SPORT WOOD BUFFALO

ASSOCIATION | EST. 2025

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Growing Sport. Building Community.

Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo, Alberta
Prepared by: Karly Anderson, Executive Director

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A Message from the Executive Director

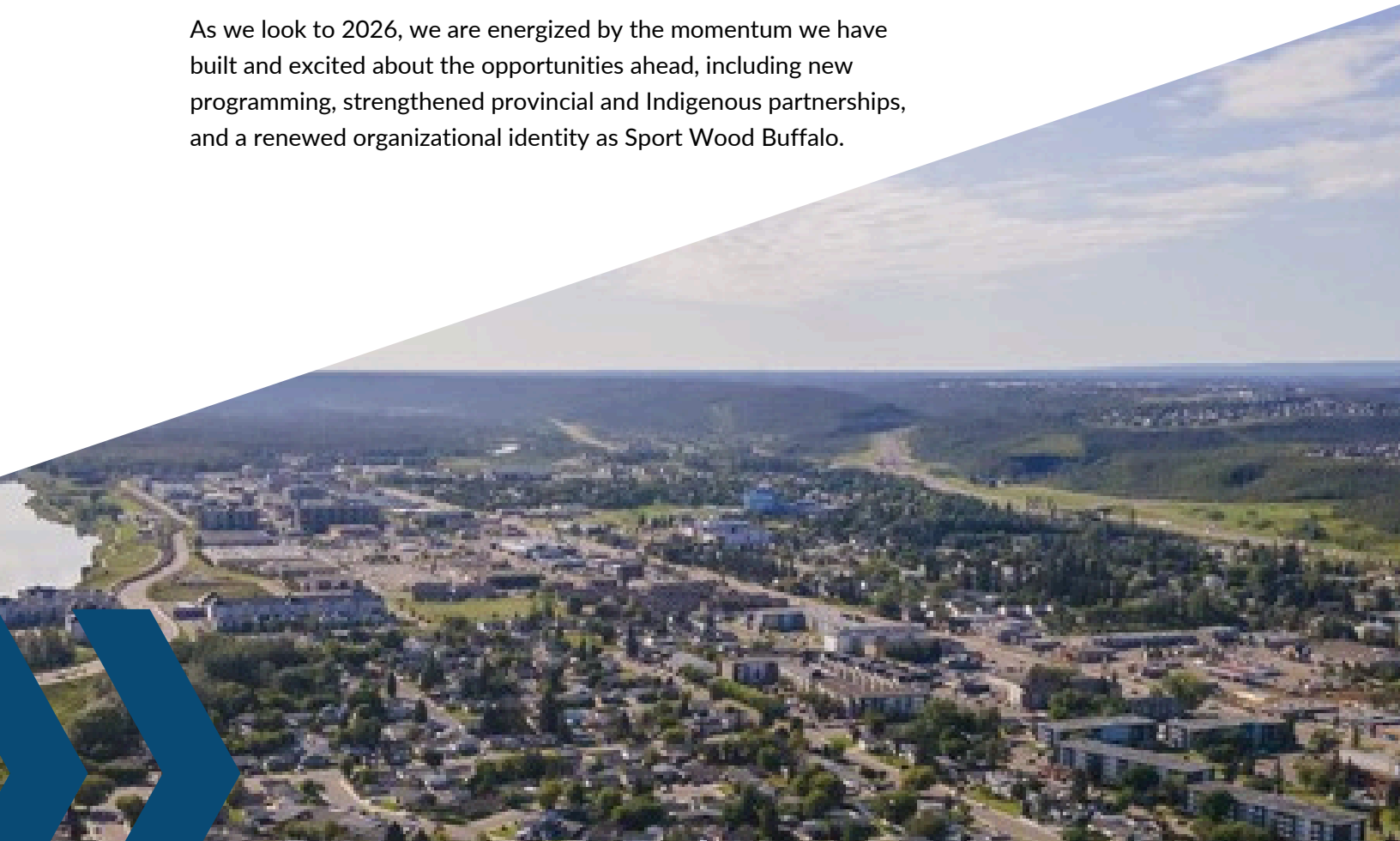
2025 has been a transformative year for Sport Wood Buffalo. From launching new flagship programs to hosting major community events, expanding our reach into rural communities, and laying the groundwork for our exciting rebrand and merger, our team has worked tirelessly to make sport more accessible, inclusive, and vibrant across the Wood Buffalo region.



Karly Anderson
Executive Director
Sport Wood Buffalo

This annual report captures the highlights of our work across the full year — from the energy of the spring Sport Passport programs and the inspiring Girls with Grit Summit, to the celebratory Multi-Sport Awards Banquet and the 2028 Alberta Summer Games Bid Tour in the fall. Every program, every partnership, and every participant reflects our commitment to growing sport and building community.

As we look to 2026, we are energized by the momentum we have built and excited about the opportunities ahead, including new programming, strengthened provincial and Indigenous partnerships, and a renewed organizational identity as Sport Wood Buffalo.




of the Year!
Ringette
2025

A Message from the Board Chair

Community members of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo have seen a landmark year for sport in 2025. The year marked the creation of Sport Wood Buffalo, bringing together the Wood Buffalo Sport Connection and the Wood Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame under a single organization dedicated to sport development, sport recognition, and community impact.

This milestone represents more than a merger of two organizations. It reflects a shared vision to strengthen sport across our region, preserve our sporting history, and create a sustainable organization that can better serve athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, sport organizations, and facilities for years to come.

As a Board, we are incredibly proud of what has been accomplished this year. Through programs such as the Youth, Women's, and 55+ Sport Passport initiatives, Girls with Grit, our Multi-Sport Awards Banquet (including our Hall of Fame inductees), and our growing sport attraction efforts, Sport Wood Buffalo continues to create opportunities for participation, connection, and excellence throughout our region. The new partnership with Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo Economic Development and Tourism further positions our community to become a leading destination for sport hosting and events.

Equally encouraging is the organization's financial growth. In 2025, Sport Wood Buffalo increased its overall revenues to more than $381,000 and ended the year with a surplus of $27,062, creating a stronger foundation for future sustainability and expanded services. This success did not happen by accident. It is a direct reflection of the dedication, professionalism, and hard work of our staff team, who successfully secured new funding opportunities, strengthened partnerships, and delivered meaningful programs and services for the community.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to our staff, volunteers, member organizations, funders, sponsors, and community partners. Your commitment and support make everything we do possible.

We would also like to recognize and thank Jason Pottle, Simon Adams, Andrew Boutilier, and Karissa Rymes for their years of service and contribution to the growth of the Wood Buffalo Sport Connection. Their dedication helped build the foundation from which Sport Wood Buffalo has emerged.

As we look ahead to 2026, we are excited to continue building on this momentum through strategic planning, governance improvements, Hall of Fame development, and expanded opportunities to strengthen sport throughout our region. While we are proud of how far we have come, we know we are only beginning to realize the full potential of Sport Wood Buffalo.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we are growing sport, celebrating achievement, and building community.



Jon Turner
Board Chair
Sport Wood Buffalo





THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

144
Participants at the Girls with Grit Summit

150+
MSAB Guests

44
Women's Sport Mixer Attendees

25
Cultural Training Participants

128+
Youth Sport Passport Registrations

5
Sport Hosting Bids Completed

30+
Sport Organizations Engaged

40
Fort Chip Try-It Day Students

Our Programs



Youth Sport Passport

The Youth Sport Passport offered children structured opportunities to try new sports and build physical literacy throughout the year, serving approximately 128 registered participants across three sessions.

Winter Session: Ages 6-8: 20 participants | Ages 9-11: 17 participan**ts**
Spring Session: Ages 6-8: 19 participants | Ages 9-11: **13** participants
Fall Session: Ages 6-8: **26** registrations | Ages 8-11: **32** registrations
Sports included: Yoga, Snowshoe, Cross Country Ski, Ninja/Bouldering, Volleyball, Judo, Pickleball, Handball, Disc Golf, Basketball, and Hockey delivered in partnership with ten different sport organization.

Women's Sport Passport

The Women's Sport Passport provided adult women with accessible sport opportunities in a welcoming environment. Children were also supported through a free physical literacy activity during women's sessions.
Winter Session: **21** full registrations and **16** drop-in participants; 30 children in accompanying physical literacy program
Spring Session: 24 full registrations and **3** drop-in participants; 21 children in accompanying physical literacy program
Fall Session: 16 full registrations and 16 drop-in participants; 36 children in accompanying physical literacy program
Sports Included: Volleyball, Rugby, Pickleball, Floor Hockey, Disc Golf, Soccer, Basketball, Circus Skills, Archery, and 55+ in partnership with seven different sport organizations.

Passport to Wellness (55+ Sport Passport)

Launched in 2025, the Passport to Wellness Program (now known as the 55+ Sport Passport) served 23 participants in the winter season and 34 participants in its fall session, offering accessible, social sport opportunities for older adults contributing to the overall physical and social wellbeing of participants across the region. Sports included Floor Shuffleboard, Functional Fitness, Intergenerational Cornhole, Play and Learn sessions, Curling, pickleball, bocce ball, carpet bowling and snowshoe — delivered in partnership with MacDonald Island Park, St. Aidan's Society, YMCA Eagle Ridge, Golden Years Society, Northern Lights Cornhole, and the Curling Club.

Athlete Performance Lab

Officially launched in Q2 2025, with 11 athletes registered in its inaugural intake. The program emphasizes strength, movement literacy, and sport readiness, providing athletes with evidence-informed training to reach their potential. A partnership with Norfort Gymnastics is also underway to create customized team training opportunities for Trampoline and Tumbling athletes.

3x3 Women's Basketball League

Our first full season of Women's 3x3 Basketball wrapped up with 11 women participating. The league offered an inclusive, fun format for women to stay active and connected through competitive but aaccessible play. This program was offered as an incubator program to help a league get started, with a group now running the Women's Basketball League independently.

Sport Taping Clinic

Sport Wood Buffalo delivered its inaugural Sport Taping Clinic this year, serving 6 attendees. This capacity-building initiative helps sport leaders and volunteers deliver safer, more effective programming at the grassroots level.



Events & Community Highlights

Girls with Grit Summits

The full June Girls with Grit Summit was one of the year's flagship events, welcoming 144 girls aged 8 to 13 for a full day of empowerment, sport, and connection.

Funding & Support: *$9,500 in cash sponsorships and $29,500 in grant funding secured; 14 Gift-in-Kind donors; 11 sport organizations provided door prizes*

Summit Impact

- 16 participants from visible minority groups and 6 participants with visible or non-visible disabilities were welcomed
- 9 participants received full fee waivers through our financial assistance program
- Rural participation supported with travel assistance from Fort Chipewyan (flight) and Janvier (bus)
- Partnered with 14 local organizations to deliver engaging breakout sessions
- Introduced the "True Sport Award" sponsored by SportChek, celebrating sport values among peers

*FUN FACT: We also hosted **two MINI summits** in partnership with 5 sport organizations that an additional **75 girls** participated in!*

Women's Sports Mixer – Fall 2025

Sport Wood Buffalo successfully hosted the Women's Sports Mixer, celebrating and connecting female leaders in sport and recreation. The event attracted 44 registered participants and featured Olympian Beckie Scott as the keynote speaker, offering valuable insight and inspiration. Participants enjoyed networking opportunities and free professional headshots. Hosted in partnership with Acden, the event strengthened relationships among women leaders across the region.

Multi-Sport Awards Banquet – Fall 2025

The annual Multi-Sport Awards Banquet celebrated local athletic excellence, welcoming approximately 150 guests. The evening recognized four inductees into the Wood Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame and honoured nine award recipients across multiple sport categories. The event generated $15,422 in revenue and provided a powerful platform to celebrate the achievements of athletes, coaches, volunteers, and sport organizations throughout the region.



Fort Chipewyan Try-It Day – May 2025

In partnership with the Regional Recreation Corporation, Sport Wood Buffalo hosted a Try-It Day in Fort Chipewyan on May 8, 2025. Five local sport organizations traveled to deliver programming including Disc Golf, E-Sports, Volleyball, Basketball, and Ball Hockey. A total of 40 students participated, and plans are already underway for a second Try-It Day in Fort Chipewyan.

SportFEST – Summer 2025

SportFEST was a month-long community engagement initiative delivered across four streams: Kick Off at Rock the Rails (8 sport organizations registered; ~3,000 overall attendees), a Newcomer Sport Tour (7 participants, overwhelmingly positive feedback), Try-It Days (7 activations across 6 sports; ~45 participants), and ParticipACTION Bingo. Key lessons learned will shape stronger community ownership models in future editions.

Try-It Days

Later in 2025, we also partnered with Ptarmigan Ski Club and Beyond Adventures for a cross-country try is that engaged 24 people!

Advocacy & Sector Engagement

2028 Alberta Summer Games Bid

On October 15, 2025, Sport Wood Buffalo participated in the 2028 Alberta Summer Games Bid Tour. Executive Director Karly Anderson served as Director of Sport for the bid, welcoming four representatives from Sport Participation and Recreation (SPAR) to tour regional facilities and assess Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo as a candidate host city — a significant moment for our community on the provincial stage.

2027 Alberta 55+ Provincial Summer Games

Sport Wood Buffalo contributed to the successful bid for the 2027 Alberta 55+ Provincial Summer Games with Christina Baker serving as a member of the Bid Committee. Following the award, Sport Wood Buffalo continues its involvement as Sport Coordinator on the Host Organizing Committee, supporting planning and delivery of the event.



Sport Bids Completed

Sport Wood Buffalo supported or led the following competitive bids in 2025:

- Ringette Worlds
- Ball Hockey Worlds
- Track and Field Nationals
- Baseball Nationals
- Spo Ho X 2027

Event Hosting & Leadership

Sport Wood Buffalo supported planning and delivery of provincial events through participation on host committees, including 3A Basketball Provincials and Ringette Provincials (U14A and U19B divisions). The organization also contributed in a connector capacity for Robotics Provincials and Women's and Men's Artistic Gymnastics Provincials.

Regional Tour

Sport Wood Buffalo hosted a regional tour for representatives from the Indigenous Sport Council of Alberta, Soccer Alberta, and Basketball Alberta. The tour showcased local facilities — including rural communities — with a goal of building stronger provincial connections. A key outcome was Soccer Alberta expressing interest in designating Conklin as a Team Alberta training hub.

Indigenous Cultural Awareness Training

On October 6, 2025, Sport Wood Buffalo partnered with Fuse Social to bring an Indigenous Cultural Awareness Training session with Holly Fortier to the community. 25 people registered and participated. Feedback was positive and interest was expressed in hosting further training, reflecting our commitment to doing meaningful work in rural and Indigenous communities with intent, understanding, and respect.

Cost of Competition Research

Sport Wood Buffalo has been collaborating with Grande Prairie Sport Connection on a joint Cost of Competition Research Project, aimed at identifying and understanding the financial barriers athletes and families face in competitive sport. Once finalized, the report will support advocacy efforts, policy recommendations, and funding discussions aimed at reducing cost barriers and improving equitable access to sport across northern Alberta.

Sector Conferences

Sport Summit, Calgary: Staff participated in discussions contributing to the establishment of a provincial sport network focused on collaborative advocacy and strengthening council capacity.
Spo Ho, Regina: Staff facilitated networking and initiated planning for a future familiarization (FAM) tour to showcase regional facilities and attract provincial and national sport partnerships.



Financial Summary

Sport Wood Buffalo closed 2025 on a strong financial footing. Total revenues grew significantly year-over-year — from $201,346 in 2024 to $381,310 in 2025 — reflecting the organization's expanding programs, deepened partnerships, and successful grant diversification. The year ended with a surplus of $27,062, bringing cumulative net assets to $98,230. Figures below are based on draft financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2025.

Revenue Source	Amount
RMWB Municipal Grant	$150,000
Government of Alberta Grant	$46,800
Other Funding, Grants & Donations	$150,766
Multi-Sport Awards Banquet	$25,424
Event Revenue	$8,320
Total Revenue	**$381,310**

$381,310	$354,456	$27,062	$98,230
Total Revenue	Total Expenses	Year-End Surplus	Net Assets

Note: Financial statements are in draft form pending final audit approval.

Organizational Growth

New Team Members

In Q2 2025, Sport Wood Buffalo welcomed two new team members to support growing programming needs:



Kevin Samuels
Sport Development Coordinator
Leading athlete initiatives and building sport partnerships



Ashlyn Rex
Summer Student
Assisting with summer programming and administrative support

Rebrand and Merger

2025 marked the transition toward the Sport Wood Buffalo brand, reflecting the organization's renewed vision and growing regional presence. Planning for the rebranding and merger implementation — including public messaging and communications rollout — is underway for launch in the coming months.

WOOD BUFFALO SPORT CONNECTION

Wood Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame

Sport Attraction Mandate

Sport Wood Buffalo continued work on the Sport Attraction Mandate in partnership with Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo Economic Development and Tourism (FMWBEDT), representing a projected partnership value of $80,000. Staff attended Spo Ho X in Regina as part of this mandate and assisted with bids for national events, including a National Bid with a new Athletics Club.

Looking Ahead: Priorities for 2026

Financial Alignment

Reconciling year-end financials, streamlining tracking across platforms, ensuring full grant utilization, and developing a financial management policy to standardize budget procedures.

2026 Program Planning

Finalizing all program structures and staffing ahead of funding approval. Meeting with key stakeholders, sponsors, and councillors to align program priorities with community needs.

Rebranding & Merger

Launching the Sport Wood Buffalo brand publicly, finalizing merger communications, and rolling out marketing that highlights the organization's renewed vision and regional presence.

We are grateful for the support of our community, our partners, our funders, and our dedicated team. 2025 was a year of growth, impact, and possibility — and we are just getting started.



Thank You to Our Partners & Supporters

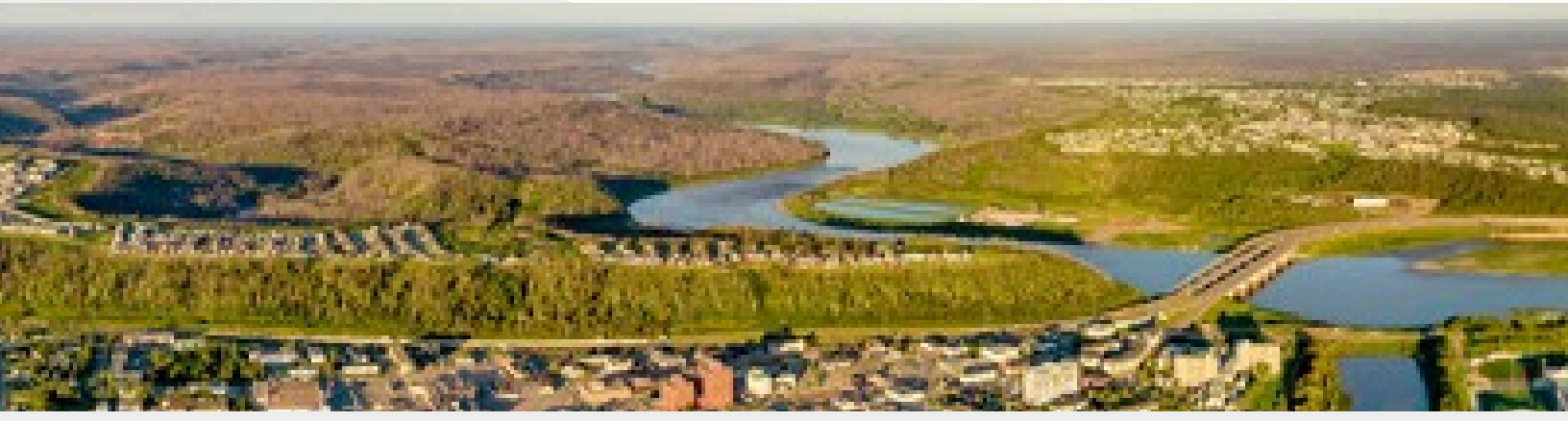
Core Partners

Three Rivers Volleyball Club | Ni-Ten Judo Club | Ptarmigan Nordic Ski Club | Top Shelf Development | MacDonald Island Park | YMCA Eagle Ridge | Girls Inc. | Acden | SportChek | Keyano College | Fuse Social | MadCap Memories | Northern Trail Blazers | Wood Buffalo PL | Regional Recreation Corporation | Indigenous Sport Council of Alberta | Soccer Alberta | Basketball Alberta | Grande Prairie Sport Connection | FMWBEDT | St. Aidan's Society | Golden Years Society | Northern Lights Cornhole | Curling Club | 55+ Basketball

Additional Community Supporters

Rotary Links Golf Club | Property Doctor Maintenance | TJ Campbell of Royale lePage | PlayON Space | Vista Ridge | Banquet/PG-Eh | Kid Sport | Big Brother Big Sister | SSWC | Hangingstone | Norfort Gymnastics | Bowmans Martial Arts | MIP | Hafid Soccer Training | WBDGA | Irish Dancing | Alberta Handball | Fort McMurray Oil Giants | Fort McMurray Minor Baseball | Rollerderby

None of what we accomplished in 2025 would have been possible without the incredible network of organizations, businesses, and community members who showed up alongside us. Thank you.



Financial Reports

SPORT WOOD BUFFALO ASSOCIATION
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
Year Ended December 31, 2025

	2025	2024
REVENUES		
RMWB grant	$ 150,000	$ -
Government of Alberta grant	46,800	16,700
Other Funding, grants and donations	150,766	157,112
Sport Banquet	25,424	27,534
Event revenue	8,320	-
	381,310	201,346
EXPENSES		
Wages and wage costs	202,336	119,594
Meals and entertainment	37,471	783
Banquet expense	27,779	26,995
Office	19,728	2,448
Travel	17,320	2,082
Sub-contracts	16,487	-
Rental	10,302	1,308
Supplies & program expenses	9,452	25,606
Accounting fees	5,645	6,266
Unreclaimable GST/HST expense	1,058	-
Insurance	4,529	3,418
Telephone and internet	1,432	696
Training	516	1,000
Bank charges	331	642
Memberships	49	1,846
Amortization	21	26
Penalties and interest on source deductions	-	81
	354,456	192,791
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS	26,854	8,555
OTHER INCOME		
Interest income	208	722
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	$ 27,062	$ 9,277

SPORT WOOD BUFFALO ASSOCIATION
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
Year Ended December 31, 2025

	General Fund	Tangible Capital Asset Fund	2025	2024
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	$ 71,147	$ 21	**$ 71,168**	$ 61,891
Excess of revenues over expenses	27,062	-	**27,062**	9,277
Amortization	21	(21)	**-**	-
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	$ 98,230	$ -	**$ 98,230**	$ 71,168

SPORT WOOD BUFFALO ASSOCIATION
Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2025

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash *(Note 4)*	**$ 124,005**	$ 73,080
Accounts receivable	**13,452**	8,000
Goods and services tax recoverable	**748**	-
	138,205	81,080
TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS *(Note 5)*	**-**	21
	$ 138,205	$ 81,101
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable	**$ 12,275**	$ 7,683
Deferred income *(Note 7)*	**27,700**	2,250
	39,975	9,933
NET ASSETS		
General fund	**98,230**	71,147
Tangible capital asset fund	**-**	21
	98,230	71,168
	$ 138,205	$ 81,101

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ASSOCIATION | EST. 2025

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