prices included within Level 1) that are observable for the investment, either directly or indirectly. These inputs include quoted prices for similar investments in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar investments in markets that are not active, and inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the investment. These are inputs that are derived principally from, or corroborated by, observable market data by correlation or other means.

**Level 3** – Inputs that are unobservable that are used to measure fair value when observable inputs are not available. Unobservable inputs reflect subjective assumptions that market participants may use in pricing the investment.

The units held in each NBIMC Pooled Fund are classified as a Level 2 investment since the units are priced based on each pooled fund net asset value, which is observable, but the units are not traded in an active market.

#### 5. Financial Instrument Risk Management

Financial instruments are exposed to risks such as market, interest rate, credit and liquidity risk.

(a) **Market Risk:** Market risk is the risk that the value of an investment will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual investment or factors affecting all securities traded in the market. Market risk includes foreign currency risk, interest rate risk and pricing risk among others. The principal lever for managing market risk is to invest in widely diversified countries, sectors, and issuers. The Plan holds investments in NBIMC Pooled Funds that invest in active and passive investment strategies and are diversified among domestic and international markets.

Investment strategies used by the NBIMC Pooled Funds may involve the use of financial derivatives such as forward foreign exchange contracts or total return swaps. Investment strategies also include “market neutral” strategies whereby an investment in a long position in one stock is matched with a short position in another stock, typically within the same industry sector. With the limited exception of prudent financing for investments in real property, the SIP (*note 8*) precludes the use of leverage in the investment portfolio. Accordingly, to the extent that there is market exposure from derivative investments and short positions, each NBIMC Pooled Fund will hold cash underlay equal to the amount of market exposure. Market neutral strategies help to mitigate market risk through adherence to maximum investment limits and stop-loss constraints and have a lower correlation to broad market indices.



**5. Financial Instrument Risk Management (continued)**

VIMC conducts certain of its investment activities in the NBIMC Pooled Funds on behalf of the Plan by trading through broker channels on regulated exchanges and in the over-the-counter market. Brokers typically require that collateral be pledged against potential market fluctuations when trading in derivative financial instruments or when shorting security positions. As at December 31, 2016, the fair value of the Plan's underlying securities that have been deposited or pledged with various financial institutions as collateral or margin on account was \$292,508 (2015 - \$285,654) (*see note 5(c)*).

Foreign currency risk arises from holding investments denominated in currencies other than the Canadian dollar. All of the Plan's investments are in Canadian dollar denominated NBIMC Pooled Funds; however, certain of the NBIMC Pooled Funds invest in assets denominated in foreign currencies or domiciled in foreign jurisdictions. The SIP permits hedging of foreign currency exposure at the portfolio manager's discretion. Approximately 28.6% (2015 - 28.3%) of the Plan's underlying investments are denominated in currencies other than the Canadian dollar, with the largest foreign currency exposure being to the U.S. dollar of 16.3% (2015 - 15.8%) and the Euro of 3.3% (2015 - 3.5%).

A 1% absolute increase or decrease in the value of the Canadian dollar against all other currencies with all other variables held constant would result in an approximate decrease or increase in the value of the net investment assets at December 31, 2016 of \$20,799 (2015 - \$19,727).

Interest rate risk refers to the effect on the market value of investments due to fluctuation of interest rates. The Plan invests in certain NBIMC Pooled Funds that invest in fixed income securities whose fair values are sensitive to interest rates. The SIP requires VIMC to adhere to guidelines on duration and yield curve, which are designed to mitigate the risk of interest rate volatility.

If interest rates increased by 1%, and all other variables are held constant, the potential loss in fair value to the net investment assets at December 31, 2016 would be approximately \$248,548 (2015 - \$232,284).

Pricing risk is the risk that equity investments will change in value due to future fluctuations in market prices caused by factors specific to an individual equity investment or other factors affecting all equities traded in the market. The Plan is exposed to price risk associated with the underlying equity investments held in the NBIMC Pooled Funds. If equity market price indices declined by 1%, and all other variables are held constant, the potential loss at December 31, 2016 would be approximately \$30,789 (2015 - \$27,620).

(b) **Credit Risk:** The Plan is exposed to credit-related risk in the event that a pooled fund investment in a derivative or debt security counterparty defaults or becomes insolvent. VIMC has established investment criteria which are designed to manage credit risk by establishing limits by issuer type and credit rating for fixed income and derivative credit exposure. VIMC monitors these exposures monthly. Such derivative and short and long-term debt securities are restricted to those having investment grade ratings, as provided by a third party rating agency. In addition, each counterparty exposure is restricted to no more than 5% of total assets. Investment grade ratings are BBB and above for longer term debt securities and R-1 for short-term debt. Any credit downgrade below investment grade is subject to review by the Board of Trustees.

**5. Financial Instrument Risk Management (continued)**

The quality of the credit exposure in the underlying NBIMC Pooled Funds at December 31 is as follows:

<i>(\$ thousands)</i>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
AAA	\$ 868,287	\$ 819,925
AA	895,802	919,691
A	1,104,367	1,023,312
BBB	402,479	348,815
R-1	294,981	235,440
Other	59,028	38,245
	<b>\$ 3,624,944</b>	<b>\$ 3,385,428</b>

The highest concentration of credit risk at each year end is with Government of Canada bonds.

(c) **Liquidity Risk:** Liquidity risk is the risk of not having sufficient funds available to meet cash demands. Sources of liquidity include pension contributions collected from the employers and employees as well as redemption of units in NBIMC Pooled Funds. Uses of liquidity include payments to the plan beneficiaries, plan service providers and purchases of units of NBIMC Pooled Funds.

The Plan's asset mix is specifically designed to ensure that sufficient liquid assets are available to meet pension benefit obligations as they are required. Other than cash, treasury bills and bankers' acceptances, the most liquid asset class is government bonds whereas privately-held debt, equity, real estate and infrastructure investments are considered highly illiquid due to the lack of a readily available market and the longer term to maturity for these investments.

Net liquid assets are defined to include the fair value of all assets excluding private equity, private real estate, private infrastructure, New Brunswick regional investments, and the Plan's proportionate share of the fair value of collateral pledged with brokers and counterparties, and any unfunded investment commitments.

The following table shows the determination of net liquid assets as at December 31:

<i>(\$ thousands)</i>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
Net assets available for benefits	\$ 7,240,982	\$ 6,926,736
Less: investment in NBIMC New Brunswick Fixed Income Opportunity Fund ( <i>note 3</i> )	(7,475)	(8,145)
Less: investment in NBIMC Canadian Real Estate Fund ( <i>note 3</i> )	(190,744)	(156,316)
Less: investment in NBIMC Non-Canadian Private Real Estate Fund ( <i>note 3</i> )	(9,814)	(8,939)
Less: investment in NBIMC Infrastructure Fund ( <i>note 3</i> )	(98,531)	(68,882)
Less: investment in NBIMC New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada Equity Opportunity Fund ( <i>note 3</i> )	(18,056)	(17,660)
Less: investment in NBIMC Private Equity Fund ( <i>note 3</i> )	(293,252)	(287,069)
Less: collateral pledged ( <i>note 5(a)</i> )	(292,508)	(285,654)
Less: investment commitments ( <i>note 13</i> )	(227,517)	(230,557)
<b>Net liquid assets</b>	<b>\$ 6,103,085</b>	<b>\$ 5,863,514</b>

**5. Financial Instrument Risk Management (continued)**

(d) Securities Lending: The Plan's SIP permits VIMC to enter into a securities lending arrangement externally with their securities custodian or internally among the NBIMC Pooled Funds with the objective of enhancing portfolio returns.

Under the external program, the securities custodian, who is an independent third party, may loan securities owned by the NBIMC Pooled Funds to other approved borrowers in exchange for collateral in the form of readily marketable government-backed securities equal to at least 105% of the value of securities on loan and a borrowing fee. VIMC has restricted the approved borrowers under the external securities lending program to manage exposure to counterparty credit risk. As at December 31, 2016, underlying securities in the amount of \$775,385 (2015 - \$775,436) were loaned on behalf of the Plan.

Under the internal securities lending program, certain NBIMC Pooled Funds may loan securities to a borrowing NBIMC Pooled Fund subject to an intra-fund collateral management agreement and a borrowing fee. As at December 31, 2016, underlying securities in the amount of \$57,366 (2015 - \$49,546) were loaned on behalf of the Plan and \$60,340 (2015 - \$54,325) were borrowed.

**6. Pension Obligations**

(a) Actuarial Methodology: On conversion of the PSSA from a defined benefit plan to a shared risk plan, an actuarial valuation report was prepared by Morneau Shepell, the independent actuary to document:

- the results of the initial funding policy valuation, as required under sub-paragraph 100.6(2)(a)(ii) of the *Pension Benefits Act (New Brunswick)* ("Act");
- the Conversion Plan as required under as required under sub-paragraph 100.6(2)(a)(i) of the Act; and
- the results of the going-concern actuarial valuation required under paragraph 14(1) of the *Shared Risk Plan Regulation 2012-75* to the Act.

The next going-concern actuarial valuation will be conducted as of January 1, 2018. Such a valuation is prepared solely to comply with the requirements of the *Income Tax Act (Canada)*.

The Act requires that a funding policy valuation be prepared annually and submitted to the Superintendent of Pensions. The annual funding policy valuation was prepared as of January 1, 2017 by the independent actuary. The next funding policy valuation is expected to be prepared no later than January 1, 2018.

The funding policy valuation actuarial liabilities and normal cost were calculated using the accrued benefit actuarial cost method in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 14(7)(a) of Regulation 2012-75.

The funding policy valuation actuarial liabilities are equal to the actuarial present value of benefits earned by members for services prior to the valuation date, taking into account the actuarial assumptions. The funding policy valuation does not take into account the impact of any future salary increases and the impact of future increases in accrued pensions due to cost-of-living adjustments as may be granted from time to time by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the plan text and the funding policy.

The funding policy valuation normal cost is equal to the actuarial present value of benefits expected to be earned by members in the year following the valuation date. A salary increase estimate has been made to calculate the estimated normal cost and estimated members and employers contributions for the year following the valuation date.

For valuation purposes, to determine eligibility for benefits and for any other use, the age used is the age on the date of the nearest birthday.

**6. Pension Obligations (continued)**

(b) Actuarial Assumptions: The main assumptions used in determining the funding policy valuation actuarial liabilities and normal cost for the year following the valuation are as follows:

**January 1, 2017 and January 1, 2016**

Discount rate	4.75% per annum
Inflation	2.25% per annum
Salary increase rate for the year following valuation	2.75% per annum plus merit and promotion
YMPE increase for the year following valuation	2.75% per annum
Future indexation of accrued pensions and pensions in payment	0% per annum
Mortality	2014 Public Sector Mortality Table (CPM 2014 Publ) projected using Improvement Scale B (CPM-B) with size adjustment factors of 105% for males and 110% for females.

Retirement Age	Age at Conversion								Under 25 or joined Plan after conversion
	60+	55 – 59	50-54	45-49	40-44	35-39	30-34	25-29	
56	5%	2.5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
57	5%	5%	5%	2.5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
58	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%
59	20%	12.5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	0%	0%
60	20%	20%	20%	12.5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	0%
61	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	12.5%	5%	5%	5%
62	6.25%	13.1%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	5%	5%
63	6.25%	6.25%	6.25%	13.1%	20%	20%	20%	20%	12.5%
64	6.25%	6.25%	6.25%	6.25%	6.25%	13.1%	20%	20%	20%
65	6.25%	9.4%	12.5%	15.65%	18.75%	21.9%	25%	45%	55%
Termination of employment (other than by death or retirement)									None

There were no changes in actuarial assumptions during 2016 or 2015.

(c) Experience losses: Experience losses represent the change in the pension obligation due to the difference between expected experience and actual results. During 2016, the experience losses were \$9,400 (2015 - \$22,200).

(d) Sensitivity analysis: The discount rate used to estimate the present value of pension obligations has a significant effect on the pension obligation at the end of the year. As of December 31, 2016, a decrease of 100 basis points in the discount rate would have increased the pension obligation by \$916,200 (2015 - \$900,700).

## 6. Pension Obligations (*continued*)

(e) Funding policy valuation assets: The financial position of the Plan on a funding policy basis is determined by deducting the funding policy valuation actuarial liabilities from the funding policy asset value. For funding policy purposes only, the asset value includes the present value of excess contributions of \$1,210,100 (2015 - \$1,197,600) defined as the excess of expected contributions less funding policy normal cost for each year in the 15 years after the actuarial valuation date on conversion. This amount is added to the asset value for policy testing in order to determine the Plan funded status for the purpose of the application of the funding policy. The present value of the excess contributions does not represent an asset as per the accounting standards and is therefore excluded when determining the net assets available for benefit for financial statement purposes.

## 7. Funding Policy

The funding policy is the tool required pursuant to the Act that the Board of Trustees uses to manage the risks inherent in a shared risk plan. The funding policy provides guidance and rules regarding decisions that must, or may, as applicable, be made by the Board of Trustees concerning funding levels, contributions and benefits.

The purpose of the NBPSPP is to provide secure pension benefits to plan members and beneficiaries of the plan without an absolute guarantee, but with a risk-focused management approach delivering a high degree of certainty that base benefits can be met in the vast majority of potential future economic scenarios.

The funding policy sets out a primary and two secondary risk management objectives as follows:

- (a) The primary objective is to achieve a 97.5% probability that the past base benefits at the end of each year will not be reduced over a 20-year period.
- (b) The secondary objectives are:
  - (i) on average, provide contingent indexing on base benefits for services rendered on or before the conversion date that is in excess of 75% of the indexation provided under the pre-conversion plan over a 20-year period; and
  - (ii) on average, over a 20-year period provide other ancillary benefits that exceed 75% of the value of ancillary benefits described in the NBPSPP Text at conversion.

The above risk management objectives are measured annually using an asset liability model with future economic scenarios developed using a stochastic process.

The funding policy sets out the decisions to be made by the Board of Trustees. These decisions are based on the 15 year open group funded ratio calculated as the sum of the present value of excess contributions plus the market value of the going concern assets divided by the funding policy liabilities. Depending upon the result, these decisions may involve either a funding deficit recovery plan or a funding excess utilization plan that will ensure future changes to contribution rates and benefits are made within the constraints of the above risk management objectives.

The funding deficit recovery plan is triggered if the open group funded ratio of the Plan falls below 100% for two successive plan year ends. The summarized actions that must be taken, in order of priority are:

**7. Funding Policy (continued)**

1. Increase in contribution rates of up to a maximum of 1.5% for both employees and employers; then
2. Change the retirement rules for service on or after the conversion date for non-vested members equal to a full actuarial reduction for retirement before age 65; then
3. Change the retirement rules for service prior to the conversion date for non-vested members to the equivalent of a full actuarial reduction for retirement before age 60; then
4. Reduce base benefit accrual rates for future service by no more than 5%; then
5. Reduce base benefits on a proportionate basis for all members for both past and future service in equal proportions.

The funding excess utilization plan is triggered when the open group funded ratio exceeds 105% for two successive plan year ends. Should that be the case, a portion of the excess may be utilized for the following summarized actions in their order of priority:

1. Reverse previously reduced base benefits following the opposite order to which they were applied under the funding deficit recovery plan above; then
2. Provide indexing of base benefits for future payments up to full CPI for every year that has been missed or partially covered since conversion starting with the oldest period for which full CPI was not paid; then
3. Reduce contribution rates in such an amount as to maintain an open group funded ratio of 140%; then
4. Establish a reserve to cover the next ten years of potential contingent indexing; then
5. Propose benefit improvements subject to certain criteria.

**8. Capital**

The capital of the NBPSPP is represented by the net assets available for benefits. The NBPSPP must be managed in a manner which recognizes the interdependency of the SIP, the risk management goals set out in the funding policy and applicable regulatory requirements.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the establishment of a SIP, including approval of a recommended investment asset mix that seeks to deliver the long-term investment returns necessary for the sustainability of the NBPSPP. Determining the asset mix requires information from independent actuarial valuations as well as expectations concerning financial markets and uses a portfolio optimization process. This process has the intent of achieving the maximum investment returns possible while meeting the risk management tests in the funding policy. The recommended strategic asset allocation is reviewed on at least an annual basis to ensure that it remains appropriate. The SIP was last reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees on December 1, 2016.

Once approved, VIMC is responsible for the implementation of the asset mix decision including day-to-day investment activities and monitoring of investment risk controls. VIMC produces quarterly reporting of investment performance, policy compliance, and trends and changes in investment risks for the Board of Trustees.

The Board-approved SIP that outlines the following investment objectives:

- i. In the long term, to preserve the capital value of the Pension Fund but also provide the best possible long-term real return on investments while continuing to achieve the risk management goals;
- ii. Over shorter time periods, to achieve competitive rates of return on each major asset class while avoiding undue investment risk and excessive market volatility; and
- iii. Over the medium term, to provide rates of return in excess of those achieved by passive management of the policy portfolio. A value added contribution of 0.42%, after deducting all investment management costs, is the portfolio's target four-year moving average rate of return.

**9. Net Investment Income**

Net investment income (loss) by NBIMC Pooled Fund for the year ended December 31, after allocating net gains (losses) on investments, is as follows:

<i>(\$ thousands)</i>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Fixed Income</b>		
NBIMC Nominal Bond Fund	\$ 17,318	\$ 41,373
NBIMC Corporate Bond Fund	47,797	29,795
NBIMC New Brunswick Fixed Income Opportunity Fund	185	424
NBIMC Money Market Fund	890	1,027
NBIMC Student Investment Fund	156	(37)
	<u>66,346</u>	<u>72,582</u>
<b>Equities</b>		
NBIMC Canadian Equity Index Fund	108,635	(33,534)
NBIMC Low Volatility Canadian Equity Fund	57,211	(14,461)
NBIMC External Canadian Equity Fund	22,357	(3,995)
NBIMC Canadian Equity Active Long Strategy Fund	16,481	(10,833)
NBIMC External International Equity Fund	(3,866)	30,933
NBIMC EAFE Equity Index Fund	(1,252)	215,814
NBIMC EAFE Equity Index Fund – Class N	—	(138,360)
NBIMC Low Volatility International Equity Fund	(3,892)	141,945
NBIMC Low Volatility International Equity Fund – Class N	—	(61,324)
NBIMC Low Volatility Emerging Markets Equity Fund	8,824	(7,004)
NBIMC U.S. Equity Index Fund	33,450	71,536
NBIMC Low Volatility U.S. Equity Fund	31,798	81,516
	<u>269,746</u>	<u>272,233</u>
<b>Inflation-Linked Assets</b>		
NBIMC Inflation-Linked Securities Fund	10,794	10,953
NBIMC Canadian Real Estate Fund	17,686	14,616
NBIMC Canadian Real Estate Investment Trust Fund	14,978	(2,922)
NBIMC Non-Canadian Private Real Estate Fund	(80)	(436)
NBIMC International Real Estate Fund	3,010	22,542
NBIMC Public Infrastructure Fund	9,456	(874)
NBIMC Infrastructure Fund	6,992	4,923
	<u>62,836</u>	<u>48,802</u>
<b>Alternative Investments</b>		
NBIMC North American Market Neutral Fund	5,731	997
NBIMC Quantitative Strategies Fund	16,430	17,828
NBIMC Quantitative Equity Strategic Beta Fund	6,394	—
NBIMC New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada Equity Opportunity Fund	1,052	661
NBIMC Private Equity Fund	18,000	68,852
	<u>47,607</u>	<u>88,338</u>
<b>Tactical Asset Allocation</b>		
NBIMC Asset Mix Strategy Fund	3,542	(750)
<b>Net investment income</b>	<u>\$ 450,077</u>	<u>\$ 481,205</u>

**10. Pension benefits**

A breakdown of pension benefits by type is as follows:

<i>(\$ thousands)</i>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
Retirements	\$ 325,227	\$ 310,675
Terminations	4,806	4,422
Disability	1,813	1,907
Death	29,896	26,852
Other	2,737	2,123
	<b>\$ 364,479</b>	<b>\$ 345,979</b>

These benefits are presented in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits as:

<i>(\$ thousands)</i>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
Pension benefits	\$ 351,983	\$ 336,509
Refunds and transfers	12,496	9,470
	<b>\$ 364,479</b>	<b>\$ 345,979</b>

**11. Administration Expenses**

The Plan is charged by its service providers, including Vestcor Pension Services Corporation (VPSC) (subsequent to October 1, 2016 and previously the Pension and Employee Benefits Division of the Office of Human Resources for the Province of New Brunswick) and VIMC, each a related party, for professional and administrative services. The following is a summary of these administrative expenses:

<i>(\$ thousands)</i>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
Plan administration:		
Office and administration services ( <i>note 12</i> )	\$ 2,908	\$ 2,758
Consulting	112	127
Legal fees	286	12
Actuarial services	77	86
Audit fees	61	65
Board of Trustees	32	21
	<b>3,476</b>	<b>3,069</b>
Investment management costs:		
Investment management fees ( <i>note 12</i> )	8,624	8,944
Securities custody	533	686
	<b>9,157</b>	<b>9,630</b>
HST	1,124	862
	<b>\$ 13,757</b>	<b>\$ 13,561</b>



## 12. Related Party Transactions

The Plan is related to the Province of New Brunswick including its departments, agencies, school districts, regional health authorities, crown corporations and other crown entities. The Board of Trustees determines the amounts of contributions to and payments from the Plan.

Pursuant to the *Vestcor Act*, on July 8, 2016 the Plan is a member of a not-for-profit, non-share company, Vestcor Corp. (Vestcor). On October 1, 2016 Vestcor acquired a 100% interest in two operating companies: VIMC and VPSC (formerly (PEBD)).

All of the Plan's investments included in the Statement of Financial Position are in NBIMC Pooled Funds which entitle the Plan to an undivided interest in the underlying assets of those pooled funds (*note 3*). In addition, the NBIMC Canadian Real Estate Fund has made certain of its direct and indirect real estate investments using wholly-owned subsidiary company structures.

Included in the investments in the NBIMC Pooled Funds are underlying investments in New Brunswick provincial and municipal bonds that are recorded at their fair values as at December 31, 2016 of \$42,285 (2015 - \$44,700).

Pension administration expenses paid to VPSC (and formerly PEBD) and investment management fees paid to VIMC (and formerly NBIMC) for the year are described in note 11. At December 31, 2016 amounts owing to VIMC for investment management fees of \$1,643 (2015 - \$1,256), and to VPSC for pension administration expenses of \$561 (2015 - \$2,908) are included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

## 13. Commitments

The NBIMC Canadian Real Estate Fund, the NBIMC Non-Canadian Private Real Estate Fund, the NBIMC Infrastructure Fund, the NBIMC Private Equity Fund and Vestcor Investments Private Equity, L. P. (a newly created limited partnership whose general partner is Vestcor Investments General Partner, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of VIMC) have committed to enter into investments, which may be funded over the next several years in accordance with the terms and conditions agreed to in various partnership agreements. The Plan's share of unfunded commitments as at December 31 is:

<i>(\$ thousands)</i>	<b>2016</b>		<b>2015</b>	
NBIMC Canadian Real Estate Fund	\$	14,149	\$	19,840
NBIMC Non-Canadian Private Real Estate Fund		2,710		12,545
NBIMC Infrastructure Fund		8,294		20,767
NBIMC Private Equity Fund		185,137		177,405
Vestcor Investments Private Equity, L. P.		17,227		—
	\$	227,517	\$	230,557

## 14. Indemnification

Pursuant to the Agreement and Declaration of Trust, the Board of Trustees are entitled to be indemnified out of the assets of the pension fund in respect of any liability, including defence costs, incurred in the performance of their duties as trustees. As a consequence, a request for indemnification may be made against the Plan in respect of two legal actions commenced in the Province of New Brunswick in which the Board of Trustees is involved, although to date no such claim has been received and no indemnification payments have been made. The contingent nature of these indemnification obligations prevents the Plan from making a reasonable estimate of the maximum potential payments that may be required.

**14. Indemnification (continued)**

The two legal actions in which the Board of Trustees is involved are as follows:

- a) *Clifford Kennedy et al. v. New Brunswick et al.*, FC-351-15: In this action, the Board of Trustees is not named as a party. However, they have been advised by counsel for the Plaintiffs that the Plaintiffs will be seeking, in advance, their solicitor-client costs from the Province of New Brunswick, or, failing that, from the pension fund. Counsel has advised the Board of Trustees that the likelihood of success on any motion for costs against the Board of Trustees and the pension fund is not determinable at this time.
- b) *Guy Levesque v. New Brunswick et al.*, FC-212-15: The members of the Board of Trustees have been individually named as Defendants. In this case, the Plaintiff also seeks, in advance, his solicitor-client costs paid from the pension fund and /or the Trustees, as well as damages from the pension fund for any lost cost of living adjustments. Counsel has advised that the potential success of this action is not determinable at this time.