

**PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Maintenance Enforcement Program Trust Account Audit
Financial Statement
Year Ended March 31, 2020**

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
(Maintenance Enforcement Program Trust Account Audit)
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Deputy Minister of Department of Justice

Opinion

We have audited the statement of cash receipts and disbursements of the Maintenance Enforcement Program (MEP) for the year ended March 31, 2020, including a summary of significant accounting policies (together "the financial statement").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the cash receipts and disbursements of MEP for the year ended March 31, 2020, in accordance with cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting described in Note 1.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of MEP in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statement, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statement is prepared to provide information to the Department of Justice. As a result, the Statement may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statement

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in accordance with the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting described in Note 1; this includes determining that the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the presentation in the circumstance, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing this financial statement, management is responsible for assessing the MEP'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 MEP or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

(continues)

Independent Auditor's Report to the Deputy Ministers of Department of Justice *(continued)*

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 MEP'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 MEP's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the MEP to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statement, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statement represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "McIsaac Danagh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amherst, Nova Scotia
December 23, 2020

CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

**Nova Scotia Maintenance Enforcement Program
Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements of the MEP Trust Account
For the period April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020**

Opening balance, MEP Trust Account	\$ 814,985
Receipts	59,405,642
Disbursements	<u>(59,866,468)</u>
Closing balance, MEP Trust Account	<u>\$ 354,159</u>

Note 1: Basis of Accounting

The Maintenance Enforcement Program prepares its financial statement on the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. Consequently, receipts are recognized when received rather than in the period to which they relate and disbursements are recognized when paid rather than when the obligation is incurred.

Note 2: Other significant event

The outbreak of a novel strain of coronavirus resulted in the global declaration of a pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020. Government measures in place to combat this health threat have caused material disruption to businesses globally resulting in an economic slowdown. It is not possible to reliably estimate the length and severity of the measures nor their impact on the financial results and condition of the Program. The pandemic has not had any significant impact on the Program's liquidity or business risks to date and no adjustments were recorded nor revisions to judgements, estimates or assumptions made for this financial statement.