New Brunswick Public Service Pension Plan

Financial Statements

December 31, 2018

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Trustees of the New Brunswick Public Service Pension Plan

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of New Brunswick Public Service Pension Plan (the Entity), which comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2018
- the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year then ended
- the statement of changes in pension obligation for the year then ended
- and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies

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

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity as at December 31, 2018 and its changes in net assets available for benefits and its changes in pension obligations for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for pension plans.

Basis for Opinion

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

We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada and we have fulfilled our other 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 pension plans, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

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

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

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

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

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

We also:

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

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

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

- Communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

KPMG LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

Fredericton, Canada

July 31, 2019

NEW BRUNSWICK PUBLIC SERVICE PENSION PLAN

Statement of Financial Position

(In thousands of Canadian dollars)

AS AT DECEMBER 31

		2018		2017
ASSETS				
Investments *(notes 3 and 4)*	$	7,618,726	$	7,638,645
Contributions receivable from employers *(note 12)*		11,675		11,297
Contributions receivable from employees *(note 12)*		4,850		5,277
Other receivable		13		8
Total assets		7,635,264		7,655,227
LIABILITIES				
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities *(note 12)*		2,580		3,204
Net assets available for benefits		7,632,684		7,652,023
Pension obligations *(note 6)*		7,069,400		6,831,000
SURPLUS	$	563,284	$	821,023

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Commitments *(note 13)*
Indemnification *(note 14)*

Approved on behalf of the Board of Trustees:

Marilyn Quinn
Chair

Leonard Lee-White
Vice Chair

NEW BRUNSWICK PUBLIC SERVICE PENSION PLAN
Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31

		2018		2017
Increase in net assets				
Net investment income *(note 9)*	$	132,279	$	559,239
Employer pension contributions *(note 12)*		152,845		146,463
Employee pension contributions *(note 12)*		100,795		97,304
		385,919		803,006
Decrease in net assets				
Pension benefits *(note 10)*		379,083		365,554
Refunds and transfers *(note 10)*		12,793		12,486
Administration expenses *(note 11)*		13,382		13,925
		405,258		391,965
(Decrease) increase in net assets available for benefits		(19,339)		411,041
Net assets available for benefits, beginning of year		7,652,023		7,240,982
Net assets available for benefits, end of year	$	7,632,684	$	7,652,023

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

NEW BRUNSWICK PUBLIC SERVICE PENSION PLAN
Statement of Changes in Pension Obligations
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31

		2018		2017
Pension obligations, beginning of year	$	6,831,000	$	6,656,100
Change in pension obligations:				
Changes in actuarial assumptions		27,000		—
Interest accrued on benefits		318,800		310,600
Experience losses		5,600		1,100
Normal actuarial cost		151,600		144,200
Benefits paid		(391,900)		(378,000)
Cost of living adjustment		127,300		97,000
		238,400		174,900
Pension obligations, end of year	$	7,069,400	$	6,831,000

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

NEW BRUNSWICK PUBLIC SERVICE PENSION PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements

(In thousands of Canadian dollars)

AS AT AND FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018

1. Description of the Plan

The following description is intended as a summary only. For complete information, reference should be made to the plan text.

On January 1, 2014, the defined benefit pension plan created by the *Public Service Superannuation Act* ("PSSA") was converted to the New Brunswick Public Service Pension Plan (the "NBPSPP" or "Plan"), a shared risk plan registered under the *Pension Benefits Act of New Brunswick* (the "Act"). The NBPSPP is governed by a Board of Trustees consisting of an equal number of individuals appointed by the Province of New Brunswick, as the major employer, and by bargaining agents representing certain employees covered by the pension plan. At least one appointee must be a retired member of the pension plan.

The primary purpose of the NBPSPP is to provide secure pensions to plan members upon retirement and until death in respect of their service as plan members and their survivors. A shared risk pension plan uses a risk management approach set out in its funding policy to ensure that a base pension benefit is provided in most potential future economic scenarios. Accordingly, future cost of living adjustments and other ancillary benefits such as early retirement subsidies will only be provided to the extent that the pension assets are sufficient to pay such benefits as determined by the Board of Trustees in accordance with applicable laws and the plan's funding policy *(note 7)*.

All members of the PSSA and certain members of the Pension Plan for Part-Time and Seasonal Employees of the Province of New Brunswick became members of the NBPSPP. All new full-time employees, term employees, and contract employees after February 1, 2014 are required to join the NBPSPP. All other employees will become members of the NBPSPP upon the date of completion of twenty-four successive months of employment provided the employee has earned at least 35% of the YMPE in each of the preceding two calendar years.

Initial employee contribution rates of 5.8% of eligible earnings up to the Yearly Maximum Pension Entitlement ("YMPE") and 7.5% of eligible earnings in excess of the YMPE increased to 7.5% and 10.7% respectively effective April 1, 2014. The employer contribution rates of 8.932% up to the YMPE and 11.55% above YMPE were adjusted to 11.25% of eligible earnings on April 1, 2014. In addition, unless the funding level is 140% of the estimated pension obligations, the employer will make temporary contributions of 0.5% of eligible earnings for a five-year period from January 1, 2014, and 0.75% of eligible earnings for the ten-year period from January 1, 2014. Employee and employer contribution rates will become equal after fifteen years. Contribution rates are subject to change in accordance with triggers identified in the funding policy for the NBPSPP *(note 7)*.

Pension benefits vest on the earlier of: (i) five years of continuous employment; or (ii) two years of membership in the NBPSPP, including membership in any predecessor plan (the PSSA or the Pension Plan for Part-Time and Seasonal Employees of the Province of New Brunswick). The normal retirement date is at age 65. Early retirement may be taken at any time between the ages of 55 and 65.

1. Description of the Plan *(continued)*

A member's annual pension payable up to age 65 is equal to the sum of:

1) In respect of service before January 1, 2014, the product of:
    a) The number of years of pensionable service before January 1, 2014 up to the annual average YMPE; and
    b) 2% of the annual average of the best five consecutive years of earnings at January 1, 2014; and
    c) An early retirement factor;

And

2) In respect of service from January 1, 2014, the sum of the product (a), (b) and (c) below for each calendar year or portion thereof:
    a) 2% of annualized earnings;
    b) The number of hours worked for which contributions are made divided by the full-time equivalent hours;
    c) An early retirement factor; and
    d) Such cost of living adjustments as may be granted by the Board of Trustees.

A member's annual retirement pension payable after age 65 is equal to the sum of:

1) In respect of service before January 1, 2014, the product of:
    a) The number of years of pensionable service before January 1, 2014; and
    b) 1.3% of the annual average of the best five consecutive years of earnings at January 1, 2014 up to the annual average YMPE for the three years prior to January 1, 2014, plus 2% of the excess of the annual average of the best five consecutive years of earnings at January 1, 2014 over the annual average YMPE for the three years prior to January 1, 2014;

And

2) In respect of service from January 1, 2014, the sum of (a) and (b) below for each calendar year or portion thereof:
    a) 1.4% of annualized earnings up to the YMPE and 2.0% of annualized earnings in excess of the YMPE;
    b) The number of hours worked for which contributions are made divided by the full-time equivalent hours; and
    c) Such cost of living adjustments as may be granted by the Board of Trustees.

An early retirement discount of 3/12% per month that the pension commences prior to age 60 is applicable to all service earned prior to January 1, 2014, while an early retirement discount of 5/12% per month that the pension commences prior to age 65 is applicable to all service earned on or after January 1, 2014.

A legislative guarantee protects members' base pension benefits that were earned, accrued or vested as of December 31, 2013.

The form of pension must be selected at retirement and includes a joint and survivor pension (with survivor benefit at 50%, 60% or 100% of benefit payable) or a life pension with a guaranteed payment period of either five, ten or fifteen years.

1. Description of the Plan *(continued)*

In the case of termination prior to retirement, employees whose pension benefits have not vested will receive a refund of contributions with accumulated interest. All other employees will have a choice of deferring commencement of their pension benefit until age 65 for an unreduced benefit or deferring commencement of their pension until a date between age 55 or later and age 65 for a reduced benefit. An employee terminating before age 55 may also defer their pension between the ages of 55 to 65 (subject to the applicable early retirement reduction) or may transfer their termination value in a lump sum to a locked-in retirement account, a life income fund or to a pension plan offered by their new employer (certain restrictions apply).

In the case of death prior to retirement, the surviving spouse or designated beneficiaries of an employee whose pension has not vested will receive a refund of employee contributions with accumulated interest. In the case of death when pension benefits have vested, a surviving spouse may receive a monthly pension of 50% of the pension payable at age 65 for their lifetime or the termination value in a lump sum payment. In the case of death when pension benefits have vested and there is no surviving spouse, the designated beneficiary will receive the termination value in a lump sum payment, unless the designated beneficiary is an eligible dependent, in which case they would receive a monthly pension of 50% of the pension payable at age 65 while they are an eligible dependent.

2. Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of presentation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for pension plans in Part IV of the Chartered Professional Accountants' (CPA) of Canada Handbook. They are prepared to assist Plan members and others in reviewing the activities of the Plan for the fiscal year but they do not portray the funding requirements of the Plan *(note 7)* or the benefit security of individual plan members.

All investment assets and liabilities are measured at fair value in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") 13, *Fair Value Measurements.* In selecting or changing accounting policies that do not relate to its investment portfolio or pension obligation, Canadian accounting standards for pension plans require the Plan to comply on a consistent basis with either IFRS in Part I of the CPA Handbook or with Canadian accounting standards for private enterprises in Part II of the CPA Handbook. The Plan has chosen to comply on a consistent basis with IFRS.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the significant accounting policies set out below. These financial statements were authorized for issue by the Board of Trustees on July 31, 2019.

(b) Basis of measurement

These financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis except for investments, which are measured at fair value in the Statement of Financial Position.

2. Significant Accounting Policies *(continued)*

(c) Financial instruments

(i) Classification, recognition and measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities are initially recognized in the Statement of Financial Position on the trade date, which is the date on which the Plan becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. A financial asset or liability is measured initially at fair value. Transaction costs are recognized in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits as incurred.

Financial assets, on initial recognition, are required to be classified as measured at amortized cost, fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI) or fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL) according to the business model used for managing them and their contractual cash flow characteristics. Financial liabilities are classified as measured at amortized cost unless they are measured at FVTPL.

Financial assets that are held for trading or managed as part of a portfolio whose performance is evaluated on a fair value basis are measured at FVTPL because they are neither held to collect contractual cash flows nor held both to collect contractual cash flows and to sell financial assets.

The Plan has entered into an investment management agreement with Vestcor Inc. ("Vestcor") to manage its pension fund assets on a fully discretionary basis. Certain of the Plan's investments consist of units of pooled funds and limited partnerships offered by Vestcor (the "Vestcor Investment Entities"). The investments are managed and their performance is evaluated on a fair value basis. As such, the Plan classifies all investments as FVTPL with changes in fair value being recognized in net investment income in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits.

The fair value of each investment in units of the Vestcor Investment Entities is based on the calculated daily net asset value per unit multiplied by the number of units held and represents the Plan's proportionate share of the underlying net assets at fair values determined using closing market prices.

The underlying investments held in the Vestcor Investment Entities are valued at fair value as of the date of the financial statements. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date in the principal or, in its absence, the most advantageous market to which the Vestcor Investment Entities have access at that date.

The fair value of the underlying securities in the Vestcor Investment Entities that are traded in active markets (such as exchange-traded derivatives, debt and equity securities) are based on quoted market prices at the close of trading on the reporting date.

If there is no quoted price in an active market, then the Vestcor Investment Entities use valuation techniques that maximize the use of the relevant observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. The chosen valuation technique incorporates all of the factors that market participants would take into account in pricing a transaction.

Certain of the Plan's financial assets and financial liabilities such as contributions and other receivables and accounts payable and accrued liabilities are subsequently measured at amortized cost, which is the cost at initial recognition, minus any reduction for impairment. The carrying amount of these assets and liabilities approximates fair value due to their short settlement period. At the reporting date, the Plan assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset at amortized cost is impaired. If such evidence exists, the Plan recognizes an impairment loss as the difference between the amortized cost of the financial asset and the present value of the estimated future cash flows.

2. Significant Accounting Policies *(continued)*

(ii) Derecognition

The Plan derecognizes a financial asset when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are transferred in a transaction in which substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset are transferred.

On derecognition of a financial asset, the difference between the carrying amount of the asset and the consideration is recognized in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits as net investment income.

The Plan derecognizes a financial liability when its contractual obligations are discharged or cancelled or expire.

(d) Pension obligations

The pension obligations recognized in the Statement of Financial Position are the actuarial present value of accrued pension benefits determined by using the accrued benefit (or unit credit) actuarial cost method in accordance with the requirement of paragraph 14(7)(a) of Regulation 2012-75 under the Act and actuarial assumptions which reflect management's best estimate for the future.

(e) Functional and presentation currency

The financial statements are presented in Canadian dollars, which is the functional currency of the Plan.

(f) Use of estimates and judgments

The preparation of the Plan's financial statements requires judgments, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the Statement of Financial Position. Significant estimates and judgments are required in determining the reported estimated fair value of private investments, which are included in the underlying investments held in the Vestcor Investment Entities and the measurement of the pension obligation, since these determinations may include estimates of expected future cash flows, rates of return, rates of retirement, mortality, rates in termination, discount rates, and the impact of future events. Actual results may differ from those estimates. Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an on-going basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognized in the period in which the estimates are revised and in any future years affected.

(g) Taxes

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

(h) Contributions

Contributions from the employers and pension plan members are recorded in the period that payroll deductions are made.

(i) Net investment income

Net investment income represents the changes in fair value, realized and unrealized, in the value of the units held in each of the Vestcor Investment Entities. Investment transactions are recognized as of their trade date.

2. Significant Accounting Policies *(continued)*

(j) Foreign currency translation

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies held within the Vestcor Investment Entities are translated at the prevailing rates of exchange at the date of the Statement of Financial Position. Investment income and expenses are translated at the exchange rates prevailing on the transaction date. Realized and unrealized exchange gains and losses are included in net investment income.

3. Investments

The Plan invests in units of the Vestcor Investment Entities, consisting of unit trust funds and limited partnership structures. Each Vestcor Investment Entity has a specific investment mandate. Investing in the Vestcor Investment Entities enables the Plan to achieve its required asset class weights in accordance with its Statement of Investment Policies ("SIP"). Following is a description of each Vestcor Investment Entity ("fund") in which the Plan invested during the year ended December 31, 2018:

NBIMC Nominal Bond Fund

This fund invests primarily in investment grade bonds (a minimum of triple-B rated by a major rating agency) of G-7 countries and Canadian provinces paying a nominal rate of interest. Its benchmark is the FTSE Canada All Government Bond Index.

NBIMC Corporate Bond Fund

This fund invests primarily in investment grade corporate bonds (a minimum of triple-B rated by a major rating agency) paying a nominal rate of interest. Its benchmark is the FTSE Canada All Corporate Bond Index.

NBIMC New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada Fixed Income Opportunity Fund

This fund invests primarily in fixed income issued to finance economic activity in New Brunswick. Its benchmark is the FTSE Canada All Government Bond Index.

NBIMC Money Market Fund

This fund invests primarily in fixed income securities having a maturity of less than one year. Its benchmark is calculated as 93% of the FTSE Canada 91 Day T-Bill Index plus 7% of the One-day Canadian Call Loan Rate.

NBIMC Student Investment Fund

This fund is managed by students at the University of New Brunswick who are registered in the Student Investment Fund Program. The overall benchmark for this entity is composed of 50% S&P/TSX Composite Total Return Index, 45% FTSE Canada All Government Bond Index, 4.65% FTSE Canada 91 Day T-Bill Index and 0.35% One-day Canadian Call Loan Rate. The activities of this entity are closely monitored by Vestcor staff who execute and process all transactions on behalf of the students

NBIMC Canadian Equity Index Fund

This fund invests in physical securities and derivative strategies to gain exposure to various segments of the S&P/TSX Composite Total Return Index. Leverage on derivative products is avoided by ensuring each derivative product is supported by an appropriate value of short-term investments. Its benchmark is the S&P/TSX Composite Total Return Index.

NBIMC Canadian Small Cap Equity Fund

This fund invests primarily in listed Canadian equities but may also use other investments such as exchange traded funds, listed or over-the-counter derivatives, or other securities to allow the fund to achieve its return target or otherwise manage risk.

3. Investments *(continued)*

NBIMC Low Volatility Canadian Equity Fund

This fund actively invests in securities to gain exposure to the MSCI Canada Minimum Volatility Total Return Index, Gross.

NBIMC External Canadian Equity Fund

This fund is managed by external managers and invests in publicly traded Canadian equities. Its benchmark is the S&P/TSX Composite Total Return Index.

NBIMC Canadian Equity Active Long Strategy Fund

This fund seeks to add value through prudent selection of individual securities and sector allocations through over and under weighting of the index. Its benchmark is the S&P/TSX Composite Total Return Index.

NBIMC External International Equity Fund

This fund is managed by external managers and invests in publicly traded equities in markets in Europe, Australasia and the Far East. Its benchmark is the MSCI EAFE Total Return Index in $C, Net.

NBIMC EAFE Equity Index Fund

This fund invests in securities in the MSCI EAFE Total Return Index in $C, Net. Its benchmark is the MSCI EAFE Total Return Index in $C, Net.

NBIMC Low Volatility International Equity Fund

This fund actively invests in securities in the MSCI EAFE Minimum Volatility (USD) Total Return Index in $C, Net.

NBIMC Low Volatility Emerging Markets Equity Fund – Class N

This fund actively invests in securities in the MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility Total Return Index in $C, Net.

NBIMC U.S. Equity Index (2017) Fund

This fund passively invests in physical securities and derivatives to gain exposure to the S&P 500 Index. Leverage on derivative products is avoided by ensuring each derivative product is supported by an appropriate value of short-term investments. Its benchmark is the S&P 500 Total Return Index in $C.

NBIMC Low Volatility U.S. Equity (2017) Fund

This fund actively invests in securities to gain exposure to the MSCI USA Minimum Volatility (USD) Total Return Index in $C, Net.

NBIMC Inflation-Linked Securities Fund

This fund invests primarily in fixed income instruments that are adjusted for inflation of G-7 countries. Its benchmark is the FTSE Canada Real Return Bond Index.

NBIMC Canadian Real Estate Fund

This fund invests in private Canadian real estate investments, directly through a wholly owned subsidiary, NBIMC Realty Corp., or indirectly through limited partnerships or similar investment vehicles. The benchmark is inflation, as measured by the percentage change in the twelve-month CPI-Canada All Items Index, plus 4%.

3. Investments *(continued)*

NBIMC Canadian Real Estate Investment Trust Fund

This fund invests in publicly traded Canadian real estate investment trust (REIT) securities. Its benchmark is the S&P/TSX Capped REIT Total Return Index.

NBIMC Non-Canadian Private Real Estate Fund

This fund invests in private non-Canadian real estate investments directly or indirectly through limited partnerships or similar investment vehicles. The benchmark is inflation, as measured by the percentage change in the twelve-month average CPI-Canada All Items Index, plus 4%.

Vestcor Investments Private Real Estate, L. P.

This fund invests in private domestic and international real estate investments through co-investments, limited partnerships or similar investment vehicles. The benchmark is inflation, as measured by the percentage change in the twelve-month average CPI-Canada All Items Index, plus 4%.

Vestcor Investments Private Real Estate 2, L. P.

This fund invests in private domestic and international real estate investments through co-investments, limited partnerships or similar investment vehicles. The benchmark is inflation, as measured by the percentage change in the twelve-month average CPI-Canada All Items Index, plus 4%.

NBIMC International Real Estate (2017) Fund

This fund invests primarily in publicly traded securities of international REITs. Its benchmark is the countries' blended REIT Equity Indices in $C (currently FTSE NAREIT All Equity REIT Total Return Index in $C), net of fees.

NBIMC Public Infrastructure (2017) Fund

This fund provides additional investment diversification by providing infrastructure-like exposure with enhanced liquidity. The benchmark is inflation, as measured by the percentage change in the twelve-month CPI-Canada All Items Index, plus 4%.

NBIMC Infrastructure Fund

This fund provides additional investment diversification through direct investment in infrastructure through co-investment structures.

Vestcor Investments Infrastructure, L. P.

This fund provides additional investment diversification through direct investment in infrastructure through co-investment structures. Its benchmark is a 4% real rate of return.

NBIMC North American Market Neutral (2017) Fund

This fund focuses on adding value through security selection within its universe of the S&P/TSX Composite Total Return Index as well as certain publicly traded U.S.-listed stocks. Favoured securities are purchased and offset by a corresponding short position in another security within the same sector. The portfolio is supported by a cash underlay. The benchmark is calculated as 93% of the FTSE Canada 91 Day T-Bill Index and 7% One-day Canadian Call Loan Rate.

3. Investments *(continued)*

NBIMC Quantitative Strategies (2017) Fund

This fund adds value by investing in either long or short positions where announced mergers or dual class share structures present arbitrage potential. Short positions are supported by cash underlay. The benchmark is calculated as 93% of the FTSE Canada 91 Day T-Bill Index and 7% of the One-day Canadian Call Loan Rate.

NBIMC Quantitative Equity Strategic Beta (2017) Fund

This fund adds value by investing in either long or short positions, primarily in equities in the MSCI ACWI Index. Short positions are supported by cash underlay. The benchmark is calculated as 93% of the FTSE Canada 91 Day T-Bill Index plus 7% One-day Canadian Call Loan Rate.

NBIMC New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada Equity Opportunity Fund

This fund invests in public and private equities or instruments convertible into equities of New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada companies. Its benchmark is a 4% real rate of return.

NBIMC Private Equity Fund

This fund is managed by external managers that invest primarily in non-publicly traded securities of U.S. and European companies. Its benchmark is a weighted average of S&P/TSX, S&P 500 and MSCI EAFE total return indices in $C.

Vestcor Investments Private Equity, L. P.

This fund is managed by external managers that invest primarily in non-publicly traded securities of U.S. and European companies. Its benchmark is a weighted average of the S&P/TSX, S&P 500 and MSCI EAFE total return indices in $C.

NBIMC Asset Mix Strategy Fund

This fund adds value through active tactical asset mix decisions by Vestcor's internal Asset Mix Strategy Committee.

3. Investments *(continued)*

Following are details of the Plan's investment holdings as at December 31:

($ thousands)	Number of Units *(rounded)*	Unit Value *(in dollars)*	Fair Value 2018	Fair Value 2017
Fixed Income				
NBIMC Nominal Bond Fund	489,571	2,738	$ 1,340,589	$ 1,342,781
NBIMC Corporate Bond Fund	1,036,823	1,292	1,339,908	1,344,971
NBIMC New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada Fixed Income Opportunity Fund	1,809	3,384	6,121	6,858
NBIMC Money Market Fund	44,612	1,656	73,863	63,709
NBIMC Student Investment Fund	485	3,550	1,723	1,773
			2,762,204	2,760,092
Equities				
NBIMC Canadian Equity Index Fund	87,853	3,414	299,972	555,579
NBIMC Canadian Small Cap Equity Fund	92,722	832	77,116	—
NBIMC Low Volatility Canadian Equity Fund	238,932	1,597	381,572	383,084
NBIMC External Canadian Equity Fund	30,141	4,063	122,450	163,079
NBIMC Canadian Equity Active Long Strategy Fund	51,156	1,359	69,502	89,508
NBIMC External International Equity Fund	61,115	2,321	141,835	168,558
NBIMC EAFE Equity Index Fund	127,881	1,577	201,605	172,009
NBIMC Low Volatility International Equity Fund	170,396	2,243	382,204	378,721
NBIMC Low Volatility Emerging Markets Equity Fund – Class N	275,888	1,106	305,135	228,221
NBIMC U.S. Equity Index (2017) Fund	107,297	3,151	338,060	356,474
NBIMC Low Volatility U.S. Equity (2017) Fund	130,319	3,048	397,226	377,497
			2,716,677	2,872,730
Inflation-Linked Assets				
NBIMC Inflation-Linked Securities Fund	103,531	3,647	377,546	377,357
NBIMC Canadian Real Estate Fund	41,233	5,676	234,041	213,714
NBIMC Canadian Real Estate Investment Trust Fund	15,914	1,461	23,248	31,796
NBIMC Non-Canadian Private Real Estate Fund	8,376	1,285	10,763	12,088
Vestcor Investments Private Real Estate, L. P. - Series I	35,144	1,083	38,058	14,572
Vestcor Investments Private Real Estate, L. P. - Series III	27,309	997	27,217	—
Vestcor Investments Private Real Estate 2, L.P.	11,502	1,066	12,258	—
NBIMC International Real Estate (2017) Fund	5,487	7,976	43,765	46,811
NBIMC Public Infrastructure (2017) Fund	177,447	1,083	192,092	165,150
NBIMC Infrastructure Fund	63,057	1,937	122,134	111,618
Vestcor Investments Infrastructure, L. P. – Series I	26,992	1,355	36,566	35,127
Vestcor Investments Infrastructure, L. P. – Series II	15,811	1,131	17,875	—
Vestcor Investments Infrastructure, L. P. – Series III	17,373	1,021	17,742	—
			1,153,305	1,008,233
Alternative Investments				
NBIMC North American Market Neutral (2017) Fund	114,736	1,414	162,279	162,705
NBIMC Quantitative Strategies (2017) Fund	162,196	1,531	248,370	249,027
NBIMC Quantitative Equity Strategic Beta (2017) Fund	174,494	1,140	198,848	199,365
NBIMC New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada Equity Opportunity Fund	3,551	6,406	22,751	22,817
NBIMC Private Equity Fund	70,178	4,475	314,066	319,019
Vestcor Investments Private Equity, L. P.	36,748	894	32,864	15,666
			979,178	968,599
Tactical Asset Allocation				
NBIMC Asset Mix Strategy Fund	6,287	1,171	7,362	28,991
			$ 7,618,726	$ 7,638,645

4. Fair Value of Financial Instruments

Investments are valued at fair value with changes in fair values over time recognized in net investment income.

The determination of fair value is dependent upon the use of measurement inputs with varying degrees of subjectivity. The level of subjectivity can be classified and is referred to as the fair value hierarchy. The fair value hierarchy levels are:

Level 1 – Quoted market prices in active markets. This is considered to be the most reliable input for fair value measurement. A financial instrument is regarded as quoted in an active market if quoted prices are readily or regularly available from an exchange or prices represent actual and regularly occurring market transactions on an arm's length basis.

Level 2 – Inputs (other than quoted prices included within Level 1) that are observable for the investment, either directly or indirectly. These inputs include quoted prices for similar investments in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar investments in markets that are not active, and inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the investment. These are inputs that are derived principally from, or corroborated by, observable market data by correlation or other means.

Level 3 – Inputs that are unobservable that are used to measure fair value when observable inputs are not available. Unobservable inputs reflect subjective assumptions that market participants may use in pricing the investment.

Vestcor Investment Entities are classified as level 2, with the exception of the Vestcor Investments Private Real Estate, L. P., the Vestcor Investments Private Real Estate 2, L. P., the Vestcor Investments Infrastructure, L. P. and the Vestcor Investments Private Equity, L. P., since the units are priced based on each pooled fund net asset value, which is observable, but the units are not traded in an active market. As at December 31, 2018 the fair value of investments classified as Level 2 was $7,436,146 (2017 - $7,573,280).

Units in each of the Vestcor Investments Private Real Estate, L. P., Vestcor Investments Private Real Estate 2, L. P., Vestcor Investments Infrastructure, L. P. and the Vestcor Investments Private Equity, L. P. are classified as Level 3. There were no significant transfers between Level 2 and Level 3 during the year (2017 – nil). As at December 31, 2018 the fair value of investments classified as Level 3 was $182,580 (2017 - $65,365).

The Vestcor Investments Private Real Estate, L. P. holds investments in international real properties, indirectly through wholly-owned holding companies invested in limited partnership structures. At December 31, 2018, an increase or decrease of 25 bps in the capitalization rate used by the independent property appraisers would result in a decrease or increase on the valuation of this fund's investments in the amount of $5,618 or $5,824 respectively (2017 - $994 or $1,070 respectively). The maximum exposure to loss in this fund is the fair value of its investments plus uncalled commitments *(see note 13).*

The Vestcor Investments Private Real Estate 2, L. P. holds investments in international real properties, indirectly through wholly-owned holding companies invested in limited partnership structures. At December 31, 2018, an increase or decrease of 25 bps in the capitalization rate used by the independent property appraisers would result in a decrease or increase on the valuation of this fund's investments in the amount of $465 or $623 respectively (2017 - nil or nil respectively). The maximum exposure to loss in this fund is the fair value of its investments plus uncalled commitments *(see note 13).*

The Vestcor Investments Infrastructure, L. P. invests indirectly through co-investments in certain underlying infrastructure assets. The independent valuations received for each of the fund's investments suggest an aggregate range of values of $70,936 to $78,931 as at December 31, 2018 (2017 - $31,938 to $36,269). It is reasonably possible that the valuations used by this fund may require material adjustment to the carrying amount of its investments. The maximum exposure to loss in this fund is the carrying value of its investments.

4. Fair Value of Financial Instruments *(continued)*

The Vestcor Investments Private Equity, L. P. invests in units of limited partnerships managed by well-known, experienced general partners. Excluding the publicly-traded holdings, a 1% increase or decrease in the per unit net asset values reported by the limited partnerships would result in an increase or decrease the carrying value of investments in this fund at December 31, 2018 by $329 (2017 - $157). It is reasonably possible that the valuations used by the fund may require material adjustment to the carrying value of its investments. The maximum exposure to loss in this fund is the fair value of its investments plus uncalled commitments *(see note 13).*

The following table shows the changes in fair value measurement in Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy:

Year ended December 31, 2018	Fair Value, beginning of year $	Gains in profit or loss $	Purchases $	Sales $	Fair Value, end of year $
Vestcor Investments Private Real Estate, L. P.	14,572	1,652	50,269	(1,218)	65,275
Vestcor Investments Private Real Estate 2, L. P.	—	756	11,502	—	12,258
Vestcor Investments Infrastructure, L. P.	35,127	9,675	34,074	(6,693)	72,183
Vestcor Investments Private Equity, L. P.	15,666	3,551	14,111	(464)	32,864

Year ended December 31, 2017	Fair Value, beginning of year $	Gains (losses) in profit or loss $	Purchases $	Sales $	Fair Value, end of year $
Vestcor Investments Private Real Estate, L. P.	—	788	13,845	(61)	14,572
Vestcor Investments Infrastructure, L. P.	—	3,052	33,613	(1,538)	35,127
Vestcor Investments Private Equity, L. P.	—	(1,111)	16,778	(1)	15,666

5. Financial Instrument Risk Management

Financial instruments are exposed to risks such as market, interest rate, credit and liquidity risk.

(a) Market Risk: Market risk is the risk that the value of an investment will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual investment or factors affecting all securities traded in the market. Market risk includes foreign currency risk, interest rate risk and pricing risk among others. The principal lever for managing market risk is to invest in widely diversified countries, sectors, and issuers. The Plan holds investments in pooled funds that invest in active and passive investment strategies and are diversified among domestic and international markets.

Investment strategies used by the Vestcor Investment Entities may involve the use of financial derivatives such as forward foreign exchange contracts or total return swaps. Investment strategies also include “market neutral” strategies whereby an investment in a long position in one stock is matched with a short position in another stock, typically within the same industry sector. With the limited exception of prudent financing for investments in real property, the SIP *(note 8)* precludes the use of leverage in the investment portfolio. Accordingly, to the extent that there is market exposure from derivative investments and short positions, each Vestcor Investment Entity will hold cash underlay equal to the amount of market exposure. Market neutral strategies help to mitigate market risk through adherence to maximum investment limits and stop-loss constraints and have a lower correlation to broad market indices.

5. Financial Instrument Risk Management *(continued)*

Vestcor conducts certain of its investment activities in the Vestcor Investment Entities on behalf of the Plan by trading through broker channels on regulated exchanges and in the over-the-counter market. Brokers typically require that collateral be pledged against potential market fluctuations when trading in derivative financial instruments or when shorting security positions. As at December 31, 2018, the fair value of the Plan's underlying securities that have been deposited or pledged with various financial institutions as collateral or margin on account was $391,354 (2017 - $375,094) *(see note 5(c))*.

Foreign currency risk arises from holding investments denominated in currencies other than the Canadian dollar. All of the Plan's investments are in Canadian dollar denominated Vestcor Investment Entities, however, certain of the Vestcor Investment Entities invest in assets denominated in foreign currencies or domiciled in foreign jurisdictions. The SIP permits hedging of foreign currency exposure at the portfolio manager's discretion. Approximately 30.4% (2017 - 28.2%) of the Plan's underlying investments are denominated in currencies other than the Canadian dollar, with the largest foreign currency exposure being to the U.S. dollar of 18.0% (2017 - 16.1%) and the Euro of 3.3% (2017 - 3.1%).

A 1% absolute increase or decrease in the value of the Canadian dollar against all other currencies with all other variables held constant would result in an approximate decrease or increase in the value of the net investment assets at December 31, 2018 of $23,179 (2017 - $21,556).

Interest rate risk refers to the effect on the market value of investments due to fluctuation of interest rates. The Plan invests in certain Vestcor Investment Entities that invest in fixed income securities whose fair values are sensitive to interest rates. The SIP requires Vestcor to adhere to guidelines on duration and yield curve, which are designed to mitigate the risk of interest rate volatility.

If interest rates increased by 1%, and all other variables are held constant, the potential loss in fair value to the net investment assets at December 31, 2018 would be approximately $255,382 (2017 - $260,329).

Pricing risk is the risk that equity investments will change in value due to future fluctuations in market prices caused by factors specific to an individual equity investment or other factors affecting all equities traded in the market. The Plan is exposed to price risk associated with the underlying equity investments held in the Vestcor Investment Entities. If equity market price indices declined by 1%, and all other variables are held constant, the potential loss at December 31, 2018 would be approximately $29,426 (2017 - $31,823).

(b) Credit Risk: The Plan is exposed to credit-related risk in the event that a pooled fund investment in a derivative or debt security counterparty defaults or becomes insolvent. Vestcor has established investment criteria which are designed to manage credit risk by establishing limits by issuer type and credit rating for fixed income and derivative credit exposure. Vestcor monitors these exposures monthly. Such derivative and short and long-term debt securities are restricted to those having investment grade ratings, as provided by a third party rating agency. In addition, each counterparty exposure is restricted to no more than 5% of total assets. Investment grade ratings are BBB and above for longer term debt securities and R-1 for short-term debt. Any credit downgrade below investment grade is subject to review by the Board of Trustees.

5. Financial Instrument Risk Management *(continued)*

The quality of the aggregate credit exposure in the underlying Vestcor Investment Entities at December 31 is as follows:

($ thousands)		2018		2017
AAA	$	922,427	$	1,114,789
AA		493,321		533,640
A		1,359,816		1,229,684
BBB		456,367		407,734
R-1		83,120		297,482
Other		58,844		51,484
	$	3,373,895	$	3,634,813

The highest concentration of credit risk at each year end is with Government of Canada bonds.

(c) Liquidity Risk: Liquidity risk is the risk of not having sufficient funds available to meet cash demands. Sources of liquidity include pension contributions collected from the employers and employees as well as redemption of units in Vestcor Investment Entities. Uses of liquidity include payments to the plan beneficiaries, plan service providers and purchases of units of Vestcor Investment Entities.

The Plan's asset mix is specifically designed to ensure that sufficient liquid assets are available to meet pension benefit obligations as they are required. Other than cash, treasury bills and bankers' acceptances, the most liquid asset class is government bonds whereas privately-held debt, equity, real estate and infrastructure investments are considered highly illiquid due to the lack of a readily available market and the longer term to maturity for these investments.

Net liquid assets are defined to include the fair value of all assets excluding private equity, private real estate, private infrastructure, New Brunswick regional investments, and the Plan's proportionate share of the fair value of collateral pledged with brokers and counterparties, and any unfunded investment commitments. Net liquid assets is a non-GAAP measure.

The following table shows the determination of net liquid assets as at December 31:

($ thousands)		2018		2017
Net assets available for benefits	$	7,632,684	$	7,652,023
Less investment in:				
NBIMC New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada Fixed Income Opportunity Fund *(note 3)*		(6,121)		(6,858)
NBIMC Canadian Real Estate Fund *(note 3)*		(234,041)		(213,714)
NBIMC Non-Canadian Private Real Estate Fund *(note 3)*		(10,763)		(12,088)
Vestcor Investments Private Real Estate, L. P. *(note 3)*		(65,275)		(14,572)
Vestcor Investments Private Real Estate 2, L. P. *(note 3)*		(12,258)		—
NBIMC Infrastructure Fund *(note 3)*		(122,134)		(111,618)
Vestcor Investments Infrastructure, L. P. *(note 3)*		(72,183)		(35,127)
NBIMC New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada Equity Opportunity Fund *(note 3)*		(22,751)		(22,817)
NBIMC Private Equity Fund *(note 3)*		(314,066)		(319,019)
Vestcor Investments Private Equity, L. P. *(note 3)*		(32,864)		(15,666)
Collateral pledged *(note 5(a))*		(391,354)		(375,094)
Investment commitments *(note 13)*		(321,658)		(229,379)
Net liquid assets	$	6,027,216	$	6,296,071

5. Financial Instrument Risk Management *(continued)*

(d) Securities Lending: The Plan's SIP permits Vestcor to enter into a securities lending arrangement externally with their securities custodian or internally among the Vestcor Investment Entities with the objective of enhancing portfolio returns.

Under the external program, the securities custodian, who is an independent third party, may loan securities owned by the Vestcor Investment Entities to other approved borrowers in exchange for collateral in the form of readily marketable government-backed securities equal to at least 105% of the value of securities on loan and a borrowing fee. Vestcor has restricted the approved borrowers under the external securities lending program to manage exposure to counterparty credit risk. As at December 31, 2018, underlying securities in the amount of $1,708,702 (2017 - $1,526,811) were loaned on behalf of the Plan.

Under the internal securities lending program, certain Vestcor Investment Entities may loan securities to a borrowing Vestcor Investment Entity subject to an intra-fund collateral management agreement and a borrowing fee. As at December 31, 2018, underlying securities in the amount of $94,186 (2017 - $85,423) were loaned on behalf of the Plan and $92,568 (2017 - $86,204) were borrowed.

6. Pension Obligations

(a) Actuarial Methodology: On conversion of the PSSA from a defined benefit plan to a shared risk plan, an actuarial valuation report was prepared by Morneau Shepell, the independent actuary to document:

- the results of the initial funding policy valuation, as required under sub-paragraph 100.6(2)(a)(ii) of the *Pension Benefits Act (New Brunswick)* ("Act");
- the Conversion Plan as required under as required under sub-paragraph 100.6(2)(a)(i) of the Act; and
- the results of the going-concern actuarial valuation required under paragraph 14(1) of the *Shared Risk Plan Regulation 2012-75* to the Act.

The next going-concern actuarial valuation will be conducted as of January 1, 2020. Such a valuation is prepared solely to comply with the requirements of the *Income Tax Act (Canada)*.

The Act requires that a funding policy valuation be prepared annually and submitted to the Superintendent of Pensions. The annual funding policy valuation was prepared as of January 1, 2019 by the independent actuary. The next funding policy valuation is expected to be prepared no later than January 1, 2020.

The funding policy valuation actuarial liabilities and normal cost were calculated using the accrued benefit actuarial cost method in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 14(7)(a) of Regulation 2012-75.

The funding policy valuation actuarial liabilities are equal to the actuarial present value of benefits earned by members for services prior to the valuation date, taking into account the actuarial assumptions. The funding policy valuation does not take into account the impact of any future salary increases and the impact of future increases in accrued pensions due to cost-of-living adjustments as may be granted from time to time by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the plan text and the funding policy.

The funding policy valuation normal cost is equal to the actuarial present value of benefits expected to be earned by members in the year following the valuation date. A salary increase estimate has been made to calculate the estimated normal cost and estimated members' and employers' contributions for the year following the valuation date.

For valuation purposes, to determine eligibility for benefits and for any other use, the age used is the age on the date of the nearest birthday.

6. Pension Obligations *(continued)*

(b) Actuarial Assumptions: The main assumptions used in determining the funding policy valuation actuarial liabilities and normal cost for the year following the valuation are as follows:

	January 1, 2019 and January 1, 2018
Discount rate	4.75% per annum
Inflation	2.25% per annum
Salary increase rate for the year following valuation	2.75% per annum plus merit and promotion
YMPE increase for the year following valuation	2.75% per annum
Future indexation of accrued pensions and pensions in payment	0% per annum
Mortality	2014 Public Sector Mortality Table (CPM 2014 Publ) projected using Improvement Scale B (CPM-B) with size adjustment factors of 105% for males and 110% for females.

Retirement	Age at Conversion								
Retirement Age	60+	55 – 59	50-54	45-49	40-44	35-39	30-34	25-29	Under 25 or joined Plan after conversion
56	5%	2.5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
57	5%	5%	5%	2.5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
58	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	2.5%	0%	0%	0%
59	20%	12.5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	0%	0%
60	20%	20%	20%	12.5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	2.5%
61	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	12.5%	5%	5%	5%
62	6.25%	13.1%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	5%	5%
63	6.25%	6.25%	6.25%	13.1%	20%	20%	20%	20%	12.5%
64	6.25%	6.25%	6.25%	6.25%	6.25%	13.1%	20%	20%	20%
65	6.25%	9.4%	12.5%	15.65%	18.75%	21.9%	25%	45%	55%
Termination of employment (other than by death or retirement)						None			

Changes in actuarial assumptions during 2018 resulted in a net increase in the pension obligation of $27,000 (2017 – nil).

(c) Experience losses: Experience losses represent the change in the pension obligation due to the difference between expected experience and actual results. During 2018, the experience losses were $5,600 (2017 - $1,100).

(d) Sensitivity analysis: The discount rate used to estimate the present value of pension obligations has a significant effect on the pension obligation at the end of the year. As of December 31, 2018, a decrease of 100 basis points in the discount rate would have increased the pension obligation by $956,500 (2017 - $930,200).

(e) Funding policy valuation assets: The financial position of the Plan on a funding policy basis is determined by deducting the funding policy valuation actuarial liabilities from the funding policy asset value. For funding policy purposes only, the asset value includes the present value of excess contributions of $1,263,400 (2017 - $1,215,800) defined as the excess of expected contributions less funding policy normal cost for each year in the 15 years after the actuarial valuation date on conversion. This amount is added to the asset value for policy testing in order to determine the Plan funded status for the purpose of the application of the funding policy. The present value of the excess contributions does not represent an asset as per the accounting standards and is therefore excluded when determining the net assets available for benefit for financial statement purposes.

7. Funding Policy

The funding policy is the tool required pursuant to the Act that the Board of Trustees uses to manage the risks inherent in a shared risk plan. The funding policy provides guidance and rules regarding decisions that must, or may, as applicable, be made by the Board of Trustees concerning funding levels, contributions and benefits.

The purpose of the NBPSPP is to provide secure pension benefits to plan members and beneficiaries of the plan without an absolute guarantee, but with a risk-focused management approach delivering a high degree of certainty that base benefits can be met in the vast majority of potential future economic scenarios.

The funding policy sets out a primary and two secondary risk management objectives as follows:

(a) The primary objective is to achieve a 97.5% probability that the past base benefits at the end of each year will not be reduced over a 20-year period.

(b) The secondary objectives are:

(i) on average, provide contingent indexing on base benefits for services rendered on or before the conversion date that is in excess of 75% of the indexation provided under the pre-conversion plan over a 20-year period; and

(ii) on average, over a 20-year period provide other ancillary benefits that exceed 75% of the value of ancillary benefits described in the NBPSPP Text at conversion.

The above risk management objectives are measured annually using an asset liability model with future economic scenarios developed using a stochastic process.

The funding policy sets out the decisions to be made by the Board of Trustees. These decisions are based on the 15 year open group funded ratio calculated as the sum of the present value of excess contributions plus the market value of the going concern assets divided by the funding policy liabilities. Depending upon the result, these decisions may involve either a funding deficit recovery plan or a funding excess utilization plan that will ensure future changes to contribution rates and benefits are made within the constraints of the above risk management objectives.

The funding deficit recovery plan is triggered if the open group funded ratio of the Plan falls below 100% for two successive plan year ends. The summarized actions that must be taken, in order of priority are:

1. Increase in contribution rates of up to a maximum of 1.5% for both employees and employers; then
2. Change the retirement rules for service on or after the conversion date for non-vested members equal to a full actuarial reduction for retirement before age 65; then
3. Change the retirement rules for service prior to the conversion date for non-vested members to the equivalent of a full actuarial reduction for retirement before age 60; then
4. Reduce base benefit accrual rates for future service by no more than 5%; then
5. Reduce base benefits on a proportionate basis for all members for both past and future service in equal proportions.

7. Funding Policy *(continued)*

The funding excess utilization plan is triggered when the open group funded ratio exceeds 105% for two successive plan year ends. Should that be the case, a portion of the excess may be utilized for the following summarized actions in their order of priority:

1. Reverse previously reduced base benefits following the opposite order to which they were applied under the funding deficit recovery plan above; then
2. Provide indexing of base benefits for future payments up to full CPI for every year that has been missed or partially covered since conversion starting with the oldest period for which full CPI was not paid; then
3. Reduce contribution rates in such an amount as to maintain an open group funded ratio of 140%; then
4. Establish a reserve to cover the next ten years of potential contingent indexing; then
5. Propose benefit improvements subject to certain criteria.

8. Capital

The capital of the NBPSPP is represented by the net assets available for benefits. The NBPSPP must be managed in a manner which recognizes the interdependency of the SIP, the risk management goals set out in the funding policy and applicable regulatory requirements.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the establishment of a SIP, including approval of a recommended investment asset mix that seeks to deliver the long-term investment returns necessary for the sustainability of the NBPSPP. Determining the asset mix requires information from independent actuarial valuations as well as expectations concerning financial markets and uses a portfolio optimization process. This process has the intent of achieving the maximum investment returns possible while meeting the risk management tests in the funding policy. The recommended strategic asset allocation is reviewed on at least an annual basis to ensure that it remains appropriate. The SIP was last reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees on June 27, 2018.

Once approved, Vestcor is responsible for the implementation of the asset mix decision including day-to-day investment activities and monitoring of investment risk controls. Vestcor produces quarterly reporting of investment performance, policy compliance, and trends and changes in investment risks for the Board of Trustees.

The Board-approved SIP outlines the following investment objectives:

i. In the long term, to preserve the capital value of the Pension Fund but also provide the best possible long-term real return on investments while continuing to achieve the risk management goals;

ii. Over shorter time periods, to achieve competitive rates of return on each major asset class while avoiding undue investment risk and excessive market volatility; and

iii. Over the medium term, to provide rates of return in excess of those achieved by passive management of the policy portfolio. A value added contribution of 0.42%, after deducting all investment management costs, is the portfolio's target four-year moving average rate of return.

9. Net Investment Income

Net investment income represents the changes in fair value, realized and unrealized, in the units held in each of the Vestcor Investment Entities. Net investment income (loss) for the year ended December 31 is as follows:

($ thousands)	Realized Gain (Loss)	Unrealized Gain (Loss)	Net Investment Income 2018
Fixed Income			
NBIMC Nominal Bond Fund	$ 10,946	$ 12,878	$ 23,824
NBIMC Corporate Bond Fund	3,892	9,731	13,623
NBIMC New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada Fixed Income Opportunity Fund	574	(411)	163
NBIMC Money Market Fund	882	108	990
NBIMC Student Investment Fund	—	(51)	(51)
	16,294	22,255	38,549
Equities			
NBIMC Canadian Equity Index Fund	81,840	(111,893)	(30,053)
NBIMC Canadian Small Cap Equity Fund	(15)	(11,773)	(11,788)
NBIMC Low Volatility Canadian Equity Fund	1,307	(30,056)	(28,749)
NBIMC External Canadian Equity Fund	45,871	(52,077)	(6,206)
NBIMC Canadian Equity Active Long Strategy Fund	7,965	(14,357)	(6,392)
NBIMC External International Equity Fund	13,097	(24,656)	(11,559)
NBIMC EAFE Equity Index Fund	898	(12,340)	(11,442)
NBIMC Low Volatility International Equity Fund	2,483	(782)	1,701
NBIMC Low Volatility Emerging Markets Equity Fund – Class N	1,775	(657)	1,118
NBIMC U.S. Equity Index (2017) Fund	20,872	(4,240)	16,632
NBIMC Low Volatility U.S. Equity (2017) Fund	14,414	14,335	28,749
	190,507	(248,496)	(57,989)
Inflation-Linked Assets			
NBIMC Inflation-Linked Securities Fund	254	199	453
NBIMC Canadian Real Estate Fund	6,851	24,381	31,232
NBIMC Canadian Real Estate Investment Trust Fund	4,952	(3,995)	957
NBIMC Non-Canadian Private Real Estate Fund	744	807	1,551
Vestcor Investments Private Real Estate, L. P.	49	1,603	1,652
Vestcor Investments Private Real Estate 2, L.P.	—	756	756
NBIMC International Real Estate (2017) Fund	10,139	(8,760)	1,379
NBIMC Public Infrastructure (2017) Fund	2,538	(2,554)	(16)
NBIMC Infrastructure Fund	1,751	9,736	11,487
Vestcor Investments Infrastructure, L. P.	1,020	8,655	9,675
	28,298	30,828	59,126

9. Net Investment Income *(continued)*

($ thousands)	Realized Gain (Loss)	Unrealized Gain (Loss)	Net Investment Income 2018
Alternative Investments			
NBIMC North American Market Neutral (2017) Fund	1,280	1,201	2,481
NBIMC Quantitative Strategies (2017) Fund	4,145	(1,659)	2,486
NBIMC Quantitative Equity Strategic Beta (2017) Fund	1,756	8,013	9,769
NBIMC New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada Equity Opportunity Fund	76	(26)	50
NBIMC Private Equity Fund	46,067	28,842	74,909
Vestcor Investments Private Equity, L. P.	(11)	3,562	3,551
	53,313	39,933	93,246
Tactical Asset Allocation			
NBIMC Asset Mix Strategy Fund	3,531	(4,184)	(653)
Net investment income	**$ 291,943**	**$ (159,664)**	**$ 132,279**

($ thousands)	Realized Gain (Loss)	Unrealized Gain (Loss)	Net Investment Income 2017
Fixed Income			
NBIMC Nominal Bond Fund	$ 5,529	$ 28,033	$ 33,562
NBIMC Corporate Bond Fund	1,988	35,729	37,717
NBIMC New Brunswick Fixed Income Opportunity Fund	549	(296)	253
NBIMC Money Market Fund	815	(146)	669
NBIMC Student Investment Fund	—	110	110
	8,881	63,430	72,311
Equities			
NBIMC Canadian Equity Index Fund	12,763	36,203	48,966
NBIMC Low Volatility Canadian Equity Fund	4,754	31,260	36,014
NBIMC External Canadian Equity Fund	—	13,544	13,544
NBIMC Canadian Equity Active Long Strategy Fund	—	7,561	7,561
NBIMC External International Equity Fund	—	29,181	29,181
NBIMC EAFE Equity Index Fund	25,842	8,301	34,143
NBIMC Low Volatility International Equity Fund	13,029	37,379	50,408
NBIMC Low Volatility Emerging Markets Equity Fund – Class N	2,496	34,386	36,882
NBIMC U.S. Equity Index (2017) Fund	36,826	186,997	223,823
NBIMC U.S. Equity Index Fund – Class N	8,024	(182,570)	(174,546)
NBIMC Low Volatility U.S. Equity (2017) Fund	16,090	179,733	195,823
NBIMC Low Volatility U.S. Equity Fund – Class N	6,179	(175,388)	(169,209)
	126,003	206,587	332,590

9. Net Investment Income *(continued)*

($ thousands)	Realized Gain (Loss)	Unrealized Gain (Loss)	Net Investment Income 2017
Inflation-Linked Assets			
NBIMC Inflation-Linked Securities Fund	1,204	2,703	3,907
NBIMC Canadian Real Estate Fund	6,465	22,227	28,692
NBIMC Canadian Real Estate Investment Trust Fund	8,962	(4,342)	4,620
NBIMC Non-Canadian Private Real Estate Fund	239	1,928	2,167
Vestcor Investments Private Real Estate, L. P.	1	787	788
NBIMC International Real Estate (2017) Fund	3,339	23,223	26,562
NBIMC International Real Estate Fund – Class N	12,748	(38,359)	(25,611)
NBIMC Public Infrastructure (2017) Fund	1,617	11,146	12,763
NBIMC Public Infrastructure Fund – Class N	537	(7,798)	(7,261)
NBIMC Infrastructure Fund	1,106	13,188	14,294
Vestcor Investments Infrastructure, L. P.	(61)	3,113	3,052
	36,157	27,816	63,973
Alternative Investments			
NBIMC North American Market Neutral (2017) Fund	1,207	15,034	16,241
NBIMC North American Market Neutral Fund – Class N	119	(9,790)	(9,671)
NBIMC Quantitative Strategies (2017) Fund	1,835	44,369	46,204
NBIMC Quantitative Strategies Fund – Class N	153	(31,797)	(31,644)
NBIMC Quantitative Equity Strategic Beta (2017) Fund	577	15,068	15,645
NBIMC Quantitative Equity Strategic Beta Fund – Class N	67	(6,136)	(6,069)
NBIMC New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada Equity Opportunity Fund	67	4,811	4,878
NBIMC Private Equity Fund	29,889	22,360	52,249
Vestcor Investments Private Equity, L. P.	—	(1,111)	(1,111)
	33,914	52,808	86,722
Tactical Asset Allocation			
NBIMC Asset Mix Strategy Fund	912	2,731	3,643
Net investment income	**$ 205,867**	**$ 353,372**	**$ 559,239**

10. Pension benefits

A breakdown of pension benefits by type is as follows:

($ thousands)	**2018**	**2017**
Retirements	$ 350,315	$ 337,880
Terminations	5,483	4,032
Disability	1,474	1,648
Survivor	30,749	30,784
Other	3,855	3,696
	$ 391,876	$ 378,040

These benefits are presented in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits as:

($ thousands)	**2018**	**2017**
Pension benefits	$ 379,083	$ 365,554
Refunds and transfers	12,793	12,486
	$ 391,876	$ 378,040

11. Administration Expenses

The Plan is charged by its service providers, including Vestcor, a related party, for professional and administrative services. The following is a summary of these administrative expenses:

($ thousands)	**2018**	**2017**
Plan administration:		
Office and administration services *(note 12)*	$ 3,125	$ 3,023
Consulting	68	75
Legal fees	58	238
Actuarial services	93	75
Audit fees	35	20
Board of Trustees	67	66
	3,446	3,497
Investment management costs:		
Investment management fees *(note 12)*	8,103	8,100
Securities custody	596	563
	8,699	8,663
HST	1,237	1,765
	$ 13,382	$ 13,925

12. Related Party Transactions

The Plan is related to the Province of New Brunswick including its departments, agencies, school districts, regional health authorities, crown corporations and other crown entities. The Board of Trustees determines the amounts of contributions to and payments from the Plan.

Pursuant to the *Vestcor Act*, on July 8, 2016 the Plan is a member of a not-for-profit, non-share company, Vestcor Corp. On October 1, 2016 Vestcor Corp. acquired a 100% interest in two operating companies: Vestcor Investment Management Corporation and Vestcor Pension Services Corporation that were amalgamated to become Vestcor Inc. (Vestcor) on January 1, 2018. Vestcor is the sole shareholder of Vestcor Investments General Partner, Inc. As at December 31, 2018, Vestcor Investments General Partner, Inc. is the general partner in four limited partnerships in which the Plan holds a limited partnership interest: Vestcor Investments Private Real Estate, L. P., Vestcor Investments Private Real Estate 2, L. P., Vestcor Investments Infrastructure, L. P. and Vestcor Investments Private Equity, L. P. *(note 3)*.

All of the Plan's investments included in the Statement of Financial Position are in Vestcor Investment Entities which entitle the Plan to an undivided interest in the underlying assets *(note 3)*. In addition, the NBIMC Canadian Real Estate Fund and NBIMC Private Equity Fund have made certain of their direct and indirect real estate investments using wholly-owned subsidiary company structures.

Included in the investments in the Vestcor Investment Entities are underlying investments in New Brunswick provincial and municipal bonds that are recorded at their fair values as at December 31, 2018 of $42,806 (2017 - $38,773).

Pension administration expenses and investment management fees paid to Vestcor for the year are described in note 11. At December 31, 2018 amounts owing to Vestcor for investment management fees of $3,112 (2017 - $2,687), and for pension administration expenses of $539 (2017 - $300) are included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities. The Plan has also provided an advance in the amount of $1,093 to Vestcor to fund an administration system conversion project that is expected to be completed in 2019.

13. Commitments

The following funds have committed to enter into investments, which may be funded over the next several years in accordance with the terms and conditions agreed to in various partnership agreements. The Plan's share of unfunded commitments as at December 31 is:

($ thousands)		**2018**		**2017**
NBIMC Canadian Real Estate Fund	$	2,848	$	4,832
NBIMC Non-Canadian Private Real Estate Fund		4,932		5,670
Vestcor Investments Private Real Estate, L. P.		35,401		11,694
Vestcor Investments Private Real Estate 2, L. P.		12,023		—
NBIMC Infrastructure Fund		16,102		2,686
Vestcor Investments Infrastructure, L.P.		39,005		—
NBIMC Private Equity Fund		117,403		139,209
Vestcor Investments Private Equity, L. P.		93,944		65,288
	$	321,658	$	229,379

14. Indemnification

Pursuant to the Agreement and Declaration of Trust, the Board of Trustees are entitled to be indemnified out of the assets of the pension fund in respect of any liability, including defence costs, incurred in the performance of their duties as trustees. As a consequence, a request for indemnification may be made against the Plan in respect of legal actions commenced in the Province of New Brunswick in which the Board of Trustees is involved, although to date no such claim has been received and no indemnification payments have been made. The contingent nature of these indemnification obligations prevents the Plan from making a reasonable estimate of the maximum potential payments that may be required.

A legal action in which the Board of Trustees is involved is as follows:

Guy Levesque v. New Brunswick et al., FC-212-15: The members of the Board of Trustees are individually named as Defendants. In this case, the Plaintiff also seeks, in advance, his solicitor-client costs paid from the pension fund and /or the Trustees, as well as damages from the pension fund for any lost cost of living adjustments. Counsel has advised that the potential success of this action is not determinable at this time.