



**Saskatchewan
Telecommunications
Pension
Plan**

**89th Annual Report
and
Financial Statements**

15 Months Ended March 31, 2017

Board Mission Statement

The Board is committed to pursuing sound governance practices in discharging its responsibilities as administrator of the Pension Plan. The Board strives to ensure the Pension Plan is administered always in an effective manner and consistent with the fiduciary duties owed to plan members and other stakeholders.

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Message from the Chair

Dale Hillmer, **Chairperson**
Charlene Gavel, **Member**
Andrew Malinowski, **Member**

Scott Smith, **Member**
Brian Renas, **Member**

To: All Contributors/Pensioners in the SaskTel Pension Plan

I am pleased to submit herewith extracts from the annual report of the Saskatchewan Telecommunications Pension Plan for the 15-month period ended March 31, 2017 including the financial statements audited by the external auditor. The fiscal period of the Saskatchewan Telecommunications Pension Plan was changed to March 31 to align with the fiscal period of Saskatchewan Telecommunications, the plan sponsor.

Copies of the complete annual report are on file in the Pension Board office, 6th Floor, 2121 Saskatchewan Drive, Regina, Saskatchewan.

The overall rate of return for the Saskatchewan Telecommunications Pension Fund (the Fund) was 7.8% in 2016/17 (7.4% in 2015).

Saskatchewan Telecommunications (SaskTel), has the ultimate responsibility to ensure that pension obligations are paid. As a result of the actuarial valuation completed during 2013, SaskTel's employer contributions were \$0.0 million in 2016/17 (\$0.0 million in 2015).

If you have any questions or concerns, regarding the financial statements or any other matter, please do not hesitate to call Charlene Callander at (306) 777-5100 or David Holzapfel at (306) 777-4777.

Sincerely,



Dale Hillmer
Chairperson

June 21, 2017

Plan Membership

PLAN MEMBERS AS AT MARCH 31, 2017

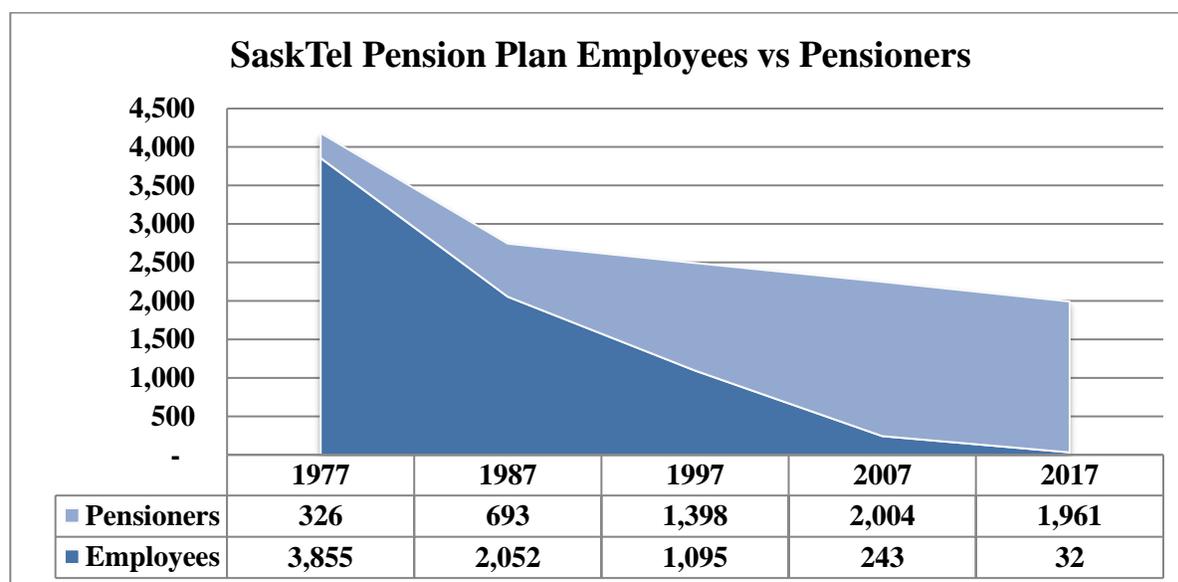
Employee Members	32
Retired Members	<u>1,961</u>
Total Members	<u>1,993</u>

PRESENT RETIREES AT THE END OF THE 89th FISCAL PERIOD

		<u>Average Age</u>	<u>as at Mar. 31, 2017</u>	<u>as at Dec. 31, 2015</u>
Retirees 65 & Over	Males	74.72	715	702
	Females	76.53	362	350
Retirees Under 65	Males	61.71	367	406
	Females	61.19	198	226
Dependants	Spouses	77.99	303	295
	Children	-	-	1
Split Pensions	Males	-	-	-
	Females	71.04	16	16
			<u>1,961</u>	<u>1,996</u>

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE SASKATCHEWAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS PENSION PLAN AT MARCH 31, 2017

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Direct West Employees	-	1	1
SaskTel Employees	19	12	31
Total	<u>19</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>32</u>



Significant Events 2016/17

GOVERNANCE

Governance activities completed by the Board during 2016/17 included:

- Reviewed strategic planning and risk objectives
- Approved statement of investment policies and goals
- Self assessment of governance structure
- Reviewed legislative compliance
- Approved fiscal year end change to March 31
- Performed ALM (asset-liability matching) study

Board Expenses

BOARD EXPENSES

The Board members are reimbursed for expenses incurred for meetings, for education costs and they are compensated for the time necessary to prepare for and to conduct Plan business.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Board Meeting Per Diem</u>	<u>Retainer Fees</u>	<u>Meeting Expenses</u>	<u>Education Expenses</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dale Hillmer, Chair	\$2,702	\$3,125	\$230	\$1,163	\$7,220
Andy Malinowski ¹	-	-	516	7,260	7,776
Brian Renas	1,860	1,875	244	684	4,663
Scott Smith ¹	-	-	-	-	-
Charlene Gavel ^{1,2}	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$4,562	\$5,000	\$990	\$9,107	\$19,659

1. SaskTel employee

2. Appointed June 24, 2016

Actuarial Valuations

GENERAL

The Pension Benefits Regulations, 1993 require actuarial valuations be filed at least every three years. The results from the latest valuation as at December 31, 2013 are included. Valuations are filed with the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission – Pensions Division and with Canada Revenue Agency.

ASSUMPTIONS FOR FUNDING PURPOSES

The actuarial assumptions used for funding purposes are a set of assumptions which reflects the Board's judgment of the most likely set of conditions affecting future events. Following are the significant actuarial assumptions used in the December 31, 2013 valuation to determine the actuarial value of pension obligations. The actuarial assumptions used for the December 31, 2010 valuation are shown for comparison purposes:

<u>Significant Assumption</u>	<u>Valuation as at Dec. 31, 2013</u>	<u>Valuation as at Dec. 31, 2010</u>
Gross Rate of Return on Assets	6.70%	6.55% ¹
Provision for Future Expenses	0.35%	0.30%
Discount Rate for Liabilities	6.35%	6.55%
Inflation	2.50%	2.50%
Salary Escalation	n/a ²	3.50%
Future Indexing	2.00%	2.00%

Mortality rates were applied utilizing the Uninsured Pensioner 1994 Mortality Table with mortality improvements projected to the year 2014 and Canadian mortality projection scale for future improvements (2010 Valuation used the Uninsured Pensioner 1994 Mortality Table, but projected to 2020).

1. Net of a margin for funding purposes, representing conservatism from market best estimate.
2. An assumption for future salary increases is no longer needed because members are assumed to retire immediately.

ACCOUNTING, FUNDING, AND SOLVENCY EXTRAPOLATIONS

The **Projected Accrued Benefit Method** prorated on services is used for financial reporting purposes and provides a valuation based on benefits earned to the date of the financial statements only.

The **Going Concern Method**, although not acceptable for financial reporting purposes, provides a valuation that considers benefits earned to-date as well as future benefits to be earned and contributions to be made. It is the method used by the actuary to measure the ability of the Plan to meet current and future obligations to plan members.

The **Solvency Method** determines the solvency position of the Plan if it were wound up on the valuation date.

Following is a comparative analysis of the Plan surplus (deficit) under the three methods (amounts in thousands of dollars):

Method	2017			2015			2014			2013
	(Extrapolated)			(Extrapolated)			(Extrapolated)			(Actuarial Valuation)
Projected Accrued										
Benefit Method	\$	(100,998)	^{1,2}	\$	(104,233)	^{1,3}	\$	(135,272)	^{1,4}	\$ (74,583) ⁵
Going Concern Method	\$	119,046	¹	\$	76,074	¹	\$	61,423	¹	\$ 9,564
Solvency Method	\$	(180,454)		\$	(234,557)		\$	(237,398)		\$ (155,734)

1. Based on Canadian Pensioner Mortality 2014 Private Sector Table at 100% for males and 110% for females.
2. Based on accounting standards at March 31, 2017 and funding valuation at December 31, 2013.
3. Based on accounting standards at December 31, 2015 and funding valuation at December 31, 2013.
4. Based on accounting standards at December 31, 2014 and funding valuation at December 31, 2013.
5. Based on accounting standards at December 31, 2013 and funding valuation at December 31, 2013.

FUNDING

The Pension Benefits Regulations, 1993 do not require Specified Plans to amortized solvency deficiencies. Since the Plan is a Specified Plan as per *The Pension Benefits Regulations, 1993* the solvency deficiency is not required to be amortized. The Corporation has the ultimate responsibility to ensure that the pension obligations are paid. No contributions were required in 2016/17 or 2015.

Investment Governance

OBJECTIVE OF THE PLAN

The purpose of the Saskatchewan Telecommunications Pension Plan (the Plan) is to meet the present and future obligations accumulated on behalf of the Plan's participants.

INVESTMENT POLICY

The Statement of Investment Policies and Goals (SIP&G) is updated and approved by the SaskTel Pension Plan Board annually. The policy provides a framework for the prudent investment and administration of the pension fund. The policy also provides the investment managers with a written statement of specific quality, quantity and rate of return standards. The policy now includes the dynamic investing approach which strives to ensure the assets of the Plan evolve to match the liabilities of the Plan. The basic approach chosen is to gradually convert equity investments to fixed income instruments as the Plan's solvency position improves.

Plan assets (Fund) should be prudently managed to assist in avoiding actuarial deficits and excessive volatility in annual rates of return. An assessment of the risk tolerance of the Plan considers the cash demands and the closed nature of the Plan, along with the financial position. The Plan maturity is above average in that retired lives dominate the membership, and liquidity needs are increasing. The need for continued growth is also a consideration, given the 2% guaranteed indexing for retirees and the impact of inflation on the future pension liabilities of the active members. Based on these factors, the Fund can assume a modest level of investment risk, defined as the volatility of returns in any year, to achieve the income and growth objectives. This assessment implies a long-term asset mix strategy that has a significant position in fixed income and as well as equity exposure for diversification and growth.

RISK PHILOSOPHY

While prudent management seeks to avoid excessive volatility, it is recognized that a low risk investment policy will earn a low rate of return. The impact may be that the Plan’s liabilities grow faster than the assets. Therefore, in order to achieve the long-term investment goals, the Fund must invest in assets that have uncertain returns, such as Canadian equities, foreign equities and non-government bonds. However, the Board attempts to reduce the overall level of risk by diversifying the asset classes and further diversifying within each individual asset class.

RISK MANAGEMENT

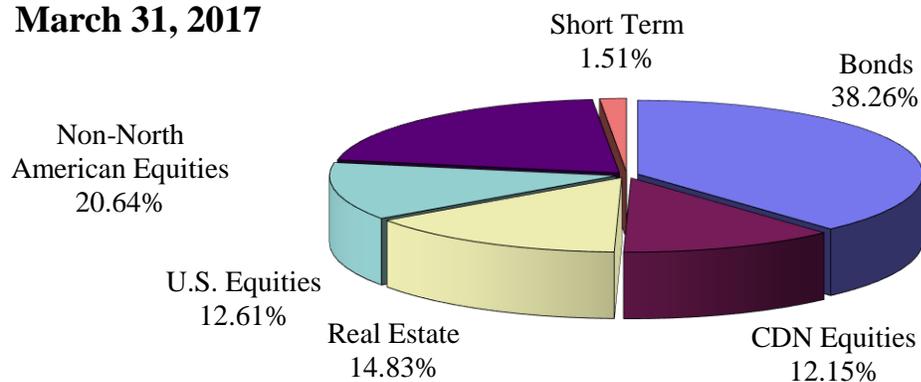
The Board is responsible for identifying business risks that could adversely affect the operation of the Plan and the provision of the benefits promised by the Plan. Through the annual strategic planning and risk assessment process, the Board will review risk management strategies and ensure the appropriate systems are in place and steps are taken to manage risks.

ASSET MIX

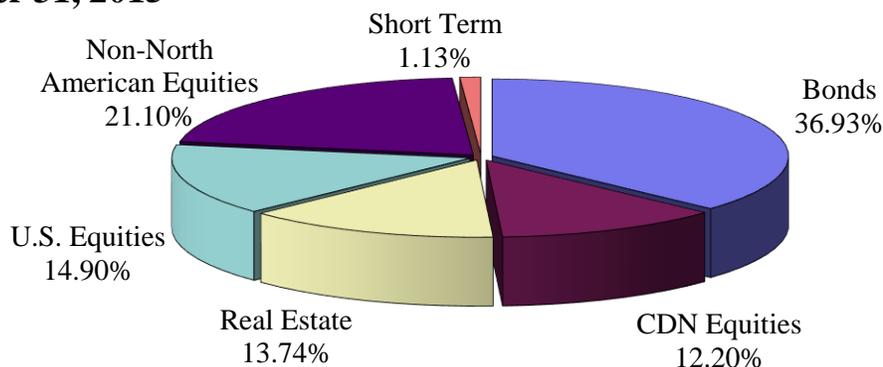
Taking into consideration the investment and risk philosophy of the Fund, the following range and target asset mix has been established:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Equities	40 – 50%	45%	45.40%
Fixed Income	30 – 50%	40%	39.77%
Real Estate	10 – 20%	15%	14.83%

March 31, 2017



December 31, 2015



Investment Performance

The Canadian equity market, as measured by the S&P/TSX Composite Index, was one of the strongest performing developed markets globally over the past 15 months, rising by 18.8%. The Energy and Materials sectors, which were among the bottom performing sectors in 2015, rebounded soundly in 2016 on the back of a sharp rise in commodity prices. In year-to-date 2017, the Materials sector continued to perform well on rebounding metals prices, however, Energy has lagged; both remain top performers over the past 15 month period. The Financials sector, which accounts for one third of the entire S&P/TSX Composite Index was also a strong performer, especially in the latter half of the 2016 and year-to-date 2017 (along with the global financial sector), driven by a rising yield environment, which was catalyzed by the results of the U.S. presidential election.

In 2016 U.S. equities, as measured by the S&P 500 Index, saw a positive 12.0% annual return in local currency, however, decreased to 8.1% for Canadian investors, as the Canadian dollar appreciated versus the U.S. dollar in the year. As in Canadian equities, commodity price related industries and sectors performed well, led by the Energy sector. The U.S. Financials sector sharply outperformed in the fourth quarter, fueled by rising yields and expectations for financial de-regulation. For year-to-date 2017, U.S. equities continued to perform well, generating a 6.1% return in U.S. dollars, falling to 5.5% for Canadian investors, as the loonie continued to appreciate. Info Tech, Health Care, and the Consumer sectors experienced the best performance in the first quarter of 2017, while Energy and Financials, previous market leaders, lagged the broader index.

International equity market returns varied greatly, with the Brexit referendum in June/July impacting most markets. Overall, the MSCI EAFE Index returned 5.3% in local currency terms in 2016, however, fell to -2.5% for Canadian investors, as the loonie appreciated relative to the overall basket of international currencies, driven by strengthening oil prices. For year-to-date 2017, international markets fared well, up 6.7% in Canadian dollars. Positive performance has been broadly distributed, with the exception of the Energy sector. The MSCI Emerging Markets Index was up 9.7% in local currency, and 7.3% in Canadian dollars, outperforming international developed markets in 2016. The largest constituents had mixed results; Brazil and Russia sharply outperformed but China and India were negative in the year. For year-to-date 2017, emerging markets were the top performing market, up 10.8% in Canadian dollar terms.

Bond yields rose sharply in the second half of the year, following the US presidential election, driving sharp capital losses in fixed income securities. For the 2016 annual period, the FTSE/TMX Universe Bond Index returned a modest 1.7%. Federal bonds (0.0%) trailed both Corporate (3.7%) and Provincial bonds (1.8%), as yield spreads narrowed by considerable margins. The Plan's bond portfolio is customized to reflect the duration of the liabilities, which are relatively long term in nature, and returned 2.4% in the year vs. their 2.3% custom benchmark. In year-to-date 2017, bonds had modestly positive returns, with longer term bonds outperforming, as yields fell back slightly. The Plan's bond portfolio matched its benchmark over the period, at 3.1%.

The Total Fund return was 6.1% vs. the 5.5% benchmark return in 2016, with the 0.6% in value added more than offsetting the 0.24% in investment management fees paid annually. The Plan's active managers had mixed results, but overall added value. Asset mix was also positive, with the Plan's overweight in Canadian and U.S. equities, and underweight in fixed income adding value. For year-to-date 2017, the Total Fund added 0.2% to its benchmark (3.5% vs. 3.3% benchmark).

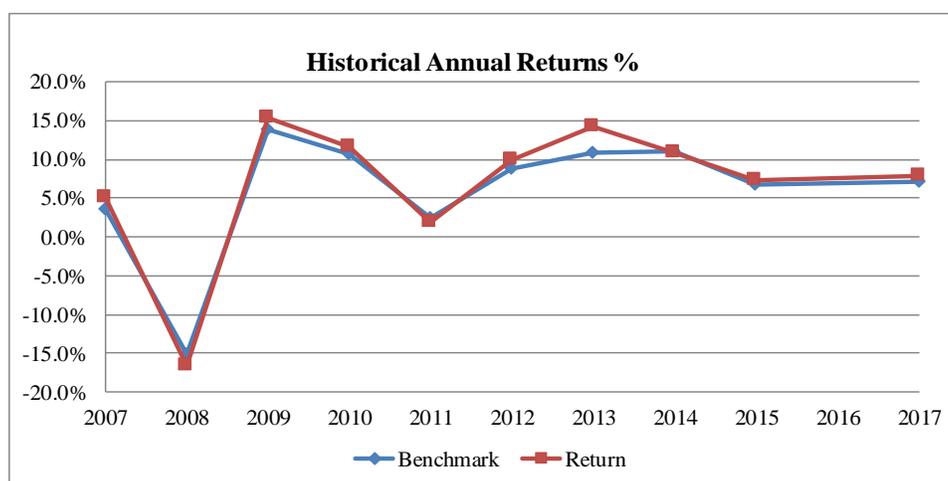
Medium and longer term performance has also been strong. The Total Fund outperformed its benchmark over both the four-year (9.5% vs. 8.8%) and ten-year (6.4% vs. 5.9%) periods. The Plan's real return objective of 3.5% was also met over both periods.

Return on Investments (%)

	For the Fifteen months ended March 31, 2017	For the Twelve months ended December 31, 2015
Return	7.8	7.4
Benchmark	7.2	6.8

Four year Annualized Return on Investments (%)

As at	March 31, 2017	December 31, 2015
Four year annualized return	9.5	10.7
Four year benchmark	8.8	9.8



Financial Highlights

Net assets available for benefits increased by 0.78% from \$1,022M in 2015 to \$1,030M in 2016/17.

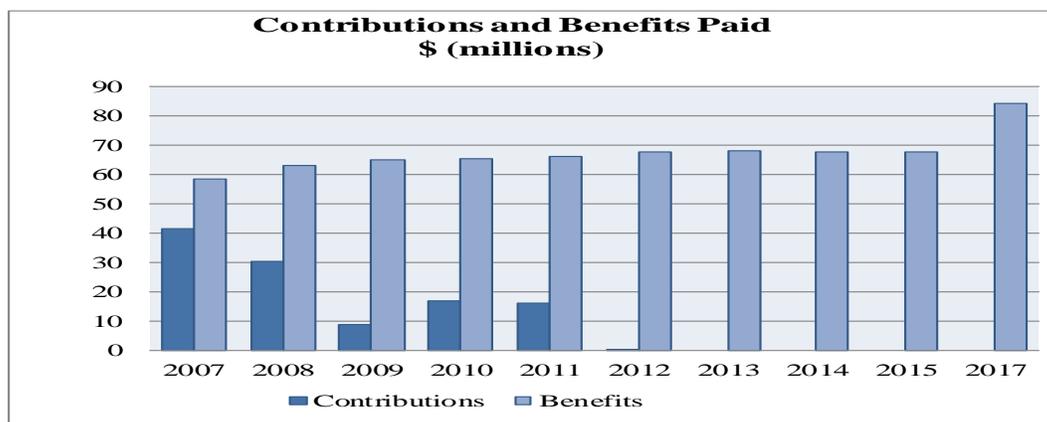
Net Assets Available for Benefits (\$000's)

	For the Fifteen months ended March 31, 2017	For the Twelve months ended December 31, 2015
Net assets available for benefits, opening balance	\$1,022,279	\$1,017,398
Plus: Investment income	39,913	49,481
Less: Benefits	84,295	67,746
Refunds and transfers	479	909
Expenses	3,856	3,225
Unrealized gains	56,684	27,280
Net assets available for benefits, closing balance	\$1,030,246	\$1,022,279



Contributions to the Plan have ceased. Company contributions are not required as the Plan is a Specified Plan as per *The Pension Benefits Regulations, 1993* and as such the solvency deficiency is not required to be amortized. Employee contributions have ceased due to no employees contributing to the Plan as a result of all employees reaching maximum years of service.

Benefits paid from the plan increased from \$67.7 million in 2015 to \$84.3 million in 2016/17 mostly due to the 15 month period but also to fewer retirees.



Investment Management

The Pension Plan Text permits the Board to engage technical and professional advisers, specialists and consultants for the purposes of managing, investing and disposing of plan assets. The companies hired for custodial, investment management, and consulting services are listed below:

As the custodian of the pension fund assets, **RBC Investment Services** performed the processing and handling of investment transactions.

The investment managers managed the investing and disposing of plan assets. **Greystone Capital Management Inc.** has specialty bond, real estate and short term mandates. **Beutel Goodman & Company Ltd.** has a specialty Canadian equity mandate. **TD Asset Management (TDAM)** has a US equities index mandate. **Grantham, Mayo, Van Otterloo & Company (GMO)** has a specialty all country ex. U.S. equity mandate.

As the consultant to the Board, **AON Hewitt** provided analytical and financial advice.

MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The accompanying financial statements included in the annual report of the Saskatchewan Telecommunications Pension Plan for the 15 months ended March 31, 2017, are the responsibility of management and have been approved by the Pension Board. Management has prepared the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for pension plans. The financial information presented elsewhere in this annual report is consistent with that in the financial statements.

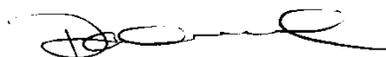
To ensure the integrity and objectivity of the financial data, management maintains a comprehensive system of internal controls including written policies and procedures, an organizational structure that segregates duties and a comprehensive internal audit program. These measures provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded and executed in compliance with legislation and required authority, assets are properly safeguarded and reliable financial records are maintained.

The Pension Board is responsible for ensuring that management fulfills its responsibility for financial reporting and internal control. The Pension Board fulfills this responsibility through periodic meetings with management and with the internal and external auditors. Both the internal and external auditors have free access to the Pension Board to discuss their audit work, their opinion on the adequacy of internal controls and the quality of financial reporting. The Pension Plan's annual financial statements have been reviewed in detail with the entire Pension Board prior to approval by the Pension Board.

The financial statements have been audited by the independent firm of KPMG LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants, as appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and approved by Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan.



Charlene Gavel
Chief Financial Officer



David Holzapfel
Pension Plan Manager
Administrator, SaskTel Pension Board

June 21, 2017

Actuary's Opinion

Aon Hewitt was retained by the Saskatchewan Telecommunications Pension Board (the "Board") to perform an actuarial valuation of the assets and liabilities of the Saskatchewan Telecommunications Pension Plan (the "Plan") as at December 31, 2013. The Board retained Aon Hewitt to prepare an extrapolation of the Plan's liabilities from December 31, 2013 to March 31, 2017. This extrapolation was used to prepare the actuarial information for inclusion in the Annual Report for the year ended March 31, 2017.

The extrapolation of the Plan's liabilities to March 31, 2017 was based on:

- An actuarial valuation (based on membership data provided by the Board) as at December 31, 2013;
- Methods prescribed by the Chartered Professional Accountants Canada for pension plan financial statements; and
- Assumptions about future events (economic and demographic) which were developed by management and Aon Hewitt and are considered as management's best estimate of these events.

While the actuarial assumptions used to determine liabilities for the Plan's financial statements contained in the Annual Report represent management's best estimate of future events, and while in my opinion these assumptions are appropriate for the purposes of the valuation and extrapolation, the Plan's future experience will differ from the actuarial assumptions. Emerging experience differing from the assumptions will result in gains or losses that will be revealed in future valuations, and will affect the financial position of the Plan.

The data has been tested for reasonableness and consistency with prior valuations and in my opinion the data is sufficient and reliable for the purposes of the valuation and extrapolation. It is also my opinion that the methods employed in the valuation and extrapolation are appropriate. My opinions have been given, and the valuation and extrapolation has been performed in accordance with accepted actuarial practice in Canada.



David R. Larsen
Fellow, Canadian Institute of Actuaries
Fellow, Society of Actuaries

April 20, 2017



KPMG LLP
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1881 Scarth Street, 20th Floor
Regina Saskatchewan S4P 4K9
Canada
Telephone (306) 791-1200
Fax (306) 757-4703

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly, Province of Saskatchewan

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Saskatchewan Telecommunications Pension Plan, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2017, the statements of changes in net assets available for benefits and changes in pension obligations for the fifteen month period then ended, and notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's responsibility for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for pension plans, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' responsibility

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 comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

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

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Saskatchewan Telecommunications Pension Plan as at March 31, 2017, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits and changes in its pension obligations for the fifteen month period then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for pension plans.

KPMG LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

June 21, 2017
Regina, Canada

KPMG LLP is a Canadian limited liability partnership and a member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity. KPMG Canada provides services to KPMG LLP.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

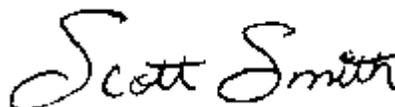
As at		March 31,	December 31,
Thousands of dollars	Note	2017	2015
Assets			
Cash		\$752	\$781
Accrued investment income		360	356
Investments under a securities lending program	5	47,013	30,584
Investments	5	983,246	991,765
		1,031,371	1,023,486
Liabilities			
Accounts payable		1,125	1,207
Net assets available for benefits		1,030,246	1,022,279
Pension obligations	9	1,131,244	1,126,512
Deficit		\$(100,998)	\$(104,233)

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

Approved by the Pension Board



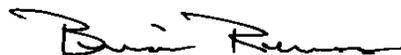
Dale Hillmer - Chairperson



Scott Smith – Member



Charlene Gavel – Member



Brian Renas – Member



Andrew Malinowski - Member

June 21, 2017

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

Thousands of dollars	Note	For the Fifteen months ended March 31, 2017	For the Twelve months ended December 31, 2015
Net assets available for benefits, opening balance		\$1,022,279	\$1,017,398
Increase in assets			
Investment income	6	39,913	49,481
Unrealized increase in fair value of investments		56,684	27,280
Total increase in assets		96,597	76,761
Decrease in assets			
Benefits paid	7	84,295	67,746
Administration expenses	8	3,856	3,225
Refunds and transfers			
Contributions		123	316
Interest		356	593
Total decrease in assets		88,630	71,880
Net increase in assets		7,967	4,881
Net assets available for benefits, closing balance		\$1,030,246	\$1,022,279

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN PENSION OBLIGATIONS

Thousands of dollars	Note	For the Fifteen months ended March 31, 2017	For the Twelve months ended December 31, 2015
Pension obligations, opening balance		\$1,126,512	\$1,152,670
Increase in pension obligations			
Interest on pension obligations		50,251	42,497
Impact of changes in assumptions	9	39,255	-
		89,506	42,497
Decrease in pension obligations			
Benefits paid	7	84,295	67,746
Refunds and transfers		479	909
		84,774	68,655
Pension obligations, closing balance		\$1,131,244	\$1,126,512

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1 - Description of the Plan

The following description of the Saskatchewan Telecommunications Pension Plan (the Plan) is a summary only. For more complete information, reference should be made to the Saskatchewan Telecommunications Pension Plan Text.

General

The Plan is a defined benefit plan maintained by Saskatchewan Telecommunications (the Corporation) for those employees who were hired prior to October 1, 1977 and who did not elect to transfer to the Public Employees' Pension Plan by October 1, 1978. The Plan is governed by *The Pension Benefits Act*, 1992 (the Act). The Plan is registered under *The Income Tax Act* and *The Pensions Benefits Act*, 1992, registration #0360891, is regulated by the Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority of Saskatchewan – Pension Division, and is administered by a five person Board appointed by the Corporation and Unifor.

Funding

The Plan is funded on the basis of actuarial valuations, which are performed at least every three years. The most recent actuarial valuation for funding purposes was performed as of December 31, 2013.

During 2013 provisions of *The Pension Benefits Regulations, 1993* were amended to allow the pension plan to determine funding requirements based on the going concern actuarial valuation versus the former requirement to use the solvency funding actuarial valuation. This has resulted in a suspension of contributions. As the sponsor of the SaskTel Pension Plan, the Corporation is committed to meeting all funding requirements necessary to fulfill pension obligations to plan members. The Corporation will continue to monitor the going concern position of the Plan and can, at any time, begin to fund again if necessary.

During 2012 all employee members reached the maximum pensionable years of service and are no longer required to contribute to the plan. As a result, employer current service contributions have also ceased.

Benefits

The Corporation guarantees the payment of the pension benefits payable under the terms of the Plan as amended from time to time, including:

Service pensions

The Corporation's defined benefit pension plan provides a full pension at age 65, at age 60 with at least 20 years of service, or upon completion of 35 years of service. The pension is calculated to be 2% times the average of the highest three years of employment earnings times the number of years of service up to a maximum of 35 years of service. A reduced pension may be opted for if certain age and years of service criteria are met. At age 65 members' pensions are reduced due to integration with the Canada Pension Plan.

Note 1 - Description of the Plan, continued

Plan members may also elect to receive a joint annuity whereby a reduced pension is payable during the life of the member and/or the life of the spouse or dependents. When the plan member dies the spouse is entitled to receive a pension equal to 100% of the reduced pension.

If a member retires before age 65, the member may elect a varied allowance, whereby, an additional allowance is received until age 65 at which time the allowance will be reduced.

Survivor pensions

If a plan member dies after retiring, the surviving spouse receives 60% of the member's pension. Dependents under 18 receive 10%, to a maximum of 25% for all dependants combined.

Death refunds

A death refund is payable to the estate or designated beneficiary of a pensioner, in an amount equal to the difference between the pensioner's accumulated contributions and interest less the total sum of all allowances paid.

Income taxes

The Plan is a Registered Pension Plan as defined in *The Income Tax Act* and is not subject to income taxes.

Note 2 – Basis of preparation**a. Change of year end**

The Plan has elected to change its fiscal year end to March 31 to coincide with the Corporation's fiscal year. The first complete fiscal period will consist of the fifteen (15) months ended March 31, 2017. Information included in the following discussion focuses on the 15 months of the current fiscal period as compared to the twelve (12) month fiscal period ended December 31, 2015. As a result, information contained in these financial statements may not be comparable with previously reported information. The next valuation is scheduled to be completed March 31, 2017.

b. Statement of compliance

The financial statements for the 15 months ended March 31, 2017 have been prepared in accordance with Chartered Professional Accountants Canada Handbook (CPA Canada Handbook) section 4600, Pension Plans (hereinafter referred to as Canadian accounting standards for pension plans). For matters not addressed in Section 4600 the Plan has chosen to adopt the relevant sections of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

c. Basis of measurement

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis except for financial instruments which are measured at fair value and the pension obligation which is measured at the present value of the accrued benefit obligation.

*Note 2 – Basis of preparation, continued***d. Functional and presentation currency**

These financial statements are presented in Canadian dollars, which is the Plan's functional currency.

e. Use of estimates and judgments

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for pension plans requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of increases and decreases in assets, and increases and decreases in pension obligations during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from these estimates and changes in estimates are recorded in the accounting period in which they are determined. Information about assumptions and estimation of uncertainties that have a significant risk of resulting in a material adjustment within the next fiscal period includes measurement of the pension obligations (Note 9 – Pension Obligations).

Note 3 - Significant accounting policies**Basis of accounting**

These financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis and present the aggregate financial position of the Plan as a separate financial reporting entity independent of the sponsor and plan members. They are prepared to assist Plan members and others in reviewing the activities of the Plan for the fiscal period but they do not portray the funding requirements of the Plan or the benefit security of individual Plan members.

Investments

Investments are stated in the financial statements at fair value. The fair value of short-term investments is based on cost, which approximates fair value due to the short-term nature of these financial instruments. The fair value of equity investments is determined based on quoted market values, based on the latest bid prices. The fair value of pooled equity funds is based on the quoted market values of the underlying investments, based on the latest bid prices. The fair value of bonds is determined using model pricing techniques that effectively discount prospective cash flows to present values taking into consideration duration, credit quality and liquidity. The fair value of pooled bond funds is based on the fair value of the underlying security determined using model pricing techniques that effectively discount prospective cash flows to present values taking into consideration duration, credit quality and liquidity. The fair value of pooled real estate investments is based on independent appraisals.

Transactions are recorded as of the trade date.

Investments under securities lending program

Securities lending transactions are entered into on a collateralized basis. The securities lent are not derecognized on the statement of financial position given that the risks and rewards of ownership are not transferred from the Plan to the counterparties in the course of such transactions. The securities are reported separately on the statement of financial position on the basis that the counterparties may resell or re-pledge the securities during the time that the securities are in their possession. Securities received from counterparties as collateral are not recorded on the statement of financial position given that the risks and rewards of ownership are not transferred from the counterparties to the Plan in the course of such transactions.

*Note 3 - Significant accounting policies, continued***Translation of foreign currencies**

Transactions conducted in foreign currencies are translated into Canadian dollars using the exchange rate in effect at the transaction date. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are adjusted to reflect exchange rates at period end. Exchange gains and losses arising on the translation of monetary assets and liabilities are included in investment income.

New standards and interpretations not yet adopted

IFRS 9 Financial Instruments was issued, as the final version, in July of 2014. The standard sets out the requirements for recognizing and measuring financial assets, financial liabilities and some contracts to buy and sell non-financial items. It also has modified the hedge accounting model to better link the economics of risk management with the accounting treatment of hedges. The standard is effective for reporting periods beginning on or after January 1, 2018 with early adoption permitted. The Plan has assessed the impact of the standard and will be adopting it effective from April 1, 2017. There will be no material impact due to this change.

Note 4 – Objectives, policies, and processes for managing capital

The process for managing capital is accomplished by diversifying asset classes and further diversifying within each individual asset class.

The Plan's capital consists of the investment assets of the Saskatchewan Telecommunications Pension Fund, managed under the authority of the Saskatchewan Telecommunications Pension Board.

The objective of the Plan is to meet the present and future pension obligations accumulated on behalf of the Plan's participants, while complying with *The Pension Benefits Act, 1992* and Canada Revenue Agency regulations.

The Plan's permissible investments include Canadian equities (including rights, warrants, installment receipts and capital shares), U.S. and international equities, bonds of Canadian issuers, short term securities, mortgages, real estate and pooled funds. Any other type of investment is not permitted without prior approval of the Board.

The Plan's investment policy provides a framework for the prudent investment and administration of the Pension Fund for the purpose of managing capital assets. The policy provides the investment managers with a written statement of specific quality, quantity and rate of return standards. The policy is re-visited annually to ensure it is meeting the objectives of the Plan's capital management to ultimately meet all pension obligations.

The SaskTel Pension Board employs a pension risk management strategy – Dynamic Investing, which addresses continued capital market volatility and the overall demographic trends for the Plan. The dynamic investing approach strives to ensure the assets of the Plan evolve to match the liabilities of the Plan.

Note 5 - Investments

The Fund has the following investments

As at	March 31,	December 31,
Thousands of dollars	2017	2015
Investments		
Short term investments	\$14,315	\$10,664
Pooled real estate	152,776	140,523
Canadian equities	69,283	92,446
Canadian pooled equity funds	10,124	7,080
US equities	-	24,911
US pooled equity fund	129,920	122,895
Non-North American pooled equity funds	212,639	215,701
Bonds	452	650
Pooled bond funds	393,737	376,895
	\$983,246	\$991,765
Investments under securities lending program		
Short term investments	\$1,240	\$870
Canadian equities	45,773	25,166
US equities	-	4,548
	\$47,013	\$30,584
Total investments	\$1,030,259	\$1,022,349

Short term investments

Short term investments are comprised of treasury bills, notes and commercial paper with a market yield of 0.5% to 1.1% (2015 - 0.4% to 0.8%) and an average term to maturity of 92.3 days (2015 – 82.6 days). The Plan's investment policy states that investments must meet a minimum investment standard of "R-1" as rated by the recognized credit rating service. Other than the Government of Canada, no single issuer represents more than 20.0% (2015 – 19.2%) of the fair value of the short-term investment portfolio.

Pooled real estate

Investments in pooled real estate consist of Canadian commercial property.

Equities

Individual holdings are limited, by Fund policy, to a maximum of 10% of the market value of each investment manager's portfolio. At March 31, 2017, 9.3% (December 31, 2015 – 9.0%) was the largest individual holding. Individual holdings are restricted, by Fund policy, to a maximum of 10% of the common stock in any corporation. At March 31, 2017, 0.08% (December 31, 2015 - 0.028%) was the largest individual holding.

*Note 5 - Investments, continued***Bonds**

Individual holdings are limited, by Fund policy, to a maximum of 10% of the market value of each investment. At March 31, 2017, 0.60% (December 31, 2015 – 1.25%) was the largest individual holding.

Pooled bond funds

Fund holdings are selected based on the durations which align with the maturity profile of the Plan's liabilities as part of the Dynamic Investing Policy.

As at Fund	March 31, 2017			December 31, 2015		
	Amount (\$000)	Yield (%)	Duration (years)	Amount (\$000)	Yield (%)	Duration (years)
Greystone three year target duration fund	\$93,774	1.4	3	\$91,536	1.3	3
Greystone eight year target duration fund	106,960	2.5	8	102,496	2.4	8
Greystone fifteen year target duration fund	102,371	3.3	15	96,441	3.3	15
Greystone twenty plus year target duration fund	90,632	3.3	25	86,422	3.3	25
	<u>\$393,737</u>			<u>\$376,895</u>		

Note 6 – Investment income

Thousands of dollars	For the Fifteen months ended March 31, 2017	For the Twelve months ended December 31, 2015
	Short term investments	\$151
Canadian equities	4,505	3,921
Canadian pooled equity funds	732	149
US equities	456	452
US pooled equity fund	8,165	15,578
Non-North American pooled equity funds	7,116	14,478
Bonds	7	4
Pooled bond funds	18,781	14,425
	<u>\$39,913</u>	<u>\$49,481</u>

Note 7 – Benefits paid

Thousands of dollars	For the Fifteen months ended March 31, 2017	For the Twelve months ended December 31, 2015
Retirement benefits	\$76,761	\$61,237
Death benefits	7,534	6,509
	\$84,295	\$67,746

Note 8 - Administration expenses

The Pension Plan Text permits the Board to engage technical and professional advisers, specialists and consultants for the purposes of managing, investing and disposing of Plan assets, with the related costs to be paid by the Plan. Other direct out of pocket expenses including custodial, investment manager and consulting fees are paid by the Plan. The costs to administer the Plan (staff salaries, actuarial and auditor costs) are also borne by the Plan and are reflected in the accompanying financial statements. The Board has developed, with the assistance of its consultant, specific investment policies and guidelines that the investment managers must adhere to when making investment decisions.

Thousands of dollars	For the Fifteen months ended March 31, 2017	For the Twelve months ended December 31, 2015
Investment management	\$3,028	\$2,581
Plan administration	345	264
Investment consultant	218	158
Custodian	88	75
Brokerage commissions	79	65
Actuary	44	21
Audit	27	26
Board	20	28
Other	7	7
	\$3,856	\$3,225

Note 9 – Pension obligations

The present value of pension obligations was determined using the projected accrued benefit method prorated on services. An actuarial valuation to determine the pension obligation was performed at December 31, 2013 and extrapolated to March 31, 2017 by Aon Hewitt, a firm of consulting actuaries. The next valuation is scheduled to be completed March 31, 2017.

Pension obligations are sensitive to changes in the discount rate, the inflation rate, salary escalation and future indexing. Based upon advice obtained from its actuaries and pension consultant, the Pension Board applies best estimate assumptions on these and other future economic events.

Note 9 – Pension Obligations, continued

Experience Gains/(Losses) & Impact of Assumption Changes Detail

Thousands of dollars	For the Fifteen months ended March 31, 2017	For the Twelve months ended December 31, 2015
*Experience gain	\$-	\$-
**Loss due to impact of assumption changes	(39,255)	-
	\$(39,255)	\$-

* Plan experience items only happen each time a new valuation is performed.

** The change in discount rate increased the obligation by \$39.3 million.

Following are the significant assumptions used to determine the actuarial present value of pension obligations:

As at Significant Assumption	March 31, 2017	December 31, 2015
Discount Rate	3.50%	3.80%
Inflation	2.50%	2.50%
Future Indexing	100% of CPI to a maximum of 2.00%	100% of CPI to a maximum of 2.00%

The following illustrates the effect on the Plan's pension obligations of changing certain actuarial assumptions:

	<u>Long - Term Assumptions</u>				Future Indexing
	Discount rate		Inflation		
	4.50%	2.50%	3.50%	1.50%	1.0%
(Thousands of dollars)					
Increase (decrease)					
in liability	\$(118,879)	\$143,995	\$(120,174)	\$50,831	\$(152,359)

The Plan Text guarantees future indexing at 100% of CPI to a maximum of 2%. Therefore the impact of future indexing at a rate higher than 2% is not applicable.

Consistent with the previous period, mortality rates were applied utilizing the Canadian Pensioner 2014 – Private Sector Mortality Table at 100% for males and 110% for females projected generationally with CPM Improvement Scale B.

The pension obligations are long term in nature. There is no ready market for settling the pension obligation and the Plan has no intention of settling this obligation in the near term. Therefore, determination of the fair value of pension obligations is not practical.

Note 10 - Financial instruments

The Plan's financial instruments include cash, short term investments, pooled bond funds, bonds, equities, pooled equity funds and a pooled real estate fund, which by their nature are subject to risks. The carrying amount of cash approximates fair value due to its immediate or short-term nature. The carrying amount of all other instruments is defined in the fair value hierarchy section of this note.

The risks that arise are market risk (consisting of interest rate risk, foreign exchange risk and equity price risk), credit risk, and liquidity risk. Significant financial risks are related to the Plan's investments.

These financial risks are managed by having an investment policy, which is approved annually by SaskTel Pension Board. The investment policy provides guidelines to the Plan's investment managers for the asset mix of the portfolio regarding quality and quantity of debt and equity investments. The asset mix helps to reduce the impact of market value fluctuations by requiring investments in different asset classes and in domestic and foreign markets.

Market risk

Market risk represents the potential for loss from changes in the value of financial instruments. Value can be affected by changes in interest rates, foreign exchange rates and equity prices. Market risk primarily impacts the value of investments.

Interest rate risk

The Plan is exposed to interest rate risk primarily through its pooled bond funds and short term investments. Fair value adjustments will fluctuate based on changes in market prices. The pooled bond funds consist of mostly provincial and federal government and corporate bonds with varying maturities to coincide with pension plan obligations, and are managed based on this maturity profile and market conditions.

The Plan is exposed to changes in interest rates in its pooled bond funds and short term investments. It is estimated that a 100 basis point increase/decrease in interest rates would decrease/increase net assets available for benefits by \$51.6 million representing 12.6% of the carrying value of \$409.7 million.

Foreign exchange risk

The Plan is subject to changes in the U.S./Canadian dollar exchange rate for U.S. denominated investments. Also, the Plan is exposed to Europe, Australasia and Far East (EAFE) currencies through its investment in the pooled equity funds. Exposure to both U.S. equities and non-North American equities is limited to a maximum 41.5% total of the market value of the total investment portfolio. At March 31, 2017 the Plan's exposure to U.S. equities was 12.6% (December 31, 2015- 14.9%) and its exposure to non-North American equities was 20.6% (December 31, 2015 – 21.1%).

At March 31, 2017, a 10% strengthening (weakening) in the Canadian dollar versus U.S. dollar exchange rate would result in approximately a \$13.0 million decrease (increase) in the net assets available for benefits. A 10% strengthening (weakening) in the Canadian dollar versus the EAFE currencies would result in approximately a \$21.3 million decrease (increase) in the net assets available for benefits.

No more than 15% of the market value of the bond and debentures portfolio is allowed to be invested in bonds of foreign issuers, however no foreign bonds were held in 2017.

*Note 10 - Financial instruments, continued***Equity price risk**

The Plan is exposed to changes in equity prices in Canadian, U.S. and EAFE markets. Equities comprise 45.4% (2015 – 48.2%) of the carrying value of the Plan's total investments. Individual stock holdings are diversified by geography, industry type and corporate entity.

The Plan's equity price risk can be assessed using Value at Risk (VaR), a statistical technique that measures the potential change in an equity asset class. The following calculations are based on returns and volatility over the preceding four fiscal periods, using a 95% confidence level. As such, it is expected that the annual change in the portfolio market value will not be more than the values outlined in the following table 95% of the time (19 times out of 20 years), based on period end market values. Stated differently, there is a 5% statistical probability that the equity portfolio values would change by more than the values noted below.

As at	March 31,	December 31,
Thousands of dollars	2017	2015
Canadian equities	\$(3,184)	\$(4,959)
US equities	3,427	10,948
Non-North American equities	(15,492)	(9,392)

Credit risk

The Plan's credit risk arises primarily from certain investments. The maximum credit risk to which it is exposed is limited to the carrying value of the financial assets summarized as follows:

As at	March 31,	December 31,
Thousands of dollars	2017	2015
Cash	\$752	\$781
Accrued investment income	360	356
Bonds and pooled bond funds	394,189	377,545
Short term investments	15,555	11,534
	\$410,856	\$390,216

Credit risk within investments is primarily related to pooled bond funds and short term investments. It is managed through the investment policy that limits the amount that is to be invested in pooled bond funds.

Through its custodian, the Plan participates in an investment security lending program. Collateral of at least 105% of market value of the loaned securities is held for the loan - this collateral is marked to market on a daily basis. In addition, the custodian provides indemnification against any potential losses in the securities lending program.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Plan is unable to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. This risk is mitigated through daily management of anticipated cash flows.

Note 10 - Financial instruments, continued

Fair value hierarchy

Fair value is best evidenced by an independent quoted market price for the same instrument in an active market. An active market is one where quoted prices are readily available, representing regularly occurring transactions. The determination of fair value requires judgment and is based on market information where available and appropriate. Fair value measurements are categorized into levels within a fair value hierarchy based on the nature of the inputs used in the valuation.

Level 1 – Where quoted prices are readily available from an active market.

Level 2 – Valuation model not using quoted prices, but still using predominantly observable market inputs, such as market interest rates.

Level 3 – Where valuation is based on unobservable inputs.

As at Thousands of dollars	March 31, 2017				December 31, 2015			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Bonds	\$-	\$452	\$-	\$452	\$-	\$650	\$-	\$650
Pooled bond funds	-	393,737	-	393,737	-	376,895	-	376,895
Canadian equities	115,056	-	-	115,056	117,612	-	-	117,612
Canadian pooled equity funds	10,124	-	-	10,124	7,080	-	-	7,080
US equities	-	-	-	-	29,459	-	-	29,459
US pooled equity fund	129,920	-	-	129,920	122,895	-	-	122,895
NNA pooled equity funds	212,639	-	-	212,639	215,701	-	-	215,701
Pooled real estate	-	-	152,776	152,776	-	-	140,523	140,523
Short term investments	-	15,555	-	15,555	-	11,534	-	11,534
Total	\$467,739	\$409,744	\$152,776	\$1,030,259	\$492,747	\$389,079	\$140,523	\$1,022,349

There were no items transferred between levels during the current fiscal period.

The following is a reconciliation of the changes in the investments owned, measured at fair value using unobservable inputs, Level 3:

As at Thousands of dollars	March 31, 2017	December 31, 2015
Beginning balance	\$140,523	\$137,066
Purchases	-	-
Sales	-	(5,000)
Net gain realized in investment income	-	1,821
Unrealized change in market value	12,253	6,636
Ending balance	\$152,776	\$140,523

Note 11 - Investment performance

The investment manager makes the day-to-day decisions of whether to buy or sell specific investments in order to achieve the long-term investment performance objectives set by the Board. It is these long-term investment performance objectives that are used to assess the performance of the investment manager.

The Board reviews the investment performance of the Fund in terms of the performance of the benchmark portfolio over rolling 4 fiscal periods.

	For the Fifteen months ended March 31, 2017	For the Twelve months ended December 31, 2015
	Return (%)	
Plan's actual rate of return	7.8	7.4
Target rate of return	7.2	6.8

	For the Four years ended March 31, 2017	For the Four years ended December 31, 2015
	Rolling four-year average annual return (%)	
Plan's actual rate of return	9.5	10.7
Target rate of return	8.8	9.8

Note 12 - Related party transactions

All Government of Saskatchewan agencies such as ministries, corporations, boards and commissions are related since all are controlled by the Government.

During the fiscal period the Plan paid \$0.3 million (2015 - \$0.3 million) to the Corporation for administration fees.

**SCHEDULE OF ACCUMULATED NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
FOR THE PERIOD FROM MAY 1, 1928 TO MARCH 31, 2017**

Thousands of dollars

CUMULATIVE INCREASE IN ASSETS

Investment income		\$1,144,700
Cumulative increase in fair value of investments		\$763,876
Contributions		
Employers'		367,763
Employees' - Active	1,803	
- Retired, deferred	108,336	
- Resigned	16,201	
- Transferred	649	126,989
Early and enhanced retirement adjustments		19,450
Employer withdrawal		(34,200)
Employees' interest on back contributions		729
		2,389,307

CUMULATIVE DECREASE IN ASSETS

Payments to superannuates and beneficiaries	1,325,178	
Refund of employees' contributions	12,991	
Interest on refunded employees' contributions	5,842	
Transfer of contributions	7,623	
Transfer of interest on contributions	7,281	
Supplementary retirement payments		
to employees not eligible for pension	93	
Death benefit (matching amount)	36	
Interest on employee's savings plan	17	1,359,061

**NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
AT MARKET VALUE - MARCH 31, 2017**

\$1,030,246