

**Financial Statements of  
TEACHERS' PENSION PLAN  
Year ended December 31, 2020**



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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Teachers' Pension Plan Trustee Inc.

### *Opinion*

We have audited the financial statements of Teachers' Pension Plan (the Entity), which comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2020;
- the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year then ended;
- the statement of changes in pension obligation for the year then ended
- the statement of changes in deficit for the year then ended;
- and notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information

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

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity as at December 31, 2020, and the changes in net assets available for benefits and changes in pension obligation for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for pension plans.

### *Basis for Opinion*

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "*Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements*" section of our auditors' report.

We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.



***Other Information***

Management is responsible for the other information. Other information comprises the information, other than the financial statements and the auditors' report thereon, included in a document entitled "Annual Report".

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not and will not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit and remain alert for indications that the other information appears to be materially misstated.

We obtained the information, other than the financial statements and the auditors' report thereon, included in the Annual Report as at the date of this auditors' report. If, based on the work we have performed on this other information, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact in the auditors' report.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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

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

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

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

***Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.



Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

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

We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'KPMG LLP'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. Below the signature is a horizontal line that starts under the 'K' and ends under the 'P'.

Chartered Professional Accountants  
Halifax, Canada  
April 21, 2021

Financial Statements of

# TEACHERS' PENSION PLAN

Year ended December 31, 2020

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# Financial Statements

## Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2020, with comparative information for 2019

2020

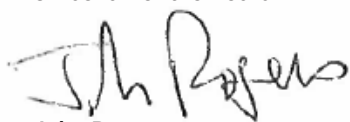
2019

(in thousands of dollars)

	2020	2019
<b>Net assets available for benefits</b>		
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash	\$ 147,410	\$ 149,131
Contributions receivable:		
Employers'	6,941	7,795
Employees'	2,919	3,487
Receivable from pending trades	5,845	8,672
Accounts receivable	1,511	1,689
Accrued investment income	11,506	13,875
Investments (note 5)	5,358,610	5,220,975
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>5,534,742</b>	<b>5,405,624</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Due to administrator (note 12)	832	1,672
Payable for pending trades	11,216	39,817
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	3,233	3,745
Investment-related liabilities (note 5)	716	2,674
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>15,997</b>	<b>47,908</b>
<b>Net assets available for benefits</b>	<b>\$ 5,518,745</b>	<b>\$ 5,357,716</b>
<b>Accrued pension obligation and deficit</b>		
Accrued pension obligation (note 7)	\$ 6,986,076	\$ 6,855,448
Deficit (note 7)	(1,467,331)	(1,497,732)
Commitments (note 8)		
<b>Accrued pension obligation and deficit</b>	<b>\$ 5,518,745</b>	<b>\$ 5,357,716</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

On behalf of the Board:

  
John Rogers  
Chair

  
Karen M. Gatien  
Director

  
Kyle Marryatt  
Director

# Financial Statements

## Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

December 31, 2020, with comparative information for 2019	2020	2019
(in thousands of dollars)		
<b>Increase in assets</b>		
Contributions (note 4)	\$ 229,500	\$ 233,709
Transfers from other pension plans	3,050	3,551
Investment income (note 5)	148,643	147,117
Change in market value of investments (note 5)	211,957	467,048
Total increase in assets	593,150	851,425
<b>Decrease in assets</b>		
Benefits paid (note 9)	410,711	406,730
Transfers to other pension plans	2,181	3,375
Administrative expenses (note 10)	19,229	21,491
Total decrease in assets	432,121	431,596
<b>Increase in net assets available for benefits</b>	161,029	419,829
<b>Net assets available for benefits, beginning of year</b>	5,357,716	4,937,887
<b>Net assets available for benefits, end of year</b>	\$ 5,518,745	\$ 5,357,716

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# Financial Statements

## Statement of Changes in Pension Obligation

December 31, 2020, with comparative information for 2019	2020	2019
(in thousands of dollars)		
<b>Accrued pension obligation, beginning of year</b>	\$ 6,855,448	\$ 6,555,529
<b>Increase in accrued pension benefits</b>		
Interest on accrued pension obligation	383,196	396,610
Benefits accrued	140,740	134,202
Transfers from other pension plans	3,050	3,551
Changes in actuarial assumptions (note 7)	-	211,406
Net experience losses (note 7)	16,534	-
	543,520	745,769
<b>Decrease in accrued pension benefits</b>		
Benefits paid	410,711	406,730
Transfers to other pension plans	2,181	3,375
Net experience gains (note 7)	-	35,745
	412,892	445,850
<b>Net increase in accrued pension benefits</b>	130,628	299,919
<b>Accrued pension obligation, end of year</b>	\$ 6,986,076	\$ 6,855,448

## Statement of Changes in Deficit

December 31, 2020, with comparative information for 2019	2020	2019
(in thousands of dollars)		
<b>Deficit, beginning of year</b>	\$ 1,497,732	\$ 1,617,642
Increase in net assets available for benefits	(161,029)	(419,829)
Net increase in accrued pension obligation	130,628	299,919
<b>Deficit, end of year</b>	\$ 1,467,331	\$ 1,497,732

See accompanying notes to financial statements.



# Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended December 31, 2020  
(in thousands of dollars)



## Authority and description of Plan

The following description of the Teachers' Pension Plan (the "Plan") is a summary only. For more complete information, reference should be made to the Plan legislative documents and agreements.

### General

The Plan is governed by the Teachers' Pension Act (the "Act") as part of the Acts of Nova Scotia. It is a contributory defined benefit pension plan covering public school and community college teachers and is co-sponsored by the Province of Nova Scotia (the "Province") and the Nova Scotia Teachers' Union (the "Union"). The Act established the Nova Scotia Teachers' Pension Fund (the "Fund") for the purpose of crediting employer and employee contributions, investment earnings and meeting the Plan's obligations.

The detailed provisions of the Plan, including pension eligibility criteria and benefit formulas, are contained in the Act and in the Regulations made under the Act.

As part of the June 22, 2005 Agreement between the Province and the Union, the Province and the Union agreed to joint and equal participation in the governance of the Plan including the sharing of any actuarial surpluses or deficits between the Province and the beneficiaries of the Plan upon the transfer of the Plan to a newly formed trustee entity. Teachers' Pension Plan Trustee Inc. (the "TPPTI") was incorporated to act as trustee of the Fund and on April 1, 2006, the TPPTI became the trustee of the Fund. The 2005 Agreement was rescinded and replaced with a new agreement on July 2, 2014. However, there were no changes to the governance of the Plan or the sharing of actuarial surpluses or deficits.

The TPPTI is responsible for the administration of the Plan and the investment management of the Fund assets. The investment of the Fund assets is guided by the Fund's Statement of Investment Policies & Goals (the "SIP&G") as written by the TPPTI. The SIP&G sets out the parameters within which the investments are made. These parameters include permissible investments and the policy asset mix. The Investment Beliefs, also found within the SIP&G, state the general principles upon which the investments are made.

### Funding

Plan benefits are funded by contributions and investment earnings. Contributions are made by active members of the Plan and are matched by either the Province or participating employers. The determination of the value of the benefits and required contributions is made on the basis of periodic actuarial valuations (note 7).

In accordance with the Plan regulations, employers and employees are required to contribute 11.3% of salary up to the Year's Maximum Pensionable Earnings (the "YMPE") per the Canada Pension Plan (the "CPP") and 12.9% of salary above the YMPE.

## Authority and description of Plan (continued)

### Retirement benefits

The pension benefit consists of two components. The lifetime pension, for every year of pensionable service, is 1.3% times the 5-year highest average salary at retirement (the "HAS-5") up to the average YMPE, plus 2.0% times the portion of the HAS-5 in excess of the average YMPE (if applicable). The bridge benefit, for every year of pensionable service, is 0.7% times the lesser of (i) the HAS-5, and (ii) the average YMPE. The lifetime pension is payable for life, while the bridge benefit is payable until age 65, at which point it ceases as a result of integration with the CPP.

Plan members are eligible for a pension upon reaching any of the following criteria:

- 35 years of service;
- age 50 with 30 years of service (reduced pension);
- age 55 with an age plus service factor of 85 "Rule of 85";
- age 55 with two years of service (reduced pension);
- age 60 with 10 years of service;
- age 65 with 2 years of service.

### Indexing

For pensions with an effective date before August 1, 2006, the rate is equal to the increase in the 12-month average Consumer Price Index ("CPI") for Canada, less 1%, to a maximum of 6%.

Indexing in a given year for pensions with an effective date on or after August 1, 2006, as well as those of existing pensioners who opted for the new indexing arrangement, depends on the funding level of the Plan. If the funding level as at December 31 of the preceding fiscal year is less than 90%, no indexing will be provided. At a funding level of between 90% and 100%, indexing may be granted at 50% of the increase in the 12-month average CPI up to a maximum of 6%, at the discretion of the Board of Trustees.

If the funding level is greater than 100%, indexing will be provided at 100% of the increase in the 12-month average CPI up to a maximum of 6%, to the extent that it does not reduce the funding level to below 100%; however, pensions will be increased by at least 50% of the increase in the 12-month average CPI up to a maximum of 6%. For the purposes of the valuation, it was assumed that indexing would not be paid in years in which it is discretionary.

### Disability benefits

Prior to August 1, 2014, active members who became mentally or physically disabled were entitled to apply for a disability pension from the Plan. Effective August 1, 2014, however, disability coverage was moved to the Union's long-term disability insurance plan, and the ability to apply for a disability pension from the Plan was discontinued except in very limited circumstances.

## Authority and description of Plan (continued)

### Death benefits

Upon the death of a vested member, the surviving spouse is entitled to receive 60% of the vested member's pension benefit payable for life, or a higher percentage if the member elected an optional form of pension. Eligible children are entitled to receive 10% of the vested member's pension benefit, payable until age 18 (or 25 while still in school).

### Termination benefits

Upon termination of employment, a vested member may choose to defer their pension until they satisfy one of the above eligibility criteria, or they may remove their funds from the Plan in the form of a commuted value (or refund of contributions, for service prior to January 1, 1988).

### Refunds

The benefit payable upon termination or death of a non-vested member, or upon death prior to retirement of a vested member with no eligible survivors, is a lump sum refund of the member's contributions with interest.

## 2.

### Basis of preparation

#### a. Basis of presentation

These financial statements are prepared in Canadian dollars, which is the Plan's functional currency in accordance with the accounting standards for pension plans in Part IV of the Canadian Institute of the Chartered Professional Accountants (CPA) Canada Handbook (Section 4600). Section 4600 provides specific accounting guidance on investments and pension obligations. For accounting policies that do not relate to either investments or pension obligations, the Plan must consistently comply with either International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") in Part I or Accounting Standards for Private Enterprises in Part II of the CPA Canada Handbook. The Plan has elected to comply on a consistent basis with IFRS in Part I of the CPA Canada Handbook. To the extent that IFRS in Part I is inconsistent with Section 4600, Section 4600 takes precedence.

Consistent with Section 4600, investment assets and liabilities are presented on a non-consolidated basis even when the investment is in an entity over which the Plan has effective control. Earnings of such entities are recognized as income as earned and as dividends are declared. The Plan's total investment income includes valuation adjustments required to bring the investments to their fair value.

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis and present the aggregate financial position of the Plan as a separate reporting entity.

These financial statements were authorized for issue by the Board of Trustees of the Teachers' Pension Plan Trustee Inc. on April 20, 2021.

#### b. Basis of measurement

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis except for financial instruments which are measured at fair value through the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits and derivative financial instruments which are measured at fair value. Units of subsidiaries held are measured at the fair value of the underlying assets and liabilities.

#### c. Use of estimates and judgments

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with Section 4600 and IFRS requires management to make 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, the reported amounts of changes in net assets available for benefits and accrued pension benefits during the year. Actual results may differ from those estimates. Significant estimates included in the financial statements relate to the valuation of real estate, infrastructure, agriculture & timber and the determination of the accrued pension obligation.

Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognized in the period in which the estimates are revised and in any future years affected.

## 3.

## Significant accounting policies

### a. Investment transactions, income recognition and transaction costs

- i. **Investment transactions:**  
Investment transactions are accounted for on a trade date basis.
- ii. **Income recognition:**  
Income from investments is recorded on an accrual basis and includes interest, dividends and gains and losses that have been realized on disposal of investments and the unrealized appreciation and depreciation in the fair value of investments.
- iii. **Transaction costs:**  
Brokers' commissions and other transaction costs are recorded in the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits when incurred.

### b. Foreign currency translation

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are translated into Canadian dollars at the rates of exchange prevailing on the dates of the transactions. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the reporting date are re-translated into Canadian dollars at the exchange rate at that date.

Foreign currency differences arising on re-translation are recognized in the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits as a change in net unrealized gains (losses).

### c. Financial assets and liabilities

- i. **Non-derivative financial assets:**  
Financial assets are recognized initially on the trade date, which is the date that the Plan becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

The Plan classifies all of its financial assets at fair value through the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits. Financial assets are designated at fair value through the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits if the Plan manages such investment and makes purchase and sale decisions based on their fair value in accordance with the Plan's documented risk management or investment strategy. Upon initial recognition, attributed transaction costs are recognized in the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits as incurred. Financial assets at fair value through the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits are measured at fair value and changes therein are recognized in the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits.

- ii. **Non-derivative financial liabilities:**  
All financial liabilities are recognized initially on the trade date at which the Plan becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are presented in the statement of financial position. The net amount is presented in the statement of financial position, when and only when, the Plan has a legal right to offset the amounts and it intends either to settle on a net basis or to realize the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

The Plan considers its amounts payable to be a non-derivative financial liability.

## Significant accounting policies (continued)

### iii. Derivative financial instruments:

Derivative financial instruments are recognized initially at fair value and their related transaction costs are recognized in the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits as incurred. Subsequent to initial recognition, derivatives are measured at fair value, and all changes are recognized immediately in the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits.

Derivative-related assets and liabilities are presented in the statement of financial position. The net amount is presented in the statement of financial position, when and only when, the Plan has a legal right to offset the amounts and it intends either to settle on a net basis or to realize the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

### d. Fair value measurement

Fair value is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged, or a liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction on the measurement date.

As allowed under IFRS 13, if an asset or a liability measured at fair value has a bid and an ask price, the price within the bid-ask spread that is the most representative of fair value in the circumstances shall be used to measure fair value. The Plan uses closing market price as a practical expedient for fair value measurement.

When available, the Plan measures the fair value of an instrument using quoted prices in an active market for that instrument. A market is regarded as active if quoted prices are readily and regularly available and represent actual and regularly occurring market transactions on an arm's length basis.

If a market for a financial instrument is not active, then the Plan establishes fair value using a valuation technique. Valuation techniques include using recent arm's length transactions between knowledgeable, willing parties (if available), reference to the current fair value of other instruments that are substantially the same, discounted cash flow analyses and option pricing models.

The best evidence of the fair value of a financial instrument at initial recognition is the transaction price, i.e. the fair value of the consideration given or received, unless the fair value of that instrument is evidenced by comparison with other observable current market transactions in the same instrument or based on a valuation technique whose variables include only data from observable markets. When a transaction price provides the best evidence of fair value at initial recognition, the financial instrument is initially measured at the transaction price and any difference between this price and the value initially obtained from a valuation model is subsequently recognized in profit or loss on an appropriate basis over the life of the instrument but not later than when the valuation is supported wholly by observable market data or the transaction is closed out.

All changes in fair value, other than interest and dividend income and expense, are recognized in the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits as part of the change in market value of investments.

## Significant accounting policies (continued)

### Fair values of investments are determined as follows:

- i. Fixed income securities and equities are valued at year-end quoted closing prices, where available. Where quoted prices are not available, estimated fair values are calculated using comparable securities.
- ii. Short-term notes, treasury bills, term deposits, and agreements to repurchase or resell securities maturing within one year, and promissory notes payable on demand are stated at cost, which together with accrued interest income approximates fair value given the short-term nature of these investments.
- iii. Pooled fund investments include investments in fixed income, equities, real estate and commodities. Pooled funds are valued at the unit values supplied by the pooled fund administrator, which represent the Plan's proportionate share of underlying net assets at fair values determined using closing market prices. These net asset values are reviewed by management.
- iv. Directly held real estate is valued based on estimated fair values determined by appropriate techniques and best estimates by management, appraisers, or both. Where external appraisers are engaged to perform the valuation, management ensures the appraisers are independent and compares the assumptions used by the appraisers with management's expectations based on current market conditions and industry practice to ensure the valuation captures the business and economic conditions specific to the investment.
- v. Private fund investments include investments in real estate, infrastructure and agriculture & timber assets. The fair value of a private fund investment where the Plan's ability to access information on underlying individual fund investments is restricted, such as under the terms of a limited partnership agreement, is equal to the value provided by the fund's general partner unless there is a specific and objectively verifiable reason to vary from the value provided by the general partner. These net asset values are reviewed by management.
- vi. Derivatives, including futures, options, interest rate swaps, credit default swaps, total return swaps, and currency forward contracts, are valued at year-end quoted market prices, interest, spot and forward rates, where available. Where quoted prices are not available, appropriate alternative valuation techniques are used to determine fair value. The gains or losses from derivative contracts are included in the realized and unrealized gains or losses on investments.
- vii. Absolute return strategy investments, comprised of hedge funds, are recorded at fair value based on net asset values obtained from each of the hedge funds' administrators. These net asset values are reviewed by management.

## Significant accounting policies (continued)

### e. Non-investment assets and liabilities

The fair value of non-investment assets and liabilities are equal to their amortized cost value and are adjusted for foreign exchange where applicable.

### f. Receivable/payable for pending trades

For securities transactions, the fair value of receivable from pending trades and payable for pending trades approximate their carrying amounts due to their short-term nature.

### g. Accrued pension obligation

The value of the accrued pension obligation of the Plan is based on a going concern method actuarial valuation prepared by an independent firm of actuaries using the projected unit credit method. The accrued pension obligation is measured in accordance with accepted actuarial methods using actuarial assumptions and methods adopted by TPPTI for the purpose of establishing the long-term funding requirements of the Plan. The actuarial valuation included in the financial statements is consistent with the valuation for funding purposes.

### h. Contributions

Basic contributions from employers and members are recorded on an accrual basis. Service purchases that include but are not limited to leaves of absence and transfers from other pension plans are recorded and service is credited when the purchase amount is received.

In certain years, an additional contribution to the Plan may be required from the Minister of Finance and Treasury Board. In any indexing period in which there is an actuarial deficit and clause 27B(3)(a) of the Teachers' Pension Plan Regulations applies, the Minister must contribute to the Plan, no later than the beginning of the following indexing period, an amount equal to the actuarial value, as calculated by the Plan's actuary at the beginning of the indexing period, of the difference between:

- i. the indexing of all pensions to which subsection 27B(3) applies for that indexing period at a rate of one-half of the percentage increase in the 12-month average CPI for that indexing period over the 12-month average CPI for the preceding indexing period to a maximum of 6% and, for all future indexing periods, at a rate of one-half of the assumed percentage increase in the 12-month average CPI determined in accordance with the actuarial assumptions and methods; and
- ii. no indexing of all pensions to which subsection 27B(3) applies for that indexing period and, for all future indexing periods, indexing at a rate of one-half of the assumed percentage increase in the 12-month average CPI determined in accordance with the actuarial assumptions and methods.



## Significant accounting policies (continued)

### **i. Benefits**

Benefit payments to retired, surviving and disabled members, commuted value payments and refunds to former members, and transfers to other pension plans are recorded in the period in which they are paid. Accrued benefits are recorded as part of the accrued pension benefit obligation.

### **j. Administrative expenses**

Administrative expenses, incurred for plan administration and direct investment management services, are recorded on an accrual basis. Plan administration expenses represent expenses incurred to provide direct services to the Plan members and employers. Investment management expenses represent expenses incurred to manage the Fund. Base external manager fees for portfolio management are expensed in investment management expenses as incurred.

### **k. Income taxes**

The Fund is the funding vehicle for a registered pension plan, as defined by the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) and, accordingly is not subject to income taxes.

### **l. Future changes to accounting policies**

No relevant new guidance has been issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.

## 4.

## Contributions

	2020	2019
(in thousands of dollars)		
<b>Employer:</b>		
Matched current service	\$ 104,214	\$ 105,095
Matched past service	43	15
	104,257	105,110
<b>Employee:</b>		
Matched current service	104,214	105,095
Matched past service	43	15
Unmatched current service	-	3
Unmatched past service	242	160
	104,499	105,273
<b>Special contribution from the Province of Nova Scotia</b>	<b>20,744</b>	<b>23,326</b>
	\$ 229,500	\$ 233,709

## 5.

## Investments and investment-related liabilities

a. The fair value of the Plan's investments and investment-related liabilities along with the related income as at and for the year ended December 31 are summarized in the following tables:

	2020		2019	
(in thousands of dollars)		%		%
<b>Investments</b>				
<b>Fixed income</b>				
Money market	\$ 184,260	3.4	\$ 149,933	2.9
Canadian bonds & debentures	476,435	8.9	453,690	8.7
Non-Canadian bonds & debentures	874,005	16.3	791,897	15.2
Canadian real return bonds	174,919	3.3	154,086	3.0
<b>Equities</b>				
Canadian	395,239	7.4	380,850	7.3
US	839,338	15.7	808,251	15.5
Global	807,535	15.1	773,792	14.8
<b>Commodities</b>	140,951	2.6	148,605	2.8
<b>Real assets</b>				
Real estate	699,653	13.1	746,256	14.3
Infrastructure	337,594	6.3	333,642	6.4
Agriculture & timber	32,713	0.6	24,053	0.5
<b>Absolute return strategies</b>				
Hedge funds	362,923	6.7	367,195	7.0
<b>Investment-related receivables</b>				
Agreements to resell securities	-	-	47,720	0.8
Promissory note	6,981	0.5	6,981	0.1
Derivative-related, net	26,064	0.1	34,024	0.7
	\$ 5,358,610	100.0	\$ 5,220,975	100.0
<b>Investment-related liabilities</b>				
Derivative-related, net	(716)	100.0	(2,674)	100.0
	\$ (716)	100.0	\$ (2,674)	100.0
<b>Net investments</b>	\$ 5,357,894		\$ 5,218,301	

## Investments and investment-related liabilities (continued)

2020

(in thousands of dollars)

	Investment income	Changes in market value of investments and derivatives		
		Realized	Unrealized	Total
Fixed income	\$ 47,697	\$ 21,337	\$ 43,075	\$ 64,412
Equities	42,865	56,177	56,560	112,737
Commodities	-	-	(7,653)	(7,653)
Real assets	49,801	23,398	1,532	24,930
Absolute return strategies	-	22,794	6,204	28,998
Derivatives	6,129	(5,466)	(6,001)	(11,467)
Other	2,151	-	-	-
	\$ 148,643	\$ 118,240	\$ 93,717	\$ 211,957

2019

(in thousands of dollars)

	Investment income	Changes in market value of investments and derivatives		
		Realized	Unrealized	Total
Fixed income	\$ 51,868	\$ 14,389	\$ 43,813	\$ 58,202
Equities	46,617	74,518	208,696	283,214
Commodities	-	-	2,218	2,218
Real assets	45,628	9,336	7,617	16,953
Absolute return strategies	-	16,570	(7,003)	9,567
Derivatives	1,533	305	96,589	96,894
Other	1,471	-	-	-
	\$ 147,117	\$ 115,118	\$ 351,930	\$ 467,048

## b. Derivatives

Derivatives are financial contracts, the value of which is “derived” from the value of underlying assets or interest or exchange rates. The Plan utilizes such contracts to provide flexibility in implementing investment strategies and for managing exposure to interest rate and foreign currency volatility.

Notional amounts of derivative contracts are the contract amounts used to calculate the cash flows to be exchanged. They represent the contractual amount to which a rate or price is applied for computing the cash to be paid or received. Notional amounts are the basis upon which the returns from, and the fair value of, the contracts are determined. They do not necessarily indicate the amounts of future cash flows involved or the current fair value of the derivative contracts. They are a common measure of volume of outstanding transactions but do not represent credit or market risk exposure. The derivative contracts become favourable (assets) or unfavourable (liabilities) as a result of fluctuations in either market rates or prices relative to their terms. The aggregate notional amounts and fair values of derivative contracts can fluctuate significantly.

## Investments and investment-related liabilities (continued)

Derivative contracts transacted either on a regulated exchange market or in the over-the-counter (“OTC”) market, directly between two counterparties include the following:

### Futures

Futures are transacted in standardized amounts on regulated exchanges and are subject to daily cash margining. The futures contracts that the Plan enters into are as follows:

- Government futures - contractual obligations to either buy or sell at a fixed value (the contracted price) government fixed income financial instruments at a predetermined future date. They are used to adjust interest rate exposure and replicate government bond positions. Long future positions are backed with high grade, liquid debt securities.
- Money market futures - contractual obligations to either buy or sell money market financial instruments at a predetermined future date at a specified price. They are used to manage exposures at the front end of the yield curve. Futures are based on short-term interest rates and do not require delivery of an asset at expiration. Therefore they do not require cash backing.

### Credit default swaps

Credit default swaps (“CDS”) provide protection against the decline in value of the referenced asset as a result of specified events such as payment default or insolvency. The purchaser pays a premium to the seller of the CDS in return for payment related to the deterioration in the value of the referenced asset. The referenced asset for CDS is a debt instrument. They are used to manage credit exposure without buying or selling securities outright. Written CDS increase credit exposure (selling protection), obligating the Plan to buy bonds from counterparties in the event of a default. Purchased CDS decrease exposure (buying protection), providing the right to “put” bonds to the counterparty in the event of a default. Net long exposures are backed with high grade, liquid debt securities. Underlying credit exposures are continuously monitored.

### Interest rate swaps

Interest rate swaps involve contractual agreements between two counterparties to exchange fixed and floating interest payments based on notional amounts. They are used to adjust interest rate yield curve exposures and substitute for physical securities. Long swap positions increase exposure to long-term interest rates and short positions decrease exposure. Long swap positions are backed with high grade, liquid debt securities.

## Investments and investment-related liabilities (continued)

### Total return swaps

Total return swaps are contractual agreements under which the total return receiver assumes market and credit risk on a bond or loan, where the total return payer forfeits risk associated with market performance but takes on the credit exposure that the total return receiver may be subject to. The total return receiver receives income and capital gains generated by an underlying loan or bond. In return, the total return receiver must pay a set rate and any capital losses generated by the underlying loan or bond over the life of the swap.

### Currency forwards

Currency forwards are contractual obligations to exchange one currency for another at a specified price or settlement at a predetermined future date. Forward contracts are used to manage the currency exposure of investments held in foreign currencies. The notional amount of a currency forward represents the contracted amount purchased or sold for settlement at a future date. The fair value is determined by the difference between the market value and the notional value upon settlement.

## Investments and investment-related liabilities (continued)

The following tables set out the notional values of the Plan's derivatives and their related assets and liabilities as at December 31:

2020					
(in thousands of dollars)					
	Notional value	Fair value			
		Assets	Liabilities	Net	
<b>Derivatives</b>					
Futures	\$ 23,460	\$ 95	\$ (37)	\$ 58	
Credit default swaps	3,460	200	(42)	158	
Interest rate swaps	48,000	72	(97)	(25)	
Total return swaps	112,562	215	-	215	
Currency forwards	1,969,280	24,438	(401)	24,037	
	\$ 2,156,762	\$ 25,020	\$ (577)	\$ 24,443	
<b>Cash collateral</b>		1,044	(139)	905	
<b>Notional and fair value</b>	\$ 2,156,762	\$ 26,064	\$ (716)	\$ 25,348	

2019					
(in thousands of dollars)					
	Notional value	Fair value			
		Assets	Liabilities	Net	
<b>Derivatives</b>					
Futures	\$ 6,803	\$ 132	\$ (255)	\$ (123)	
Credit default swaps	5,331	299	(88)	211	
Interest rate swaps	18,100	164	(359)	(195)	
Total return swaps	105,318	-	(1,686)	(1,686)	
Currency forwards	2,144,269	31,513	(30)	31,483	
	\$ 2,279,821	\$ 32,108	\$ (2,418)	\$ 29,690	
<b>Cash collateral</b>	-	1,916	(256)	1,660	
<b>Notional and fair value</b>	\$ 2,279,821	\$ 34,024	\$ (2,674)	\$ 31,350	

## Investments and investment-related liabilities (continued)

The following tables set out the contractual maturities of the Plan's derivatives and their net related assets and liabilities as at December 31:

2020					
(in thousands of dollars)					
	Under 1 year	1 to 5 years	5 to 10 years	Over 10 years	Total
<b>Derivatives, net</b>					
Futures	\$ 58	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 58
Credit default swaps	-	158	-	-	158
Interest rate swaps	-	(92)	67	-	(25)
Total return swaps	-	215	-	-	215
Currency forwards	24,037	-	-	-	24,037
	\$ 24,095	\$ 281	\$ 67	\$ -	\$ 24,443
<b>Cash collateral, net</b>					905
<b>Fair value, net</b>	\$ 24,095	\$ 281	\$ 67	\$ -	\$ 25,348
2019					
(in thousands of dollars)					
	Under 1 year	1 to 5 years	5 to 10 years	Over 10 years	Total
<b>Derivatives, net</b>					
Futures	\$ (123)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (123)
Credit default swaps	-	211	-	-	211
Interest rate swaps	-	(187)	(8)	-	(195)
Total return swaps	-	(1,686)	-	-	(1,686)
Currency forwards	31,483	-	-	-	31,483
	\$ 31,360	\$ (1,662)	\$ (8)	\$ -	\$ 29,690
<b>Cash collateral, net</b>					1,660
<b>Fair value, net</b>	\$ 31,360	\$ (1,662)	\$ (8)	\$ -	\$ 31,350

Cash is deposited or pledged with various financial institutions as collateral if the Plan was to default on payment obligations on its derivative contracts. On the statement of financial position, collateral is represented as part of the net balance of derivative-related receivables and liabilities.



# 6.

## Financial Instruments

### a. Fair Values

The fair values of investments and derivatives are as described in note 3(d). The fair values of other financial assets and liabilities, being cash, contributions receivable, receivable from pending trades, accrued investment income, and payable for pending trades, approximate their carrying values due to the short-term nature of these financial instruments.

Fair value measurements recognized in the statement of financial position are categorized using a fair value hierarchy that reflects the significance of inputs used in determining the fair values.

Level 1: Fair value is based on inputs that reflect unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Investment Manager has the ability to access at the measurement date. Level 1 primarily includes publicly listed investments.

Level 2: Fair value is based on valuation methods that make use of inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1, that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, including inputs in markets that are not considered to be active. Level 2 primarily includes debt securities and derivative contracts not traded on a public exchange and public equities not traded in an active market.

Level 3: Fair value is based on valuation methods where inputs that are based on non-observable market data have a significant impact on the valuation. Level 3 primarily includes real estate, infrastructure, and private equity investments valued using financial statements and or investor statements.

## Financial Instruments (continued)

**2020**

(in thousands of dollars)

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
<b>Investments</b>				
<b>Fixed income</b>				
Money market	\$ 3,498	\$ 180,762	\$ -	\$ 184,260
Canadian bonds & debentures	124,097	352,338	-	476,435
Non-Canadian bonds & debentures	50,950	823,055	-	874,005
Canadian real return bonds	-	89,251	85,668	174,919
<b>Equities</b>				
Canadian	379,142	16,097	-	395,239
US	466,878	372,460	-	839,338
Global	589,014	218,521	-	807,535
<b>Commodities</b>	-	140,951	-	140,951
<b>Real assets</b>				
Real estate	-	88,680	610,973	699,653
Infrastructure	-	-	337,594	337,594
Agriculture & timber	-	-	32,713	32,713
<b>Absolute return strategies</b>				
Hedge funds	-	362,923	-	362,923
<b>Investment-related receivables</b>				
Agreements to resell securities	-	-	-	-
Promissory notes	-	-	6,981	6,981
Derivative-related, net	1,139	24,925	-	26,064
	\$ 1,614,718	\$ 2,669,963	\$ 1,073,929	\$ 5,358,610
<b>Investment-related liabilities</b>				
Derivative-related, net	(176)	(540)	-	(716)
	\$ (176)	\$ (540)	\$ -	\$ (716)
<b>Net investments</b>	\$ 1,614,542	\$ 2,669,423	\$ 1,073,929	\$ 5,357,894

## Financial Instruments (continued)

2019					
(in thousands of dollars)					
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total	
<b>Investments</b>					
<b>Fixed income</b>					
Money market	\$ 29,524	\$ 120,409	\$ -	\$ 149,933	
Canadian bonds & debentures	126,536	327,154	-	453,690	
Non-Canadian bonds & debentures	35,675	756,222	-	791,897	
Canadian real return bonds	-	74,234	79,852	154,086	
<b>Equities</b>					
Canadian	371,425	9,425	-	380,850	
US	429,468	378,783	-	808,251	
Global	568,339	205,453	-	773,792	
<b>Commodities</b>	-	148,605	-	148,605	
<b>Real assets</b>					
Real estate	-	142,718	603,538	746,256	
Infrastructure	-	-	333,642	333,642	
Agriculture & timber	-	-	24,053	24,053	
<b>Absolute return strategies</b>					
Hedge funds	-	367,195	-	367,195	
<b>Investment-related receivables</b>					
Agreements to resell securities	-	47,720	-	47,720	
Promissory notes	-	-	6,981	6,981	
Derivative-related, net	2,048	31,976	-	34,024	
	\$ 1,563,015	\$ 2,609,894	\$ 1,048,066	\$ 5,220,975	
<b>Investment-related liabilities</b>					
Derivative-related, net	(513)	(2,161)	-	(2,674)	
	\$ (513)	\$ (2,161)	\$ -	\$ (2,674)	
<b>Net investments</b>	\$ 1,562,502	\$ 2,607,733	\$ 1,048,066	\$ 5,218,301	

There were no significant transfers between level 1, level 2, and level 3 financial instruments during the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019.

## Financial Instruments (continued)

The following tables present the changes in the fair value measurement in Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy:

### 2020

(in thousands of dollars)

	Fixed income	Real assets	Investment-related receivables	Total
<b>Balance, beginning of year</b>	\$ 79,852	\$ 961,233	\$ 6,981	\$ 1,048,066
Purchases, contributed capital	-	30,674	-	30,674
Sales, capital returned	(1,151)	(36,997)	-	(38,148)
Realized gains	262	6,352	-	6,614
Unrealized gains	6,705	20,018	-	26,723
<b>Balance, end of year</b>	\$ 85,668	\$ 981,280	\$ 6,981	\$ 1,073,929

### 2019

(in thousands of dollars)

	Fixed income	Real assets	Investment-related receivables	Total
<b>Balance, beginning of year</b>	\$ 77,879	\$ 941,808	\$ 6,981	\$ 1,026,668
Purchases, contributed capital	-	60,722	-	60,722
Sales, capital returned	(1,091)	(47,728)	-	(48,819)
Realized gains	248	7,071	-	7,319
Unrealized gains (losses)	2,816	(640)	-	2,176
<b>Balance, end of year</b>	\$ 79,852	\$ 961,233	\$ 6,981	\$ 1,048,066

The total realized and unrealized gains included in the change in market value of investments from level 3 financial instruments held as at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively, was \$33,337 and \$9,495.

#### Fair value assumptions and sensitivity

Level 3 financial instruments are valued using various methods. Listed real return bonds are valued by a third-party using broker prices and comparable securities. Certain unlisted private equity, real estate and infrastructure funds are valued using various methods including overall capitalization method and discount rate method. Real estate subsidiaries are valued using the overall capitalization method and discount rate method and the valuations are significantly affected by non-observable inputs, the most significant of which are the capitalization rate and the discount rate.

## Financial Instruments (continued)

Significant unobservable inputs used in measuring fair value:

The table below sets out information about significant unobservable inputs used at December 31, 2020 in measuring financial instruments categorized as level 3 in the fair value hierarchy.

(in thousands of dollars)

Description	2020 Fair value	2019 Fair value	Valuation technique	Unobservable inputs
Unlisted real estate subsidiaries	\$ 538,506	\$ 532,540	Income approach technique: overall capitalization rate method and discounted cash flow method	Capitalization rates, discount rates
Unlisted funds: real estate, infrastructure, agriculture & timber	442,774	428,693	Net asset value – audited financial statements	Information not available
Listed real return bond	85,668	79,852	Vendor supplied price - proprietary price model	Information not available
Unlisted promissory notes	6,981	6,981	Issued by subsidiaries; valued at cost	N/A
	\$ 1,073,929	\$ 1,048,066		

The following analysis illustrates the sensitivity of the Level 3 valuations to reasonably possible capitalization rate and discount rate assumptions for real estate properties where reasonably possible alternative assumptions would change the fair value significantly.

Valuations determined by the direct capitalization method and discount cash flow method are most sensitive to changes in the capitalization rates and discount rates.

(in thousands of dollars)

	2020	2019
<b>Unlisted direct real estate subsidiaries</b>		
<b>Direct capitalization method</b>		
Minimum capitalization rate	3.50%	3.50%
Maximum capitalization rate	6.75%	6.80%
Increase of 25 basis points in capitalization rate	\$ (35,474)	\$ (31,053)
Decrease of 25 basis points in capitalization rate	\$ 36,363	\$ 32,478
<b>Discounted cash flow method</b>		
Minimum discount rate	3.50%	3.50%
Maximum discount rate	8.32%	8.22%
Increase of 25 basis points in discount rate	\$ (16,190)	\$ (13,820)
Decrease of 25 basis points in discount rate	\$ 16,616	\$ 14,113

Note: 1 basis point is equal to 0.01%

## Financial Instruments (continued)

The Plan does not have access to underlying information that comprises the fair market value of real return bonds, and certain real estate and infrastructure fund investments. The fair market value is provided by the general partner or other external managers. In the absence of information supporting the fair market value, no other reasonably possible alternative assumptions could be applied.

### Significant investments

The Plan's investments, each having a fair value or cost exceeding one per cent of the fair market value or cost of net investment assets and liabilities are as follows:

#### As at December 31, 2020

(in thousands of dollars)

	Number of investments		Fair value		Cost
Public market investments	1	\$	85,668	\$	26,623
Private market investments	17		2,059,787		1,539,546
	18	\$	2,145,455	\$	1,569,169

#### As at December 31, 2019

(in thousands of dollars)

	Number of investments		Fair value		Cost
Public market investments	1	\$	79,852	\$	30,511
Private market investments	19		2,122,617		1,579,855
	20	\$	2,202,469	\$	1,610,366

The Plan's significant private market investments consist of fixed income and equity pooled funds, commodities, real estate, and infrastructure.

## Financial Instruments (continued)

### **b. Investment risk management**

Risk management relates to the understanding and active management of risks associated with all areas of the business and the associated operating environment. Investments are primarily exposed to interest rate volatility, market price fluctuations, credit risk, foreign currency risk and liquidity risk. The Plan has set formal goals, policies, and operating procedures that establish an asset mix among equity, fixed income, real assets, absolute return strategy investments and derivatives that requires diversification of investments within categories, and set limits on the size of exposure to individual investments and counterparties. Risk and credit committees have been created to regularly monitor the risks and exposures of the Plan. Trustee oversight, procedures and compliance functions are incorporated into Plan processes to achieve consistent controls and to mitigate operational risk.

#### **i. Interest rate risk**

Interest rate risk refers to the fact that the Plan's financial position will change with market interest rate changes, as fixed income securities are sensitive to changes in nominal interest rates. Interest rate risk is inherent in the management of a pension plan due to prolonged timing differences between cash flows related to the Plan's assets and cash flows related to the Plan's liabilities. To properly manage the Plan's interest rate risk, appropriate guidelines on the weighting and duration for the bonds and other fixed income investments are set and monitored.

## Financial Instruments (continued)

### 2020

(in thousands of dollars)

	Under 1 year	1 to 5 years	5 to 10 years	Over 10 years	Total	Average yield (%) (1)
<b>Fixed income</b>						
Money market	\$ 182,503	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 182,503	-
Bonds & debentures	15,238	265,149	259,572	311,070	851,029	3.9
Real return bonds (2)	-	-	-	85,668	85,668	5.3
	\$ 197,741	\$ 265,149	\$ 259,572	\$ 396,738	\$ 1,119,200	3.4
Pooled funds					590,419	
<b>Total fixed income</b>					\$ 1,709,619	

### 2019

(in thousands of dollars)

	Under 1 year	1 to 5 years	5 to 10 years	Over 10 years	Total	Average yield (%) (1)
<b>Fixed income</b>						
Money market	\$ 146,916	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 146,916	-
Bonds & debentures	5,537	269,628	244,240	250,881	770,286	4.1
Real return bonds (2)	-	-	-	79,852	79,852	5.3
	\$ 152,453	\$ 269,628	\$ 244,240	\$ 330,733	\$ 997,054	3.6
Pooled funds					552,552	
<b>Total fixed income</b>					\$ 1,549,606	

1. The average effective yield reflects the estimated annual income of a security as a percentage of its year-end fair value. The total average yield is the weighted average of the average yields shown.
2. Real return bond yields are based on real interest rates. The ultimate yield will be impacted by inflation as it occurs.

The fair value of the Plan's investments is affected by short-term changes in nominal interest rates. Pension liabilities are exposed to the long-term expectation of rate of return of the Fund as well as expectations of inflation and salary escalation.



## Financial Instruments (continued)

### Interest rate sensitivity

The Plan's investments in fixed income and fixed income related derivatives are sensitive to interest rate movements. The following table represents the assets held in the Plan as at December 31, subject to interest rate changes, average duration due to a one percent increase (decrease) in interest rate and the change in fair value of those assets:

	2020	2019
(in thousands of dollars)		
<b>Interest rate sensitive assets</b>	\$ 1,120,511	\$ 996,920
Average duration for 1% increase in interest rates	(6.4)	(6.2)
Sensitivity to 1% increase in interest rates	(72,028)	(61,343)
<b>Fair value after 1% increase in rates</b>	\$ 1,048,483	\$ 935,577
Average duration for 1% decrease in interest rates	6.4	6.2
Sensitivity to 1% decrease in interest rates	72,028	61,343
<b>Fair value after 1% decrease in rates</b>	\$ 1,192,539	\$ 1,058,263

### ii. Market price risk

Market price risk is the risk of fluctuation in market values of investments from influences specific to a particular investment or from influences on the market as a whole. Market price risk does not include interest rate risk and foreign currency risk which are also discussed in this note. As all of the Plan's financial instruments are carried at fair value with fair value changes recognized in the statement of changes in financial position, all changes in market conditions will directly result in an increase (decrease) in net assets. Market price risk is managed by the Plan through the construction of a diversified portfolio of instruments traded on various markets and across various industries.

## Financial Instruments (continued)

### Market sensitivity

The Plan's investments in equities are sensitive to market fluctuations. The following table represents the change in fair value of the Plan's investment in public and private equities due to a ten percent increase (decrease) in fair market values as at December 31:

	2020		2019	
(in thousands of dollars)				
<b>Total equity</b>	\$	2,042,112	\$	1,962,893
10% increase in market values		204,211		196,289
<b>Fair value after 10% increase in market values</b>	\$	2,246,324	\$	2,159,182
10% decrease in market values		(204,211)		(196,289)
<b>Fair value after 10% decrease in market values</b>	\$	1,837,901	\$	1,766,604

### iii. Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk of loss in the event the counterparty to a transaction fails to discharge an obligation and causes the other party to incur a loss. Credit risk is generally higher when a non-exchange traded financial instrument is involved because the counterparty for the traded financial instrument is not backed by an exchange clearing house. Credit risk associated with the Plan is regularly monitored and analyzed through risk and credit committees.

### Fixed income

The Plan's Fixed Income Program includes two main sectors: the Government Sector and the Corporate Sector. One benefit to managing these two pieces separately is to provide the opportunity to access physical government bonds when required. When markets are at their utmost distress these may be the only securities available for liquidation. Managing the Corporate Sector and the Government Sector separately allows for the adjustment of credit risk within the Fixed Income Program by changing the allocation between these two sectors - increasing the Government Sector through periods of market duress and increasing the Corporate Sector through periods of stability. This approach also allows the active management of the Corporate Sector and taking active decisions where returns can be maximized. In order to minimize the exposure to credit risk, a comprehensive investment policy has been developed. There were no significant concentrations of credit risk in the portfolio in 2020.

## Financial Instruments (continued)

The fair values of the Plan's fixed income investments exposed to credit risk are categorized in the following table as at December 31:

	2020	2019
(in thousands of dollars)		
<b>Fixed income</b>		
<b>Canadian</b>		
Governments	\$ 356,818	\$ 351,601
Corporate	202,267	160,139
<b>Non-Canadian</b>		
Governments	50,950	35,675
Corporate	509,165	449,639
	\$ 1,119,200	\$ 997,054
<b>Pooled funds</b>	590,419	552,552
<b>Total fixed income</b>	\$ 1,709,619	\$ 1,549,606

## Financial Instruments (continued)

### Derivatives

The Plan is exposed to credit-related losses in the event counterparties fail to meet their payment obligations upon maturity of derivative contracts. The Plan limits derivative contract risk by dealing with counterparties that have a minimum "A" credit rating. In order to mitigate this risk, the Fund:

- i. Deals only with highly rated counterparties, with whom International Swap and Derivative Association agreements have been executed, normally major financial institutions with a minimum credit standard of "A" rating, as supported by a recognized credit rating agency; and
- ii. Credit risk represents the maximum amount that would be at risk as at the reporting date if the counterparties failed completely to perform under the contracts, and if the right of offset proved to be non-enforceable. Credit risk exposure on derivative contracts is represented by the receivable replacement cost of contracts with counterparties, less any prepayment collateral or margin received, as at the reporting date.

### Securities lending

The Plan engages in securities lending to enhance portfolio returns (see note 11). Through a securities lending program at the Plan's custodian, the Plan lends securities for a fee to approved borrowers. Credit risk associated with securities lending is mitigated by requiring the borrowers to provide high quality collateral. In the event that a borrower defaults completely or in part, the custodian will replace the security at its expense. Regular reporting of the securities lending program ensures that its various components are continuously being monitored.

### iv. Foreign currency risk

Foreign currency risk is the risk that the value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. The Plan primarily invests in financial instruments and enters into transactions denominated in various foreign currencies, other than its measurement currency. Consequently, the Plan is exposed to risk that the exchange rates of the various currencies may change in a manner that has an adverse effect on the value of the portion of the Plan's investment and non-investment assets or liabilities denominated in currencies other than the Canadian dollar. Foreign currency risk is hedged by using foreign exchange forward contracts. A policy of hedging up to 100% of the currency exposure helps to mitigate this risk.

The Plan's currency policy allows for the management of risk of investment and non-investments assets and liabilities held in the Fund through hedging strategies that are implemented through the purchase of forward currency contracts. The forward currency contracts offset the Plan's foreign currency exposure, hence reducing the Plan's foreign currency risk.

## Financial Instruments (continued)

The Plan's investment and non-investment assets and liabilities that are held in the Fund are represent-ed as unhedged and hedged currency exposures as at December 31 in the following table:

December 31, 2020	Unhedged	Hedged
(in thousands of dollars)		
<b>Summary FX exposure</b>		
Canadian dollar	\$ 2,313,998	\$ 4,227,564
United States dollar	2,536,806	1,207,873
Euro	229,868	(84,297)
British pound sterling	118,993	8,793
Japanese yen	107,214	76,914
Other	180,145	74,214
	\$ 5,487,024	\$ 5,511,061

December 31, 2019	Unhedged	Hedged
(in thousands of dollars)		
<b>Summary FX exposure</b>		
Canadian dollar	\$ 2,247,209	\$ 4,203,508
United States dollar	2,480,541	1,092,140
Euro	191,547	(90,787)
British pound sterling	118,532	(848)
Japanese yen	83,899	60,244
Other	196,701	85,655
	\$ 5,318,429	\$ 5,349,912

After the effect of hedging, and without change in all other variables, a ten percent increase (decrease) in the Canadian dollar against all other currencies would (decrease) increase the fair value of the Plan's investment and non-investment assets and liabilities held in the Fund, respectively.

## Financial Instruments (continued)

The following table below represents these changes in the Plan's investment and non-investment assets and liabilities held in the Fund as at December 31:

	2020	2019
(in thousands of dollars)		
<b>Fund assets and liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 5,511,061</b>	<b>\$ 5,349,912</b>
10% increase in Canadian Dollar	(116,682)	(104,219)
<b>Fund assets and liabilities after increase</b>	<b>\$ 5,394,379</b>	<b>\$ 5,245,693</b>
10% decrease in Canadian Dollar	142,611	127,378
<b>Fund assets and liabilities after decrease</b>	<b>\$ 5,653,672</b>	<b>\$ 5,477,290</b>

v. **Liquidity risk:**

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Plan's does not have sufficient cash to meet its current payment liabilities and acquire investments in a timely and cost-effective manner. Liquidity risk is inherent in the Plan's operations and can be impacted by a range of situation specific and market-wide events including, but not limited to, credit events and significant movements in the market. Cash obligations are fulfilled from contributions to the Plan, cash income of the Plan and planned dispositions of Plan assets as required. Cash requirements of the Plan are reviewed on an ongoing basis to provide for the orderly availability of resources to meet the financial obligations of the Plan. The Plan's cash management policy ensures that the quality and liquidity of the investment vehicles within the cash portfolios are consistent with the needs of the Plan.

Approximately 45% (2019 - 43%) of the Plan's investments are in liquid securities traded in public markets, consisting of fixed income and equities. Pooled funds consisting of exchange traded fixed income and equities are approximately 27% (2019 - 27%) of the Plan's investments and are liquid within 30 days or less. Although market events could lead to some invest-ments becoming illiquid, the diversity of the Plan's portfolios should ensure that liquidity is available for benefit payments. The Plan also maintains cash on hand for liquidly purposes and for payment of Plan liabilities. At December 31, 2020, the Plan had cash in the amount of \$147,410 (2019 - \$149,131).

vi. **COVID-19**

On March 11, 2020, the outbreak of the novel strain of coronavirus, specifically identified as "COVID-19", was classified as a global pandemic, which has resulted in governments enacting emergency measures to combat the spread of the virus. These measures, which include the implementation of travel bans, self-imposed quarantine periods and social distancing, have caused material disruption to business globally resulting in an economic slowdown. Global equity and capital markets have also experienced significant volatility and weakness. Governments have reacted with significant monetary and fiscal interventions designed to stabilize economic conditions. The duration and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is unknown currently, as is the efficacy of the government's interventions. The Plan's administrator has implemented procedures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including employee education, monitoring of symptoms, increased sanitation practices, as well as employees working remotely when possible. The duration of the outbreak and economic impacts are uncertain and there may be impacts in the future on the Plan's operations.

# 7.

## Accrued pension obligation

### a. Actuarial assumptions

The actuarial present value of the accrued pension obligation is an estimate of the value of pension obligations of the Plan in respect of benefits accrued to date for all active and inactive members including pensioners and survivors. As the experience of the Plan unfolds, and as underlying conditions change over time, the actual value of accrued benefits payable in the future could be materially different than the actuarial present value.

Actuarial valuations of the Plan are required every year by the Act and provide an estimate of the accrued pension obligation (Plan liabilities) calculated using various economic and demographic assumptions, based on membership data as at the valuation date. The Plan's consulting actuaries, Eckler Limited, performed a valuation as at December 31, 2020 and issued their report in April 2021. The report indicated that the Plan had an unfunded liability of \$1,467,331 (2019 - \$1,497,732).

The actuarial valuation calculates liabilities for each member on the basis of service earned to date and the employee's projected five-year highest average salary at the expected date of retirement, or in the case of pensioners and survivors, on the basis of the amount of pension being paid to them. The projected unit credit method was adopted for the actuarial valuation to determine the current service cost and actuarial liability.

	2020	2019
Discount rate	5.70% per annum	5.70% per annum
Inflation	1.80% per annum	1.80% per annum
Salary	1.80% per annum plus promotional ranging from 0.00% to 3.25%	1.80% per annum plus promotional ranging from 0.00% to 3.25%
YMPE and maximum pension increase	2.30% per annum	2.30% per annum
Indexing	0.80% per annum for retirements prior to August 1, 2006 and no indexing for retirements on or after August 1, 2006	1.00% per annum for retirements prior to August 1, 2006 and no indexing for retirements on or after August 1, 2006
Retirement age	50% of active members who achieve eligibility for an unreduced pension under the rule of 85 prior to age 62 will retire when they first become eligible; the remainder of active and all inactive members will retire at the earliest of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• age 65 with 2 years of service,</li> <li>• 35 years of service; and</li> <li>• age 62 with 10 years of service</li> </ul>	50% of active members who achieve eligibility for an unreduced pension under the rule of 85 prior to age 62 will retire when they first become eligible; the remainder of active and all inactive members will retire at the earliest of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• age 65 with 2 years of service,</li> <li>• 35 years of service; and</li> <li>• age 62 with 10 years of service</li> </ul>
Mortality	2014 Public Sector Mortality Table projected generationally with CPM improvement Scale B	2014 Public Sector Mortality Table projected generationally with CPM improvement Scale B

## Accrued pension obligation (continued)

The assumed real rates of increases in pensionable earnings (i.e. increase in excess of the assumed inflation rate) are dependent on the attained age of the members.

Demographic assumptions are used to estimate when future benefits are payable to members and beneficiaries, including assumptions about mortality rates, termination rates, and patterns of early retirement. Each of these assumptions is updated periodically, based on a detailed review of the experience of the Plan and on the expectations for future trends.

### b. Experience losses/gains

Experience losses of \$16,534 arose during the year ending December 31, 2020 from differences between the actuarial assumptions and actual results, causing an increase to the accrued pension obligation. For the year ending December 31, 2019, these differences resulted in experience gains of \$35,745 causing a decrease in the accrued pension obligation.

## 8.

### Commitments

The Plan has committed capital to investments in real estate, infrastructure, and agriculture & timber over a definitive period of time. The future commitments are generally payable on demand based on the capital needs of the related investment. The table below indicates the capital amount committed and outstanding as at December 31, 2020.

December 31, 2020	Committed	Outstanding
(in thousands of dollars)		
<b>United States dollar</b>		
Real estate	25,000	4,620
Infrastructure	260,000	97,403
	USD 285,000	USD 102,023
<b>Euro</b>		
Infrastructure	20,000	17,440
	EUR 20,000	EUR 17,440



## 9.

## Benefits

	2020	2019
(in thousands of dollars)		
Pension benefits paid	\$ 367,644	\$ 359,093
Survivor benefits paid	22,124	22,920
Disability benefits paid	18,143	20,215
Refunds paid to terminated members	2,800	4,502
	\$ 410,711	\$ 406,730

## 10.

## Administrative Expenses

The Plan is charged by its service providers, including Nova Scotia Pension Services Corporation, a related entity, for professional and administrative services. The following is a summary of these administrative expenses.

	2020	2019
(in thousands of dollars)		
<b>Plan administration:</b>		
Office and administration services	\$ 4,847	\$ 5,510
Actuarial and consulting services	90	403
Legal services	86	43
Audit services	47	37
Other professional services	31	31
	5,101	6,024
<b>Investment expenses:</b>		
Investment management services	10,674	11,987
Transaction costs	713	584
Custody services	471	470
Advisory and consulting services	394	317
Information services	214	211
	12,466	13,569
HST	1,662	1,898
	\$ 19,229	\$ 21,491

Investment management and performance fees included in the unrealized gains/ (losses) on investments consisting of pooled funds, limited partnerships and subsidiaries are estimated at \$23,325 (2019 - \$19,068). These fees are not direct expenses of the Plan and therefore are not included in administrative expenses.

## 11.

## Securities lending

The Plan participates in a securities lending program where it lends securities that it owns to third parties for a fee. For securities lent, the Plan receives a fee and the borrower provides readily marketable securities of higher value as collateral which mitigates the credit risk associated with the program. When the Plan lends securities, the risk of failure by the borrower to return the loaned securities is alleviated by such loans being continually collateralized. The securities lending agent also provides indemnification if there is a shortfall between collateral and the lent security that cannot be recovered. The securities lending contracts are collateralized by securities issued by, or guaranteed without any limitation or qualification by, the government of Canada or the governments of other countries.

The following table represents the estimated fair value of securities that were loaned out and the related collateral as at December 31:

	2020		2019	
(in thousands of dollars)				
<b>Securities on loan</b>	\$	287,112	\$	365,242
<b>Collateral held</b>	\$	307,967	\$	396,224

## 12.

## Related party transactions

Investments held by the Plan include bonds & debentures of the Province of Nova Scotia. The total fair value of these investments is \$2,296 (0.1% of Fund assets and liabilities) as at December 31, 2020 (\$2,703 (0.1% of Fund assets and liabilities) at December 31, 2019).

The Plan's administrator, Nova Scotia Pension Services Corporation, an entity co-owned by Teachers' Pension Plan Trustee Inc. and Public Service Superannuation Plan Trustee Inc. for the purpose of providing pension plan administration and investment services, charges the Plan at cost, an amount equal to the expenses incurred to service the Plan. As Nova Scotia Pension Services Corporation operates on a cost recovery basis, the Plan loans cash to its administrator, as required to pay upcoming expenses or to purchase capital assets. The administration expense charged to the Plan for the year ending December 31, 2020 was \$5,280 (2019 - \$5,826). The amount due to the administrator as at December 31, 2020 was \$832 (2019 - \$1,672).

## 13.

## Interest in subsidiaries

The Plan's subsidiaries were created for the purposes of providing investment earnings from real estate, infrastructure and other investment arrangements. The Plan's subsidiaries are presented on a non-consolidated basis. The following table shows the fair values of the Plan's subsidiaries as at December 31:

Subsidiary	Purpose	Ownership %	2020 Fair value	2019 Fair value
(in thousands of dollars)				
TPP Investments RE Inc.	Real estate	100	\$ 451,425	\$ 450,366
NT Combined Investments Inc.	Equities	45	372,460	378,783
TPP Investments II Inc.	Real estate	100	118,983	116,384
TPP Investments CS Inc.	Infrastructure	100	101,321	97,829
TPP Investments AX Inc.	Infrastructure	100	55,892	54,934
TPP Investments ES Inc.	Real estate	100	40,565	36,787
HV Combined Investments Inc.	Hedge funds	37	25,455	20,382
TPP Investments KA Inc.	Infrastructure	100	161	-
			\$ 1,166,262	\$ 1,155,465

The Plan either has 100% controlling interest or significant influence over its subsidiaries' cash flows. Funding is made via capital investment from the Plan. Certain subsidiaries have commitments that must be funded directly through capital investment by the Plan. These amounts are included in the Plan's commitments (note 8). Financing is provided as required via shareholder loans and is payable on demand to the Plan.

## 14. Capital management

The main objective of the Fund is to sustain a certain level of net assets in order to meet the Plan's pension obligations. The TPPTI (see note 1) manages the contributions and plan benefits as required by the Act and its related Regulations. The TPPTI approves and incurs expenses to administer the commerce of the Fund as required by agreement between the Province and the Union.

Under the direction of the TPPTI, the Fund provides for the short-term financial needs of current benefit payments while investing members' contributions for the longer-term security of pensioner payments. The TPPTI exercises duly diligent practices and has established written investment policies and procedures, and approval processes. Operating budgets, audited financial statements, yearly actuarial valuations and reports, and as required, the retention of supplementary professional, technical and other advisors, are part of the Fund governance structure.

The Fund fulfils its primary objective by adhering to specific investment policies outlined in its SIP&G, which is reviewed annually by TPPTI. The Fund manages net assets by engaging knowledgeable investment managers who are charged with the responsibility of investing existing funds and new funds (current year's employee and employer contributions) in accordance with the SIP&G. Increases in net assets are a direct result of investment income generated by investments held by the Fund and contributions into the Fund by eligible employees and participating employers. The main use of net assets is for benefit payments to eligible Plan members.

Under the 2014 Agreement, minimum funding targets were established, with objectives of having assets of the Plan reach levels of 80-90% of the actuarial liabilities on or before December 31, 2025, at least 85-95% on or before December 31, 2030, and at least 90-100% on or before December 31, 2035. These funding targets are required to be regularly reviewed, including a comprehensive review in 2020 and further reviews every 5 years thereafter.

## 15. Comparative information

Certain 2019 comparative information has been reclassified to conform to the financial statement presentation adopted for the current year.



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