



Financial Statements

Highway 104 Western Alignment Corporation

March 31, 2010

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## Auditors' report

Grant Thornton LLP  
Suite 1100  
2000 Barrington Street  
Halifax, NS  
B3J 3K1  
T (902) 421-1734  
F (902) 420-1068  
www.GrantThornton.ca

To the shareholder of  
**Highway 104 Western Alignment Corporation**

We have audited the balance sheet of **Highway 104 Western Alignment Corporation** as at March 31, 2010 and the statements of earnings and deficit and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Corporation's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Corporation as at March 31, 2010 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

*Grant Thornton LLP*

Halifax, Nova Scotia  
May 11, 2010

Chartered Accountants

# Highway 104 Western Alignment Corporation

## Statements of earnings and deficit

Year ended March 31	Budget 2010 (unaudited)	Actual 2010	2009
<b>Revenue</b>			
Facility revenue	\$ 19,430,200	\$ 19,346,098	\$ 18,558,183
Interest income	<u>800,000</u>	<u>172,023</u>	<u>1,158,500</u>
	<u>20,230,200</u>	<u>19,518,121</u>	<u>19,716,683</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Bondholder representative fees	106,800	97,874	100,977
Trustee fees	26,700	25,187	22,720
Salaries and benefits	240,600	193,037	176,809
Office	57,100	64,535	50,588
General and administrative	196,500	252,015	217,248
Enforcement	60,000	60,000	60,000
Independent engineer	50,000	29,390	40,814
Routine maintenance	1,073,600	1,261,626	1,008,000
Major maintenance	1,084,000	415,336	1,184,076
Facility operations	2,484,800	2,217,970	2,206,771
Transponders	-	16,478	16,568
	<u>5,380,100</u>	<u>4,633,448</u>	<u>5,084,571</u>
Earnings before other items	14,850,100	14,884,673	14,632,112
<b>Other items</b>			
Government assistance amortization (note 2)	1,614,600	1,619,663	1,542,560
Amortization and depreciation	(3,280,500)	(3,412,805)	(3,487,759)
Interest on long term debt	(7,315,900)	(7,320,910)	(7,483,228)
Unrealized gain on investments	-	11,753	51,715
Net earnings	\$ <u>5,868,300</u>	\$ <u>5,782,374</u>	\$ <u>5,255,400</u>
<b>Deficit, beginning of year</b>			
		\$ (13,739,393)	\$ (14,243,604)
<b>Net earnings</b>			
		5,782,374	5,255,400
<b>Transfer to reserve for restricted assets (note 10)</b>			
		<u>(3,109,583)</u>	<u>(4,751,189)</u>
<b>Deficit, end of year</b>			
		\$ <u>(11,066,602)</u>	\$ <u>(13,739,393)</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

# Highway 104 Western Alignment Corporation

## Balance sheet

March 31 2010 2009

### Assets

#### Current

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 486,139	\$ 768,424
Inventory	8,733	6,577
Prepays (note 4)	426,761	427,909
Receivables (note 5)	<u>970,161</u>	<u>723,730</u>
	<b>1,891,794</b>	<b>1,926,640</b>

Restricted assets (note 6)	<b>41,458,286</b>	38,348,747
Facility (note 7)	<u><b>94,470,628</b></u>	<u>95,484,361</u>
	<b>\$ 137,820,708</b>	<b>\$ 135,759,748</b>

### Liabilities

#### Current

Payables and accruals	\$ 1,467,459	\$ 1,903,362
Current portion of long term debt (note 8)	1,868,622	1,688,949
Deferred revenue	<u>885,072</u>	<u>867,066</u>
	<b>4,221,153</b>	<b>4,459,377</b>

Long term debt (note 8)	<b>68,790,390</b>	70,659,011
Payable to the Province of Nova Scotia/deferred grant (note 9)	<b>250,000</b>	250,000
Deferred government assistance (note 2)	<u>40,106,497</u>	<u>41,721,066</u>
	<u><b>113,368,040</b></u>	<u>117,089,454</u>

### Shareholder's equity

Capital stock, one no par value share issued and outstanding in favour of the Province of Nova Scotia	1	1
Reserve for restricted assets (note 10)	<b>35,519,269</b>	32,409,686
Deficit	<u>(11,066,602)</u>	<u>(13,739,393)</u>
	<u><b>24,452,668</b></u>	<u>18,670,294</u>
	<b>\$ 137,820,708</b>	<b>\$ 135,759,748</b>

Commitments and contractual obligations (note 13)

On behalf of the Board

\_\_\_\_\_ President

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

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## Highway 104 Western Alignment Corporation

### Statement of cash flows

Year ended March 31

2010

2009

(Decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents

<b>Operating</b>		
Net earnings	\$ 5,782,374	\$ 5,255,400
Government assistance amortization	(1,614,569)	(1,537,686)
Amortization of deferred financing fees	19,195	19,195
Amortization and depreciation	3,412,805	3,487,759
Unrealized gain on investments	<u>(11,753)</u>	<u>(51,715)</u>
	7,588,052	7,172,953
Change in non-cash operating working capital (note 11)	<u>(665,336)</u>	<u>500,949</u>
	<u>6,922,716</u>	<u>7,673,902</u>
<b>Financing</b>		
Repayment of long term debt	<u>(1,708,143)</u>	<u>(1,545,607)</u>
<b>Investing</b>		
Increase in restricted assets	(3,097,786)	(4,699,453)
Additions to facility	<u>(2,399,072)</u>	<u>(1,269,477)</u>
	<u>(5,496,858)</u>	<u>(5,968,930)</u>
Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents	(282,285)	159,365
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	<u>768,424</u>	<u>609,059</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ <u>486,139</u>	\$ <u>768,424</u>

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See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

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# Highway 104 Western Alignment Corporation

## Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2010

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### 1. Nature of operations

The Corporation has been established for the purpose of financing, designing, constructing, operating and maintaining the Facility consisting mainly of a 45 km stretch of highway (referred to as the Highway 104 Western Alignment) between Masstown and Thomson Station in the Counties of Colchester and Cumberland, Nova Scotia. The Corporation has been designated a Government Business Enterprise by the Nova Scotia Provincial Finance Act. The Corporation follows generally accepted accounting policies for profit-oriented enterprises.

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### 2. Summary of significant accounting policies

#### Pre-operating and operating periods

The pre-operating period was the twenty month construction period commencing April 1, 1996 until the date of acceptance in November 1997. Operations began December 1, 1997.

#### Facility

The Facility consists of the highway referred to as the Highway 104 Western Alignment and the toll plaza constructed on the highway. The costs of the Facility include certified progress payments to the Facility's contractor, independent engineer fees, professional fees and interest costs incurred during the pre-operating period. These costs are being amortized commencing at the start of the operating period until March 31, 2026 using the sinking fund method with an annual compounding rate of 5%. Subsequent purchases of equipment and upgrades to the Facility are being amortized over the useful lives of the assets, ranging between 8 years and the expiry of the project.

#### Revenue recognition

The Corporation recognizes toll revenue at the time a vehicle utilizes the highway. Provincial subsidies, net of rebates in accordance with the First Amendment to the Omnibus Agreement are recognized as facility revenue.

#### Deferred financing fees

Financing, commitment and bondholder representative fees related to the establishment and placement of the senior toll revenue bonds have been deferred and are being amortized to operations over the term of the related bond debt commencing at the start of the operating period.

Deferred financing fees are reflected as a reduction in long term debt.

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# Highway 104 Western Alignment Corporation

## Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2010

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### 2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

#### Deferred government assistance

Government assistance provided by the Province of Nova Scotia has been recorded as a deferral and is being amortized to operations over thirty years commencing at the start of the operating period using the sinking fund method with an annual compounding rate of 5%.

#### Deferred government grant

Government grant provided by the Province of Nova Scotia has been recorded as a deferral and is being amortized to operations over twenty years commencing April 1, 2007 using the effective interest rate method at an annual rate of 4.5% in accordance with CICA Handbook Section 3855.

#### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, balances with banks and short term deposits with original maturities of three months or less with the exception of restricted cash balances which are included in restricted assets. Bank borrowings are considered to be financing activities.

#### Use of estimates

In preparing the Corporation's financial statements, management is required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the year. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

#### Financial instruments

Financial assets and liabilities are initially recognized at fair value and are subsequently accounted for based on their classification as described below.

Financial assets must be classified as held for trading, available for sale, held to maturity or loans and receivables. Financial liabilities are required to be classified as held for trading or other financial liabilities. All financial instruments are measured at fair value on the balance sheet with the exception of loans and receivables, held to maturity investments and other financial liabilities which are measured at amortized cost.

Changes in fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities classified as held for trading are reported in earnings.

The Corporation has classified its financial instruments as follows:

Held for trading	Cash, restricted assets
Other financial liabilities	Payables and accruals, amount payable to the Province of Nova Scotia and long term debt
Loans and receivables	Receivables



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# Highway 104 Western Alignment Corporation

## Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2010

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### 2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

Unless noted below, it is management's opinion that the Corporation is not exposed to significant interest, currency, liquidity or credit risks arising from these financial instruments.

#### **Interest rate risk**

The Corporation is not exposed to interest rate risk on its long term debt as it bears interest at a fixed rate.

#### **Credit risk**

Financial instruments which potentially subject the Corporation to concentrations of credit risk consist of cash and cash equivalents and receivables. The cash equivalents consist mainly of short-term money market deposits. The Corporation has deposited the cash equivalents with reputable financial institutions, from which management believes the risk of loss is remote.

The Corporation has receivables with reputable organizations therefore believes there is no exposure to credit risk.

#### **Liquidity risk**

The Corporation feels that it has sufficient cash and cash equivalents to meet its financial obligations.

#### **International financial reporting standards ("IFRS")**

In March 2009, the Canadian Accounting Standards Board ("AcSB") reconfirmed in its second omnibus Exposure Draft that IFRS will replace Canadian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP") for publicly accountable enterprises for interim and annual periods beginning on or after January 1, 2011, including the restatement of the comparative period financial statements on the same basis. As a government business enterprise, the Corporation is specifically scoped into the definition of a publicly accountable enterprise. As such, the Corporation is required to prepare its 2012 financial statements including comparative information for 2011 in compliance with IFRS.

Management's analysis of changes and policy decisions reflects their expectations regarding the accounting standards that they anticipate will be effective at the time of the Corporation's transition. Significant changes to IFRS accounting standards are expected to be issued by the International Accounting Standards Board ("IASB") throughout 2010 and 2011. As a result, there is uncertainty regarding the expected accounting standards that will ultimately be in place in 2011, and therefore applicable to the Corporation's first IFRS financial statements, including comparatives and opening IFRS balance sheet. The determination on future financial reporting requirements continues to be under review.

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# Highway 104 Western Alignment Corporation

## Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2010

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### 3. Adoption of new accounting standards

#### Amendments to Financial Instruments - Disclosures

The CICA amended Section 3862, "Financial instruments – Disclosures" to include additional disclosure requirements about fair value measurement for financial instruments and liquidity risk disclosures. The amendments require a three level hierarchy that reflects the significance of the input used in making the fair value measurements. The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are as follows:

#### **Level 1**

Inputs that reflect unadjusted publicly quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

#### **Level 2**

Inputs other than quoted prices that is observable for the assets or liabilities either directly or indirectly, including inputs in markets that are not considered to be active.

#### **Level 3**

Inputs that are unobservable. There is little, if any, market activity. Inputs into the determination of fair value require significant management judgment or estimation.

These amendments are effective for annual financial statements ending on or after September 30, 2009. The additional disclosures as required under this section are disclosed in note 6 to the financial statements.

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<b>4. Prepaids</b>	<b><u>2010</u></b>	<b><u>2009</u></b>
Operating expenses	\$ 39,104	\$ 40,852
Advance to operator	<u>387,657</u>	<u>387,057</u>
	<b>\$ <u>426,761</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>427,909</u></b>

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<b>5. Receivables</b>	<b><u>2010</u></b>	<b><u>2009</u></b>
Harmonized Sales Tax	\$ 159,883	\$ 126,355
Receivable from the Province of Nova Scotia	418,836	593,867
Other	<u>391,442</u>	<u>3,508</u>
	<b>\$ <u>970,161</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>723,730</u></b>

# Highway 104 Western Alignment Corporation

## Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2010

### 6. Restricted assets

	<u>Cash</u>	<u>Investments</u>	<u>2010 Total</u>	<u>2009 Total</u>
Senior debt service reserve account	\$ 94	\$ 9,034,539	<b>\$ 9,034,633</b>	\$ 9,298,646
Capital reserve account	650	21,866,394	<b>21,867,044</b>	18,294,610
Major maintenance reserve account	<u>1,051</u>	<u>10,555,558</u>	<b><u>10,556,609</u></b>	<u>10,755,491</u>
	<b><u>\$ 1,795</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 41,456,491</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 41,458,286</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 38,348,747</u></b>

Investments are recorded at fair value and include accrued interest of \$35,160 (2009 – \$42,041), have a weighted average term of 7.12 (2009 – 2.96) months to maturity and a weighted average interest rate of 0.66% (2009 – 0.55%).

The following restricted accounts have been established in accordance to trust indenture agreements between the Corporation and the senior bondholders and an Omnibus Agreement between the Corporation and the Province of Nova Scotia:

- (i) The senior debt service reserve account has been established to provide a reserve of funds to be available for payments as they come due for the senior toll revenue bonds. Funds can only be transferred from this fund when funds in the capital reserve account are insufficient to pay senior toll revenue bond payments. The account should maintain sufficient reserves equal to 12 months principal and interest payments due on the senior toll revenue bonds. The replenishment of the reserve comes from the capital reserve account.
- (ii) The capital reserve account has been established to provide funds to pay the interest and principal on the senior bonds and the subordinated notes. These funds are also available to pay the trustee and bondholders' representative fees to the extent they are not paid out of the project account. This account provides funding to the major maintenance reserve and the senior debt reserve accounts. The capital reserve account is funded from excess funds transferred from the project bank accounts of the Corporation.
- (iii) The major maintenance reserve account has been established for the purpose of paying major maintenance repair and rehabilitation expenses. This reserve is funded from the capital reserve account in accordance with a maintenance budget recommended by the Independent Engineer through the terms of the major maintenance reserve fund agreement.

The Corporation's restricted assets are recorded at fair value and have been categorized based upon a fair value hierarchy as Level 1 in accordance with the amendment to CICA 3862 (as referred to in note 3). There were no transfers between the three levels of hierarchy between March 31, 2009 and March 31, 2010.

# Highway 104 Western Alignment Corporation

## Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2010

7. Facility			<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated Depreciation</u>	<u>Net Book Total</u>	<u>Net Book Total</u>
Facility	\$ 124,464,691	\$ 33,857,426	\$ 90,607,265	\$ 93,802,692
Equipment and upgrades	<u>4,098,774</u>	<u>235,411</u>	<u>3,863,363</u>	<u>1,681,669</u>
Total	<u>\$ 128,563,465</u>	<u>\$ 34,092,837</u>	<u>\$ 94,470,628</u>	<u>\$ 95,484,361</u>

### 8. Long term debt

Senior toll revenue bonds bearing interest at 10.13%, maturing March 31, 2026, repayable in partial interest payments from June 30, 1998 until March 31, 2006 and then 80 equal blended quarterly payments of interest and principal of \$2,251,191. The amount by which the interest expense has exceeded interest payments has been capitalized as part of the principal. As security, the Corporation has provided an assignment of all the present and future property and assets, including rights to operate the Facility, a security interest in the Debt Service Reserve Account and the Major Maintenance Reserve Account.

	<b>\$ 70,659,012</b>	\$ 72,347,960
Less: principal repayments due within one year	<u>1,868,622</u>	<u>1,688,949</u>
	<b>\$ 68,790,390</b>	<b>\$ 70,659,011</b>

Minimum principal repayments for the next five years, net of deferred financing fees, are as follows:

2011	\$ 1,868,622
2012	2,067,164
2013	2,286,617
2014	2,529,122
2015	2,797,229

The fair value of the Corporation's long term debt is \$105 million, determined using cash flows discounted at a rate equal to the prevailing market rate of interest for financial instruments having substantially the same terms and characteristics.

# Highway 104 Western Alignment Corporation

## Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2010

### 9. Payable to the Province of Nova Scotia/deferred grant

On the date of acceptance, the Province advanced \$250,000 to the Corporation to facilitate the Provincial subsidy. Under the First Amendment to the Omnibus Agreement, the Province reduced the tolls for transponder users and created a Provincial subsidy payable to the Corporation to offset the reduction. The advance is to be repaid to the Province on the earlier of the date when the toll rates are reinstated to the original rates as laid out in the Omnibus Agreement or when the Corporation has fully extinguished its obligations under the Senior Bond Indentures.

### 10. Reserve for restricted assets

The capital reserve account is to be funded from excess funds in the Project Bank Account. In addition, any interest earned on restricted assets forms part of the reserve account.

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Reserve for restricted assets, beginning of year	\$ <u>32,409,686</u>	\$ <u>27,658,498</u>
Transfers from project account	15,476,200	15,142,900
Interest income	172,023	1,136,808
Long term debt payments, including interest	(9,004,764)	(9,004,764)
Major maintenance payments, including HST to be recovered	(3,545,629)	(2,575,470)
Change in market value of restricted assets	<u>11,753</u>	<u>51,714</u>
	<u>3,109,583</u>	<u>4,751,188</u>
Reserve for restricted assets, end of year	\$ <u>35,519,269</u>	\$ <u>32,409,686</u>

### 11. Supplemental cash flow information

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
<b>Change in non-cash operating working capital</b>		
Inventory	\$ (2,156)	\$ 1,484
Prepays	1,148	(29,737)
Receivables	(246,431)	91,939
Payables and accruals	(435,903)	432,104
Deferred revenue	<u>18,006</u>	<u>5,159</u>
	\$ <u>(665,336)</u>	\$ <u>500,949</u>
Cash and cash equivalents consist of:		
Cash on hand and balances with banks	\$ <u>486,139</u>	\$ <u>768,424</u>
Interest paid	\$ <u>7,320,910</u>	\$ <u>7,483,228</u>

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# Highway 104 Western Alignment Corporation

## Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2010

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### 12. Capital management

The Corporation's objectives when managing capital are to:

- (i) Manage investments to ensure restricted accounts are consistent with trust indenture agreements between the Corporation, bondholders and the Province of Nova Scotia as described in note 6.
- (ii) To monitor the budget/forecast on a monthly basis to ensure optimal returns to stakeholders.

Currently, the Corporation relies on cash flows from operations to fund its capital management objectives. The Corporation's capital is comprised of the reserve for restricted assets, described in note 10. Capital under management for the year totalled \$35,519,269 (2008 - \$32,409,686). There have been no changes to the Corporation's approach to capital management during the period, and the Corporation was in compliance with applicable capital management contractual requirements during the reporting period.

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### 13. Commitments and contractual obligations

The Corporation has entered into the following agreements to finance, design, construct, operate and maintain the Highway 104 Western Alignment:

- **Omnibus Agreement**

Agreement dated April 1, 1996, between the Corporation, the Contractor, the Operator and the Province of Nova Scotia to design, finance, construct, operate and maintain the Highway 104 Western Alignment. This agreement acknowledges that the Corporation has entered into a Design Build Agreement and an Operating Agreement to fulfil its obligations to the Province.

Under this agreement, the Province of Nova Scotia retains ownership of the Facility, however, the Corporation is granted the right to operate and collect tolls for a thirty year period, at which time this right will revert back to the Province.

The Province contributed \$55,000,000 to the project.

- **Operating Agreement**

Agreement dated May 22, 1996 between the Corporation and Atlantic Highways Management Corporation (the Operator) whereby the Operator is required to operate the Facility which includes the toll collection system, toll plaza and the administration building.

Facility operations expenses paid to the Operator during the year totalled \$2,217,969 (2009 - \$2,290,501).

Operator compensation is based on the annual operating budget plus a variable fee, subject to adjustment under certain conditions, equal to 10% of the total annual budget.

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# Highway 104 Western Alignment Corporation

## Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2010

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### 13. Commitments and contractual obligations (continued)

- **Major Maintenance Reserve Fund Agreement**

Agreement between the Corporation, the Trustee and the Bondholders' Representative to provide for the major maintenance work required during the operating period of the Facility. The Agreement requires the Corporation, on an annual basis, to engage an independent engineer to report on all major maintenance work to be completed in the upcoming year, as well as a major maintenance budget to determine the required annual amount to be deposited in the Major Maintenance Reserve Account. The maximum annual fee is \$50,000. The agreement with the independent engineer was renewed on November 30, 2009.

The estimated deposits required to fund anticipated major maintenance for the next five years are as follows:

2011	\$	1,600,000
2012		1,500,000
2013		1,175,000
2014		1,040,000
2015		1,167,500

- **Annual Roadway Maintenance Agreement**

The thirty year agreement between the Corporation and the Department of Transportation and Public Works of the Province of Nova Scotia to provide annual roadway maintenance services is renewable in five year increments and was renewed in the prior year. For the current fiscal year, the annual fee of \$1,105,000 was adjusted for inflation and totalled \$1,117,096.

During the year, the Corporation incurred management fees of \$76,605 (2009 - \$56,718) from the Province of Nova Scotia.

- **Other**

The Corporation has also entered into various operating lease agreements for equipment and office space. The minimum lease payments for the next five years are as follows:

2011	\$	28,562
2012		29,898
2013		29,483
2014		28,072
2015		18,714

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### 14. Comparative figures

Certain of the comparative figures for the prior year have been reclassified to conform to the financial statement presentation adopted for the current year.