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ABOUT RIVER VALLEY ALLIANCE



ABOUT RIVER VALLEY ALLIANCE

The River Valley Alliance (RVA) is a not-for-profit organization that has a vision of preserving, protecting and enhancing the North Saskatchewan River Valley park system. The park contributes to an increased quality of life for its users and is a source of great pride to those in the Capital Region and Alberta. It also attracts tourism and visitors to the area and provides economic benefits to the Capital Region.

The RVA was formed in 2003 and is a partnership between our seven founding municipalities that border the North Saskatchewan River including the Town of Devon, Parkland County, Leduc County, the City of Edmonton, Strathcona County, Sturgeon County and the City of Fort Saskatchewan.

The work of the RVA is guided by the Plan of Action for the Capital Region River Valley Park that was created in 2007. From that plan, the RVA initiated a \$90 million Capital Project that includes 13 initiatives in 18 sites.

The River Valley Alliance works to balance the social, recreation, environment and economic needs of Capital Region residents.



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

2015 has been a year of significant achievement for the River Valley Alliance as construction began on many of our capital projects while others were completed. This comes after many years of project planning and evaluation, securing funding and working with our partner municipalities to identify and prioritize key river valley projects.

The RVA's member municipalities continue to work in partnership toward our shared mission of creating a continuous and connected North Saskatchewan River valley park. We are thankful for these partnerships and the confidence they place in the RVA to successfully complete our Plan of Action created in 2007.

Thank you also to our federal and provincial government administrators who guide us in the management of the Building Canada Fund and River Valley Alliance Grant. Their commitment and support in creating a connected Alberta Capital Region River Valley Park is appreciated.

Our dedicated Board of Directors, with representation from each of our partner municipalities, provide direction to the Executive Director and staff of the RVA. They continue to show strong commitment to supporting the vision, mission and goals of the RVA. Thank you to both our municipally appointed Board Directors and Directors at Large for your service. Special thanks to Joan Welch who has served three terms on the Board and as Chair of the Governance Committee, Your commitment to the RVA and our mission is greatly appreciated.

The volunteer members of our committees dedicate their time to promote the goals of the RVA and share their passion for the river valley and their municipalities. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated group of volunteers. Thank you also to our staff and Executive Director who manage the day to day operations of the RVA and work collaboratively with Board and committee members.

The vision for the RVA continues to be forward thinking. A 2017–2022 Capital Program is being created with input from our seven partner municipalities. This Capital Program will focus on near-term connectivity with an ongoing commitment to primary trail completion and creating a world class river valley trail system in the Capital Region.

Christopher Sheard, Board Chair





MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The opportunity to contribute to the River Valley Alliance's vision to create and be recognized as one of the largest river valley parks in the world inspires our volunteers, our staff and myself, personally. The RVA is the steward of the mission to achieve a connected and accessible North Saskatchewan River valley park system. Providing benefits to our shareholder municipalities requires RVA staff and volunteers to work towards achieving goals identified in our 2015–2017 Business Plan. The administrative theme for 2015 was "Capacity Building".

The primary component of the Business Plan was the 2012–2017 Capital Program. Key to achieving the commitments in the Capital Program is to monitor and facilitate municipal projects and effectively administer our funding agreements. To that end, Alex Bonokoski was hired as Capital Program Manager to lead and coordinate RVA's Capital Program with support from Architectural Works Inc. RVA successfully negotiated amendments to our funding agreements with the provincial and federal governments. Most notable among the amendments is the extension of both agreements to allow for construction through to the end of 2017.

With a view to continuing the connectivity and access priorities of the Plan of Action, work has begun on the 2017–2022 Capital Program. The RVA, along with our member municipalities, will advance the Capital Program and present it to federal and provincial governments and private organizations to secure funding to achieve the vision.

Along the Capacity Building theme, Tanya Klein assumed the role of Communications Coordinator and Kristine Archibald was hired as Office Administrator. As a team, we coordinated a move to our new office location at Rossdale House in the river valley. Together with our partners, we celebrated this milestone achievement of the Plan of Action. The stage is set for the RVA to launch into a phase of branding our river valley park identity.

The theme as we move forward will transition to "Relationship Building". Initiatives will include broadening our community networks, engaging the public, liaising with Aboriginal communities, and strengthening our partnerships with government agencies. This is an exciting time for the River Valley Alliance.

Larry Wall, Executive Director

Lany Wall

THE YEAR **IN REVIEW**





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The River Valley Alliance values the relationships we have created with our many stakeholders. Advisory Committee members, volunteers and staff were active in 2015 presenting the vision and message of the RVA throughout the Capital Region. Groups we presented to include:

- → Edmonton and Sherwood Park Rotary Clubs
- Whitemud Network Group
- Fort Saskatchewan Library
- Sherwood Park Chamber of Commerce
- Urban Developer's Institute

WINTER CITIES SHAKE-UP | January 28-30, 2015

The City of Edmonton hosted its first ever winter conference at the Shaw Conference Centre. It was a chance for urban designers, business and community leaders and recreation planners from northern cities around the world share ideas about improving the quality of life in winter cities. It also allowed participants the chance to discuss how we plan, design, live, work and play in winter cities. The RVA had a table at the event that highlighted all the winter activities that can take place in the river valley.

CANADIAN BIRKEBEINER NORDIC FESTIVAL | February 13, 2015

The RVA once again had a table at the festival more commonly known as the Birkie. Over 1400 participants skied in the 27th annual ski festival and RVA volunteers were able to connect with many of the skiers as they registered for their races and during the Opening Ceremonies and Nordic Fair. Thank you to Spencer Environmental who generously donated our display table.

RIVER DAY June 13, 2015

River Day is an international event to celebrate the world's waterways. The fifth annual River Day was held this year in three locations and all seven of our partner municipalities participated. Each site held its own activities including an antique car show, catch and release fishing demonstration, emergency search and rescue exercises and paddle board lessons.

K-DAYS PARADE | July 17, 2015

The RVA participated in its third K-Days Parade that travelled through downtown Edmonton. Although it was a rainy day, our 25 volunteers showed their spirit by happily participating despite the damp weather. Our float was a Voyageur Canoe that was decorated to portray the river valley and all the activities that can take place in and around the river. Thanks to our partners for the parade, the City of Edmonton Park Rangers, Ceyana Canoe Club and City of Edmonton River Valley Programs.

SERVUS HERITAGE FESTIVAL | August 1-3, 2015

The River Valley Alliance was happy to participate again in the Heritage Festival, which featured over 60 pavilions representing 85 cultures from around the world. 13 Advisory Committee members and RVA staff volunteered their time to interact with many of the over 380,000 visitors to the festival and educate them about the RVA and its initiatives.



PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

River Valley Alliance is pleased to be developing a number of exciting programs that will increase the visibility and recognition of the River Valley Alliance.

NAMING THE CAPITAL REGION RIVER VALLEY PARK SYSTEM

Canada's largest urban park deserves a name. Our park currently enhances its users' quality of life and there is also a potential for it to attract tourism and business development. By having a name, the river valley park system will be globally recognized and become a must-see travel destination.

RIVERFEST (FALL RIVER FESTIVAL)

Edmonton is recognized internationally as a city that hosts several large festivals each year, giving it the nickname "Festival City". Currently, there is no festival that highlights the river valley and the activities that take place on and in the river. The RVA is collaborating with its partners and other organizations to create a North Saskatchewan River Festival in September

GEOTOUR

The GeoTour Program is an initiative to increase outdoor recreation, encourage active lifestyles and bring people into the river valley using geocaching. Geocache locations will be chosen to represent historical, cultural or geographic interest points in each of our seven partner municipalities. Geocaching is a global activity that combines location-based gaming and GPS navigation while highlighting the geocache sites along the river valley.

VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

The River Valley Alliance Volunteer Leadership Program is a unique citizen engagement opportunity for those interested in learning about the North Saskatchewan River in the Capital Region, its natural areas, parks and cultural and historical attractions. Most importantly, volunteers are trained to represent the RVA and share its vision.

The RVA is a leader in river valley park development and use and develops strong partnerships to further this goal.

CAPITAL PROGRAM SITES

Since its creation, the River Valley Alliance has been working with municipal, provincial and federal partners to implement the 2007 Plan of Action which is a roadmap to connect the entire length of the river valley.

The River Valley Alliance's \$90 million Capital Program has been extended to 2017. It includes 13 initiatives at 18 sites and 74 kilometres of trails across six municipalities and provides funding until the end of 2016.

2012-2017 CAPITAL PROJECT INITIATIVE HIGHLIGHTS (WEST TO EAST):

DEVON

TRAIL REFURBISHMENT AND NEW TRAILHEADS

Considerable progress was made on this initiative in 2015. Work completed in 2015 included upgrading existing river valley trails and stairs. New trailheads and parking areas were built and benches, garbage receptacles and signage were installed to better support river access and trail connectivity.

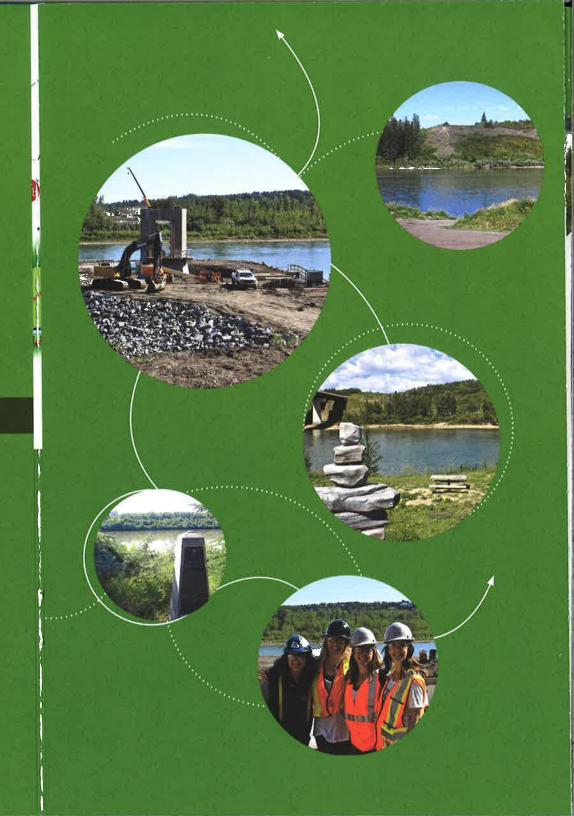
PARKLAND COUNTY

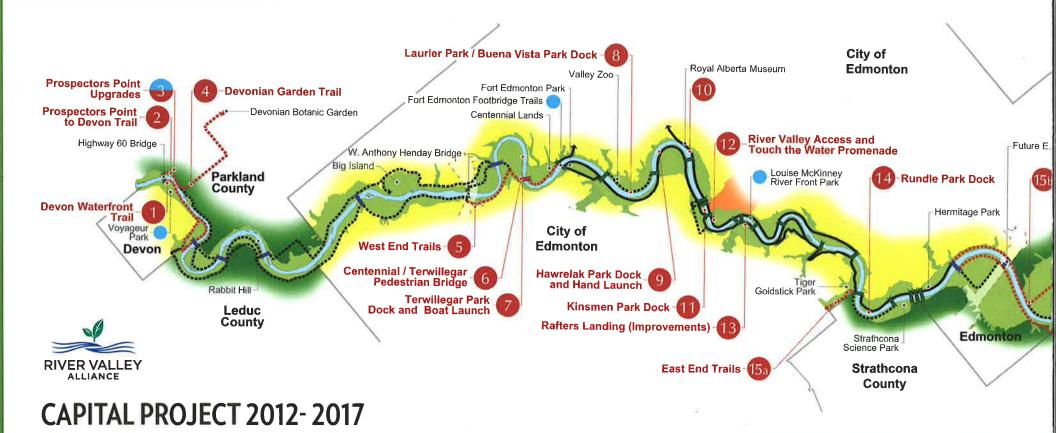
TRAILHEAD REFURBISHMENT (PROSPECTORS POINT PARK)

This initiative, which is now complete, included both trailhead refurbishment and upgrading the underdeveloped trails linking Prospectors Point Park to the proposed secondary trail (see initiative 4 below).

PRIMARY TRAIL (DEVONIAN GARDENS TO PROSPECTORS POINT)

Construction of an approximately 6km primary multi-use trail will connect the Devonian Botanical Gardens with a proposed secondary trail, which will ultimately link to Prospectors Point Park. Construction is scheduled for 2016.





PARKLAND COUNTY

SECONDARY TRAIL

A secondary trail approximately 1km long will be constructed to link the primary trail to Devonian Botanical Gardens and the formalized trail constructed at Prospectors Point Park. Design and construction is slated for 2016.

CITY OF EDMONTON

WEST END TRAILS

The West End Trails initiative, which is expected to be completed in early 2016, adds 5.4km of primary and secondary trails to the river valley main trail. The north trail will link Terwillegar Park with the Fort Edmonton Footbridge. The south trail will connect Terwillegar Park to existing trails near the Anthony Henday pedestrian river crossing.

CENTENNIAL/TERWILLEGAR PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

A 262-metre pedestrian footbridge, currently under construction, will cross the North Saskatchewan River from Terwillegar Park on the south bank and connect to the north component of the West End Trails at River Valley Oleskiw. Construction completion is scheduled for Fall 2016.

WATER ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

This initiative supports a water-based trail system to complement the land-based trail system with two canoe launches, one upgraded vehicle launch, seven new docks and supporting infrastructure. This will connect seven existing Edmonton parks to the North Saskatchewan River Valley parks system.

MECHANIZED RIVER VALLEY ACCESS

The Mechanized River Valley Access Project will connect downtown Edmonton to the river valley trail system near the Low Level Bridge. This project will include an urban staircase, a funicular, a pedestrian bridge and an elevator and will provide barrier free access to the river valley trail system.







Capital Region River Valley Park



Municipal Boundary



RVA Initiative Sites



Existing Trails



New Trails



Future Trails



Existing Bridges



New Bridges Future Bridges





EAST END TRAIL CONNECTIONS

Primary and secondary trails are being designed and developed for east Edmonton. The north trails will run from Hermitage Park to the Quarry Golf Course and on to the east end of 167 Avenue. The South Trails will run east and west of the Anthony Henday Bridge. A section of upgraded trail in Goldstick Park has been completed.

STRATHCONA COUNTY

SECONDARY TRAIL AND TRAILHEAD REFURBISHMENTS

This initiative will extend the existing Strathcona County Nature Trail and will connect to the City of Fort Saskatchewan's trail system. The TransCanada Trail from the Strathcona Science Park and the urban trail system in Sherwood Park will eventually connect to this portion of the River Valley Alliance trail.

CITY OF FORT SASKATCHEWAN

PRIMARY TRAIL AND NEW TRAILHEADS

Approximately five kilometres of new trail was constructed in Fort Saskatchewan in 2014. This project also included new trailheads, signage, and seating

STURGEON COUNTY

PRIMARY TRAIL AND NEW TRAILHEADS

The design and construction of new trail in Lamoureux is planned for 2016-2017. This project will include an interpretive component, picnic facilities and a rest area with parking

SECONDARY TRAIL

The proposed secondary trail has been deferred, and resources redirected to the Leduc County and the City of Edmonton on the south bank of the river.

LOOKING FORWARD





LOOKING FORWARD

Many of the 2012–2016 Capital Programs are underway or nearing completion including:

- → Parkland County Prospectors Point to Devonian Botanic Garden
- → Trails connecting Fort Edmonton Bridge to Terwillegar Bridge to Anthony Henday Bridge
- → East End Trails connecting Hermitage Park to Quarry Ridge and Clover Bar Road
- Strathcona County River Valley Nature Trail
- → Fort Saskatchewan West River's Edge and Riverside Trails
- Sturgeon County Lamoureux Trail and trailhead

The RVA is currently developing the 2017–2022 Capital Program with input and support from our municipal partners. The 2017–2022 Capital Program will continue to focus on connectivity and access through the river valley.

The 2017–2022 Capital Program will continue to bring social, economic and environmental benefits to communities and residents and bring national and international visitors to the Capital Region River Valley Park and trail system. The next phase of the Capital Program will fulfill the River Valley Alliance's mandate to develop a continuous, publicly accessible river valley park.

It is now time to look to the future and secure funding for remaining projects that will complete regional connectivity. The RVA Draft Capital Plan for 2017–2022 is currently being developed and when it is approved, will propose the projects that will be completed in the next five years. The financing for these projects will then need to be raised from a variety of funders including government, corporate and private sources. The RVA has worked diligently to promote its vision and we have dedicated volunteers and supporters of our work. We now need dedicated sponsors and contributors to help us reach our goal of connecting the primary trail of the river valley.





HOW CAN YOU MAKE AN IMPACT ON **OUR RIVER VALLEY?**

"To create one of the largest river valley parks in the world, and to create a legacy for generations to come."

This is the River Valley Alliance's mission and because of supporters like you, we have been successful carrying out these goals. As we look to the next five years of planning and implementation it is more important than ever to have committed volunteers and funders to help us move forward.



Here are some ways you can be involved with the RVA:

- → sign up to receive our e-newsletter that highlights the activities of the RVA at contact@rivervalley.ab.ca
- → arrange for a spokesperson from the RVA to present to your work or volunteer organization
- → visit our social media networks and promote these sites to your friends and followers
- → volunteer to be a part of our Volunteer Leadership Program
- → donate to the RVA, a non-profit organization, to support our many initiatives

FOLLOW US:





@RiverValleyAlliance

GOVERNANCE & STAFF

Our Board of Directors includes representation from our seven member municipalities including Councillors from these counties, towns and cities. There are also seven Directors at Large appointed by the Directors at the Annual General Meeting. The Board governs the operations and business of the River Valley Alliance. We also have many dedicated volunteers who commit their time by serving on our four committees that report to the Board.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Christopher Sheard, Chair

MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS

Vic Bidzinski, Strathcona County (Oct 2015) Wayne Bokenfohr, Sturgeon County Sheldon Bossert, City of Fort Saskatchewan (Oct 2015) Ferd Caron, Sturgeon County Ben Henderson, City of Edmonton Carla Howatt, Strathcona County Tanya Hugh, Town of Devon AnnLisa Jensen, Parkland County Michael Laveck, Town of Devon (Oct 2015) Jackie McCuaig, Parkland County Arjun Randhawa, City of Fort Saskatchewan Rick Smith, Leduc County (Oct 2015) Michael Walters, City of Edmonton Mayor John Whaley, Leduc County

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Wendy Boje, Parkland County
Guy Bridgeman, City of Edmonton
Brent Collingwood, Advisory
Committee Chair
Dennis Dembicki, Fort Saskatchewan
Michael Gardiner, City of Edmonton
Bob Horton, City of Edmonton
Arlaine Monaghan, Parkland County
Joan Welch, City of Edmonton

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Brent Collingwood, Chair,
City of Edmonton
Ted Belke, Town of Devon
Paul Bunner, City of Edmonton
Boris Dudas, City of Edmonton
Margaret Elliott, Sturgeon County
Graham Hicks, City of Edmonton
Jocelyn Mackay, Leduc County
Roberta Malysh, City of
Fort Saskatchewan



www.town.devon.ab.ca





www.sturgeoncounty.ab.ca

www.parklandcounty.com







www.fortsask.ca

www.leduc-county.com



ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CONT'D)

Greg Mayan, Strathcona County
Anna Pandos, Strathcona County
Lois Roper, Town of Devon
Lisa Smith, Parkland County
Sheila Thompson, City of Edmonton
Valerie Turner, Parkland County
Margaret Wade, City of
Fort Saskatchewan

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Guy Bridgeman, Chair, City of Edmonton **Roberta Malysh**, City of Fort Saskatchewan **Chris Sheard**, RVA Board Chair, City of Edmonton

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Joan Welch, Chair, City of Edmonton Peter Faid, City of Edmonton Chris Sheard, RVA Board Chair, City of Edmonton

IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Bob Horton, Chair, Strathcona County
Pat Butler, City of Edmonton
Dennis Dembicki, City of
Fort Saskatchewan
Ryan Krushelnitzky, City of Edmonton
Phil Krysa, Architectural Works Inc.
Arlaine Monaghan, Parkland County
Chris Sheard, RVA Board Chair,
City of Edmonton

STAFF

Larry Wall, Executive Director
Alex Bonokoski, Capital Program Manager
Tanya Klein, Communications Coordinator
Kristine Archibald, Office Administrator
Paulina Retamales, Events and Outreach
Coordinator

2015 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Members of The River Valley Alliance:

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at December 31, 2015, and the summary statements of operations and cash flows for the year then ended, and related notes, are derived from the audited financial statements of The River Valley Alliance (the "Corporation") for the year ended December 31, 2015. We expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements in our report dated March 16, 2016. Those financial statements, and the accompanying summary financial statements, do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on those financial statements.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations applied in the preparation of the audited financial statements of the Corporation. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of the Corporation.

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial statements on the basis described in Note A.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements."

Opinion

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of The River Valley Alliance for the year ended December 31, 2015 are a fair summary of those financial statements, on the basis described in Note A.

Edmonton, AB March 16, 2016 King + Company

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT DECEMBER 31		
	2015	2014
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 258,573	\$293,917
Accounts receivable and prepaid expenses	66,112	5,391
Building Canada Fund claim receivable	2,444,407	2 55 2
Unrestricted interest-bearing deposits	200,000	400,000
Restricted cash and investments	48,538,444	49,711,086
Capital assets	25,989	
	\$51,533,525	\$50,410,394
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$29,953	¢c0.000
Payable to municipal shareholders for capital project claims	4,888,813	\$69,969
Deferred contributions for Plan of Action	46,094,038	40.711.006
Deferred capital contributions		49,711,086
Selected capital contributions	17,327	40 701 055
	<u>51,030,131</u>	<u>49,781,055</u>
NET ASSETS		
Share capital	7,000	7,000
Invested in capital assets	8,662	7,000
Unrestricted	487,732	622,339
	503,394	629,339
	\$51,533,525	\$50,410,394
	49/1990/953	\$30,410,334
Summary Statement of Operations Year ended december 31		
DEVENUE	2015	2014
REVENUE Contributions from Alberta Environment & Parks grant (operations)	\$202.044	43.47.663
Contributions from municipal shareholders	\$392,811	\$347,663
Interest, amortization of deferred capital contributions, donations and other (1)	110,000	110,000
interest, amortization of defended capital contributions, donations and other (1)	8,936	11,037
	511,747	468,700
EXPENSES		
Salaries and benefits	316,547	237,598
Communications and branding	171,762	24,176
Administration and other expenses (2)	113,560	108,170
Project management	28,998	121,697
Land appraisals and environmental assessments	6,825	61,468
	637,692	553,109
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS	(125,945)	(84,409)
	1123,3431	((())

(1) Includes amortization of deferred capital contributions of \$1,925 (2014 - nil), (2) Includes amortiz	ation of \$2 888 (2014 - ni	il)
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4,024,371

3,945,036

(7,969,407)

\$ (125,945)

78,836

(78,836)

\$(84,409)

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31		
	2015	2014
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING, FINANCING AND INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Cash receipts from Building Canada Fund	\$1,500,604	-
Cash receipts from interest on restricted cash and investments	1,130,767	1,055,435
Net decrease (increase) in restricted cash and investments	857,942	(625,640)
Net proceeds from disposal of unrestricted interest-bearing deposits	200,000	50,000
Cash receipts from contributions by municipal shareholders	60,000	110,000
Cash receipts from interest, donations and other revenue	4,663	7,795
Purchase of capital assets	(28,877)	192
Cash payments to suppliers and employees	(759,235)	(598,819)
Cash payments to municipal shareholders	(3,001,208)	1.00
NET DECREASE IN CASH	\$(35,344)	\$(1,229)

Note A: These summary financial statements reflect, with certain lines and numbers aggregated, the main classifications of assets, liabilities, operating results and cash flows presented in the audited financial statements, but exclude all note disclosures required under Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations

Note B: For complete financial statements, including notes, contact the organization at 587-401-3355.



Capital projects

CAPITAL PROJECT REVENUE (EXPENSES)

Contributions from Building Canada Fund

DEFICIENCY OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES

Contributions from Alberta Environment & Parks grant (projects and professional services)





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