Grant Thornton

Shared Risk Pension Plan for Certain Bargaining Employees of New Brunswick Hospitals

Financial Statements

December 31, 2017

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Audit Committee of the Shared Risk Pension Plan for Certain Bargaining Employees of New Brunswick Hospitals

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Shared Risk Pension Plan for Certain Bargaining Employees of New Brunswick Hospitals which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2017, and the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits and statement of changes in pension obligations for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's responsibility for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian 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.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free 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 the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the plan'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 plan'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 Shared Risk Pension Plan for Certain Bargaining Employees of New Brunswick Hospitals as at December 31, 2017, and the changes in net assets available for benefits and changes in pension obligations for the year then ended in accordance with the Canadian accounting standards for pension plans.

Grant Thornton LLP

Fredericton, Canada	Grant Thornton LLP
June 21, 2018	Chartered Professional Accountants

SHARED RISK PENSION PLAN FOR CERTAIN BARGAINING EMPLOYEES OF NEW BRUNSWICK HOSPITALS

Statement of Financial Position
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)
AS AT DECEMBER 31

		2017		2016
ASSETS				
Investments *(notes 3 and 4)*	$	2,065,868	$	1,905,470
Contributions receivable from employers		5,219		5,930
Contributions receivable from employees		4,026		4,850
Reciprocal transfers		162		363
Other receivables		5,880		5,406
Total assets		2,081,155		1,922,019
LIABILITIES				
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities		1,961		2,019
Net assets available for benefits		2,079,194		1,920,000
Pension obligations *(note 6)*		1,929,200		1,811,800
SURPLUS	$	149,994	$	108,200

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

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

Approved on behalf of the Board of Trustees:

R Luton

Richard Luton
Chair

Susie Proulx-Daigle

Susie Proulx-Daigle
Vice Chair

SHARED RISK PENSION PLAN FOR CERTAIN BARGAINING EMPLOYEES OF NEW BRUNSWICK HOSPITALS

Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

(In thousands of Canadian dollars)

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31

		2017		2016
Increase in net assets				
Net investment income *(note 9)*	$	138,389	$	111,520
Employer pension contributions		45,228		43,600
Employee pension contributions		45,928		45,012
Reciprocal transfers		2,085		2,737
		231,630		202,869
Decrease in net assets				
Pension benefits *(note 10)*		67,098		61,846
Administration expenses *(note 11)*		5,338		6,471
		72,436		68,317
Increase in net assets available for benefits		159,194		134,552
Net assets available for benefits, beginning of year		1,920,000		1,785,448
Net assets available for benefits, end of year	$	2,079,194	$	1,920,000

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

SHARED RISK PENSION PLAN FOR CERTAIN BARGAINING EMPLOYEES OF NEW BRUNSWICK HOSPITALS

Statement of Changes in Pension Obligations

(In thousands of Canadian dollars)

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31

		2017		2016
Pension obligations, beginning of year	$	1,811,800	$	1,716,500
Change in pension obligations:				
Change in valuation methodology *(note 6)*		—		(39,100)
Interest accrued on benefits		86,000		81,700
Improvements to accrued pensions		6,200		22,600
Net transfers and other actions		2,900		4,700
Normal actuarial cost		62,500		62,900
Benefits paid		(67,100)		(61,800)
Cost of living adjustment		26,900		24,300
		117,400		95,300
Pension obligations, end of year	$	1,929,200	$	1,811,800

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

AS AT AND FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017

1. Description of the Plan

The following description of the Shared Risk Plan for Certain Bargaining Employees of New Brunswick Hospitals ("the Plan") is a summary only. For more information, reference should be made to the Plan Document.

On July 1, 2012, the Pension Plan for Certain Bargaining Employees of New Brunswick Hospitals was converted to the Shared Risk Plan for Certain Bargaining Employees of New Brunswick Hospitals. This model, governed by the Board of Trustees, introduced changes to address the funding deficiency in the Plan. The Plan is reported as a continuation of the pre-existing Pension Plan for Certain Bargaining Employees of New Brunswick Hospitals. The shared risk model provides additional funding through increased member and employer contributions. It also introduces risk management procedures, funding goals and sharing of benefit risks to prudently manage the variability of funding results over time.

The shared risk pension model is not defined in existing accounting standards. Under current standards, a pension plan must be accounted for as either a defined contribution plan or a defined benefit plan. Determining the appropriate accounting treatment for these plans requires a high degree of professional judgement. Based on research performed, enabling legislation and specific plan documents, management has concluded that the defined benefit method represents appropriate accounting treatment for the Plan at this time.

(a) General

The Plan is a shared risk pension plan covering employees who are members of the New Brunswick Nurses Union, the New Brunswick Union of Public and Private Employees (Specialized Health Care Professionals and Paramedical), union staff members of the New Brunswick Nurses Union (effective July 1, 2013), and union staff members of the New Brunswick Union of Public and Private Employees (effective October 1, 2015).

Full-time and part-time employees of these groups are required to join the Plan immediately. Effective July 1, 2014, all other employees of these groups (e.g. casuals, temporary employees, etc.) are required to join the Plan if certain eligibility criteria are met.

(b) Funding policy

Contributions are made by the Plan members and the Employers to fund the benefits as determined under the provisions of the Plan Document and Funding Policy.

(c) Pension benefits

The base benefits described in Article V of the Plan Document (summarized below) are the intended benefits under this Plan. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Plan, the Funding Policy will allow or require the Board of Trustees to make changes to the base benefits. Such changes may be positive or negative and will affect all classes of plan members.

AS AT AND FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017

1. Description of the Plan *(continued)*

(c) Pension benefits

I. For each year (or part year) of pensionable service on and after July 1, 2012:
1.4% X annualized pensionable earnings accrued during the year up to the YMPE for the year
Plus
2.0% X annualized pensionable earnings accrued during the year in excess of the YMPE for the year multiplied by number of hours worked (and contributed) / 1950 hours.

II. For all pensionable service between January 1, 1990 and June 30, 2012:
Pensionable service X 1.3% X best 5 year average earnings at June 30, 2012 up to the average YMPE at the same date
Plus
Pensionable service X 2.0% X best 5 year average earnings at June 30, 2012 in excess of the average YMPE at the same date.

III. For all pensionable service prior to January 1, 1990:
Pensionable service X 2.0% X best 5 year average earnings at June 30, 2012

All benefits (paid or payable) may be adjusted annually by any cost of living increases granted in accordance with the Funding Policy.

A member may elect a basic pension, providing a life pension with a guarantee period of 5 years, or one of four optional forms of pensions being: 1) life pension with a guarantee period of 10 years; 2) joint life and survivor pension at 60%; 3) joint life and survivor pension at 75%; 4) joint life and survivor pension at 100%.

Normal retirement age is 65 at which time unreduced pension benefits are available with five or more years of continuous employment, two or more years of pensionable service, or two or more years of plan membership. Reduced benefits are available between age 55 and age 65 with five or more years of continuous employment, two or more years of pensionable service, or two or more years of plan membership. A member who elects to take an early retirement will also receive a temporary bridge benefit payable to age 65 equal to $27 per month per year of pensionable service.

(d) Death benefits

If a member dies prior to retirement and before completing one of the following criteria; five years continuous employment; two years of pensionable service; or two years of membership in the Plan, the benefit payable to the member's surviving spouse (or the member's beneficiary if there is no spouse) is a refund of the member's own contributions with accumulated interest.

If a member dies prior to retirement and has completed five or more years of continuous employment, two or more years of pensionable service, or has two years or more of membership in the Plan, the member's surviving spouse (or the member's beneficiary if there is no spouse) will receive a lump sum equal to the termination value amount the member would have received if the member had terminated just before death.

1. Description of the Plan *(continued)*

(d) Death benefits *(continued)*

If a member dies after retirement, the death benefit payable is determined in accordance with the provisions of the form of pension selected by the member at the time of retirement.

(e) Benefits on termination

A member who is terminated and who has less than five years of continuous employment, less than two years of pensionable service, and less than two years of membership in the Plan will receive a refund of the member's own contributions with accumulated interest.

A member with five or more years continuous employment, two or more years of pensionable service, or two or more years of membership in the Plan who is terminated and who is not eligible to receive an immediate pension benefit may elect to receive a deferred pension commencing as early as age 55 or an amount equal to the termination value of the pension benefit as at the date of the member's termination. The termination value of the pension benefit is to be transferred on a locked-in basis to any registered retirement savings arrangement where the transfer is allowed under the *Pension Benefits Act* ("the Act"). Members who terminate their employment and are immediately eligible to receive a monthly pension benefit may elect an immediate or deferred pension only.

(f) Income taxes

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

(g) Reciprocal transfer agreements

The Board of Trustees may, in its discretion, from time to time, enter into reciprocal agreements with the sponsors of other pension plans. Effective June 11, 2016, the Board of Trustees entered into a new reciprocal transfer agreement between the Plan and the Pension Plan for Employees of New Brunswick Union of Public and Private Employees. A reciprocal agreement is also in place between the Plan and the Pension Plan for Part-Time and Seasonal Employees of the Province of New Brunswick.

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 ("ASPE") in Part II of the CPA Handbook. The Plan has chosen to comply on a consistent basis with ASPE.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the significant accounting policies set out below.

(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.

(c) Financial instruments

(i) Classification, 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 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.

AS AT AND FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017

2. Significant Accounting Policies *(continued)*

Financial assets that are held for trading or managed as part of a portfolio of financial assets 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.

The Plan has entered into an investment management agreement with Vestcor Inc. ("Vestcor") to manage its pension fund assets on a fully discretionary basis. Certain of the Plan's investments consist of units of pooled funds and limited partnerships offered by Vestcor (the "Vestcor Investment Entities"). 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 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 Vestcor Investment Entities 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 Vestcor has access at that date.

The fair value of the underlying securities in the Vestcor Investment Entities 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 Vestcor uses 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.

2. Significant Accounting Policies *(continued)*

(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.

(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 Vestcor Investment Entities 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 and accrued up to year-end for payroll periods that extend to the subsequent fiscal year.

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

(i) Net investment income

Investment transactions are recognized by the underlying Vestcor Investment Entities 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 Vestcor Investment Entities.

(j) Foreign currency translation

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies held by the Vestcor Investment Entities 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 primarily in units of the Vestcor Investment Entities, consisting of unit trust funds and limited partnership structures. Each Vestcor Investment Entity has a specific investment mandate. Investing in the Vestcor Investment Entities enables the Plan to achieve its required asset class weights in accordance with its Statement of Investment Policies and Goals ("SIPG"). Following is a description of each Vestcor Investment Entity ("fund") in which the Plan invested during the year ended December 31, 2017:

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.

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 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 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 Total Return 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 add 40 basis points to its benchmark, the S&P/TSX Composite Total Return Index over four-year rolling periods.

3. Investments *(continued)*

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 over four-year rolling periods.

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 Composite Total Return Index, over a four-year rolling average.

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 publicly-traded 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 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 Low Volatility Emerging Markets Equity Fund – Class N

This fund actively invests in securities in the MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility 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. This fund was previously known as the NBIMC Low Volatility Emerging Markets Equity Fund.

NBIMC U.S. Equity Index (2017) 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 (2017) 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.

AS AT AND FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017

3. Investments *(continued)*

NBIMC Canadian Real Estate Investment Trust Fund

This fund invests in publicly traded Canadian real estate investment trust (REIT) securities. The performance objective is to add 15 basis points to its benchmark, the S&P/TSX Capped REIT Total Return Index.

NBIMC International Real Estate (2017) Fund

This fund invests primarily in publicly traded securities of international REITs. The performance objective is to add 150 basis points to the countries' blended REIT Equity Indices in $C (currently FTSE NAREIT All Equity REITS Total Return Index in $C), net of fees, over a four-year average.

NBIMC Public Infrastructure (2017) Fund

This fund provides additional investment diversification by providing infrastructure-like exposure with enhanced liquidity. The performance objective is to add 150 basis points to its benchmark over a four year average. The benchmark is inflation, as measured by the percentage change in the twelve-month CPI-Canada All Items Index, plus 4%.

NBIMC North American Market Neutral (2017) Fund

This fund focuses on adding value through security selection within its universe of the S&P/TSX Composite Total Return 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 (2017) 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 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 Equity Strategic Beta (2017) Fund

This fund seeks 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 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 plus 7% One-day Canadian Call Loan Rate.

(In thousands of Canadian dollars)

AS AT AND FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017

3. Investments *(continued)*

Following are details of the Plan's investment holdings as at December 31:

($ thousands)	Number of Units *(rounded)*	Unit Value *(in dollars)*	Fair Value 2017	Fair Value 2016
Fixed Income				
NBIMC Nominal Bond Fund	133,568	2,692	$ 359,502	$ 93,141
NBIMC Corporate Bond Fund	321,454	1,279	411,251	40,406
NBIMC Money Market Fund	1,399	1,627	2,275	484
T. Rowe Price Global Bond Fund	288,833	1,038	299,803	284,818
Gryphon Canadian Bond Fund	118	1,815	214	486
Phillips, Hager &North Canadian Bond Fund	524	2,260	1,184	617,808
			1,074,229	1,037,143
Equities				
NBIMC Canadian Equity Index Fund	9,474	3,743	35,465	—
NBIMC Low Volatility Canadian Equity Fund	54,483	1,725	93,966	79,931
NBIMC External Canadian Equity Fund	15,819	4,443	70,292	27,910
NBIMC External International Equity Fund	9,501	2,517	23,917	19,762
NBIMC EAFE Equity Index Fund	22,469	1,673	37,598	38,627
NBIMC Low Volatility International Equity Fund	27,495	2,233	61,394	57,971
NBIMC Low Volatility Emerging Markets Equity Fund – Class N	16,627	1,117	18,571	—
NBIMC U.S. Equity Index (2017) Fund	30,156	3,022	91,121	—
NBIMC U.S. Equity Index Fund – Class N	—	—	—	87,782
NBIMC Low Volatility U.S. Equity (2017) Fund	32,173	2,832	91,100	—
NBIMC Low Volatility U.S. Equity Fund – Class N	—	—	—	90,960
Hillsdale Canadian Equity Fund	—	—	—	94,209
Letko, Brosseau Canadian Equity Fund	—	—	—	57
			523,424	497,209
Real Estate and Infrastructure				
NBIMC International Real Estate (2017)Fund	1,951	7,683	14,990	—
NBIMC Public Infrastructure (2017)Fund	38,471	1,074	41,301	—
NBIMC Public Infrastructure Fund – Class N	—	—	—	39,803
Fiera Properties Core Pension Trust	134,265	1,128	151,395	144,729
BlackRock Granite Property Fund, Inc.	10,103	1,047	10,576	11,075
BlackRock Asia Property Fund IV	5,711	1,326	7,571	4,406
BlackRock Europe Property Fund IV	3,286	1,995	6,555	1,678
Macquarie Infrastructure Partners III, L.P.	123,593	1,116	137,965	131,423
			370,353	333,114
Alternative Investments				
NBIMC North American Market Neutral (2017) Fund	19,737	1,394	27,518	—
NBIMC North American Market Neutral Fund – Class N	—	—	—	10,362
NBIMC Quantitative Strategies (2017) Fund	24,912	1,520	37,848	—
NBIMC Quantitative Strategies Fund – Class N	—	—	—	15,220
NBIMC Quantitative Equity Strategic Beta (2017) Fund	29,902	1,085	32,496	—
NBIMC Quantitative Equity Strategic Beta Fund – Class N	—	—	—	12,408
			97,862	37,990

(In thousands of Canadian dollars)

3. Investments *(continued)*

($ thousands)	**Number of Units** *(rounded)*	**Unit Value** *(in dollars)*	**Fair Value 2017**	**Fair Value 2016**
Cash				
Operating account	—	—	—	14
			$ 2,065,868	$ 1,905,470

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.

There are five investments classified as level 3:

Fiera Properties Core Fund

This fund invests in a diversified portfolio of Canadian real estate properties with a market value of $151,395 (2016 – $144,729). This is an open fund with no active market for its units and no published net asset value as of December 31, 2017 and is therefore classified as a level 3 investment in the fair value hierarchy.

BlackRock Granite Property Fund, Inc.

This fund invests in US real property and real estate related investments with a market value of $10,576 (2016 – $11,075). This is an open fund with no active market for its units and no published net asset value as of December 31, 2017 and is therefore classified as a level 3 investment in the fair value hierarchy.

4. Fair Value of Financial Instruments *(continued)*

BlackRock Asia Property Fund IV

This limited partnership invests in real estate properties across the Asia Pacific region with a market value of $7,571 (2016 – $4,406). This closed-end fund has no active market for its units and no published net asset value as of December 31, 2017 and is therefore classified as a level 3 investment in the fair value hierarchy. This fund commenced on October 5, 2015 and will continue to operate until April 7, 2024.

BlackRock Europe Property Fund IV

This limited partnership invests in real estate related assets in Europe with a market value of $6,555 (2016 – $1,678). This closed-end fund has no active market for its units and no published net asset value as of December 31, 2017 and is therefore classified as a level 3 investment in the fair value hierarchy. .This fund commenced on October 15, 2015 and will continue to operate until April 14, 2024.

Macquarie Infrastructure Partners III, L.P.

This limited partnership invests global infrastructure assets with a market value of $137,965 (2016 – $131,423). This closed-end fund has no active market for its units and no published net asset value as of December 31, 2017 and is therefore classified as a level 3 investment in the fair value hierarchy. This fund commenced on August 30, 2013 and will continue to operate until September 30, 2024.

(In thousands of Canadian dollars)

4. Fair Value of Financial Instruments *(continued)*

The levels of input for valuation of the Entities' financial instruments at FVTPL as at December 31, 2017 are as follows:

	December 31, 2017 $	Level 1 $	Level 2 $	Level 3 $
Fixed Income				
NBIMC Nominal Bond Fund	359,502	—	359,502	—
NBIMC Corporate Bond Fund	411,251	—	411,251	—
NBIMC Money Market Fund	2,275	—	2,275	—
T. Rowe Price Global Bond Fund	299,803	—	299,803	—
Gryphon Canadian Bond Fund	214	214	—	—
Phillips, Hager &North Canadian Bond Fund	1,184	—	1,184	—
Equities				—
NBIMC Canadian Equity Index Fund	35,465	—	35,465	—
NBIMC Low Volatility Canadian Equity Fund	93,966	—	93,966	—
NBIMC External Canadian Equity Fund	70,292	—	70,292	—
NBIMC External International Equity Fund	23,917	—	23,917	—
NBIMC EAFE Equity Index Fund	37,598	—	37,598	—
NBIMC Low Volatility International Equity Fund	61,394	—	61,394	—
NBIMC Low Volatility Emerging Markets Equity Fund – Class N	18,571	—	18,571	—
NBIMC U.S. Equity Index (2017) Fund	91,121	—	91,121	—
NBIMC Low Volatility U.S. Equity (2017) Fund	91,100	—	91,100	—
Real Estate and Infrastructure				
NBIMC International Real Estate (2017) Fund	14,990	—	14,990	—
NBIMC Public Infrastructure (2017) Fund	41,301	—	41,301	—
Fiera Properties Core Pension Trust	151,395	—	—	151,395
BlackRock Granite Property Fund, Inc.	10,576	—	—	10,576
BlackRock Asia Property Fund IV	7,571	—	—	7,571
BlackRock Europe Property Fund IV	6,555	—	—	6,555
Macquarie Infrastructure Partners III, L.P.	137,965	—	—	137,965
Alternative Investments				—
NBIMC North American Market Neutral (2017) Fund	27,518	—	27,518	—
NBIMC Quantitative Strategies (2017) Fund	37,848	—	37,848	—
NBIMC Quantitative Equity Strategic Beta (2017) Fund	32,496	—	32,496	—
	2,065,868	214	1,751,592	314,062

(In thousands of Canadian dollars)

4. Fair Value of Financial Instruments *(continued)*

The levels of input for valuation of the Entities' financial instruments at FVTPL as at December 31, 2016 are as follows:

	December 31, 2016 $	Level 1 $	Level 2 $	Level 3 $
Fixed Income				
NBIMC Nominal Bond Fund	93,141	—	93,141	—
NBIMC Corporate Bond Fund	40,406	—	40,406	—
NBIMC Money Market Fund	484	—	484	—
T. Rowe Price Global Bond Fund	284,818	1,656	283,162	—
Gryphon Canadian Bond Fund	486	486	—	—
Phillips, Hager &North Canadian Bond Fund	617,808	1,832	615,976	—
Equities				—
NBIMC Low Volatility Canadian Equity Fund	79,931	—	79,931	—
NBIMC External Canadian Equity Fund	27,910	—	27,910	—
NBIMC External International Equity Fund	19,762	—	19,762	—
NBIMC EAFE Equity Index Fund	38,627	—	38,627	—
NBIMC Low Volatility International Equity Fund	57,971	—	57,971	—
NBIMC U.S. Equity Index Fund – Class N	87,782	—	87,782	—
NBIMC Low Volatility U.S. Equity Fund – Class N	90,960	—	90,960	—
Hillsdale Canadian Equity Fund	94,209	61,387	32,822	—
Letko, Brosseau Canadian Fund	57	57	—	—
Real Estate and Infrastructure				
NBIMC Public Infrastructure Fund – Class N	39,803	—	39,803	—
Fiera Properties Core Pension Trust	144,729	—	—	144,729
BlackRock Granite Property Fund, Inc.	11,075	—	—	11,075
BlackRock Asia Property Fund IV	4,406	—	—	4,406
BlackRock Europe Property Fund IV	1,678	—	—	1,678
Macquarie Infrastructure Partners III, L.P.	131,423	—	—	131,423
Alternative Investments				—
NBIMC North American Market Neutral Fund – Class N	10,392	—	10,362	—
NBIMC Quantitative Strategies Fund – Class N	15,220	—	15,220	—
NBIMC Quantitative Equity Strategic Beta Fund – Class N	12,408	—	12,408	—
Cash				
Operating account	14	14	—	—
	1,905,470	65,432	1,546,727	293,311

(In thousands of Canadian dollars)

4. Fair Value of Financial Instruments *(continued)*

A reconciliation of the changes during the period for those investments that are measured at fair value using Level 3 input is as follows:

Year ended December 31, 2017	Fair Value, beginning of period $	Gains (losses) in profit or loss $	Purchases $	Sales $	Fair Value, end of period $
Fiera Properties Core Pension Trust	144,729	13,565	1,116	(8,015)	151,395
BlackRock Granite Property Fund, Inc.	11,075	(58)	—	(441)	10,576
BlackRock Asia Property Fund IV	4,406	1,764	1,408	(7)	7,571
BlackRock Europe Property Fund IV	1,678	772	6,422	(2,317)	6,555
Macquarie Infrastructure Partners III, L.P.	131,423	9,726	4,069	(7,253)	137,965
	293,311	25,769	13,015	(18,033)	314,062

Year ended December 31, 2016	Fair Value, beginning of period $	Gains (losses) in profit or loss $	Purchases $	Sales $	Fair Value, end of period $
Fiera Properties Core Pension Trust	135,455	11,106	270	(2,102)	144,729
BlackRock Granite Property Fund, Inc.	10,649	530	—	(104)	11,075
BlackRock Asia Property Fund IV	147	(332)	4,593	(2)	4,406
BlackRock Europe Property Fund IV	253	492	934	(1)	1,678
Macquarie Infrastructure Partners III, L.P.	24,957	3,431	104,713	(1,678)	131,423
Focus Hedge Fund	1,281	(1,281)	—	—	—
	172,742	13,946	110,510	(3,887)	293,311

There were no transfers between Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 in the current period. In 2016 there was a transfer of $256 from level 3 to level 2 within the Phillips, Hager &North Canadian Bond Fund.

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 pooled funds that invest in active and passive investment strategies and are diversified among domestic and international markets.

Investment strategies used by the Vestcor Investment Entities 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 SIPG *(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 Vestcor Investment Entity 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.

Vestcor conducts certain of its investment activities in the Vestcor Investment Entities 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, 2017, 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 $59,076 (2016 - $18,997) *(see note 5(c))*.

Foreign currency risk arises from holding investments denominated in currencies other than the Canadian dollar. The SIPG permits hedging of foreign currency exposure at the portfolio manager's discretion. Approximately 25.2% (2016 – 24.4%) 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 18.9% (2016 – 18.9%), Japanese Yen of 1.4% (2016 – 1.4%) and the Euro of 1.6% (2016 – 1.4%).

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, 2017 of $5,205 (2016 - $4,648).

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

(In thousands of Canadian dollars)

5. Financial Instrument Risk Management *(continued)*

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, 2017 would be approximately $67,003 (2016 - $87,552).

Other price risk is the risk that the market value or future cash flows of financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or currency risk). All investments represent a risk of loss of capital. The portfolio managers moderate this risk through a careful selection and diversification of securities and other financial instruments within the limits of the Plan's investment objectives and strategy. The maximum risk resulting from financial instruments is determined by the market value of the financial instruments. The Plan's overall market positions are monitored on a daily basis by the portfolio managers. Financial instruments held by the Plan are susceptible to market price risk arising from uncertainties about future prices of the instruments.

The impact on net assets of the Plan due to a 1 percent change in the benchmark, using historical correlation between the Plan's return as compared to the Plan's benchmark return, with all other variables held constant, as at December 31, 2017 is estimated to be $9,916 (2016 - $8,683).

The historical correlation may not be representative of the future correlation, and accordingly the impact on net assets could be materially different.

(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. Vestcor has established investment criteria that are designed to manage credit risk by establishing limits by issuer type and credit rating for fixed income and derivative credit exposure. Vestcor 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.

The quality of the aggregate credit exposure in the underlying investments of the Plan's investment in pooled funds at December 31 is as follows:

($ thousands)	**2017**	**2016**
AAA	$ 264,174	$ 168,419
AA	147,432	79,067
A	329,356	335,645
BBB	142,591	34,115
R-1	36,792	30,411
Other	61,405	82,334
	$ 981,750	$ 729,991

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

(In thousands of Canadian dollars)

AS AT AND FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017

5. Financial Instrument Risk Management *(continued)*

(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 pooled funds. Uses of liquidity include payments to the plan beneficiaries, plan service providers and purchases of units of 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 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 real estate, private infrastructure, 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:

($ thousands)		**2017**		**2016**
Net assets available for benefits	$	2,079,194	$	1,920,000
Less investment in:				
Fiera Properties Core Pension Trust		(151,395)		(144,729)
BlackRock Granite Property Fund, Inc.		(10,576)		(11,075)
BlackRock Asia Property Fund IV		(7,571)		(4,406)
BlackRock Europe Property Fund IV		(6,555)		(1,678)
Macquarie Infrastructure Partners III, L.P.		(137,965)		(131,423)
Collateral pledged *(note 5(a))*		(59,076)		(18,997)
Investment commitments *(note 13)*		(71,036)		(85,058)
Net liquid assets	$	1,635,020	$	1,522,634

(d) Securities Lending: The Plan's SIPG permits Vestcor to enter into a securities lending arrangement externally with their securities custodian or internally among the Vestcor Investment Entities 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 Vestcor Investment Entities 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. Vestcor has restricted the approved borrowers under the external securities lending program to manage exposure to counterparty credit risk. As at December 31, 2017, underlying securities in the amount of $301,046 (2016 - $83,737) were loaned on behalf of the Plan.

(In thousands of Canadian dollars)

5. Financial Instrument Risk Management *(continued)*

Under the internal securities lending program, certain Vestcor Investment Entities may loan securities to a borrowing Vestcor Investment Entity subject to an intra-fund collateral management agreement and a borrowing fee. As at December 31, 2017, underlying securities in the amount of $16,390 (2016 - $8,597) were loaned on behalf of the Plan and $13,794 (2016 - $3,974) were borrowed.

6. Pension Obligations

The funding policy valuation actuarial liabilities and normal costs were calculated using the accrued benefit (or unit credit) actuarial cost method in accordance with the requirement of paragraph 12(7)(a) of Regulation 2012-75 under the Act. The last actuarial valuation was performed as of December 31, 2016 by Morneau Shepell, a firm of consulting actuaries.

The funding policy valuation actuarial liabilities at December 31, 2017 is based on an extrapolation of the funding policy liability at December 31, 2016. The pension obligations do not take into account the impact of any future salary increases or the impact of any future cost-of-living adjustments that may be granted by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the Plan terms and the Funding Policy.

This approach provides a shared risk benefit to members with a high degree of certainty, but without an absolute guarantee.

Significant long-term assumptions used in the December 31, 2016 valuation as well as the December 31, 2017 extrapolation are:

Interest	4.75%
Mortality	2014 Public Sector Mortality Table (CPM 2014 Publ) projected using Improvement Scale B (CPM-B) with size adjustments factors of 106% for males and 116% for females.

The next actuarial valuation for funding purposes, which was not complete as at the date of this report, is to be performed as of December 31, 2017.

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 Plan 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 that is in excess of 75% of the Consumer Price Index (“CPI”) over the next 20-year period; and

(ii) achieve at least a 75% probability that ancillary benefits described in the Plan Text at conversion can be provided over the next 20 years.

The above risk management objectives were measured at conversion and the primary risk management objective is tested 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 over the normal cost for base and ancillary other than the potential future cost-of-living adjustments plus the market value of the 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:

1. Increase in contribution rates of up to a maximum of 1.0% for both employees and employer; then
2. Change the early retirement rules for post-conversion service for members are not yet eligible to retire and receive an immediate pension under the terms of the Plan to a full actuarial reduction for retirement before age 65;
3. Change early retirement rules for pre-conversion service for members who are not yet eligible to retire and receive an immediate pension under the terms of the Plan to a full actuarial reduction for retirement before age 60;
4. Reduce base benefit accrual rates for future service after the date of implementation of the deficit recovery plan by not more than 5%; then
5. Reduce base benefits on a proportionate basis for all members for both past and future service in equal proportions.

7. Funding Policy *(continued)*

The funding excess utilization plan is triggered when the open group funded ratio exceeds 105%. The actions that can be taken depend on whether the base or ancillary benefits have ever been reduced and such reduction was not subsequently reversed on the priority below:

1. Reverse previously reduced base benefits with respect to future payments after the date of reversal until all previous reductions to base benefits have been eliminated; then
2. Reverse reductions in ancillary benefits other than contingent indexing with respect to future payments until all previous reductions have been reversed.

If base and/or ancillary benefits have never been reduced or after all previous reductions have been reversed for future payments then the Board may take the action with respect to the excess available for utilization in the following order of priority:

1. Provide indexing of base benefits up to full CPI since the last date full CPI was achieved;
2. Provide further increases in base benefits of members who were not in receipt of a pension at the actuarial valuation report date that triggered the action such that base benefits are upgraded to a final five year average as at the same date (or such shorter averaging period as applicable for those with less than 5 years of service at that date);
3. Provide a further increase to retired members such that a final average formula is reasonably replicated for each retired member at their retirement date and indexed to full CPI thereafter subject to any limitation imposed under the Income Tax Act;
4. Provide a lump sum payment representing a reasonable estimate of missed increased payments up to the levels of benefits arising out of Steps 2 and 3;
5. Establish a reserve to cover the next ten years of potential contingent indexing; then provided the secondary risk management goals are met,
6. Apply contribution adjustments of up to 2%;
7. Improve the normal form of pension for all members who are not in receipt of a pension;
8. Improve the bridge pension for all members eligible for a bridge pension whether or not in pay;; then
9. Improve the early retirement rules for service after June 30, 2012 provided that the Board of Trustees considers life expectancy experience as it develops.

8. Capital

The capital of the Plan is represented by the net assets available for benefits. The Plan must be managed in a manner which recognizes the interdependency of the SIPG, 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 SIPG, including approval of a recommended investment asset mix that seeks to deliver the long-term investment returns necessary for the sustainability of the Plan. 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 SIPG was last reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees on December 5, 2017. As at December 31, 2017, the assets of the plan were in the process of being transitioned to approved SIPG.

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, investment policy compliance, and trends and changes in investment risks for the Board of Trustees.

The Board-approved SIPG outlines the following investment objectives:

i. In the long term, preserve the capital value of the Pension Fund, and provide the best possible long-term real return on investments while continuing to achieve the risk management goals as set out in the Funding Policy and the regulations under the Pension Benefits Act. It is understood that the policy portfolio may experience uneven returns from year to year consistent with general economic and investment cycles, but a diversified portfolio of long-term assets will partially mitigate the variability of the returns; and
ii. Over shorter time periods, achieve competitive rates of return on the total Pension Fund and each major asset class while avoiding undue investment risk and excessive market volatility.

(In thousands of Canadian dollars)

9. Net Investment Income

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

($ thousands)		**2017**		**2016**
Fixed Income				
NBIMC Nominal Bond Fund	$	3,661	$	(2,519)
NBIMC Corporate Bond Fund		2,546		(534)
NBIMC Money Market Fund		128		19
RBC I&TS Short Term Investment Fund		—		7
T. Rowe Price Global Bond Fund		14,985		18,880
Phillips, Hager & North Canadian Bond Fund		31,057		22,906
		52,377		38,759
Equities				
NBIMC Canadian Equity Index Fund		2,252		1,492
NBIMC Low Volatility Canadian Equity Fund		9,198		210
NBIMC External Canadian Equity Fund		5,768		—
NBIMC External International Equity Fund		4,155		458
NBIMC EAFE Equity Index Fund		6,646		1,189
NBIMC Low Volatility International Equity Fund		8,367		1,122
NBIMC Low Volatility Emerging Markets Equity Fund		508		—
NBIMC U.S. Equity Index (2017) Fund		17,037		—
NBIMC U.S. Equity Index Fund – Class N		(5,096)		5,173
NBIMC Low Volatility U.S. Equity (2017) Fund		10,115		—
NBIMC Low Volatility U.S. Equity Fund – Class N		(4,185)		4,265
Hillsdale Canadian Equity Fund		1,150		17,388
Letko, Brosseau Canadian Equity Fund		4		36,221
Foyston Gordon Payne Global Equity Fund		—		(3,638)
Gryphon Global Equity Fund		—		(5,561)
		55,919		58,319
Inflation-Linked Assets				
NBIMC International Real Estate (2017) Fund		158		—
NBIMC International Real Estate Fund – Class N		2		—
NBIMC Public Infrastructure (2017) Fund		1,614		(118)
NBIMC Public Infrastructure Fund – Class N		(163)		—
Fiera Properties Core Pension Trust		13,565		11,172
BlackRock Granite Property Fund, Inc.		(58)		536
BlackRock Asia Property Fund IV		1,764		(344)
BlackRock Europe Property Fund IV		772		623
Macquarie Infrastructure Partners III, L.P.		9,726		3,326
		27,380		15,195

(In thousands of Canadian dollars)

9. Net Investment Income *(continued)*

($ thousands)		2017		2016
Alternative Investments				
NBIMC North American Market Neutral (2017) Fund		563		—
NBIMC North American Market Neutral Fund – Class N		(41)		47
NBIMC Quantitative Strategies (2017) Fund		1,598		—
NBIMC Quantitative Strategies Fund – Class N		(73)		72
NBIMC Quantitative Equity Strategic Beta (2017) Fund		1,058		—
NBIMC Quantitative Equity Strategic Beta Fund – Class N		(392)		409
Focus Hedge Fund		—		(1,281)
		2,713		(753)
Net investment income	$	138,389	$	111,520

Included in the above investment income are total realized gains of $159 (2016 - $29,325) and unrealized gains of $138,230 (2016 - $40,960)

10. Pension benefits

A breakdown of pension benefits by type is as follows:

($ thousands)		2017		2016
Retirements	$	61,885	$	56,433
Terminations		1,645		2,179
Survivor		1,754		1,390
Marriage breakdown		135		229
Phased retirement		1,679		1,615
	$	67,098	$	61,846

(In thousands of Canadian dollars)

AS AT AND FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017

11. Administration Expenses

The Plan is charged by its service providers for professional and administrative services. The following is a summary of these administrative expenses:

($ thousands)		2017		2016
Plan administration:				
Administration services *(note 12)*	$	1,235	$	1,270
Actuarial services		119		189
Audit fees		39		21
Legal fees		3		1
Board of Trustees		46		—
		1,442		1,481
Investment management costs:				
Investment management fees *(note 12)*		3,149		4,308
Securities custody		140		126
Performance measurement		—		101
Transaction costs		—		187
		3,289		4,722
HST		607		268
	$	5,338	$	6,471

12. Related Party Transactions

Until September 30, 2016, the Plan was provided with certain services from departments of the Province of New Brunswick. These related party transactions are in the ordinary course of business and measured at amounts agreed to by the parties.

During the first nine months of 2016, the Plan was charged $489 for employee salaries and benefits and $47 for information technology services. Other services provided without consideration during this period include human resource functions.

Commencing October 1, 2016, the Plan obtains such services from Vestcor, an arm's length party..

Included in the Plan's investments are New Brunswick provincial and municipal bonds of $10,381 (2016 - $12,780).

13. Commitments

The Plan has made capital commitments to 71,036.

AS AT AND FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017

14. Indemnification

Pursuant to the Agreement and Declaration of Trust, a first lien and charge against the assets of the Plan is provided as indemnification to the Board of Trustees against any liability incurred, including defence costs. The Plan may be required to compensate these individuals in the event of a claim being made against them. The contingent nature of these indemnification obligations prevents the Plan from making a reasonable estimate of the maximum potential payments that may be required. The Plan has not received any claims or made any payments pursuant to such indemnifications.

15. Comparative figures

Certain of the comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the presentation adopted for the year ending December 31, 2017.