Vehicle and Equipment Management Agency
Financial Statements
March 31, 2021

To the Special Operating Agencies Financing Authority of Vehicle and Equipment Management Agency:

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Vehicle and Equipment Management Agency ("VEMA" or the "Agency"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2021, and the statements of operations, change in net debt 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 accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Agency as at March 31, 2021, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

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 the Agency 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 these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

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

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, 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 Agency'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 Agency or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

Auditor's 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 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.

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.

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- 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 Agency’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 Agency’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 Agency 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.

Winnipeg, Manitoba

MNP LLP

June 23, 2021

Chartered Professional Accountants

Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position
March 31, 2021
(In thousands of dollars)

	March 31 2021	March 31 2020
Financial assets		
Cash and cash equivalents *(Note 5)*	$ 17,317	$ 16,799
Receivables *(Note 6)*	6,802	5,947
Portfolio investments *(Notes 7 and 10)*	1,433	1,433
Inventory for resale	4,854	4,754
	30,406	28,933
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	4,666	3,056
Unearned revenue	386	2,401
Severance pay liability *(Note 7)*	1,208	1,427
Borrowings from the Province of Manitoba *(Note 8)*	70,576	84,810
	76,836	91,694
Net debt	(46,430)	(62,761)
Non-financial assets		
Prepaid expenses	2,656	2,695
Tangible capital assets *(Note 9)*		
Vehicles and equipment	73,666	90,413
Office and shop equipment	244	295
Computer hardware and software	0	1
Leasehold improvements	146	173
	74,056	90,882
	76,712	93,577
Accumulated surplus	$ 30,282	$ 30,816

Designated assets *(Note 10)*
Commitments *(Note 11)*

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Financial Statements

Statement of Operations
Year Ended March 31, 2021
(In thousands of dollars)

	2021 Projected	2021 Actual	2020 Actual
Revenues			
Vehicle and equipment utilization	$ 50,000	**$ 45,338**	$ 50,090
Fuel billings	18,000	**13,025**	17,123
Insurance and other billings	4,900	**5,014**	4,823
Other revenue	9,885	**10,216**	9,446
	82,785	**73,593**	81,482
Expenses			
Salaries and benefits	10,070	**8,786**	9,268
Vehicle and equipment operating expenses	63,805	**58,245**	66,563
Administrative expenses	3,600	**4,476**	3,758
Community service	50	**0**	0
Interest expense	3,900	**2,620**	3,212
	81,425	**74,127**	82,801
Income (loss) from operations	1,360	**(534)**	(1,319)
Transfers during the year to the Province of Manitoba	0	**0**	0
Net income (loss)	1,360	**(534)**	(1,319)
Accumulated surplus, beginning of year	30,816	**30,816**	32,135
Accumulated surplus, end of year	$ 32,176	**$ 30,282**	$ 30,816

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Financial Statements

Statement of Change in Net Debt
Year Ended March 31, 2021
(In thousands of dollars)

	2021 Projected	2021 Actual	2020 Actual
Net income (loss)	$ 1,360	**$ (534)**	$ (1,319)
Tangible capital assets			
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(19,500)	**(8,481)**	(10,663)
Amortization of tangible capital assets	20,500	**23,829**	25,217
Write-down of tangible capital assets *(Note 9)*	0	**0**	2,569
Gain on disposal of tangible capital assets, net	(1,500)	**(969)**	(827)
Proceeds from disposal of tangible capital assets	0	**2,447**	1,919
Net acquisition of tangible capital assets	(500)	**16,826**	18,215
Decrease in prepaid expenses during the year	0	**39**	10
Decrease in net debt	860	**16,331**	16,906
Net debt, beginning of year	(62,761)	**(62,761)**	(79,667)
Net debt, end of year	$ (61,901)	**$ (46,430)**	$ (62,761)

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Financial Statements

Statement of Cash Flows
Year Ended March 31, 2021
(In thousands of dollars)

Cash provided by (applied to):

	2021	2020
Operating activities		
Net loss	$ (534)	$ (1,319)
Amortization of tangible capital assets	23,829	25,217
Write-down of tangible capital assets	0	2,569
Gain on disposal of tangible capital assets, net	(969)	(827)
Increase in severance pay liability	113	122
Payment of severance pay benefits	(332)	(187)
	22,107	25,575
Change in:		
Receivables	(855)	(204)
Inventory for resale	(100)	290
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,610	(477)
Unearned revenue	(2,015)	155
Prepaid expenses	39	10
Cash provided by operating activities	20,786	25,349
Capital activities		
Proceeds from disposal of tangible capital assets	2,447	1,919
Acquisition of vehicles and equipment	(8,481)	(10,594)
Acquisition of office and shop equipment	0	(69)
Cash applied to capital activities	(6,034)	(8,744)
Financing activities		
Borrowings from the Province of Manitoba	6,000	6,000
Debt repayments to the Province of Manitoba	(20,234)	(23,115)
Cash applied to financing activities	(14,234)	(17,115)
Increase (decrease) in cash	518	(510)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	16,799	17,309
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	$ 17,317	$ 16,799

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended March 31, 2021
(In thousands of dollars)

1. Nature of organization

In 1934, Fleet Vehicles was created as a branch of the Manitoba provincial government to provide a centralized fleet management program. On April 1, 1992, the branch was approved as a special operating agency, the first such agency at the provincial level in Canada. Since inception, Fleet Vehicles Agency primarily provided light duty vehicles and equipment services, with ambulances becoming a part of the fleet starting in 2001/02. On April 1, 2003, the Agency assumed responsibility for Radio Services, a division that evaluates and supplies the fixed and mobile radio requirements of its provincial and other clients.

Following the advent of engineering-based highway management in the 1960s, the Province established a highways department. The Mechanical Equipment Services branch emerged as an integral and important part of the department, primarily providing heavy duty vehicles and equipment, as well as warehousing services. The provided services support the safe and efficient delivery of the department's construction, maintenance and preservation programs, and its remote airport programs, in a manner that incorporates the principles of sustainable development and environmental awareness.

Effective April 1, 2009, Fleet Vehicles Agency and the Mechanical Equipment Services branch were amalgamated into a new special operating agency named Vehicle and Equipment Management Agency ("VEMA", or the "Agency"). VEMA combines the acquisition, management and disposal of both light duty and heavy duty vehicles and equipment under common management.

VEMA was a part of the Department of Infrastructure and Transportation through March 31, 2015, under the general direction of the Assistant Deputy Minister, Supply and Services Division, and ultimately the policy direction of the Deputy Minister and the Minister. As of April 1, 2015, the Agency was transitioned to the Department of Finance. In October 2019 the Department of Central Services was created with the Agency now under the direction of the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Procurement and Supply Chain, Central Services and ultimately the policy direction of the Minister of Central Services.

The Agency is financed through the Special Operating Agencies Financing Authority (SOAFA). SOAFA has the mandate to hold and acquire assets required for and resulting from Agency operations. It finances the Agency through repayable loans and working capital advances. This financial framework enables VEMA to operate in a business-like manner according to public policy expectations.

A Management Agreement assigns responsibility to VEMA to manage and account for the Agency-related assets and operations on behalf of SOAFA.

The Agency remains bound by relevant legislation and regulations. It is also bound by administrative policy except where specific exemptions have been provided in its charter in order to meet business objectives.

2. Basis of accounting

The Agency's financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards as recommended by the Public Sector Accounting Board.

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Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended March 31, 2021
(In thousands of dollars)

3. Summary of significant accounting policies

Revenues

Fixed rate lease revenue is recognized on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease. Variable rate lease revenue is recognized monthly based on equipment usage. Service revenue is recognized when the services have been performed. All revenues are recorded on an accrual basis.

Expenses

All expenses incurred for goods and services are recognized at the gross amount on an accrual basis. Government transfers are recognized as expenses in the period in which the transfers are authorized and all eligibility criteria have been met.

Financial assets

(i) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and balances with banks. Bank overdrafts and bank borrowings are considered to be financing activities.

(ii) Receivables

Receivables are recorded at the lower of cost and net realizable value. Amounts doubtful of collection are recorded when there is uncertainty that the amounts will be realized.

(iii) Portfolio investments

Portfolio investments are short-term deposits with original maturities of more than three months. These investments are recognized at cost.

(iv) Inventory for resale

Inventories for resale are valued at the lower of cost and net realizable value. Cost is determined on a weighted average basis.

Liabilities

Liabilities are present obligations as a result of transactions and events occurring prior to the end of the fiscal year. The settlement of the liabilities will result in the future transfer or use of assets or other form of settlement. Liabilities are recorded in the financial statements when there is an appropriate basis of measurement and a reasonable estimate can be made of the amounts involved.

Non-financial assets

Non-financial assets do not normally provide resources to discharge liabilities of the Agency. These assets are normally employed to provide future services.

3. *Summary of significant accounting policies* (continued)

(i) Prepaid expenses

Prepaid expenses are payments for goods or services that will provide economic benefit in future periods. The prepaid amount is recognized as an expense in the year that the goods or services are consumed.

(ii) Tangible capital assets

Tangible capital assets are recognized at cost. Cost includes the purchase price as well as other acquisition costs such as freight charges, transportation, insurance costs and duties. Modifications or additions to the original asset are capitalized and recognized at cost.

The values of tangible capital assets are written down when conditions indicate that the values of the future economic benefits associated with the tangible capital assets are less than their book values.

The costs of tangible capital assets, less their estimated residual values, are amortized over their useful lives in the following manner:

Vehicles and equipment	30%, declining balance method
Vehicles and equipment (signed lease agreement)	Straight-line over term of lease
Vehicles and equipment (attachments)	Straight-line over 11 years
Office and shop equipment	20%, declining balance method
Computer hardware and software	20%, straight-line method
Leasehold improvements	10%, straight-line method

Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingencies at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amount of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Judgment is required in determining the future economic benefit of all non-financial assets, especially in the estimation of the useful lives of tangible capital assets. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

4. *Financial instruments and financial risk management*

Measurement

Financial instruments are classified into one of the two measurement categories: (a) fair value; or (b) cost or amortized cost.

The Agency records its financial assets at cost. Financial assets include cash and cash equivalents, receivables and portfolio investments. The Agency also records its financial liabilities at cost. Financial liabilities include accounts payable and accrued liabilities, and borrowings from the Province of Manitoba.

Gains and losses on financial instruments measured at fair value are recorded in accumulated surplus as re-measurement gains and losses until realized. Upon disposition of the financial instruments, the cumulative

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Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended March 31, 2021
(In thousands of dollars)

4. *Financial instruments and financial risk management* (continued)

re-measurement gains and losses are reclassified to the statement of operations. Gains and losses on financial instruments measured at cost or amortized cost are recognized in the statement of operations in the period the gain or loss occurs.

As the Agency has no financial instruments measured at fair value, it did not incur any re-measurement gains and losses during the year ended March 31, 2021 (2020 - $nil).

Financial risk management – overview

The Agency has exposure to the following risks from its use of financial instruments: credit risk; liquidity risk; market risk; and interest rate risk.

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument fails to discharge an obligation and causes financial loss to another party. Financial instruments which potentially subject the Agency to credit risk consist principally of cash and cash equivalents, receivables and portfolio investments.

The maximum exposure of the Agency to credit risk as of March 31, 2021, is:

	2021	2020
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 17,317	$ 16,799
Receivables	6,802	5,947
Portfolio investments	1,433	1,433
	$ 25,552	$ 24,179

Cash and cash equivalents, and portfolio investments: The Agency is not exposed to significant credit risk as these amounts are primarily held by the Province of Manitoba.

Receivables: The Agency is not exposed to significant credit risk since the receivables are with departments, agencies and Crown corporations with the Manitoba provincial government, or are with organizations within the broader public sector that are funded in part by the provincial or federal governments. The receivable balances are from a large client base, and payment in full is typically collected when it is due. An allowance for doubtful accounts was not recorded as of March 31, 2021 (2020 - $nil).

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Agency will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they come due.

The Agency manages liquidity risk by balancing its cash flow requirements with draw downs from its available working capital advances and its other borrowings from the Province of Manitoba. Regular determinations of the Agency's working capital advances limit and its other debt requirements are reviewed by the Province of Manitoba to ensure that adequate funding is available as required to enable the Agency to meet its obligations as they come due. The contractual maturities of the Agency's borrowings from the Province of Manitoba are included in note 8. Working capital advances are due on demand.

(In thousands of dollars)

4. *Financial instruments and financial risk management* (continued)

Market risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices, such as interest rates and foreign exchange rates, will affect the Agency's income from operations or the fair values of its financial instruments.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The interest rate exposure relates to cash and cash equivalents, portfolio investments, working capital advances, and to other borrowings.

The interest rate risk on cash and cash equivalents and working capital advances is considered to be low because of their short term nature. The interest rate risk on portfolio investments is considered low as the original deposits are reinvested at rates for investments with similar terms and conditions.

The Agency manages its interest rate risk on long term borrowings through the exclusive use of fixed rate terms on each amount borrowed.

5. *Cash and cash equivalents*

	March 31 2021	March 31 2020
Cash	**$ 6,924**	$ 1,621
Short term investments	**10,393**	15,178
	$ 17,317	$ 16,799

6. *Receivables*

	March 31 2021	March 31 2020
Trade	**$ 3,916**	$ 2,976
Accrued trade	**2,261**	2,346
Insurance rebate receivable	**625**	625
	$ 6,802	$ 5,947

7. *Severance pay liability*

The Agency records accumulated severance pay benefits for its employees. Severance pay is determined by multiplying years of service, to a maximum of 15 years, by the weekly salary at date of retirement, provided the employee has reached nine years of service and retires from the Province. There is also additional severance pay for employees with 20 or more years of accumulated service. The estimate is based upon the method of calculation set by the Province of Manitoba.

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Year Ended March 31, 2021
(In thousands of dollars)

7. *Severance pay liability* (continued)

The Province has accepted responsibility for the severance benefits accumulated by the Agency's employees through specific dates. For the Fleet Vehicles Agency employees, that responsibility is reflected through the payment by the Province of $270 on March 31, 2009. For the Mechanical Equipment Services employees, that responsibility is reflected through the payment by the Province of $1,163 on July 31, 2010. The $1,433 in combined payments is held in an interest bearing trust account until the cash is required to discharge the related liability.

An actuarial valuation report was completed for the severance pay liability as of April 1, 2020. The report provides a formula to update the liability on an annual basis. In accordance with the formula, the Agency's liability is recalculated annually, with payments to retiring employees no longer with the Agency or the Province charged against the liability.

Significant long-term actuarial assumptions used in the April 1, 2020, valuation, and in the determination of the March 31, 2021, present value of the accrued severance benefit obligations were:

Annual rate of return	
Inflation component	2.00%
Real rate of return	4.00%
	6.00%
Assumed salary increase rates	
Annual productivity increase	1.00%
Annual general salary increase	2.50%
	3.50%

Actuarial valuation report updates are prepared every three years. Actuarial adjustments that result from the updates are absorbed by VEMA as a part of the benefits and interest accrued during the year in which the adjustment amounts are known.

The severance pay liability as of March 31 included the following components:

	2021	2020
Severance pay liability, beginning of year	$ 1,427	$ 1,492
Benefits and interest accrued during the year	113	122
Severance benefits paid during the year	(332)	(187)
	$ 1,208	$ 1,427

(In thousands of dollars)

8. Borrowings from the Province of Manitoba

By virtue of the Management Agreement, the Agency is responsible for the repayment of debts assumed by the Special Operating Agencies Financing Authority (SOAFA) on its behalf. SOAFA holds the debt instruments listed in this Note on behalf of Vehicle and Equipment Management Agency.

Borrowings obtained through the use of available Loan Act authority are repayable in semi-annual instalments of principal and interest, as follows:

Interest rate	Semi-annual payment ($)	Maturity date	**2021**	2020
1.88%	631	September 30, 2020	**0**	626
1.81%	265	March 31, 2021	**0**	523
2.13%	530	March 31, 2021	**0**	1,043
2.00%	267	September 30, 2021	**264**	784
2.31%	269	September 30, 2021	**266**	789
1.88%	789	September 30, 2021	**782**	2,324
2.25%	478	March 31, 2022	**941**	1,861
2.80%	526	September 30, 2022	**1,536**	2,525
2.63%	569	September 30, 2022	**1,663**	2,736
2.44%	338	March 31, 2023	**1,311**	1,943
2.88%	540	March 31, 2023	**2,086**	3,085
4.88%	237	September 30, 2023	**1,103**	1,508
3.40%	102	September 30, 2023	**486**	669
2.63%	488	September 30, 2023	**2,346**	3,243
2.75%	246	September 30, 2023	**1,179**	1,629
2.63%	349	March 31, 2024	**1,998**	2,630
2.75%	539	March 31, 2024	**3,082**	4,054
5.00%	334	March 31, 2024	**1,842**	2,398
4.88%	192	March 31, 2024	**1,060**	1,380
4.50%	162	September 30, 2024	**1,036**	1,304
2.30%	516	September 30, 2024	**3,451**	4,387
2.75%	263	March 31, 2025	**1,977**	2,439
4.00%	201	September 30, 2025	**1,640**	1,966
3.90%	158	September 30, 2025	**1,290**	1,548
4.55%	162	March 31, 2026	**1,437**	1,687
3.21%	357	March 31, 2026	**3,273**	3,867
1.70%	528	March 31, 2026	**5,042**	6,000
1.25%	113	March 31, 2026	**1,088**	0
3.00%	354	March 31, 2027	**3,859**	4,438
1.45%	633	March 31, 2027	**7,250**	0
3.30%	213	September 30, 2027	**2,470**	2,805
			55,758	66,191

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Year Ended March 31, 2021
(In thousands of dollars)

8. Borrowings from the Province of Manitoba (continued)

Amount of debt owing in connection with the transfer of Mechanical Equipment Services branch net assets on April 1, 2009

Interest rate	Semi-annual payment ($)	Maturity date	2021	2020
3.25%	127	September 30, 2027	**1,479**	1,681
3.38%	86	March 31, 2028	**1,058**	1,190
5.00%	80	March 31, 2030	**1,144**	1,242
4.88%	2,018	March 31, 2024	**11,137**	14,506
Amount of borrowings owing to the Province of Manitoba at year-end			**$ 70,576**	$ 84,810

Loan Authority of $6,000 designated for Loan Act 2020 was drawn down March 31, 2021. Unused loan authority available as of March 31, 2021, is $0.

All borrowings from the Province of Manitoba are payable in instalments of principal and interest on March 31 and September 30 each year. Interest cost is measured using the effective interest method.

As of March 31, 2021, principal repayments in each of the next five years on the combined outstanding balances owing to the Province of Manitoba are as follows:

2022	21,085
2023	18,357
2024	14,272
2025	6,837
2026	5,448

9. Tangible capital assets

	2021			
Cost	Opening balance	Additions	Disposals & write-downs	**Closing balance**
Vehicles and equipment	$ 263,583	$ 8,481	$ (21,511)	**$ 250,553**
Office and shop equipment	1,743	0	(2)	**1,741**
Computer hardware and software	39	0	0	**39**
Leasehold improvements	1,034	0	0	**1,034**
	266,399	8,481	(21,513)	**253,367**
Accumulated amortization				
Vehicles and equipment	173,170	23,750	(20,033)	**176,887**
Office and shop equipment	1,448	51	(2)	**1,497**
Computer hardware and software	38	1	0	**39**
Leasehold improvements	861	27	0	**888**
	175,517	23,829	(20,035)	**179,311**
Net book value	$ 90,882	$ (15,348)	$ (1,478)	**$ 74,056**

(In thousands of dollars)

9. Tangible capital assets (continued)

	2020			
Cost	Opening balance	Additions	Disposals	**Closing balance**
Vehicles and equipment	$ 265,699	$ 10,594	$ (12,710)	**$ 263,583**
Office and shop equipment	1,678	69	(4)	**1,743**
Computer hardware and software	52	0	(13)	**39**
Leasehold improvements	1,034	0	0	**1,034**
	268,463	10,663	(12,727)	**266,399**
Accumulated amortization				
Vehicles and equipment	157,078	25,140	(9,048)	**173,170**
Office and shop equipment	1,405	48	(5)	**1,448**
Computer hardware and software	50	1	(13)	**38**
Leasehold improvements	833	28	0	**861**
	159,366	25,217	(9,066)	**175,517**
Net book value	$ 109,097	$ (17,123)	$ (1,092)	**$ 90,882**

In the prior year, the Agency recognized a write-down of $2,569 on vehicles and equipment, which was included in vehicle and equipment operating expenses in the statement of operations.

10. Designated assets

The Agency has allocated $1,433 (2020 - $1,433) of its portfolio investments as designated assets for its severance pay liability.

11. Commitments

VEMA has arrangements with the Government of Manitoba for the rental of facilities in Beausejour, Brandon, Dauphin, The Pas, Thompson and Winnipeg, Manitoba. Occupancy charges for each fiscal year including 2020/21 are established annually based on the approved budget for the Accommodation Services division of Central Services, Finance. Occupancy charges for 2021/22 are estimated at $2,500 for the year, to be paid in quarterly instalments during 2021/22.

12. Pension benefits

Employees of VEMA are eligible for pension benefits in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Service Superannuation Act (CSSA), administered by the Civil Service Superannuation Board. The CSSA established a defined benefit plan to provide benefits to employees of the Manitoba Civil Service and to participating agencies of the provincial government, including the Agency, through the Civil Service Superannuation Fund.

The pension liability related to the CSSA's defined benefit plan is included in the Province of Manitoba's financial statements. Accordingly, no provision is required in the Agency's financial statements relating to the effects of participation in the plan by the Agency and its employees.

The Agency is regularly required to pay to the Province an amount equal to the current pension contributions paid by its employees. The amount paid for 2021 was $573 (2020 - $599).

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(In thousands of dollars)

13. Economic conditions

In the prior year, there was a global outbreak of COVID-19 (coronavirus), which has had a significant impact on businesses through the restrictions put in place by the Canadian, provincial and municipal governments regarding travel, business operations and isolation/quarantine orders. At this time, it is unknown the extent of the impact the COVID-19 outbreak may have on the Agency as this will depend on future developments that are highly uncertain and that cannot be predicted with confidence. These uncertainties arise from the inability to predict the ultimate geographic spread of the disease, and the duration of the outbreak, including the duration of travel restrictions, business closures or disruptions, and quarantine/isolation measures that are currently, or may be put, in place by Canada and other countries to fight the virus.