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Financial Statements

For the Year Ended March 31, 2023



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of The Business Link Business Service Centre

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Business Link Business Service Centre (the Centre), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2023, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Business Link Business Service Centre as at March 31, 2023, and the results of its operations and, changes in net financial assets, and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Opinion

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

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the *Annual Report*, but does not include the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. The *Annual Report* is expected to be made available to us after the date of this auditors' report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

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

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

(continues)



Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of the Business Link Business Service Centre (continued)

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Centre'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 it is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, 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 Centre's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies 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 Centre'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 or our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Centre to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

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

METRIX GROUP LLP
Chartered Professional Accountants

Edmonton, Alberta July 24, 2023

THE BUSINESS LINK BUSINESS SERVICE CENTRE Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2023

	2023	2022
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 2) Accounts receivable	\$ 7,349,598 472 500	\$ 5,163,371 30,331
Goods and Services Tax recoverable	172,500 167,361	76,572
Prepaid expenses and deposits	11,741	22,041
		,
	7,701,200	5,292,315
TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 3)	6,492	20,385
	\$ 7,707,692	\$ 5,312,700
LIABILITIES CURRENT Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 4)	\$ 794,163	\$ 1,542,919
Deferred contributions (Note 5)	6,376,064	3,560,216
	7,170,227	5,103,135
NET ASSETS		
Invested in tangible capital assets	6,492	20,385
Unrestricted	530,973	189,180
	537,465	209,565
	\$ 7,707,692	\$ 5,312,700

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Statement of Operations

For the Year Ended March 31, 2023

	2023	2022
REVENUE		
Other grants (Note 7) (Schedule I - VI)	\$ 4,629,863	\$ 7,294,368
Federal government core funding	901,669	901,669
Provincial government core funding	850,000	850,000
Fees for services and materials	122,970	112,989
Sponsorships	25,500	5,238
Interest	23,804	4,613
	6,553,806	9,168,877
EXPENSES		
Contracted services	2,679,058	2,946,859
Salaries and benefits	2,280,893	2,138,898
Grants paid out	539,207	3,765,607
Advertising and promotion	155,947	91,313
Rent	145,783	136,032
Office	75,617	45,328
Travel	73,078	3,824
Professional fees	58,750	42,393
Memberships	58,435	62,571
Equipment maintenance	42,951	32,611
Website and database support services	31,178	24,808
Telephone and internet	25,358	38,123
Training	15,167	42,893
Amortization	13,893	50,250
Client outreach	11,755	4,305
Insurance	10,210	7,978
Bad debts	5,486	300
Bank charges and interest	3,140	3,705
	6,225,906	9,437,798
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ 327,900	\$ (268,921)

Statement of Changes in Net Assets For the Year Ended March 31, 2023

	-	ivested in Tangible pital Assets	Uı	nrestricted	2023	2022
BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$	20,385	\$	189,180	\$ 209,565	\$ 478,486
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses		-		327,900	327,900	(268,921)
Amortization of tangible capital assets		(13,893)		13,893	-	-
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	\$	6,492	\$	530,973	\$ 537,465	\$ 209,565

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended March 31, 2023

	2023	2022
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses Items not affecting cash:	\$ 327,900	\$ (268,921)
Amortization of tangible capital assets	13,893	50,250
	341,793	(218,671)
Change in non-cash working capital		
Accounts receivable	(142,169)	64,140
Goods and Services Tax recoverable	(90,789)	(45,768)
Prepaid expenses	10,300	(5,733)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(748,756)	1,294,439
Deferred contributions	2,815,848	766,838
	2,186,227	1,855,245
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of tangible capital assets		(6,649)
		(6,649)
INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	2,186,227	1,848,596
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	5,163,371	3,314,775
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR (Note 2)	\$ 7,349,598	\$ 5,163,371

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2023

PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

The Business Link Business Service Centre (the "Centre") is a not-for-profit company established to provide business information and information-related assistance to entrepreneurs in the Province of Alberta. The Centre has operations in both Calgary and Edmonton.

The Centre was incorporated on November 13, 2001 under the *Alberta Business Corporations Act* as a company limited by guarantee and is exempt from taxes under subsection 149.1 of the *Income Tax Act*, Canada.

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of Presentation

The financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

(b) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents is comprised of items that are readily convertiable to known amounts of cash, are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value, and have a maturity of 90 days or less at acquistion. Cash consists of cash on hand, deposits held with Canadian financial institutions less any cheques written in excess of the bank balances.

(c) Tangible Capital Assets

All tangible capital assets with an original cost of greater than \$3,500 and an economic life greater than one year are capitalized. Otherwise, costs are expensed as incurred. Purchased tangible capital assets are recorded at cost. Contributed tangible capital assets are recorded at fair value at the date of the contribution. Amortization is provided over the assets' estimated useful lives, using the following annual rates and methods:

Leasehold improvements	7 years	Straight-line method
Equipment	5 years	Straight-line method
Computer hardware	3 years	Straight-line method
Video equipment	3 years	Straight-line method

The Centre regularly reviews its tangible capital assets to eliminate obsolete items. In the year of acquisition amortization is calculated at the one-half of these rates for all capital assets except leasehold improvements for which amortization is recorded on a monthly basis. No amortization is recorded in the year of disposition.

Tangible capital assets acquired during the year but not placed into use are not amortized until they are placed into use.

(CONT'D)

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT'D)

(d) Revenue Recognition

The Centre follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Externally 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.

Sublease and cost recovery revenue is recognized as the service is provided and costs are incurred, and the amount can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Fees for services and materials are recognized in the period when rendered and the amount can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Sponsorships are recognized when the amount can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Other revenue is recognized when the service is rendered and the amount can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

(e) Contributed Services

Contributions of materials are recognized both as contributions and expenses in the statement of operations when a fair value can be reasonably estimated, the materials are used in the normal course of the Centre's operations, and would otherwise have been purchased.

The Province of Alberta contributes to the operations of the Centre by providing and maintaining call centre services. The fair value of the contributed facilities and services are not readily available and are not reflected in the financial statements.

The work of the Centre is dependent on the voluntary services of many individuals who are experts and industry leaders of specialized subject matters. Since these services are not normally purchased by the Centre and because of the difficulty of determining their fair value, donated services are not recognized in the financial statements.

(CONT'D)

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT'D)

(f) Financial Instruments

i) Measurement

The Centre initially measures its financial assets and liabilities at fair value adjusted by, in the case of a financial instrument that will not be measured subsequently at fair value, the amount of transaction costs directly attributable to the instruments.

The Centre subsequently measures its financial assets and liabilities at amortized cost, except for marketable securities that are quoted in an active market, which are measured at fair value. Changes in fair value are recognized in the statement of operations.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost include cash, short-term investments and accounts receivable.

Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost include accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

The Centre has no financial assets measured at fair value.

ii) Impairment

At the end of each reporting period, the Centre assesses whether there are any indications that the financial asset measured at amortized cost may be impaired. Objective evidence of impairment may include breach of a funding contract. When there is an indication of impairment, the Centre determines whether a significant adverse change has occurred during the period in the expected timing or amount of future cash flows from the financial asset. The carrying amount of the asset is reduced to the highest of the present value of the cash flows to be expected to be generated by holding the asset discounted using a current market rate of interest appropriate to the asset and the amount that could be realized by selling the asset at the statement of financial position date.

The carrying amount of the asset is reduced directly or through the use of an allowance account. The amount of the reduction is recognized as an impairment loss in the statement of operations.

When the extent of impairment of a previously written-down asset decreases and the decrease can be related to an event occurring after the impairment was recognized, the previously recognized impairment loss is reversed to the extent of the improvement, either directly or by adjusting the allowance account. The amount of the reversal is recognized in the statement of operations in the period the reversal occurs.

(g) Pension Expenses

The Centre's contributions for current and past service benefits are expensed in the year in which they became due.

(h) Allocation of Funding Project Administration Expenses

The Centre incurs various expenses that are related to administrating various funding projects. These allocated expenses are based on a consistent basis that aims to estimate the proportion of benefit.

(CONT'D)

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT'D)

(i) Use of estimates

The financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. The precise determination of many assets and liabilities is dependent on future events. As a result, the preparation of financial statements for a period involves the use of estimates and approximations which have been made using careful judgment. Actual results could differ from those estimates and approximations. Significant estimates pertain to the physical and economic lives of tangible capital assets, the recoverability of accounts receivable, and the administrative expenses related to various funding projects.

2. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents includes \$6,376,064 (2022 - \$3,560,216) of unspent externally restricted grant funding as disclosed in *Note 5*.

3. TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

ANOIDEE GAI TIAE AGGETG	 Cost	 cumulated nortization	Net Boo 2023	ok Va	lue 2022
Computer hardware Leasehold improvements Equipment Video equipment	\$ 44,970 190,020 169,591 101,541	\$ 38,478 190,020 169,591 101,541	\$ 6,492 - - -	\$	20,385
	\$ 506,122	\$ 499,630	\$ 6,492	\$	20,385

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2023

4. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES	 2023	2022
Trade Salaries and benefits Local Authorities Pension Plan Accrued vacation pay	\$ 745,564 32,628 15,971	\$ 1,478,509 24,685 1,656 38,069
	\$ 794,163	\$ 1,542,919

5. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS

Deferred contributions are unspent externally restricted funds that are related to expenses to be incurred in a future year. Changes in the deferred contributions balance are as follows:

	2023	2022
Balance, Beginning of Year	\$ 3,560,216	\$ 2,793,379
Add: Contributions received during the year	8,420,631	9,812,874
Less: Amount recognized as revenue during the year	(5,604,783)	(9,046,037)
Balance, End of Year	\$ 6,376,064	\$ 3,560,216
The balance is comprised of the following: Alberta Digital Economy Program Canada Digital Adoption Program Government of Alberta core funding Immigrant Entrepreneur Indigenous Business Development Services Community Futures Alberta Edmonton Regional Innovation Networks	\$ 3,251,020 2,236,360 425,000 254,225 192,792 16,667	\$ 3,310,009 - 75,566 45,345 33,333 95,963
	\$ 6,376,064	\$ 3,560,216

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2023

6. CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

The Centre has an operating lease for its premises requiring payments in the amount of \$5,579 per month, under a lease expiring in October 2023. The minimum annual lease payments for the next year are as follows:

2024 39,054 39,054

7. OTHER FUNDING

	2023	2022
Canada Digital Adoption Program (Schedule IV) Alberta Digital Economy Program (Schedule II) Indigenous Business Development Services program (Schedule I) Immigrant Entrepreneur (Schedule III)	\$ 3,593,495 607,188 237,800 190,875	\$ 29,407 6,689,990 254,505 137,114
Canada-Alberta Job Grant	507	976
Business Improvement Area Program (Schedule VI) Edmonton Regional Innovation Networks program (Schedule V)		102,543 79,833
	\$ 4,629,865	\$ 7,294,368

8. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

The Centre is economically dependent on Western Economic Diversification as it receives core funding in the amount of \$901,669 (2022 - \$901,669).

The Centre is economically dependent on Minister of Jobs, Economy and Innovation as it receives core funding in the amount of \$850,000 (2022 - \$850,000).

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2023

9. LOCAL AUTHORITIES PENSION PLAN

Employees of the Centre participate in the Local Authorities Pension Plan (LAPP), which is covered by the Public Sector Pension Plans Act. LAPP is financed by employer and employee contributions and investment earnings of the LAPP Fund.

The Centre is required to make current service contributions to LAPP of 8.45% of pensionable earnings up to the Canada Pension Plan year's maximum pensionable earnings and 12.80% for the excess. Employees of the Centre are required to make current service contributions of 7.45% of pensionable earnings up to the year's maximum pensionable earnings and 11.80% on pensionable earnings above this amount.

Total current and past service contributions made by the Centre to LAPP in March 31, 2023 were \$137,137 (2022 - \$140,560). Total current and past service contributions made by the employees of the Centre to the LAPP in March 31, 2023 were \$126,215 (2022 - \$120,069).

At December 31, 2022, LAPP disclosed an actuarial surplus of \$12.67 billion (2021 - \$11.92 billion surplus).

10. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The following analysis provides information about the Centre's risk exposure and concentration as of March 31, 2023.

(a) Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from the potential that a counter party will fail to perform its obligations. The Centre is exposed to credit risk from customers. The Centre's primary customers are Federal and Provincial governments which minimizes credit risk.

(b) Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk the Centre will encounter difficulties in meeting its financial liability obligations. The Centre is exposed to this risk mainly in respect of its receipt of funds from its customers, funding agencies, and accounts payable. The Centre mitigates this risk by monitoring cash activities and expected outflows through budgeting and maintaining investments that may be converted to cash in the near-term if unexpected cash outflows arise.

There are no significant changes in the risk profile of the financial instruments of the Centre from prior year.

Schedule of Indigenous Business Development Services Revenue and Expenses

For the Year Ended March 31, 2023

Schedule I

	2023	2022
REVENUE		
Grants	\$ 237,800	\$ 254,505
Fees for services and materials		- 10,428
	237,800	264,933
EXPENSES		
Salaries and benefits	200,886	238,066
Advertising and promotion	14,905	13,313
Travel	6,269	1,339
Rent	4,220	-
Contracted services	3,358	1,000
Client outreach	2,655	-
Memberships	2,254	1,623
Equipment maintenance	1,295	,
Office	1,118	
Telephone and internet	840	,
Professional fees		- 2,607
Training		- 785
Insurance		- 339
	237,800	264,933
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$	- \$ -

THE BUSINESS LINK BUSINESS SERVICE CENTRE Schedule of Alberta Digital Economy Program Revenue and Expenses

For the Year Ended March 31, 2023

	2023	2022
REVENUE		
Grants	<u>\$ 607,188</u>	\$ 6,689,990
EXPENSES		
Salaries and benefits	285,476	90,326
Contracted services	164,008	2,771,709
Grants paid out	65,000	3,765,607
Advertising and promotion	50,448	16,716
Travel	11,943	578
Rent	11,012	6,641
Office	4,485	678
Training	4,200	21,615
Equipment maintenance	3,898	3,461
Memberships	2,878	684
Professional fees	1,483	9,887
Telephone and internet Client outreach	1,260	1,056
	987 110	-
Bank charges and interest Insurance		339
	607,188	6,689,990
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ -	\$ -

Schedule II

THE BUSINESS LINK BUSINESS SERVICE CENTRE Schedule of Immigrant Entrepreneur Revenue and Expenses For the Year Ended March 31, 2023

Schedule III

	2023	3 :	2022
REVENUE			
Grants	\$ 190,	875 \$	137,114
Sponsorships	8,	000	-
Fees for services and materials		-	4,855
EXPENSES			
Salaries and benefits	163,	606	111,508
Contracted services		585	12,399
Travel	-	333	· -
Rent		404	7,594
Advertising and promotion	4,	251	4,437
Client outreach	2,	376	-
Professional fees	1,	039	2,607
Equipment maintenance		861	836
Telephone and internet		420	1,337
Memberships		-	912
Insurance			339
	198,	875	141,969
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$	- \$	-

THE BUSINESS LINK BUSINESS SERVICE CENTRE Schedule of Canada Digital Adoption Program Revenue and Expenses

For the Year Ended March 31, 2023

Schedule IV

	2023	2022	
REVENUE			
Grants	\$ 3,593,495	\$ 29,407	
EXPENSES			
Contracted services	2,474,558	8,217	
Salaries and benefits	491,661	21,168	
Grants paid out	474,207	, -	
Office	65,012	-	
Advertising and promotion	29,012	-	
Equipment maintenance	17,620	-	
Rent	12,377	-	
Travel	11,861	-	
Memberships	8,312	-	
Telephone and internet	3,701	-	
Professional fees	2,658	-	
Client outreach	1,897	-	
Bank charges and interest	493	22	
Training	126		
	3,593,495	29,407	
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ -	\$ -	

THE BUSINESS LINK BUSINESS SERVICE CENTRE Schedule of Edmonton Regional Innovation Networks Revenue and Expenses For the Year Ended March 31, 2023

SCHEDULE V

DEVENUE		2023	2022
REVENUE Fees for services and materials Grants	\$	4,797 -	\$ 79,833
EXPENSES			
Bank charges and interest		107	685
Equipment maintenance		36	1,147
Salaries and benefits		-	69,222
Rent		-	7,588
Professional fees		-	900
Telephone and internet		-	291
Advertising and promotion	_	-	
		143	79,833
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$	4,654	\$

THE BUSINESS LINK BUSINESS SERVICE CENTRE Schedule of Business Improvement Area Program Revenue and Expenses For the Year Ended March 31, 2023

SCHEDULE VI

		2023		2022
REVENUE Grants	\$		-	\$ 102,543
EXPENSES Salaries and benefits Contracted services Advertising and promotion Rent Memberships Office Telephone and internet Equipment maintenance				53,177 37,318 16,027 5,696 456 336 241 207
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	<u> </u>		-	\$ 113,458 (10,915)