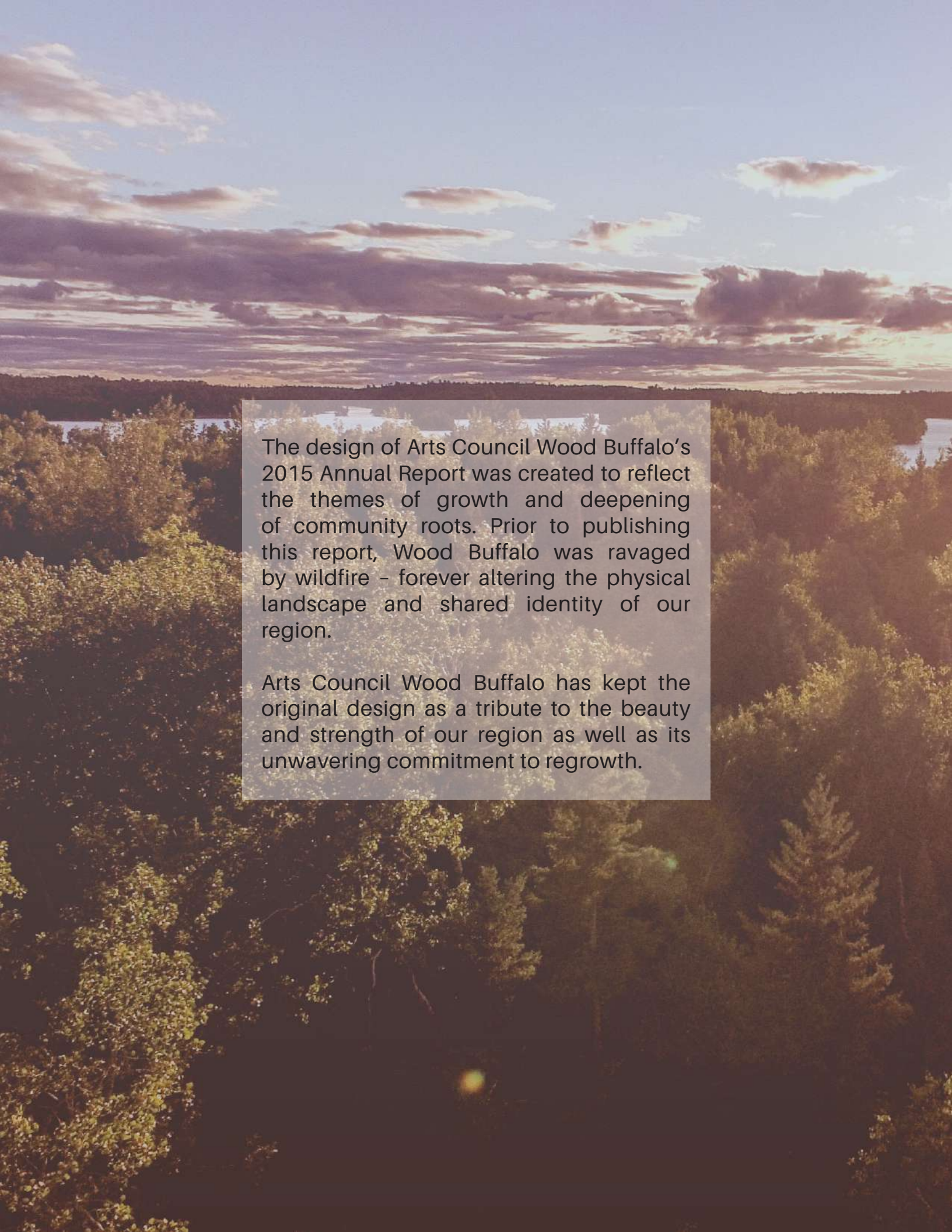




ARTS  
COUNCIL  
WB

WOOD BUFFALO

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



The design of Arts Council Wood Buffalo's 2015 Annual Report was created to reflect the themes of growth and deepening of community roots. Prior to publishing this report, Wood Buffalo was ravaged by wildfire - forever altering the physical landscape and shared identity of our region.

Arts Council Wood Buffalo has kept the original design as a tribute to the beauty and strength of our region as well as its unwavering commitment to regrowth.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Wood Buffalo boasts ample beauty: From the Boreal forest, to our flowing rivers and our incredibly diverse residents, this is a truly wonderful region. Delving deeper into its splendor comes the beauty created by our talented arts community. Spearheading this in our region is Arts Council Wood Buffalo (ACWB).

2015 proved a year of important growth and community contributions for ACWB. Nearly doubling in size by welcoming an additional 74 members, ACWB made impactful strides in advancing the arts in Wood Buffalo. This is a tremendous positive for all of our residents and communities.

I commend ACWB for its tremendous presence at the 2015 Western Canada Summer Games in showcasing our region's vast culture. Through a variety of mediums; drawing, painting, sculptures, displays, song, dance, traditional costumes and much more, Wood Buffalo's local artists were exposed on a national stage to thousands of competitors and visitors that attended the Games.

ACWB is a leading example of a resilient community organization contributing to a sustainable future. Supporting local artists and investing in the arts is paramount in creating and embracing the culture of our region, which is championed by the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

On behalf of my Council colleagues and all residents of Wood Buffalo, I applaud Arts Council Wood Buffalo for its dedication in advocating for the enrichment of our arts community. As an organization with a goal to be an influential voice for the arts -- you are more than doing your share in making Wood Buffalo an even better place to call home. I look forward to what's to come and congratulate ACWB on a successful 2015.

Thank you!

Sincerely,  
**Melissa Blake**  
*Mayor*



“ACWB is a leading example of a resilient community organization contributing to a sustainable future.”

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

“More and more Wood Buffalo is being recognized as a northern cultural hub with professional artists who contribute to the wider arts dialogue in our province...”

Residents of Wood Buffalo have long understood that our region is home to a vibrant arts community comprised of artists from diverse backgrounds and experiences. Over the past twelve months, the Arts Council Wood Buffalo Board of Directors has witnessed this community grow at a tremendous rate, spreading its impact across disciplines, sectors, and borders. More and more Wood Buffalo is being recognized as a northern cultural hub with professional artists who contribute to the wider arts dialogue in our province.

Throughout 2015, the Board of Directors provided consistent advocacy on behalf of the arts community through purposeful communication with government and stakeholders. Members of the board also participated in Arts Tours with visiting artists and strengthened relationships with partners across Alberta.

As the Arts Council continued to deepen its roots in the community, the Board of Directors championed creative collaborations that allowed ACWB to expand its impact and offer more opportunities for individuals to engage in the arts. Directors also provided their skills and experience to Arts Council members to help cultivate local artists and arts initiatives.

One of the Arts Council's greatest assets is its membership and the Board saw an opportunity to capitalize on this experience within our region. In 2015 two member-driven committees were formed to help shape the future of our arts sector: the Arts Funding Committee and Arts Impact Measurement Committee. These groups offered feedback to the Board of Directors on the most pressing issues facing local artists and provided recommendations on how to best to fill current gaps in support. These committees continue to play a crucial role in ensuring the arts community is connected and has the resources needed to thrive.

Thank you to the members of Arts Council Wood Buffalo who continuously demonstrate that the arts are essential in creating a balanced community; and to those organizations, businesses, and individuals who have championed investment in the arts in our region. As you read through this report, you will see the remarkable impact your support has made in Wood Buffalo.

**Erin Schwab**  
*Vice-Chair*



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Over the past twelve months, the work of Arts Council Wood Buffalo (ACWB) has started taking root in our region. ACWB has become recognized as an influential voice for the arts through our strong advocacy efforts and because we have demonstrated that we have the support of our diverse arts community.

Recognizing the importance of taking stock of the arts sector in order to provide responsible stewardship, ACWB charged the Arts Impact Measurement and Arts Funding Committees with conducting research on the demographics, participation, and funding of the arts community. The preliminary findings have been eye opening and we hope to share those with you in the coming months.

In August, Wood Buffalo hosted the Western Canada Summer Games and our local artists astounded visitors and residents alike with the richness and talent within our arts sector. Behind the scenes, ACWB played a role in raising awareness regarding the importance of paying artists for the work that they do and providing performance opportunities for regional artists. The professionalism demonstrated by our local artists during the Games supported this work and allowed our region to share its story and collective identity beyond our borders.

Arts Council Wood Buffalo continued to support the business practices of local artists through our popular Business of the Arts Workshop Series - but we also sought out creative partnerships to offer discipline-specific training within our region. ACWB worked diligently throughout 2015 to ensure that the arts community felt connected and had the resources needed to thrive.

2015 will always be an important milestone in ACWB history as it marked the first presentation of the Suncor Student Art Awards and Kim Jenkins Student Art Scholarship. This program, in collaboration with Suncor Energy, recognizes exceptional young visual artist in Fort McMurray, provides them an opportunity to exhibit their work, and invests in their future. We look forward to continuing to cultivate these future artists.



The most exciting part of 2015 was getting out into the community! Throughout the year, ACWB could be found at markets, trade shows, open houses, and events. Through these opportunities, and dozens of individual consultations, we got to meet many of our members face to face. These were the moments that revitalized ACWB staff and reminded us of our shared vision that the arts are valued and integral to a remarkable quality of life. Thank you to all of our members who continuously direct and support the efforts of the Arts Council.

I would also like to thank the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts for their operational support of Arts Council Wood Buffalo. Without champions for the arts such as these, it would be impossible for ACWB to continue meeting the needs of our growing arts sector.

**Constance Scarlett**  
*Executive Director*

# 2015 AT A GLANCE

# DEEPENING OUR ROOTS MEMBERSHIP

As Arts Council Wood Buffalo deepened its impact in 2015, it saw a growth in the demand for its programs and services. ACWB likewise had to grow to keep up with the demand! Over the past year, the Arts Council added two new positions in order to better serve our stakeholders.

ACWB also moved its offices to the Redpoll Centre at Shell Place. This move not only provided a more accessible location for our members, but it also put us in the heart of the Wood Buffalo social profit community. This new space fosters a culture of creativity and provides a springboard for new collaborations that will weave the arts into the fabric of our community.

In the subsequent pages of this report, you will see how these changes allowed Arts Council Wood Buffalo to further cultivate the arts community and strengthen its roots in our region.

in 2015 an additional 74 members joined ACWB, bringing the total amount of memberships to 139. The new members were a diverse group that included tattoo artists, choreographers, improv troupes, and fiction writers. The strength of the Arts Council membership demonstrates that local artists and arts organizations recognize ACWB as an influential voice for the arts, and as an organization that ensures artists are connected and have the resources needed to thrive.

2015 also saw the launch of the members-exclusive online Artist Directory. This directory is the first of its kind in Wood Buffalo; raising the profile of regional artists and encouraging individuals, non-profits, and businesses to hire local talent.

Over the year ACWB staff sat down in-person with several members to provide advisory and consultative services. From guidance with grant applications to assistance with planning book releases, ACWB spent roughly 156 hours helping members take the necessary steps to reaching the next level in their artistic career.



Arts Council Wood Buffalo Members

# CULTIVATING LOCAL ARTISTS PROGRAMS

*Arts Council Wood Buffalo offers a variety of programs, workshops, and events that are designed to build the capacity of our local artists to compete and thrive, as well as create a culture of creativity in our region.*

## ARTS IMPACT MEASUREMENT COMMITTEE

The Arts Impact Measurement Committee (AIM) was struck in May 2015 to provide a summary of the impact of the arts in Wood Buffalo with regards to: quality of life, participation, and economics. The Committee investigated what information was currently available, what data still needed to be collected, and supplied a road-map of next steps to Arts Council Wood Buffalo to fill these gaps and distribute the final results. The final recommendation was a three-pronged approach to gather information from the local arts community; the wider population; and, targeted conversations with rural communities. Hill Strategies Research was contracted at the end of 2015 to assist with this ambitious research project. Phase I of the project was completed in 2015 and incorporated an online survey of the Wood Buffalo arts sector, to which 178 responses were submitted. The final report, incorporating all three phases of the project will be available in 2016.



Lorraine Humphrey  
*Chair*

Carmen Wells  
*Board Representative*

Joanne Barnes  
Bryan Jackson  
Diane Schuldt-Zundel  
Jessica Weber



## ARTS FUNDING COMMITTEE

The membership-driven Arts Funding Committee was tasked with creating a framework of responsible arts funding in Wood Buffalo. Committee members researched gaps in current funding opportunities for local artists and arts organizations as well as innovative arts funding models across the globe. The final report and recommendations of this committee will be presented to the Board of Directors in early 2016.

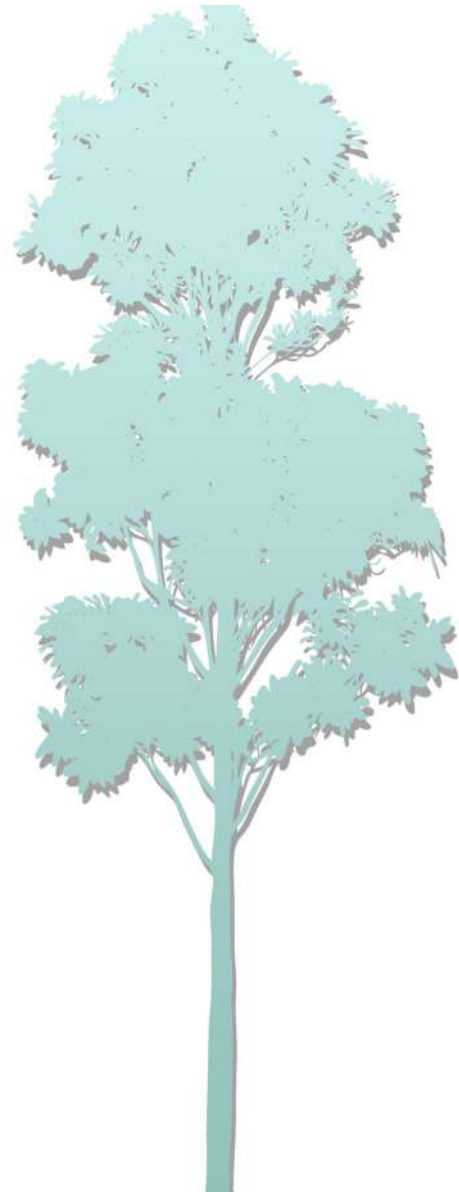
Kevin Thornton  
*Chair*

Erin Schwab  
*Board Representative*

Buffy Close  
Erin Stintson  
Terri Mort

## ART TOURS

2015 launched the Arts Tours program which shows visitors first-hand how the arts are integral to a remarkable quality of life here in northern Alberta. Arts tours are customized to fit schedules and specific interests, and showcase the people, venues, and events that create a culture of creativity here in Wood Buffalo. In 2015, ACWB hosted 5 arts tours highlighting various arts spaces in the community, such as: Keyano Theatre & Arts Centre, Points North Gallery, MacDonald Island Park Community Art Gallery (presented by the Kirschner Family Corporation), MacDonald Island Park Dance and Visual Arts, and the Suncor Energy Centre for the Performing Arts. Local artists involved in dance, literary arts, visual arts, and the performing arts were part of these tours, speaking first-hand about the arts community.



# BUSINESS OF THE ARTS

In 2015 Arts Council Wood Buffalo provided 4 Business of the Arts (BOA) workshops. These workshops built the capacity of our local artists to compete and thrive by providing skills on how to make a living from their artistic practice.

The first workshop of the year, "Artists, Art Attendance, & Impacts in Alberta" was facilitated by Kelly Hill of Hill Strategies Research and focused on provincial statistics of artists and arts impact. These statistics demonstrated the real impact of the arts in our province and provided attendees with figures they could use in their own advocacy efforts.

The next BOA workshops were facilitated by literary artist Charmaine Hammond, in recognition of Family Literacy Month. Charmaine's first workshop was focused on empowering the youth in the community through creative writing, and how these young authors can create grand stories based on events in their own lives. Adult literary artists participated in the "Author's Success Program," a workshop that gave writers the tools they need to launch their book (or screen play, or poem, or stage play), sell their work, create a global presence, and much more.

The final BOA workshop of 2015 was "Bookkeeping for Artists" presented in partnership with Visual Arts Alberta, and facilitated by Lucille Frost. Topics such as balance sheets, income statements, the business accounting cycle, monthly bank reconciliations, and payroll and deductions were demystified by Frost, engaging and informing participants with best practices in bookkeeping to utilize in their own practice.



Kelly Hill



Book Keeping for Artists Workshop



Charmaine Hammond Workshop

# SUNCOR STUDENT ART AWARDS

The purpose of the Suncor Student Art Awards is to increase the reach and impact of artwork created within the school system and to build the confidence of emerging artists to exhibit their work. Throughout the year, Suncor hosts three student art exhibitions at their Business Centre in Fort McMurray: one for Public High Schools, one for Catholic High Schools, and one for both Junior High and High School students from both districts.

The final joint exhibition is meant to be the best artwork created in the year, and pulls three pieces from the Quad High Show presented annually at MacDonald Island Community Art Gallery. Awards are given to the top five pieces in each exhibition which are selected through a combination of Suncor employee voting and a final professional jury. The Kim Jenkins Student Art Scholarship is given to a Grade 12 student pursuing Visual Arts or Design (or similar field) at the post-secondary level the following year whose work in the final exhibition shows the most promise.

2015 was the first year these awards were distributed and it was clear from the pieces in these exhibitions that the future of Wood Buffalo's visual arts community is very bright indeed!

ACWB thanks the teachers of both school districts, as well as Suncor Energy, for supporting this program and promoting a culture of creativity in our community.

## Award Winners

### **Kim Jenkins Student Art Scholarship Recipient:**

Rebecca Lai

### **First Place Overall:**

Zac Ackerman

### **Second Place Overall:**

Wendell Engreso

### **Public School District:**

Jessica Ryan

Kaley Patzer

Paige Neilbrandt

Sabrina Nova,

Dhriti Mehta

### **Catholic School District :**

Wendell Engreso

Alexsis Agustin

Claire Stratton

Haley Beech

Sharaine Reyes



Suncor Student Art Awards Reception

# PLANTING SEEDS IN THE COMMUNITY

## PARTNERSHIPS

*Arts Council Wood Buffalo creates opportunities for collaboration amongst artists and arts organizations in order to build a vibrant arts community. It is through engaged networks that our arts sector can amplify its impact in the community.*

## ARTIST IN RESIDENCY

ACWB partnered with the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) during the 2015 Artist in Residency (AIR) program to offer a community engagement workshop. Participants were invited to step behind the scenes into a working, professional, artist studio and meet the AIR artists - four of the best emerging artists in Canada. Participants saw their art in progress, learned about their styles, techniques and what excites them. Each artist led a thirty minute activity related to their individual artistic practice. All attendees participated in each of the activities and left the workshop with four new pieces of their own creation. The workshop was full (30 participants) and feedback from the participants was overwhelmingly positive - "I want to thank you and your team and the AIR for a wonderful evening of art. I had a great time. Learning art is always fun. So, thank you!"



*AIR Studio Workshop  
Photo courtesy of the Regional Municipality of Wood*

# GINGERBREAD VILLIAGE

Arts Council Wood Buffalo participated in the second annual Gingerbread Village at the Fort McMurray Sawridge Inn & Conference Centre. ACWB asked for members' help to design and create an arts-themed submission for the event. All proceeds from this event supported the Centre of Hope, and ACWB's participation showed its commitment to the wider social profit community. Board member Erin Schwab and members Christina Beckman, Erin Stinson, and Chithra Udayashankar joined ACWB staff to design and build a gingerbread landscape that included the recognizable bridges over the Athabasca River.



Gingerbread Villiage Construction

# MENTORSHIPS

ACWB partnered with Keyano Theatre & Arts Centre for the 2015 Drama Force presentation of *The Little Mermaid Jr.* Program Manager Michelle Thorne joined the team as a youth theatre mentor as well as part of the cast, playing the role of Ursula. Drama Force director Roxanne Dicke stated "This benefits the actors in a number of ways, one of which is to empower young artists to rise to the level of performance of experienced actors. Another great benefit is the mentoring and teaching that can occur when more experienced actors are integrated into the process." Michelle taught the youth lessons in professionalism, backstage etiquette, commitment, as well as assisted in warm-ups focusing on proper techniques to make the young performers stage-ready.



Photo courtesy of the Keyano Theatre Company

ACWB partnered with Chepiyak Theatre at Westwood High School in the fall of 2015 to provide mentorship assistance with their original production of *Night Witches*, written by teacher/director Terri Mort and the students. *Night Witches* told the true story of Russian female bomber pilots who supported their male counterparts during the Second World War. ACWB Program Manager Michelle Thorne was Assistant Director on this production and workshopped the students' self-written dialogue, as well as helped shape and direct certain scenes. She also mentored the student actors in professionalism, backstage etiquette, commitment, and vocal, physical, and mental techniques for successful performances.



Photo courtesy of Chepiyak Theatre

## MULTICULTURAL ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

Arts Council Wood Buffalo held quarterly engagement sessions in partnership with the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo (MCA) over 2015. These engagement sessions allowed ACWB a greater insight to the artistic needs of MCA members. Out of these engagement sessions came an opportunity for a wide variety of multicultural dance groups to participate in the Opening Ceremonies of the 2015 Western Canada Summer Games. The performances by over a dozen different cultural dance groups showed the beauty and diversity within our region and built long-lasting memories for all involved.



Photo courtesy of the 2015 Wood Buffalo Games Host Society

## WORKSHOPS AND MASTER CLASSES

This year Arts Council Wood Buffalo (ACWB) was able to amplify its impact in the community by partnering with other organizations to provide higher level arts training opportunities. These sessions provided local artists with access to experts from outside our region at an affordable cost.

ACWB collaborated with the Fort McMurray Filmmakers Association to present two filmmaking workshops: one on sound production with Ian Armstrong of Wolf Willow Studios, and another on film production with filmmaker Cody Bown. These sessions provided thirty-six local filmmakers with hands on skills to create professional level films.

The Arts Council also worked with the Fort McMurray Music Teachers Association to offer two master classes in March 2015. The senior master classes were led by William Lewans, a renowned instructor and performer. Students were able to learn through performing and also by watching Lewans work with other students. Mr. Lewans also provided a concert with other local artists for the public. In all, 168 residents of Wood Buffalo benefited from this program either as students or as audience members.

# BROADENING OUR PROFILE

## YMMARTS COLUMN

ACWB writes a Saturday column for the *Fort McMurray Today*, which highlights regional arts activities, individuals, and events, as well as accomplishments by Wood Buffalo artists provincially and nationally. ACWB is thankful for Russell Thomas of Birdsong Connections for writing this column throughout 2015 and keeping his finger on the pulse of all things arts in our region.

## ALBERTA CULTURE DAYS

In 2015, there were almost 900 events in more than 70 communities across Alberta over the Culture Days weekend (September 23-27). Arts Council Wood Buffalo partnered with the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo to organize the planning and execution of the 2015 festival in our region. The festival featured a variety of events at numerous locations around town including Jubilee Plaza, the Suncor Energy Centre for the Performing Arts, the Oil Sands Discovery Centre, Borealis Park, and many more. The community was invited to participate in an eclectic range of free events including calligraphy demonstrations by NorthWord, a staged reading of a Canadian play hosted by Pattie Dwyer, Borealis Art Institute's The Amazing Art Race, photography exhibits, and the ever popular "The World Meets in Wood Buffalo" presented by The Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo. This year's festival had an added special treat: by attending three events, members of the public were able to enter a local draw with an opportunity to win a pair of seasons tickets to Keyano Theatre's 4-Play Drama Series, provided by Keyano Theatre and ACWB.



Photo courtesy of the Multicultural Association





# ART THEMED URBAN MARKET

Arts Council Wood Buffalo partnered with the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo's Urban Market team to present the Art-Themed Urban Market on July 11, 2015. The market featured several ACWB members who showcased everything from live painting demonstrations to metal butterfly benches. The Art-Themed Urban Market also provided a platform for local performance artists to play for market-goers. These performances ranged from slight-of-hand magic, acoustic duets, solo musical numbers, a one-act play, and a hilarious hour of improv. Between the live performances and the variety of offerings from ACWB member vendors, the Art-Themed Urban Market was one of the highlight events of the summer.



Photos courtesy of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

# 2015 WESTERN CANADA SUMMER GAMES



The planning and management of the Western Canada Summer Games cultural entertainment was one of the major ways Arts Council Wood Buffalo acted as an influential voice for the arts in 2015.

ACWB partnered with Patrick Roberge Productions to assemble local artists and cultural groups to perform at the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. For many of these artists, it was one of the biggest performances of their careers. The Opening Ceremony featured country artist Shantelle Davidson, as well as guitarist Dan Gillies accompanied by emerging musician Mat Coté. Coté says it was "the highlight of my career so far." The Closing Ceremony included musician Dan Tulk and rock and roll group The Max Noseworthy Band. Dozens of local dancers were integral in both ceremonies. Arts Council Wood Buffalo also connected Patrick Roberge Productions with local artists for the two Big Sky Spirit Nights - pyrotechnical multi-arts celebrations that ran the week between the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. Crowds were brought to their feet by Shantelle Davidson and vocal powerhouse Mychela during two separate performances.



Photos courtesy of the 2015 Wood Buffalo Games Host Society

ACWB also managed the Western Canada Summer Games Festivals portfolio as an in-kind contribution to the overall event. ACWB staff were responsible for two areas within Festivals: events at Jubilee Plaza for locals and visitors, and events at the Athletes Village at Noralta Lodge for the athletes. These events would not have been possible without the ongoing technical expertise of ACWB member Campbell's Music or the support of member Keyano Theatre & Arts



Photos courtesy of the 2015 Wood Buffalo Games Host Society

ACWB also assisted with the Games Theme Song. The song, "Alive" was written by local artists Sarah Canning and Rick Kirshner, and was recorded and produced right here in Fort McMurray.



## JUBILEE PLAZA PARTY AT THE PLAZA

## ATHLETES VILLAGE AT NORALTA LODGE



Photo courtesy of the 2015 Wood Buffalo Games Host Society

**AUGUST 8** Spotlight: A Night of Live, Local Music  
The Veins, Steven Bowers, and the Sentimental Gentlemen

**AUGUST 9** McMurray Métis Presents: Beverly Lambert - Proud to be Métis

**AUGUST 11** Reflections presented by the Athabasca Tribal Council

**AUGUST 13** NightFlix - A Celebration of Fort McMurray Film  
Partnership with member Fort McMurray Filmmakers Association

**AUGUST 14** Spotlight: A Night of Live, Local Music  
member Danny Tulk, member The Mychela Band, and Stu Marchand

**AUGUST 15** Member organization Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo presents Dance Wood Buffalo



**AUGUST 8 - 15**

Sports-themed movie night

**AUGUST 9 - 14**

Fort McMurray Gaming Association hosted an evening of console games, ran tournaments with prizes, and debuted a new game for Nintendo Wii designed by former Fort McMurray resident Alex Rushdie.

**AUGUST 13**

Member organization Thunder Struck Improv got the athletes laughing with a night of sketch comedy and hilarious made up situations.

Arts Council Wood Buffalo acknowledges the 2015 operational support of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts.



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
OF **WOOD BUFFALO**



Alberta  
**Foundation**  
for the **Arts**

“  
Champion  
Investment  
in the Arts...”

Arts Council Wood Buffalo would also like to thank all our partners, donors, contractors, volunteers and supporters who championed investment in the arts in 2015.

2015 Wood Buffalo Games Host Society  
Birdsong Connections Inc.  
Balsom Communications  
Charmaine Hammond  
Danna-Rae Evasiuk  
Fort McMurray Catholic and Public School  
Boards  
Fort McMurray Filmmakers Association  
Fort McMurray Music Teachers Association  
Hill Strategies Research  
Hyperphotonic Media  
Jaguar Lounge  
Keyano Theatre & Arts Centre

Kryptonite Photography  
Melba Seto  
Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo  
Northern Dance-Off  
Patrick Roberge Productions  
Points North Gallery  
Regional Recreation Corporation of Wood  
Buffalo  
Suncor Energy  
Suncor Energy Centre for the Performing  
Arts  
United Way of Fort McMurray  
Visual Arts Alberta

2015

# ARTS COUNCIL BOARD AND STAFF



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHRISTINE BURTON

*Chair and Director - Business/Industry*

ERIN SCHWAB

*Vice-Chair and Director - Visual Art*

SARAH NEIMAN

*Treasurer and Director - Music*

NOLA ANTONY

*Secretary and Director - Dance*

MISHA ALBERT

*Director - Theatre (until September 2015)*

DAVE BOUTILIER

*Director - Theatre (from November 2015)*

JENNY BERUBE

*Director - Literary Arts (on leave as of September 2015)*

BUFFY CLOSE

*Director - Literary Arts [interim] (from October 2015)*

MICHAEL DUROCHER

*Director - Business/Industry*

TITO GUILLEN

*Director Video/Filmmaking/Photography*

TODD "TODDSKE" HILLIER

*Director - Community*

MONTE VICKERSON

*Director - First Nations (until June 2015)*

JADE ERNEST

*Director - First Nations (from June 2015)*

CARMEN WELLS

*Director - Métis*

## STAFF

CONSTANCE SCARLETT

*Executive Director*

MICHELLE THORNE

*Program Manager (from March 2015)*

DIANA MOSER

*Special Projects Coordinator (from June 2015)*

# ARTS COUNCIL WOOD BUFFALO

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015  
(UNAUDITED)

### **To the Members of Arts Council Wood Buffalo,**

I have reviewed the statement of financial position of Arts Council Wood Buffalo as at December 31, 2015 and the statements of revenues and expenditures and cash flow for the year then ended. My review was made in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements and, accordingly, consisted primarily of inquiry, analytical procedures and discussion related to information supplied to me by the Organization.

A review does not constitute an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Based on my review, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that these financial statements are not, in all material respects, in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for profit organizations.



Fort McMurray, Alberta  
March 23, 2016

S. MILLARD PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING, CPA  
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT




# ARTS COUNCIL WOOD BUFFALO

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
CURRENT		
Unrestricted Cash	\$ 57,837	\$ 33,039
Restricted Cash (Note 4)	48,750	138,822
Goods and Services Tax Recoverable	2,163	—
Prepaid Expenses	1,302	—
	<b>110,052</b>	<b>171,861</b>
RESTRICTED CASH (Note 4)	<b>26,250</b>	<b>20,000</b>
RENTAL DAMAGE DEPOSIT	<b>1,043</b>	<b>—</b>
	<b>\$ 137,345</b>	<b>\$ 191,861</b>

<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
CURRENT		
Accounts Payable	\$ 8,303	\$ 6,997
Employee Deductions Payable	5,433	5,286
Deferred income	19,347	20,756
Deferred Income - Restricted (Note 4)	48,750	138,822
Funding Repayable (Note 5)	29,262	—
	<b>111,095</b>	<b>171,861</b>
DEFERRED INCOME-RESTRICTED (Note 4)	<b>26,250</b>	<b>20,000</b>
	<b>\$ 137,345</b>	<b>\$ 191,861</b>

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

 Director

 Director

# ARTS COUNCIL WOOD BUFFALO

## STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDIUTRES

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Grants	<b>\$ 358,367</b>	\$ 135,185
Rent in Kind	<b>25,500</b>	60,400
Fees for Service	<b>8,000</b>	—
Membership Fees	<b>854</b>	959
Other Forms of income	<b>5,724</b>	3,634
	<b>398,445</b>	200,178
<b>PROGRAM EXPENSES</b>		
Partnership Programs	<b>25,555</b>	21,241
Arts Community Needs Assessment	<b>25,495</b>	—
Business of the Arts Workshops	<b>13,849</b>	10,405
Scholarships and Awards	<b>4,500</b>	—
	<b>69,399</b>	31,646
<i>GROSS PROFIT (83%; 2014 - 84%)</i>	<b>329,046</b>	168,532
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Advertising and Promotion	<b>21,978</b>	8,053
Business Taxes, Licenses and Memberships	<b>542</b>	60
Employee Benefits	<b>3,873</b>	—
Honorarium	<b>3,143</b>	1,000
Insurance	<b>2,307</b>	4,643
Interest and Bank Charges	<b>605</b>	302
Meetings and Conventions	<b>6,717</b>	1,004
Memberships	<b>928</b>	440
Office	<b>6,156</b>	3,376
Professional Fees	<b>7,100</b>	5,970
Rental	<b>32,276</b>	63,157
Repairs and Maintenance	<b>16</b>	—
Salaries and Wages	<b>203,069</b>	64,371
Sub-Contracts	<b>23,844</b>	11,635
Telephone	<b>2,917</b>	987
Training	<b>8,110</b>	54
Travel	<b>917</b>	917
Utilities	<b>4,548</b>	2,563
	<b>329,046</b>	168,532
<b>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ —</b>

# ARTS COUNCIL WOOD BUFFALO

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW

	2015	2014
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Cash Receipts From Members and Funders	\$ 403,286	\$220,794
Cash Paid to Suppliers and Employees	(458,495)	(50,191)
Rental Deposit	(1,043)	—
Interest Paid	(609)	(302)
Goods and Services Tax	(2,163)	—
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH FLOW</b>	<b>(59,024)</b>	<b>170,301</b>
Cash - Beginning of Year	191,861	21,560
<b>CASH - END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 132,837</b>	<b>\$ 191,861</b>
<b>CASH CONSISTS OF:</b>		
Cash	\$ 57,837	\$ 33,039
Cash - Restricted	48,750	138,822
Cash - Long Term Restricted	26,250	20,000
	<b>\$ 132,837</b>	<b>\$ 191,861</b>

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Arts Council Wood Buffalo (the "Organization") is a not-for-profit organization incorporated provincially under the Companies Act of Alberta. As a registered charity the Organization is exempt from the payment of income tax under Section 149(1) of the Income Tax Act.

The Organization champions investment in the arts in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. The organization was established to raise the profile of the arts in the region and to provide support to all facets of the arts community.

#### 2. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not for-profit organizations (ASNFPO).

#### 3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

##### *Cash and cash equivalents*

Cash is defined as cash on hand, cash on deposit, and short term deposits with maturity dates of less than 90 days, net of cheques issued and outstanding at the report date.

##### *Contributed services*

The operations of the organization depend on both the contribution of time by volunteers and donated materials from various sources. The fair value of donated materials and services cannot be reasonably determined and are therefore not reflected in these financial statements.

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# ARTS COUNCIL WOOD BUFFALO

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

#### *Financial instruments policy*

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued except for non-arm's length transactions. In subsequent periods, financial assets with actively traded markets are reported at fair value, with any unrealized gains and losses reported in income. All other financial instruments are reported at amortized cost, and tested for impairment at each reporting date. Transaction costs on the acquisition, sale, or issue of financial instruments are expensed when incurred.

#### *Measurement uncertainty*

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Such estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

The main estimates including accrued liabilities and disclosure of contingencies.

a) Net assets invested in property and equipment represents the organization's net investment in property and equipment which is comprised of the unamortized amount of property and equipment purchased with restricted funds.

b) Internally restricted net assets are funds which have been designated for a specific purpose by the organization's Board of Directors.

c) Unrestricted net assets comprise the excess of revenue over expenses accumulated by the organization each year, not of transfers, and are available for general purposes.

#### *Revenue recognition*

Arts Council Wood Buffalo follows the deferral method of accounting for grant and sponsorship income.

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Restricted investment income is recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted investment income is recognized as revenue when earned.

Membership fees, registration fees, and other income are recognized as fees for services. When the users receive the services, the fees are recognized as revenue.

The Organization recognizes contributions of gifts in kind only when a fair value can be reasonably estimated and when the materials and services are used in the normal course of the Organization's operations and would otherwise have been purchased.

### 4. RESTRICTED CASH AND DEFERRED REVENUE

	2015	2014
<b>Deferred Revenue</b>		
RMWB	\$ 40,000	\$ 133,822
Kim Jenkins Scholarship	8,750	5,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>48,750</b>	<b>138,822</b>
Kim Jenkins Scholarship-Long Term	26,250	20,000
Total Deferred Revenue	<b>\$ 75,000</b>	<b>\$ 158,822</b>

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# ARTS COUNCIL WOOD BUFFALO

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### RESTRICTED CASH AND DEFERRED REVENUE (continued)

The Organization has received a grant, referred to as the Kim Jenkins Scholarship, to be used for the specific purpose of issuing post-secondary fine arts scholarships and awarding cash prizes to students participating in art exhibitions. The funds are designated for use by even distribution over the next five years by providing \$3,000 of exhibition prizes, a \$1,500 scholarship, and \$400 of administrative costs annually.

The Organization has received a grant from the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (referred to as RMWB). See Note 5 relating to the restriction of this grant.

### 5. CONTINGENT LIABILITY

The Organization, as a part of its ongoing operations, received a grant from the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo totaling \$285,000 (2014 - \$250,000). The grant agreement states that any uncommitted grant proceeds shall be returned upon the expiration or earlier termination of this agreement. As at December 31, 2015, unspent funding totaling \$69,262 (2014 - \$133,822) was related to this grant. The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo has agreed to allow the Organization to carry forward \$40,000 (2014 - \$133,822) of these contributions for the use by the next fiscal year end of December 31, 2016. Any remaining balance of the contributions that are not spent on applicable expenses by December 31, 2016 must be returned. The remaining balance of the unspent contributions of \$29,262 (2014 - \$0) must be repaid by the Organization.

It is managements opinion that the total amount of deferred contributions of \$40,000 will be spent in the course of operations within the next fiscal year.

### 6. CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

The Organization signed an agreement for the rental of premises in the ordinary course of operations. The Organization has agreed to make payments of \$895 plus GST monthly beginning June 1, 2015 plus an additional \$50 for additional occupancy of one office.  
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### 6. CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS (continued)

The amount of rent increases annually on May 1 beginning May 1, 2016 by 4% on the base rent of \$895 and the lease is in place for three years ending May 31, 2018.

Contractual obligation repayment schedule:

2016	\$ 12,206
2017	12,669
2018	5,385
	<b>\$ 30,260</b>

### 7. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

The Organization is economically dependant on the grant received from the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo for its continued existence and ability to carry out its normal activities. The grant received from the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo accounts for 88% (2014 - 58%) of the income generated by the Organization.

### 8. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Organization is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments and has a comprehensive risk management framework to monitor, evaluate and manage these risks. The following analysis provides information about the Organization's risk exposure and concentration as of December 31, 2015.

#### *Liquidity risk*

Liquidity risk is the risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The Organization is exposed to this risk mainly in respect of its receipt of funds from its customers and other related sources, long-term debt, obligations under capital leases, contributions to the pension plan, and accounts payable.

#### *Market Risk*

Market Risk is the risk that the fair Value or future cash flows of a financial instrument Will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk comprises three types of risk currency rate risk, interest rate risk and other price risk. The Organization is mainly exposed to interest rate risk.



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