



BC Unclaimed

British Columbia Unclaimed Property Society

20 years of reuniting British Columbians
with their unclaimed money

2023 Annual Report

BC Unclaimed is a non-profit Society that serves as a “lost and found” for unclaimed money from inactive accounts in British Columbia. We work to reunite people with their forgotten funds and maintain a free, searchable public database of unclaimed money in the province so people can track down their missing financial assets. We also support charities throughout BC by donating surplus unclaimed funds each year to Vancouver Foundation.

What We Do

Under the Unclaimed Property Act, BC Unclaimed serves as the caretaker of unclaimed funds in the province. In this capacity we:

- Actively search for owners of unclaimed money.
- Maintain a public, searchable database of unclaimed funds in BC.
- Process claims to reunite rightful owners with their forgotten or unclaimed money.
- Work with companies, organizations and government agencies to help them get unclaimed assets off their books,
- Protect the privacy of holders and claimants of unclaimed money; and
- Allocate a portion of unclaimed funds each year for charitable purposes.

Our History

Two decades ago, the BC government took a progressive step by delegating the province’s unclaimed property program to BC Unclaimed. A self-sustaining, not-for-profit society, BC Unclaimed donates surplus funds to charity to make a meaningful social impact in the province.

Up until April 2003, BC’s unclaimed property program was managed by the province’s Ministry of Finance. Recognizing the potential benefits of an outside organization administering the program, the Province repealed the Unclaimed Money Act and introduced the Unclaimed Property Act which we have today. The new Act enabled the unclaimed property program to be delegated to an administrator, and BC Unclaimed has acted in that role ever since. The Act introduced a philanthropic approach to managing unclaimed assets by including a provision that a portion of unclaimed monies be donated for charitable purposes each year. Unclaimed funds are invested conservatively and enable the program to be self-sustaining and provide services at no charge. BC Unclaimed provides a searchable database of all unclaimed funds turned over to the program, and searches for and verifies the rightful owners. Over two decades, BC Unclaimed has returned approximately \$25 million in dormant assets to the rightful owners.

Vancouver Foundation’s leadership worked with the provincial government to support the objectives of the Unclaimed Property Act in two key ways. First, they coordinated the founding of the Society, and then took on the responsibility of making the philanthropic objective of the Act work. Since its inception, BC Unclaimed has donated almost \$60 million to the Vancouver Foundation. In turn, communities across BC have benefited from grants from unclaimed funds that have supported issues ranging from Covid recovery to environmental conservation to food security and more.



Message from the Board Chair

As I pen this fifth and my final annual report as BC Unclaimed's Board Chair, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the wonderful team at BC Unclaimed and fellow Board members for your service and dedication to fulfilling the Society's mandate of "Reuniting forgotten dollars with their rightful owners." You, together with BC Unclaimed's trusted advisors, continue to inspire me every day with your energy and focus on contributing to a healthy, vibrant and more resilient community in British Columbia.

My six years on the BC Unclaimed Board have seen considerable change and some challenges. To name a few: we updated our Society's bylaws; entered into a new administration agreement with the Province to maximize our annual remittances to the Vancouver Foundation for charitable purposes; bid fond farewells to our amazing past Chair, Floyd Murphy, past director Kevin McCort and former Executive Director Alena Levitz; survived a pandemic with our organization and finances intact; updated our cybersecurity protection and policies to safeguard our information; recruited our new

Executive Director Sherry MacLennan; and revamped and modernized our website to make it more user friendly. Along the way, we managed to celebrate our 20th anniversary in November 2023 with a special event for our holder organizations and community organizations which benefit from unclaimed assets.

The goal of this event was to share stories of the life-changing impact of returning unclaimed money to rightful owners, highlight how dormant assets can be used to nourish and enrich our communities and remind us of the role we can all play in that process by spreading the word widely about BC Unclaimed.

The event featured a panel discussion featuring the [Honourable Niki Sharma](#), K.C., Attorney General of BC, professor emeritus and international happiness expert, [John F. Helliwell](#) from Vancouver School of Economics at the University of British Columbia, and Vancouver Foundation's Vice President of Engagement, [Kate Hammer](#). The discussion wove together the questions of what it means to lead a happy life, what makes a society happy, and how that

"Thanks largely to the hard work and diligence of the registry staff at BC courts and other holders of unclaimed funds, we had a record year of remittances of unclaimed funds in 2023."

relates to BC Unclaimed's work of returning money to its rightful owners. You can watch the panel discussion here [BC Unclaimed Anniversary Panel Discussion](#).

Operationally, thanks largely to the hard work and diligence of the registry staff at BC courts and other holders of unclaimed funds, we had a record year of remittances of unclaimed funds in 2023, which enabled the Board to approve \$9,527,700, our largest annual donation to date, for distribution to the Vancouver Foundation for charitable purposes in 2024. This comes at a time when the need for charitable services and resources is particularly acute in our Province. BC Unclaimed is gratified to be able to help fill that gap.

I leave my role as Chair in the hands of my most capable successor, Jeanette McPhee, who will undoubtedly carry out that role with her usual laser-sharp clarity, vision and purpose. She, together with our remaining directors Eugene Lee, Kate Hammer and incoming directors Mr. Justice David Masuhara and Carmen Theriault, K.C., and our small but mighty BC Unclaimed

staff team, will ensure that the Society continues to do its part in making British Columbia a more responsive, collaborative and stronger community by leveraging the power of unclaimed funds, and making BC Unclaimed a model for other jurisdictions in Canada and elsewhere to follow.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not thank my fellow outgoing director and Vice-Chair, recently retired Chief Justice Robert Bauman, K.C., whom I have had the pleasure and privilege of serving with on the BC Unclaimed Board for the past six years. Bob, I wish you a long and happy retirement and many more games of good golf!

Anna K. Fung
Board Chair



Message from the Executive Director

As I look back at 2023, there is no other way to describe our 20th anniversary year except as a banner year. We received a Royal Proclamation from the Provincial government marking May 15th as Unclaimed Property Day, launched a new website and connected with new and old stakeholders through our anniversary event in November. An all-time high of \$34 million in dormant funds was submitted in 2023 which doubled our past record from 2017. And we returned an all-time high of nearly \$4 million to the rightful owners. This success positions us to make our largest contribution ever to the Vancouver Foundation in 2024. We are so proud to support charities and not-for-profits across BC annually through our association with the Vancouver Foundation. Going forward, we plan to raise awareness of the impact unclaimed funds make across BC, even as we seek to return more money to their rightful owners. None of this would be possible without the passion and commitment to our mission demonstrated by our staff, whose efforts are much appreciated.

Our new website met our goals of reinforcing our legitimacy while becoming more user-friendly. Users now have the means to provide feedback directly to us. Reaction to the changes has been overwhelmingly positive, and with direct feedback we can identify issues and respond in a timely way. A fresh approach to the BC Unclaimed blog means stakeholders are regularly updated, and frequently asked questions are answered. Our provincial mandate requires us to raise awareness of our services across BC, and we updated our marketing activities. We had great success reaching new audiences on Spotify and, wanting to be responsive to the calls to action of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission, created our first campaign to raise awareness with Indigenous audiences.

To reunite even more rightful owners with their funds, we turned our focus to dormant Supreme Court funds, our largest single source of submissions over twenty years and the largest contributor in 2023. The BC Unclaimed Property Act requires

“An all-time high of \$34 million in dormant funds was submitted in 2023 which doubled our past record from 2017. And we returned an all-time high of nearly \$4 million to the rightful owners.”

people who claim court funds to obtain an order directing us to issue payment. Many of these claims are for modest amounts that do not justify the cost of counsel. To help claimants get the required order, we contracted for self-help materials that will be ready in mid-2024. We are working with public legal education providers and agencies that provide free legal services so they are equipped to help claimants. It is our goal to ensure that individuals can get the order they need to access their court funds. Next steps involve raising awareness of dormant court funds in the legal community. We hope this will reduce the rate of dormant funds accumulating in courts, increase searches for funds on bcunclaimed.ca, and see searches become a standard checklist item for lawyers or executors settling estates.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the contributions of our retiring board members, former Chief Justice Robert Bauman, K.C., and Anna Fung, K.C., who served as Chair for the last five years, and

both of whom served for the maximum six-year term. Their dedication, insight and support have contributed greatly to the continued success of BC Unclaimed over a period of many changes and challenges. We look forward to the steady hand of Jeanette McPhee, CFO and Director of Trust Regulation at the Law Society, as she commences as our new Chair, and welcome incoming directors, Justice David Masuhara and Carmen Theriault, KC, both of whom are already proving themselves invaluable.



Sherry MacLennan
Executive Director

What Are Unclaimed Funds?

Unclaimed funds are money held by a company, organization or government agency whose rightful owner cannot be located. Funds become unclaimed or “dormant” when the lawful owner takes no action to access their account after a specified period, ranging from one to ten years depending on the

type of account and the holder.

Dormant funds held by BC Unclaimed includes money from provincially regulated financial institutions, companies, organizations and government agencies. They do not include bank accounts, which fall under the jurisdiction of the Bank of Canada.

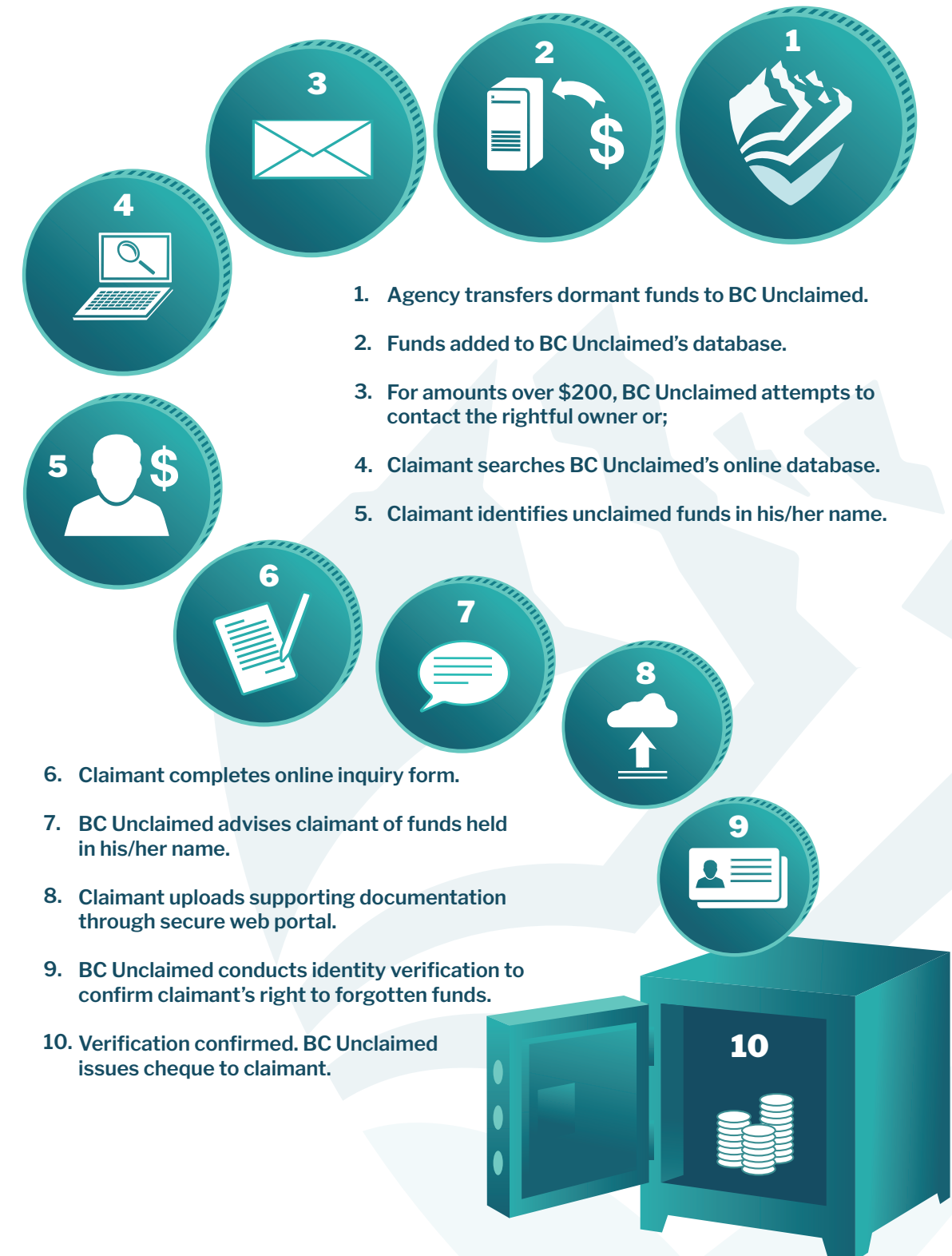
In BC, Unclaimed Funds Include:

- Inactive credit union accounts.
- Unclaimed wages.
- Insurance payments.
- Payments into courts.
- Estates.
- Overpayments to debt collectors; and
- Outstanding real estate deposits.

Unclaimed Property Day

The Province of BC officially proclaimed
May 15, 2023 as Unclaimed Property Day.

Unclaimed Funds – From Dormancy to Distribution



Reuniting Rightful Owners With Their Unclaimed Funds

2023 at a Glance

\$218 million

Amount of unclaimed funds transferred from financial institutions, companies, organizations and government agencies in the BC Unclaimed database.

\$157,739,201

Total amount of money received since 2003.

\$34,360,915

Amount of unclaimed funds BC Unclaimed received from holders in 2023.

\$24,844,841

Approximate amount of money from dormant accounts BC Unclaimed has returned to the rightful owners since 2003.

\$3,895,695

Amount of money returned to verified claimants in 2023.

\$1.9 million

Largest dormant account in BC waiting to be claimed.

In May 2023, we paid out the largest claim in our history - \$1.98 million transferred to BC Unclaimed from the courts.

Engagement

143,928

Website Visits

3,106

Owner Location Efforts

17,261

Claimant Enquiries

115

Media Placements

2

Community Events Held

195

Community Event Attendance

Protecting Your Privacy

At BC Unclaimed, keeping your personal information safe and secure is our foremost priority. We continuously upgrade our information technology system to ensure all information we collect is safeguarded. We also regularly update the security features of our website to provide a safe and secure online experience.

What Are Your Business Obligations for Managing Unclaimed Accounts?

The BC Unclaimed Property Act requires companies and organizations holding dormant accounts to make a reasonable effort to locate and notify the owners of forgotten funds.

Unclaimed accounts are deemed to be “dormant” if there has been no activity by the owner for a specified period of time depending on the type of account involved. If the holder can’t locate the owner, they are required to list unclaimed funds they hold in a publicly searchable database, although not all companies comply.

Mandatory Holders

In BC, credit unions, debt collectors, real estate agencies, companies in liquidation, courts and government bodies are classified as mandatory holders and are thereby required by law to transfer unclaimed funds to BC Unclaimed if the rightful owners cannot be located.

Voluntary Holders

Other organizations holding trust funds, insurance policies, brokerage accounts and closed pension plans are designated as voluntary holders and encouraged to transfer their unclaimed property accounts to the Society which relieves them of their obligation to maintain a database of their own dormant accounts.

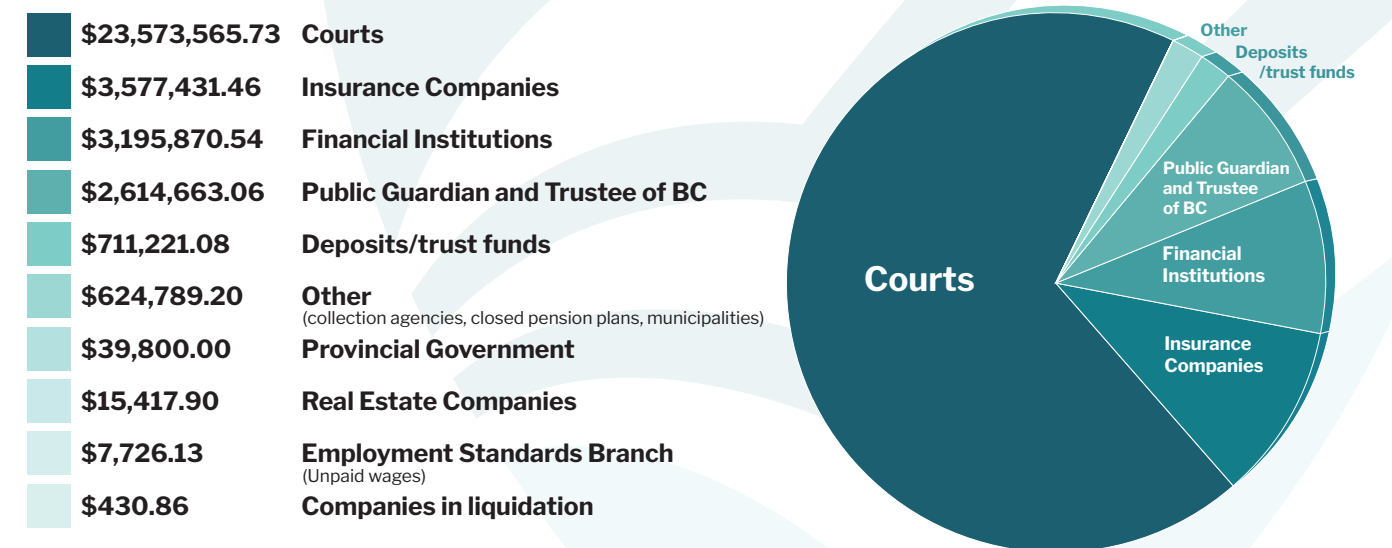
Transferring dormant accounts to BC Unclaimed relieves the holder of the expense, potential liability and administrative burden of carrying these assets on their books. It also promotes goodwill by reuniting owners with their long-lost money.

BC Unclaimed staff actively search for the owners of dormant funds and are dedicated to reuniting money with the rightful owners. The Society maintains a free online database with the names of unclaimed account holders that individuals can search to see if they have forgotten funds waiting for them.

Business Best Practices for Managing Dormant Accounts



Where Unclaimed Funds Came From in 2023



We actively search for owners of unclaimed funds. For every balance over \$200, we send letters to people with the same name as the rightful owners. We've sent over 10,000 letters over the last five years.

Our Social Impact

BC Unclaimed plays a vital role in supporting significant social and environmental programs across the province. Every year, BC Unclaimed makes a charitable donation of unclaimed funds to the Vancouver Foundation. This donation is particularly important to Vancouver Foundation because it's "unrestricted funds," which gives them the flexibility to direct this money to high-priority areas where the need is greatest. In recent years, Vancouver Foundation in consultation with its Board and advisors

has used funds provided by BC Unclaimed to support communities impacted by floods and wildfires, to reduce food insecurity, back environmental initiatives, aid refugees and new Canadians, as well as launch new initiatives such as its Indigenous Priorities Granting Program supporting First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities. By optimizing dormant funds that will never be reunited with the rightful owners, we help enhance communities and enrich lives throughout BC.

Our Contribution to BC Communities

\$916,520

Funds from dormant accounts BC Unclaimed transferred to Vancouver Foundation for charitable purposes in 2023.

\$59.737 Million

Amount BC Unclaimed has transferred to Vancouver Foundation since its inception.

Charitable Organizations We Have Supported



Advancing Energy Equity in BC's Rural Indigenous Communities

It's hard to believe, but rural, remote, and Indigenous communities often have to bear energy costs that are up to three times higher than the provincial average. It's estimated that at least 250,000 households in British Columbia experience a lack of affordable access to basic energy services like heating, lighting, and cooking. Consequently, some families are forced to make a difficult choice between paying heating bills or fulfilling their basic needs.

To address this issue, [Ecotrust Canada](#) has been working with Indigenous communities to provide affordable access to residential energy services in rural communities contributing to healthier, more comfortable homes. Since 2018, the organization has supported more than 500 residential heat pump installations in British Columbia, resulting in \$12.5 million in energy savings and reducing 18,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2023, Ecotrust Canada received a \$100,000 grant from [Vancouver Foundation](#), facilitated by BC Unclaimed's annual donation. This grant enabled Ecotrust Canada to expand its energy security advocacy and public policy program. Specifically, the grant supported Ecotrust Canada's Advancing Solutions to Energy Poverty in BC's Rural and Indigenous Communities initiative, which enabled research, collaboration, and direct engagement with

community stakeholders and policymakers to advance energy justice.

"This funding was absolutely transformative for us," said Graham Anderson, Director of Community Energy with Ecotrust Canada. "It really helped us advance our vision of energy justice, so everyone has access to affordable energy services."

In addition to its heat pump retrofit work, Ecotrust Canada used the funding to provide recommendations to the provincial government on reforming the BC Utilities Commission so that it can advance BC's climate, equity, and reconciliation objectives. The non-profit also hosted Canada's first [Energy Justice Forum](#) in Vancouver, attracting 80 attendees who explored the policies, actions, and initiatives required to end energy insecurity. Community representatives and Indigenous leaders joined top officials from Natural Resources Canada, Vancouver Coastal Health, and the BC Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low-Carbon Innovation to examine solutions.

"Our work on energy equity and affordability for rural and Indigenous communities has provided so many benefits to the families and households we work with," concluded Anderson. "So much of this work would not have been possible without the support of BC Unclaimed, the communities we partner with and other organizations throughout BC."



BC Unclaimed Board of Directors

BC Unclaimed is governed by a five-member volunteer Board of Directors comprised of representatives from the business sector, not-for-profit, and legal community. The Board provides direction and oversight of management

strategy and financial management policies, as well as ensuring BC Unclaimed has adequate resources to fulfil its mandate. Board members include:



Anna K. Fung, K.C., Board Chair Deputy Chair at the BC Utilities Commission

Anna Fung, KC, is the Deputy Chair at the BC Utilities Commission. An experienced solicitor and litigator with a focus on business law, Anna has acted as in-house counsel for TimberWest, Intrawest and Fortis BC. She was named a Queen's Counsel in 2000 and earned her Certified Canadian Corporate Counsel designation from Rotman School of Business in 2015.

She was a Bencher of the BC Law Society (which governs the BC legal profession) for 10 years and its President in 2007. She also served as President of the Canadian Corporate Counsel Association, Association of Chinese Canadian Professionals (BC), BC Autism Association and Chair of the People's Law School. In 2004, she received the RVA Jones Canadian Corporate Counsel Award for her contributions to the corporate counsel community.

Anna is a recipient of the CBA (BC Branch) Equality and Diversity Award, the Vancouver YWCA Woman of Distinction Award in the Business & Professions category, the BC Community Achievement Award and the UBC Law Alumni Association Award of Distinction. She is a past Director of the Vancouver Airport Authority and the Arts Club Theatre Society and served as a Board member of the Vancouver Foundation from May 2012 to May 2017.



Jeanette McPhee Chief Financial Officer and Senior Director of Trust Regulation, Law Society of British Columbia

Prior to joining the Law Society in 2006, Jeanette McPhee was CFO and secretary treasurer of Cascade Aerospace Inc., Vice-President of Finance at BCTV/CHEK-TV, and a chartered accountant at a national CA firm. She has a Chartered Professional Accountant designation and a business degree from Simon Fraser University. She is currently a board member of the YMCA BC, and is a past board member of the Chartered Professional Accountants of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, Surrey Food Bank Society and the Seaton Woodward Foundation.



Kate Hammer Vice President, Engagement, Vancouver Foundation

Kate joined Vancouver Foundation in 2022, and leads its communications, government relations, marketing and knowledge mobilization work.

She brings over 15 years experience working in public policy, advocacy, social impact, communications and journalism in New York City, Toronto and Vancouver. She started her career as a reporter covering breaking news for the New York Times and the Globe and Mail, and has won awards for her feature writing and investigative work. She later served as a senior advisor to a former Premier of Ontario, and as Director of Government Relations at Vancity.

She has extensive experience serving on think tank and non-profit boards, including the BC Centre for Ability, the BC Association of Neighbourhood Houses, the BC Steering Committee of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and the Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre.

Kate holds an M.Sc. from New York University, and a B.Sc. from Queen's University.

Financial Statements

2023



Eugene Lee
Vice President, Investments, Vancouver Foundation

Eugene has more than 20 years of experience working with pensions, endowments, foundations and Indigenous settlement trusts. Prior to joining Vancouver Foundation in 2016, Eugene spent three years at PBI Actuarial Consultants as an Investment Consultant and 14 years at RBC Investor and Treasury Services; working closely with various plan sponsors in developing investment policies and governance guidelines as well as manager research, performance monitoring and strategic asset mix analysis. He is a graduate of the University of British Columbia Sauder School of Business and received his Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation in 2002.



The Honourable Chief Justice Robert J. Bauman
Chief Justice of British Columbia, Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal for British Columbia, and Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal of Yukon

The Honourable Robert J. Bauman was appointed as a justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia in 1996; as a justice of the Court of Appeal for British Columbia in 2008; as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia in 2009; and as Chief Justice of British Columbia in 2013. Prior to becoming a judge, he was in private practice with Bull, Housser & Tupper in Vancouver. He worked largely in the areas of local government and administrative law. While practicing law, he taught administrative law at the University of British Columbia Faculty of Law as an adjunct professor from 1991 to 1996. In 2012, and again in 2013, Chief Justice Bauman was named by Canadian Lawyer Magazine as one of the “Top 25 Most Influential” in the justice system in Canada. He also received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Commemorative Medal for contributions to Canada. As well, Chief Justice Bauman was the 2012 recipient of the Anthony P. Pantages, QC Medal for outstanding contributions to the field of justice, presented by The Justice Institute of British Columbia Foundation. Chief Justice Bauman was the recipient of the 2013 TLABC Bench Award by the Trial Lawyers Association of British Columbia. In 2015, he was appointed First Vice-Chair of the Canadian Judicial Council. Chief Justice Bauman is the founding Chair of Access to Justice BC.

British Columbia Unclaimed Property Society

Financial Statements

Non-consolidated Financial Statements
And Independent Auditors' Report thereon

Year ended December 31, 2023

(Expressed in thousands of dollars)

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of British Columbia Unclaimed Property Society (the "Society"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2023, the statements of operations and fund balances, changes in fund balances, and statement of 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 Society as at December 31, 2023, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

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 Society 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.

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 not-for-profit organizations, 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 Society'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 Society or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Society'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:

- 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 Society'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 Society'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 Society 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.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

As required by the Societies Act of British Columbia, we report that, in our opinion, Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Surrey, British Columbia

March 26, 2024

Chartered Professional Accountants

British Columbia Unclaimed Property Society

Statement of Financial Position
 (Expressed in thousands of dollars)

As at December 31, 2023 with comparative information for 2022

	December 31, 2023			December 31, 2022		
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
Assets						
Current assets						
Cash	\$ 26,057	\$ 2,144	\$ 28,201	\$ 8,001	\$ 1,315	\$ 9,316
Accounts receivable	-	8	8	-	10	10
Prepaid expenses	-	20	20	-	20	20
	26,057	2,172	28,229	8,001	1,345	9,346
Investments (note 3 (a))	48,510	-	48,510	35,420	-	35,420
Capital assets	-	96	96	-	27	27
Total assets	\$ 74,567	\$ 2,268	\$ 76,835	\$ 43,421	\$ 1,372	\$ 44,793
Liabilities and Fund Balances						
Current liabilities						
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ -	\$ 167	\$ 167	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100
Deferred Revenue (note 2(e))	636	-	636	268	-	268
	636	167	803	268	100	368
Interfund (receivable) payable	(1,197)	1,197	-	(2,427)	2,427	-
Fund Balances (note 2(a))						
Restricted funds						
Old unclaimed property funds	255	-	255	261	-	261
New unclaimed property funds	74,873	-	74,873	45,319	-	45,319
	75,128	-	75,128	45,580	-	45,580
Unrestricted fund	-	904	904	-	(1,155)	(1,155)
	74,128	904	76,032	45,580	(1,155)	44,425
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$ 74,567	\$ 2,268	\$ 76,835	\$ 43,421	\$ 1,372	\$ 44,793

Commitments (note 8)
 See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Approved on behalf of the Board on March 26, 2024



Director



Director

British Columbia Unclaimed Property Society

 Statement of Operations and Fund Balances
 (Expressed in thousands of dollars)

For the year ended December 31, 2023 with comparative information for 2022

	December 31, 2023			December 31, 2022		
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
Revenue						
Receipts of unclaimed property (note 5)	\$ 34,361	\$ -	\$ 34,361	\$ 12,499	\$ -	\$ 12,499
Investment and interest income (note 3(b))	-	3,536	3,536	-	(1,471)	(1,471)
	34,361	3,536	37,897	12,499	(1,471)	11,028
Expenses						
Operating expenses						
Compensation (note 6)	-	707	707	-	744	744
Office administration	-	265	265	-	216	216
Information and technology consulting	-	296	296	-	324	324
Investment management fees	-	116	116	-	102	102
Rent (note 4(a))	-	59	59	-	56	56
Management fees (note 4(a))	-	12	12	-	12	12
Amortization	-	22	22	-	9	9
	-	1,477	1,477	-	1,463	1,463
Distributions to claimants						
Old unclaimed property funds	6	-	6	51	-	51
New unclaimed property funds	3,890	-	3,890	1,645	-	1,645
Transfers to Vancouver Foundation (note 4(b))	917	-	917	4,175	-	4,175
	4,813	1,477	6,290	5,871	1,463	7,334
(Deficiency) excess of revenue over expenses	29,548	2,059	31,607	6,628	(2,934)	3,694
Fund balances, beginning of the year	45,580	(1,155)	44,425	38,952	1,779	40,731
Fund balances, end of year	\$ 75,128	\$ 904	\$ 76,032	\$ 45,580	\$ (1,155)	\$ 44,425

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

British Columbia Unclaimed Property Society

 Statement of Changes in Fund Balances
 (Expressed in thousands of dollars)

For the year ended December 31, 2023 with comparative information for 2022

	December 31, 2023				December 31, 2022			
	Restricted – Old unclaimed property funds	Restricted – New unclaimed property funds	Unrestricted fund	Total	Restricted – Old unclaimed property funds	Restricted – New unclaimed property funds	Unrestricted fund	Total
Fund balances, beginning of the year	\$ 261	\$ 45,319	\$ (1,155)	\$ 44,425	\$ 312	\$ 38,640	\$ 1,779	\$ 40,731
(Deficiency) excess of revenue over expenses	(6)	29,554	2,059	31,607	(51)	6,679	(2,934)	3,694
Fund balances, end of year	\$ 255	\$ 74,873	\$ 904	\$ 76,032	\$ 261	\$ 45,319	\$ (1,155)	\$ 44,425

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

British Columbia Unclaimed Property Society

Statement of Cash Flows
 (Expressed in thousands of dollars)

For the year ended December 31, 2023 with comparative information for 2022

	2023	2022
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operations		
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 31,607	\$ 3,694
Items not affecting cash		
Amortization	22	9
Realized loss on disposal of investments	552	59
Unrealized loss (gain) on investments	(1,523)	2,513
	30,658	6,275
Changes in non-cash operating working capital		
Accounts receivable	2	(4)
Prepaid expenses	-	(7)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	67	(14)
Deferred revenue	368	34
Net cash from operations	31,094	6,284
Investing		
Disposal of investments	8,957	1,145
Purchase of investments	(21,076)	(4,991)
Capital asset additions	(90)	(27)
Net cash from (used in) investing	(12,209)	(3,873)
Increase in cash	18,885	2,412
Cash, beginning of the year	9,316	6,904
Cash, end of the year	\$ 28,201	\$ 9,316

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

British Columbia Unclaimed Property Society

Notes to Financial Statements
 (Expressed in thousands of dollars)

For the year ended December 31, 2023

1 Nature of operations

British Columbia Unclaimed Property Society (the "Society") was incorporated on March 3, 2003, under the Society Act of the Province of British Columbia.

The Society's purpose is to act as the administrator under the Unclaimed Property Act (British Columbia) and Unclaimed Property Amendment Act, 2003 (the "Act"). The Society receives unclaimed property, attempts to locate rightful owners, and distributes property to verified claimants. The Society is classified as a non-profit organization under the Income Tax Act (Canada) and is exempt from income taxes.

The Society entered into an Administration Agreement (the "Agreement") with the Province of British Columbia (the Province) and Vancouver Foundation on March 11, 2003. The Province appointed the Society to act as the administrator under the Act. The Agreement commenced April 1, 2003, for an initial term of five years, and in 2008, the Province renewed the Agreement for an indefinite term until either party gives one-year written notice to terminate the Agreement.

The Society signed an Amended and Restated Administration Agreement (the "Amended Agreement") with the Province and the Vancouver Foundation on December 6, 2019. The Amended Agreement is effective January 1, 2020, for an initial term of five years, with automatic renewal of an indefinite number of five-year terms until either party gives one-year written notice to terminate the Agreement.

2 Significant accounting policies

The financial statements of the Society have been prepared by management following Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

a) Fund accounting

The Society follows the restricted fund method of accounting for unclaimed property held by the Society. For financial reporting purposes, the accounts have been classified into the following funds:

i) Restricted Fund

(1) Old Unclaimed Property Funds

Pursuant to the Agreement, the Province transferred \$4,000 of unclaimed funds to the Society to satisfy claims prior to April 1, 2003. At the end of the initial term, any unused funds were to be returned to the Province. Subsequently, the Province agreed that the Society should continue to manage these funds until further review by the Province.

The Society recorded the funds received from the Province for the period prior to April 1, 2003, as Restricted – Old Unclaimed Property Funds.

British Columbia Unclaimed Property Society

Notes to Financial Statements
(Expressed in thousands of dollars)

For the year ended December 31, 2023

2 Significant accounting policies (continued):

a) Fund accounting (continued):

i) Restricted Fund (continued):

(2) New Unclaimed Property Funds

Pursuant to the Agreement, funds received after April 1, 2003, are recorded as Restricted – New Unclaimed Funds.

ii) Unrestricted Fund

The Agreement allows income generated from the Old and New Unclaimed Property Funds' investment to be used for the Society's operating expenses. This investment income is reported as unrestricted revenue within the Unrestricted Fund.

b) Financial instruments

The Society recognizes financial instruments when the Society becomes party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument.

i) Arm's length financial instruments

Financial instruments originated/acquired or issued/assumed in an arm's length transaction ("arm's length financial instruments") are initially recorded at their fair value.

At initial recognition, the Society may irrevocably elect to subsequently measure any arm's length financial instrument at fair value. The Society has not made such an election this year.

The Society subsequently measures investments in equity instruments quoted in an active market at fair value. Fair value is determined by published price quotations. All other financial assets and liabilities are subsequently measured at amortized cost. Transaction costs and financing fees directly attributable to the origination, acquisition, issuance or assumption of financial instruments subsequently measured at fair value are immediately recognized in statement of operations. Conversely, transaction costs and financing fees are added to the carrying amount for those financial instruments subsequently measured at cost or amortized cost.

British Columbia Unclaimed Property Society

Notes to Financial Statements
(Expressed in thousands of dollars)

For the year ended December 31, 2023

2 Significant accounting policies (continued):

b) Financial instruments (continued):

ii) Financial asset impairment

The Society assesses impairment of all its financial assets measured at cost or amortized cost. The Society groups assets for impairment testing when there are numerous assets affected by the same factors. Management considers whether the issuer is having significant financial difficulty in determining whether objective evidence of impairment exists. When there is an indication of impairment, the Society determines whether it has resulted in a significant adverse change in the expected timing or amount of future cash flows during the year.

The Society reduces the carrying amount of any impaired financial assets to the highest of: the present value of cash flows expected to be generated by holding the assets; the amount that could be realized by selling the assets at the statement of financial position date; and the amount expected to be realized by exercising any rights to collateral held against those assets.

Any impairment, which is not considered temporary, is included in current year.

The Society reverses impairment losses on financial assets when there is a decrease in impairment and the decrease can be objectively related to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognized. The amount of the reversal is recognized in the year the reversal occurs.

c) Capital assets

Capital assets are recorded at cost. Assets in use are amortized over their estimated useful lives on a straight-line basis. Management has estimated the useful lives to be:

Asset	Rate
Computer equipment	3 years
Website development	5 years

d) Related parties

The Vancouver Foundation became the sole member of the Society effective May 8, 2020.

Transactions with Vancouver Foundation are in the standard course of business and are measured at the exchange amount, which is the amount of consideration established and agreed to by the related parties. Details of related party transactions are disclosed in note 4.

The Society is required by the Agreement to set aside a certain portion of the Unclaimed Property Funds it receives to meet any contingent liabilities that might arise in future years. The Agreement permits the Society to transfer a portion of remaining unclaimed balances out of the Unclaimed Property Funds to Vancouver Foundation for charitable purposes in British Columbia, as detailed in note 4(b).

British Columbia Unclaimed Property Society

Notes to Financial Statements
(Expressed in thousands of dollars)

For the year ended December 31, 2023

2 Significant accounting policies (continued):

e) Revenue recognition

Unclaimed property funds received are recognized as revenue to the Restricted Funds upon receipt of both funds and related legal documents. Unclaimed property funds received without related legal documents are recorded to deferred revenue until such time that the legal document requirement is fulfilled.

According to the Act, no interest or other earnings will be accrued or are payable to a claimant in respect of the period after the funds are transferred to the Society. Income earned on unclaimed funds is therefore accounted for as revenue to the Unrestricted Fund. Investment income is recorded on an accrual basis.

f) Interfund payable (receivable)

The Society invests unclaimed property funds (note 3), to generate investment income to fund administrative operations. Interfund receivable (payable) reflect market conditions as of the reporting date and the unrestricted investment income that is retained within the restricted investments.

g) Distributions to claimants

Payments are made to claimants once the claim is determined to be valid. Amounts paid to claimants are recognized as distributions from the Restricted Funds. Distributions are recorded when paid by the Society.

h) Management estimates

Financial statements preparation requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts and disclosures reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Management believes that the estimates utilized in preparing these financial statements are reasonable; however, actual results could differ from these estimates.

i) Employee future-benefits

The Society is a participating employer in a multi-employer, defined benefit pension plan. The Society accounts for the pension plan as a defined contribution plan as insufficient information is available to identify the Society's share of the underlying pension assets and liabilities. Contributions to the Plan are expensed as incurred.

British Columbia Unclaimed Property Society

Notes to Financial Statements
(Expressed in thousands of dollars)

For the year ended December 31, 2023

2 Significant accounting policies (continued):

j) Leases

A lease that transfers substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership is classified as a capital lease. At the inception of the capital lease, an asset and a payment obligation is recorded at an amount equal to the lesser of the present value of the minimum lease payments and the property's fair market value. Assets under capital leases are amortized declining balance method, over their estimated useful lives.

All other leases are accounted for as operating leases and rental payments are expenses as incurred.

An arrangement contains a lease where the arrangement conveys a right to use the underlying tangible asset, and whereby its fulfillment is dependent on the use of the specific tangible asset. After the inception of the arrangement, a reassessment of whether the arrangement contains a lease is made only in the event that:

- i. there is a change in contractual terms;
- ii. a renewal option is exercised or an extension is agreed upon by the parties to the arrangement;
- iii. there is a change in the determination of whether the fulfillment of the arrangement is dependent on the use of the specific tangible asset; or
- iv. there is a substantial physical change to the specified tangible asset.

The Society has one lease arrangement accounted for as an operating lease.

British Columbia Unclaimed Property Society

Notes to Financial Statements
 (Expressed in thousands of dollars)

For the year ended December 31, 2023

3 Investments

The Society's investments are carried at fair value in accordance with the significant accounting policy disclosed in note 2(b).

a) Investment portfolio

The Society has investments in various mutual funds as disclosed below. Mortgages reflect those funds held in Canadian mortgage-backed securities; bonds reflect those held in short term fixed income securities issued by Canadian governments and corporations; and global equities reflect those funds held in global equities. Investments consist of the following, measured at fair value:

	2023	2022
Guaranteed investment certificates	20,303	14,602
Mortgages	6,616	6,379
Bonds and debentures	13,219	7,847
Global equities	8,372	6,592
	\$ 48,510	\$ 35,420

b) Investment and interest income

	2023	2022
Investment income	\$ 1,725	\$ 957
Bank interest	840	144
Realized gain (loss) on disposal of investments	(552)	(59)
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	1,523	(2,513)
	\$ 3,536	\$ (1,471)

4 Related party transactions

a) General operating transactions

The Society rents office space from Vancouver Foundation, in respect of which it incurred \$59 (2022 - \$56) for the year ended December 31, 2023. In addition, for the year ended December 31, 2023, the Society paid management service fees of \$12 (2022 - \$12) to Vancouver Foundation for HR, finance, general management, and other administrative services. As of December 31, 2023, the Society did not have a balance owing to Vancouver Foundation (2022 - \$nil).

British Columbia Unclaimed Property Society

Notes to Financial Statements
 (Expressed in thousands of dollars)

For the year ended December 31, 2023

4 Related party transactions (continued):

b) Transfers to Vancouver Foundation

The Society is permitted by the Agreement to transfer funds to Vancouver Foundation for charitable purposes. The Society transferred \$917 (2022 - \$4,175) to Vancouver Foundation in 2023. Cumulatively the Society has transferred \$59,737 (2022 - \$58,821) to Vancouver Foundation since 2004.

The Society is committed to transfer \$9,528 to Vancouver Foundation in 2024 in accordance with the Agreement. The transfer amount for 2024 is based on the calculation done as of June 30, 2023 in accordance with the Agreement. The committed amount of \$9,528 has not been recorded as a payable as at December 31, 2023 as the 2024 calculated amount is the 2024 obligation as defined in the contract.

5 Receipts of unclaimed property

Receipts of unclaimed property

	2023	2022
New unclaimed property funds	\$ 34,364	\$ 12,499
Old unclaimed property funds	-	-
	\$ 34,364	\$ 12,499

6 Employee compensation

In accordance with the disclosure requirements of the Societies Act, four (2022: four) employees received compensation more than \$75 per individual for the year ended December 31, 2023. Their compensation for the year ended December 31, 2023, was \$479 (2022 - \$401).

British Columbia Unclaimed Property Society

Notes to Financial Statements
(Expressed in thousands of dollars)

For the year ended December 31, 2023

7 Employee future benefits

Effective October 1, 2020, the Society is a participating employer in the Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology Pension Plan (the "Plan"), which is a multi-employer jointly sponsored defined benefit pension plan for eligible employees of participating employers. All full-time employees of the Society and any eligible part-time employees of the Society who opt to participate are members of the Plan. As of December 31, 2023, all the Society's employees are members of the Plan.

Although the Plan is a multi-employer defined benefit plan, it is accounted for as a defined contribution plan. Insufficient information is available to identify the Society's share of the underlying pension assets and liabilities.

As of the valuation date January 1, 2023, the most recent actuarial valuation indicated an actuarial surplus of \$4,713,000 (2022 - \$4,369,000). The Plan is 124% funded on a going-concern basis which indicates that \$1.24 has been set aside for every dollar of pension earned by the Plan members. In accordance with the significant accounting policy disclosed in note 2(i), the Society does not recognize any share of the Plan's surplus or deficit. During the year, the Society contributed \$83 towards the Plan (2022 - \$66); these contributions are included with compensation expenses in the statement of operations.

8 Commitments

The Society committed to \$78 to Vancouver Foundation for rental and support service fees in 2024.

9 Financial Instruments

The Society, as part of its operations, carries a number of financial instruments. It is management's opinion that the Society is not exposed to significant interest, currency, credit, liquidity or other price risks arising from these financial instruments except as otherwise disclosed.

a) Other price risk

Other price risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or foreign currency risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual financial instrument or its issuer, or factors affecting all similar financial instruments traded in the market. The Society enters into transactions to purchase and sell exchange-traded funds and equities, exposing the Society to price risk as these investments are subject to price changes in an open market due to a variety of reasons including changes in market rates of interest, general economic indicators and restrictions on credit markets. The Society reduces this risk by investing in securities with lower level of volatility.

British Columbia Unclaimed Property Society

Notes to Financial Statements
(Expressed in thousands of dollars)

For the year ended December 31, 2023

9 Financial Instruments (continued):

b) Foreign currency risk

Foreign currency risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. The Society is exposed to currency risk on its foreign market common stock, its foreign market bonds and debentures, foreign real estate, and its multi-strategy funds, as the prices denominated in foreign currencies are converted to Canadian dollars in determining fair value. The Society manages its foreign currency risk by investing in a diversified portfolio.

c) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of financial instruments might adversely be affected by a change in interest rates. Changes in market interest rates may have an effect on the cash flows associated with some financial assets and liabilities, known as cash flow risk, and on the fair value of other financial assets or liabilities, known as price risk. The Society is exposed to interest rate risk on its investments.

d) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss because a counter party to a financial instrument fails to discharge its contractual obligations. The carrying amount of the Society's financial instruments best represents the maximum exposure to credit risk. Management reduces the Society's exposure to credit risk by holding its cash on deposit at an AA rated Canadian chartered bank, and by investing in bonds with a credit rating primarily of B or above.

e) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Society will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The Society enters into transactions to purchase goods and services on credit, for which repayment is required at various maturity dates. Management minimizes the Society's exposure to liquidity risk by regularly monitoring cash flow projections and holding a sufficient balance in cash to meet its anticipated obligations.



BC Unclaimed

British Columbia Unclaimed Property Society



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