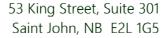
# ENVISION SAINT JOHN: THE REGIONAL GROWTH AGENCY Financial Statements Year Ended December 31, 2023





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# **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Board of Directors of Envision Saint John: The Regional Growth Agency

# Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Envision Saint John: The Regional Growth Agency (the "Agency"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2023, and the statements of changes in net assets, revenues and expenditures and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Agency as at December 31, 2023, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO).

# 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 *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Agency in accordance with 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.

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 ASNPO, 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 Agency'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 Agency or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

# Auditor's 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 auditor's 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 these 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:

Independent Auditor's Report to the Board of Directors of Envision Saint John: The Regional Growth Agency *(continued)* 

- 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 Agency'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 Agency's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's 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 auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Agency 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.

We 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.

**Chartered Professional Accountants** 

Emerge

Saint John, New Brunswick



# **Statement of Financial Position**

As at December 31, 2023

	C	perational Fund		Restricted npact Loan Fund	L	and Bank Fund		2023		2022
CURRENT ASSETS										
Cash	\$	2,240,379	\$	1,633,570	\$	_	\$	3,873,949	\$	3,798,269
Receivables (Note 4)	Ψ	584,571	Ψ	-	Ψ	_	Ψ	584,571	Ψ	619,313
Prepaids		105,203		_		-		105,203		96,209
Current portion of impact loans		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,						100,000		00,200
receivable (Note 5)		-		197,472		-		197,472		251,684
		0.000.450		4 004 040				4 704 405		4 705 475
IMPACT LOANS RECEIVABLE (Note 5)		2,930,153		1,831,042		-		4,761,195		4,765,475
CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 6)		32,672		276,195		· -		276,195		360,548
CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 0)		32,012				-	-	32,672		52,582
	\$	2,962,825	\$	2,107,237	\$	-	\$	5,070,062	\$	5,178,605
CURRENT LIABILITIES										
Payables	\$	225,733	\$	-	\$	-	\$	225,733	\$	647,153
Deferred income - operations	•	187,500	•	_	*	-	•	187,500	Ψ	207,501
Deferred income - projects		74,179		-		-		74,179		2,381
		487,412		-		-		487,412		857,035
FUND BALANCES		2,475,413		2,107,237		-		4,582,650		4,321,570
	\$	2,962,825	\$	2,107,237	\$	-	\$	5,070,062	\$	5,178,605

API	PROV	VED	ON	<b>BEHALF</b>	OF	THE	<b>BOARD</b>

Director

Director

**Statement of Changes in Net Assets** 

	(	Operational Fund	Restricted mpact Loan Fund	L	and Bank Fund	2023	2022
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$	2,066,994	\$ 1,594,286	\$	660,290	\$ 4,321,570	\$ 3,515,822
Excess of revenues over expenditures External transfer of funds		808,419 -	512,951 -		(1,483) (658,807)	1,319,887 (658,807)	805,748 -
Transfer to strategic growth reserve		(200,000)	-		-	(200,000)	(600,000)
Strategic growth funds recognized in current year		(400,000)	-		-	(400,000)	-
Increase to strategic growth funds held in reserve		200,000	-		-	200,000	600,000
NET ASSETS. END OF YEAR	\$	2.475.413	\$ 2.107.237	\$	_	\$ 4.582.650	\$ 4.321.570

# **Statement of Revenues and Expenditures**

	Operational Fund	Restricted Impact Loan Fund	Land Bank Fund	2023	2022
Revenues					
Government funding (Schedule 1)	\$ 3,922,174	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,922,174	\$ 3,265,473
Destination marketing fees	1,275,741	•	•	1,275,741	1,151,220
Impact loan contributions	-,=,	500,000	_	500,000	-, ,
Impact loan interest	_	19,989	_	19,989	29,146
Land bank interest (expense)	_	-	(1,483)	(1,483)	2,704
Other (Note 8)	173,442	_	-	173,442	141,546
Projects (Note 9)	169,416	-	-	169,416	936,710
	5,540,773	519,989	(1,483)	6,059,279	5,526,799
Expenditures					
Salaries and benefits	1,766,835	-	-	1,766,835	1,559,668
Administration (Schedule 2)	1,003,973	-	-	1,003,973	758,708
Strategy, marketing and sales	1,792,130	-	-	1,792,130	1,423,645
Impact loan expenses	, . -	7,038	-	7,038	42,320
Projects (Note 9)	169,416	-	-	169,416	936,710
	4,732,354	7,038	-	4,739,392	4,721,051
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	\$ 808,419	\$ 512,951	\$ (1,483)	\$ 1,319,887	\$ 805,748

**Statement of Cash Flows** 

	C	perational Fund	Restricted npact Loan Fund	L	and Bank Fund	2023		2022
OPERATING ACTIVITIES  Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures Items not affecting cash:	\$	808,419	\$ 512,951	\$	(1,483)	\$	1,319,887	\$ 805,748
Amortization of capital assets Provision for doubtful loans receivable		19,910 -	- 7,922		-		19,910 7,922	18,682 41,174
		828,329	520,873		(1,483)		1,347,719	865,604
Changes in non-cash working capital: Receivables		34,742	_		_		34,742	9,196
Prepaids		(8,994)	-		-		(8,994)	(63,752)
Payables		(421,420)	-		-		(421,420)	493,236
Deferred income - operations		(20,001)	-		-		(20,001)	202,501
Deferred income - projects		71,798	-		-		71,798	(48,609)
		(343,875)	-		-		(343,875)	592,572
		484,454	520,873		(1,483)		1,003,844	1,458,176
FINANCING ACTIVITIES								
Land Bank external fund transfer		- (400,000)	-		(658,807)		(658,807)	-
Strategic growth fund payment		(400,000)	-		-		(400,000)	-
		(400,000)	-		(658,807)		(1,058,807)	
INVESTING ACTIVITIES								
Purchase of capital assets		-	-		-		-	(12,632)
Advance of loans receivable		-	(140,000)		-		(140,000)	(150,000)
Proceeds from repayment of loans receivable		-	270,643		<u> </u>		270,643	357,744
		-	130,643		-		130,643	195,112
NET CHANGE IN CASH		84,454	651,516		(660,290)		75,680	1,653,288
CASH, BEGINNING OF YEAR		2,155,925	982,054		660,290		3,798,269	2,144,981
CASH, END OF YEAR	\$	2,240,379	\$ 1,633,570	\$	-	\$	3,873,949	\$ 3,798,269

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended December 31, 2023

#### 1. NATURE AND CONTINUANCE OF OPERATIONS

Envision Saint John: The Regional Growth Agency (the "Agency") is a not-for-profit company incorporated pursuant to the Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, SC 2009, c.23. Management has determined that they are exempt from payment of income tax under Section 149(1) of the Income Tax Act.

The Agency is a singular economic growth entity with a mandate to propel growth for the Saint John region representing the City of Saint John, Quispamsis, Rothesay, Grand Bay-Westfield, Hampton, Fundy St. Martins and the Fundy Rural District. The Agency is the region's sales, marketing, and support engine, strategically focused on attracting people, visitors, business and investment. The Agency accelerates regional growth by connecting innovators, entrepreneurs, and builders. The Agency is incorporated without share capital under the laws of the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act.

#### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

# Basis of presentation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNFPO) and include the following significant accounting policies:

#### Fund accounting

The Agency follows the restricted fund method of accounting.

The Operational Fund accounts for the Agency's program delivery and administrative activities. This fund reports unrestricted resources, capital items, operating contributions and expenses.

The Impact Loan Fund reports all restricted resources of the Impact Loan Fund and the income and expenses resulting from lending activities employing the Fund.

The Land Bank Fund reports all restricted resources of the Land Bank Fund and the income and expenses resulting from activities employing the Fund.

#### Revenue recognition

Unrestricted contributions and related expenses are recognized on an accrual basis. Strategic partner funding is invoiced as commitments are made and is recognized as revenue in the year for which the work plan commitment is made.

Restricted contributions from government and the private sector which relate to specific projects are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenditures are incurred. Any excess income or expenses on completed projects is the absorbed by the Operational Fund.

Income and expenses on loans receivable under the Impact Loan Fund is recognized as earned or incurred, and are recorded as a direct increase or decrease to the restricted equity for Impact Loan Fund.

# Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenditures during the reporting period. Estimates are used for, but not limited to, determination of fair values, allowance for doubtful accounts, accruals and amortization. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended December 31, 2023

# 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

# Capital assets

Capital assets are recorded at cost. Amortization is provided for on a straight-line basis at the following rates:

Furniture and equipment 3 years Leasehold improvements term of the lease

In the year of acquisition, amortization is pro-rated based on the number of months in service. No provision for amortization is made in the year of asset disposal. Upon disposal, the asset cost and related accumulated amortization are removed from the accounts and any resulting gain or loss is included in income.

#### Allowance for doubtful accounts

The allowance for doubtful accounts is determined by assessing the fair value of the loan portfolio considering each loan's repayment history, security pledged and other circumstances. The allowance at year end will equal the estimated uncollectable balance of all loans considered doubtful. The allowance for doubtful accounts as a reduction of loans outstanding, including the current year's increase or decrease in the required allowance, is disclosed in Note 5.

#### Impairment of long lived assets

Long lived assets are tested for recoverability whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that their carrying amount may not be recoverable. The amount of the impairment loss is determined as the excess of the carrying value of the asset over its fair value. No write-down of long lived assets was recorded in the year.

#### Deferred revenue

Deferred revenue are advances that are received for projects that are in progress.

#### Allocation of expenditures

The Agency allocates certain expenditures, including payroll to various projects, that are part of its operations. These expenditures are allocated by identifying the appropriate basis and applies that basis consistently each year.

#### Statement of cash flows

For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, the Agency considers cash on hand to be balances with banks, net of overdrafts, and highly liquid temporary money market instruments with original maturities of three months or less as cash or cash equivalents. Bank borrowings are considered to be financing activities.

# Financial instruments

#### Measurement of financial instruments

The Agency initially measures its financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value, except for certain non-arm's length transactions.

# Subsequent measurement

The Agency subsequently measures all its financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost, except for loans receivable which are measured at historical values.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost include cash and receivables.

Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost include payables.

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended December 31, 2023

# 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

#### **Impairment**

Financial assets measured at cost are tested for impairment when there are indicators of impairment. The amount of the write-down is recognized in net income. The previously recognized impairment loss may be reversed to the extent of the improvement, directly or by adjusting the allowance account, provided it is no greater than the amount that would have been reported at the date of the reversal had the impairment not been recognized previously. When events occurring after the impairment confirm that a reversal is necessary, the reversal is recognized in net income.

#### Transaction costs

The Agency's transaction costs related to financial instruments that will be subsequently measured at fair value are recognized in net income in the period incurred. The carrying amount of the financial instruments that will not be subsequently measured at fair value is adjusted for transaction costs directly attributable to the origination, issuance or assumption of these instruments.

#### 3. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Agency has a risk management framework to monitor, evaluate and manage the principal risks assumed with financial instruments. The risks that arise from transacting financial instruments include credit risk and liquidity risk.

#### Credit risk

Credit risk arises from the potential that a counter party will fail to perform its obligations. The Agency's main credit risk relates to its receivables and loans receivable. The Agency provides credit to its clients in the normal course of operations.

# Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The Agency is exposed to this risk mainly in respect of its payables.

# 4. RECEIVABLES

	2023	2022
Operational Fund Contributions HST	\$ 526,503 58,068	\$ 409,050 210,263
	\$ 584,571	\$ 619,313

# 5. IMPACT LOANS RECEIVABLE

	2023	2022
Term loans with interest rates ranging from 4.45% to		
9.20%	\$ 481,589	\$ 660,601
Allowance for doubtful accounts	(7,922)	(48,369)
	473,667	612,232
Current portion	(197,472)	(251,684)

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended December 31, 2023

IMPACT LOANS RECEIVABLE (continued)					
		2023	2022		
	\$	276,195	\$	360,548	
The loans receivable balance is comprised of:					
Balance, beginning of year Loans advanced during the year Loans repaid during the year Recovery of loans written off during the year Loans written off during the year	\$	612,232 140,000 (270,643) - (7,922)	\$	861,150 150,000 (357,744 1,226	
Balance, principal Increase to allowance for doubtful accounts		473,667 -		654,632 (42,400	
	\$	473,667	\$	612,232	
The activity in the allowance for doubtful loans account is as fo	ollows:				
The activity in the allowance for doubtful loans account is as follows:  Balance, beginning of year  Current year's loan loss provision  Loans written off during the year	\$	48,369 7,922 (48,369)	\$	5,969 42,400 -	
	\$	7,922	\$	48,369	
The activity in the had debt expense account is as follows:					
The activity in the bad debt expense account is as follows:  Current year's loan loss provision  Recovery of loans written off in previous years	\$	7,922 (2,030)	\$	42,400 (1,226)	

There were 7 (2022 - 7) loans approved during the year and 50 (2022 - 68) loans under management at year end. The loans may be repaid at any time at the borrower's option without penalty.

#### 6. CAPITAL ASSETS

	Cost	 cumulated ortization	2023 et Book Value	N	2022 let Book Value
Furniture and equipment Leasehold improvements	\$ 18,882 68,081	\$ 13,443 40,848	\$ 5,439 27,233	\$	11,734 40,848
	\$ 86,963	\$ 54,291	\$ 32,672	\$	52,582

# 7. FUNDS HELD IN RESERVE

During the year, the Agency transferred \$200,000 (2022 - \$600,000) from the Operational Fund to a Strategic Growth Fund held in reserve, and paid out \$400,000 (2022 - \$Nil). The closing balance of the Strategic Growth Fund held in reserve is \$400,000 (2022 - \$600,000). The balance held in reserve is expected to be fully paid out in 2024.

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended December 31, 2023

#### 8. OTHER INCOME

The Agency will be eligible to receive an additional lease inducement of \$221,725 in 2024 provided the Agency has not exercised their option to terminate the lease and has satisfied the conditions of advance as set out in the lease agreement.

#### 9. PROJECTS

PROJECTS		2023		2022
Revenue				
Business Immigrant Essentials Program and HIVE				
Incubator Saint John	\$	-	\$	60,086
Catalytic Fundy Quay	•	-		4,966
Emerging Entrepreneurs		-		194,309
Impact Loan Operating		102,375		65,091
Innovation Business Plan		-		(1,285)
Innovation Program		-		78,179
Saint John Port Workforce Partnership		2,376		277,004
Block One Incubator/Venture Validation Program		64,665		255,856
Workforce Development		-		2,504
	\$	169,416	\$	936,710
Expenses				
Business Immigrant Essentials Program and HIVE				
Incubator Saint John	\$	_	\$	60,086
Catalytic Fundy Quay	Ψ	_	Ψ	4,966
Emerging Entrepreneurs		_		194,309
Impact Loan Operating		102,375		65,091
Innovation Business Plan		-		(1,285)
Innovation Program		_		78,179
Saint John Port Workforce Partnership		2,376		277,004
Block One Incubator/Venture Validation Program		64,665		255,856
Workforce Development		-		2,504
Tromicios Borolopinoni				2,004
	\$	169,416	\$	936,710

#### 10. EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUNDS

#### Impact Loan Fund

The Impact Loan Program is a capital initiative intended to increase the accessibility of capital for small businesses in Saint John, NB. Funds credited to the Impact Loan Fund shall not be used for purposes other than Impact Loan Fund activities.

# Land Bank Fund

The Land Bank Fund is set up to obtain title to vacant and derelict properties in Saint John, NB, with the objective of repurposing these properties as a diverse housing mix, green spaces and development projects that contribute to the revitalization of the City of Saint John. Funds credited to the Land Bank Fund shall not be used for purposes other than Land Bank activities. The operation of the program was transferred to the City of Saint John in 2023 and all rights, obligations and funds were fully released. The Agency will have no futher Land Bank activities.

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended December 31, 2023

# 11. COMMITMENTS

The Agency has a property lease expiring in July 2026. The annual minimum lease payments over the next three years based on rates of \$14 per square foot on a rentable area of 10,000 square feet until July 2024 and \$15 per square foot on a rentable area of 17,738 square feet until July 2026 are estimated to be as follows:

Contractual obligation repayment schedule:

2024 2025 2026	\$ 221,409 305,981 178,489
	\$ 705.879

## 12. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

The Agency is economically dependent as it received approximately 71% (2022 - 59%) in annual operating contributions from the Fundy Regional Service Commission and The Province of New Brunswick (2022 - City of Saint John and The Province of New Brunswick). These cover all operating expenses of the Operational Fund that are not designated under specific programs.

#### 13. PRIOR YEAR FIGURES

Certain prior year figures have been reclassified to conform to the presentation format adopted for the current year.

Government Funding

(Schedule 1)

Year Ended December 31, 2023

	2023	2022
Federal Provincial Fundy Regional Service Commission - Special Projects	\$ 9,327 1,110,000 25,821	\$ 178,309 885,364
Municipal	25,021	_
Fundy Regional Service Commission (net of 2% Administrative		
Fee)	2,777,026	-
City of Saint John	-	1,700,000
Town of Quispamsis	-	219,000
Town of Rothesay	-	192,000
Town of Hampton	-	41,000
Town of Grand Bay-Westfield	-	48,000
Village of St. Martin's	-	1,800
	\$ 3,922,174	\$ 3,265,473

In 2023, the Agency received a total of \$1,000,000 from PETL, which is included in the provincial funding. In 2022, the Agency executed a new contract with PETL that provides for \$750,000 of core funding and \$250,000 of performance-based funding. Based on this 2022 contract, \$750,000 of core funding for 2023 and \$250,000 of performance-based funding from 2022 was recognized in the current year.

# **Administration Expenses**

(Schedule 2)

	2023		2022	
Expenses				
	\$ -	\$	-	
Administrative recoveries from projects	(4,184)		(37,572)	
Advertising	33,614		37,951	
Amortization	19,910		18,682	
Bad debts	-		9,818	
Bank charges	2,699		2,509	
Board expenses	36,092		3,463	
Data and research	98,827		38,929	
Dues and subscriptions	60,297		26,278	
Employee culture and professional development	12,100		21,296	
Events	105,206		18,843	
IT expenses	39,487		47,006	
Insurance	5,478		5,816	
Maintenance and repairs	11,157		16,071	
Office	39,170		21,254	
Partnerships	77,920		34,000	
Professional services	138,961		185,040	
Rent	297,823		293,159	
Travel	18,917		7,458	
Utilities	10,499		8,707	
	\$ 1,003,973	\$	758,708	