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**Katimavik**

**GOING BEYOND**  
Annual Report 2011-2012



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KATIMAVIK ANNUAL REPORT  
2011-2012

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

- Welcome to Katimavik's 2011-2012 annual report. This report is about saying thank you, letting you know of our accomplishments over the last year, and telling you where we are going.
- We look back on a successful year where our community partners and young volunteers were more satisfied with their experience than ever before. Our mission to promote and instill long-term social and environmental responsibility and civic involvement and to provide job skills to our young people is as relevant and needed today as ever. Our funding diversification efforts bore fruit, and our programming continued to innovate to meet emerging needs. We proudly celebrated our 35th anniversary with volunteer events across the country.
- Unfortunately, we suffered an unexpected blow with the March 29<sup>th</sup> federal government budget announcement. Despite strong words of support and encouragement from both the Prime Minister and the Minister of Canadian Heritage in our previous annual reports, as well as the very positive summative evaluation of our program released by Canadian Heritage mere weeks prior to the budget announcement, the clear alignment with this government's policy aims and priorities, and the indisputable value created by Katimavik for its volunteers and community partners, the federal government cut its funding of Katimavik.
- The government's decision to cancel its funding contract with Katimavik after two years of a three-year agreement, with the

inflammatory words "the Katimavik program will be eliminated" and the statement by the Minister that "Cutting Katimavik was the easiest decision I have ever made" was perplexing and disheartening. Our efforts to understand the decision, to reverse the decision, or to modify the decision to allow us to continue the significant progress we were making toward a broader, sustainable funding model were met with little to no response.

- I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of our supporters who have devoted their time and energy to give voice and action to our collective outrage over the government's action. We appreciate the outpouring of support of the thousands of Canadians who have been touched by our programs. The tweets, the emails and the phone calls are a testament to the attachment people have for Katimavik, and recognition of its values, its benefits and the role it plays in promoting Canada.

- I wish to thank our young volunteers who energetically completed their Katimavik program during this difficult period and to express our sadness and regret to those 576 young Canadians whose plans to become Katimavik volunteers in July 2012 had to be cancelled.

- I want to thank our community partners and host communities, many of which are now hard-pressed to deliver services because of the loss of Katimavik volunteers. Your expressions of support, from speaking at rallies, to writing letters to your MPs, to passing city



council resolutions in support of Katimavik, are hugely appreciated. We hope to be back in your communities soon.

- As a result of the withdrawal of the federal government funding, most of our organization has been dismantled, and I thank all of our Katimavik employees who reacted professionally and worked hard to ensure the successful experience of the last cohort of volunteers funded by Canadian Heritage. We wish you all the best, and hope to see you back with us before too long.

- This by no means announces the end of Katimavik and its programs—we have not been eliminated. We continue to deliver several non-traditional Katimavik projects with strategic focus on the environment, and youth at risk for which we have other sources of funding. Communities are self-funding a Katimavik project in their town, and we are building from our core training curriculum to create other programs that address specific needs. And while we do thank the federal governments of the past for their financial support, we also expect that in the future we will see a return of federal government support. The facts are that Katimavik is a non-partisan organization that provides Canadian taxpayers with an excellent return on investment and is a means for putting into action the principles of self-reliance and volunteerism that all parties in Parliament share.

- In our 2011-2012 operating year Katimavik obtained nearly 1 million dollars in non-governmental funding. This has been part

of a focused, deliberate strategy to diversify our sources of funding. Alumni chapters have been launched and we gratefully thank our alumni for their actions, their donations and their support. We have been working with foundations, individuals and corporations to find the funds we need to carry us into the future. These efforts have now been amplified, and I hope that next year we can advise you of further fund raising success and the regrowth of our program offering. Please help us with your donation too.

- It is an honor to be the Chair of this wonderful organization. I am privileged to lead an excellent Board that has risen to the challenges of this past year and I thank them for their countless hours of dedicated service. I also thank the members of senior management for their commitment and passion for Katimavik. While most staff is leaving due to the funding cut, many plan to volunteer their time as we rebuild – a testament to them and to the value of this organization.

- I look forward to sharing our success stories with you in our 2012-2013 annual report.

- Sincerely,

**KATHERINE RETHY**  
*Chair of the Board of Directors*  
**Katimavik**



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- Dear friends of Katimavik,
- For over 35 years we have been carrying the torch of youth volunteering and learning through service. We know very well that volunteerism gives life meaning, and we are proud to say that over the course of our long history, Katimavik has enabled young Canadians to improve their lives while contributing to making an impact on communities across Canada. Since 1977 Katimavik volunteers have provided close to 21 million hours of volunteer work to not-for-profit organizations from coast-to-coast-to-coast. We firmly believe that individuals who have taken part in Katimavik programs in the past have enriched communities by sharing and improving upon their talents and collaborating toward a common goal. In this year's annual report, we highlight testimonials of some of our volunteers, community partners and parents. In terms of attaining all objectives set for learning and community impact, this has been, once again, yet another successful year for Katimavik.
- We have served Canadian communities in need and encouraged civically-engaged youth, all while building solid job and life skills and contributing real economic value. In the 2011-2012 fiscal year Katimavik brought together more than 1000 young Canadians to contribute to the social and economic well-being of 54 Canadian communities; Katimavik provided over 600 not-for-profit organizations with nearly 660 000 hours of service to benefit those communities.
- At the heart of all our programs are youth transitioning to adulthood; from secondary to post-secondary; from school to work; from living at home or in care to independent living. At the heart of all our programs are not-for-profit community partners that need assistance to provide services to those that need them. We measure the effectiveness of Katimavik by key metrics: achieving performance goals in the programs we operate; operating with the

utmost integrity; training and developing our staff; and working toward the future of the organization. Unfortunately, the year culminated with the terrible news that the federal government repudiated its own three-year funding commitment to the program, which was designed to put Katimavik on a path towards funding diversification. This forced us to cancel the cohort that was set to leave in July 2012, to exit 52 Canadian communities early and disappoint 576 chosen youth and over 600 not-for-profit community organizations. However, Katimavik will continue to engage with Canadians, alumni, businesses and provincial and territorial governments to find solutions for the continuation of the program.

- I wish to take this opportunity to thank Daniel Lapointe, our CEO from October 2010 to May 2012. Daniel was instrumental in helping Katimavik achieve its strategic program goals and in raising our public profile. We wish Daniel much success in his new endeavours.
- We hope you enjoy reading Katimavik's 2011-2012 Annual Report. Over the coming years we will increasingly focus on fundraising efforts to ensure we can steadily grow our reach. In the coming year and beyond, our driving ambition is to remain steadfast in our commitment to service and to ensure that Katimavik not only survives, but thrives. Thanks to the hard work of our dedicated staff, board members and alumni, our aim is that Katimavik lives up to its name and history. Together, we aspire to continue having an impact that will contribute to supporting vibrant communities and youth. Thank you for your support.

**DIANE TRAHAN,**  
*Executive Director*  
Katimavik



## KATIMAVIK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <sup>A</sup> Katherine Rethy, <i>Board Chair</i>                  | <sup>F</sup> Willy L. P. Fournier, <i>Member</i> | <sup>K</sup> Heather Main, <i>Alumna 2001-2002</i>    |
| <sup>B</sup> Roman Oryschuk, <i>Vice-president</i>                | <sup>G</sup> David Israelson, <i>Member</i>      | <sup>L</sup> Sylvie Mercier, <i>Member</i>            |
| <sup>C</sup> David Atkinson, <i>Member &amp; Foundation Chair</i> | <sup>H</sup> Catharine Johnston, <i>Member</i>   | <sup>M</sup> Ehsan Monfared, <i>Alumnus 2009-2010</i> |
| <sup>D</sup> Ric Charron, <i>Past Chairman &amp; Member</i>       | <sup>I</sup> Robert Landry, <i>Member</i>        | <sup>N</sup> Nick Newbury, <i>Member</i>              |
| <sup>E</sup> Peter Constantinou, <i>Member</i>                    | <sup>J</sup> Sharon H. Lee, <i>Member</i>        | <sup>O</sup> Duncan Smith, <i>Member</i>              |



## KATIMAVIK SENIOR MANAGEMENT

- <sup>P</sup> Daniel Lapointe, *CEO to May 2012*
- <sup>Q</sup> Diane Trahan, *Director of Programs and ED at time of publication*
- <sup>R</sup> Normand Comeau, *Chief Financial Officer*
- <sup>S</sup> Theresa Mitchell, *Director of Resources Development*
- <sup>T</sup> Victoria Salvador, *Director of Marketing and Communications*

### REGIONAL OFFICES

- <sup>U</sup> Ann Boiteau, *North, Pacific and Prairies Regional Director*
- <sup>V</sup> Lynn Gordon, *Central Canada Regional Director*
- <sup>W</sup> Thérèse Piette, *Atlantic-Quebec Regional Director*

# KATIMAVIK IS WHAT KATIMAVIK DOES!

- Katimavik is about individuals coming together and making positive and proactive change in their own lives and those of others through their involvement in the communities they serve.

- Katimavik:

- Develops good citizens and communities
- Supports cultural diversity / inclusiveness and integration
- Strengthens Canadian unity / identity / national fabric / social network
- Helps communities find their own solutions and become self-sufficient



## KATIMAVIK PROVIDES THE BEST AVAILABLE VALUE FOR INVESTMENT TO ALL KEY STAKEHOLDERS

### For youth:

A unique, significant transitional and transformational experience resulting in...

- Enhanced self-discovery resulting in more confident life choices, and the motivation to pursue personal goals
- Discovery of concrete employment and career paths
- Independence and a sense of accomplishment for having made a difference
- Acquisition of new learning and understanding society's diversity, its citizens, cultures and communities

### For communities and partners:

- Enthusiastic human resources with new perspectives to bring about significant social benefits
- Youth inspiring local youth
- Youth as a potential source of new employees and engaged citizens

### For governments:

- Proven capability to enhance the development of youth as capable contributors and citizens for a more integrated and productive society
- Significant and proven social-economic benefits for communities
- Proven solutions in addressing chronic special cases / challenges for "Youth in transition":
  - First Nations/Inuit
  - Youth at risk/vulnerable youth
  - Immigrant youth
  - Special needs and disabled youth
- Proven ability to enhance the progression of youth towards educational and employment potential
- Superior *return on investment*, with metrics to prove it

*Katimavik is excellent value for both private and public good.*





## OUR PURPOSE

- Katimavik's purpose is to maximize the power of service and volunteering to improve lives of youth transitioning from one life stage to another as well as communities across the country.
- Katimavik focuses on unmet needs that young full-time volunteers providing service can impact.
- Katimavik responds to real needs: Katimavik serves Canadian youth, Canadian communities and you.
- Katimavik is a national not-for-profit organization that brings together young people of all backgrounds for a term of full-time volunteer service, giving them the skills and opportunities to make a difference for themselves and for communities.
- Every year, young Canadians between the ages of 17 and 25 look toward their future and ask themselves: What next? Statistics Canada reports a dropout rate of 30 percent among first-year post-secondary students. Think of the loss in personal and economic investment. At the same time, we know that communities across

Canada have unique problems and not-for-profit community organizations have limited staff to deal with them.

- This is where Katimavik steps in with a proven approach to fill the gaps that no other organization is addressing as effectively. Katimavik provides youth in transition – from secondary to post-secondary, from being out of school to reintegrating school, from school to work, or from being in vulnerable situations to a healthier lifestyle – the opportunity to engage in a transformational program that will benefit them and society.

- Many Canadian youth benefit from taking a step back to reflect, gain perspective on personal values and goals, acquire life and work experience, and develop key skills.

*With Katimavik, youth make a huge difference in their "gap year", for themselves and our society.*

- **No other programs like these exist in Canada.**



# COMMUNITIES FOR 2011-2012

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

- East Vancouver
- Burnaby
- Fort Langley
- Hope
- Quesnel
- Prince George
- Vanderhoof

## ALBERTA

- Medicine Hat
- Lethbridge
- Canmore
- Calgary

## SASKATCHEWAN

- Swift Current
- Assiniboia
- Maple Creek

## MANITOBA

- Steinbach
- St-Boniface
- St-Pierre Jolys

## ONTARIO

- Vanier
- Sioux Lookout
- Guelph
- Huntsville
- Ottawa
- Orillia
- Midland
- Newmarket
- Thunder Bay
- Toronto
- Brantford
- Hamilton

## QUÉBEC

- Ville de Saguenay
- Dolbeau-Mitassini
- Amqui
- Matane
- Rimouski
- Mastheuiatsh
- Montréal-Villeray
- Montréal-Ville-Émard
- Québec
- Lévis
- Beauport
- Pottton
- Gatineau
- Chisasibi
- Victoriaville

## NEW BRUNSWICK

- Moncton
- Richibucto

## NOVA-SCOTIA

- Halifax/Spryfield
- Wolfville

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

- Charlottetown

## NEWFOUNDLAND (LABRADOR)

- Goose Bay
- North West River/Sheshatshiu

## NORTH WEST TERRITORIES

- Yellowknife

## YUKON

- Whitehorse

## NUNAVUT

- Iqaluit

# REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

• In the 2011–2012 fiscal year Katimavik brought together more than 1000 young Canadians to contribute to the social and economic well-being of 54 Canadian communities; Katimavik provided over 600 not-for-profit organizations with nearly 660 000 hours of service to benefit those communities.

• Supported by Canadian Heritage, 52 communities welcomed 2 cohorts over a period of 12 months (6 months per cohort). They

worked towards achieving the goals of their local organizations. Themes for these were: Ecocitizenship and active living, Cultural discovery and civic engagement, Second language and cultural identity, and Katimavik Horizon.

• This year also saw the implementation of several new initiatives that will serve as a foundation for future organizational success.

## Learning highlights (before/after participation in a Katimavik program)

Competency	Objective	% of participants achieving objective before Katimavik program	% of participants achieving objective after Katimavik program
<b>Adopt an openness to the diversity of social and multicultural realities</b>	I participate in local activities and events when I travel in a new region.	72%	82%
<b>Official languages</b>	I try to interact with others in my second language.	53%	69%
	I succeed in making myself understood in my second language.	45%	65%
<b>Healthy Living</b>	I cook my meals and those of others.	74%	92%
	I calculate what it costs to provide for my daily needs for food and others and I respect my budget.	62%	78%
<b>Develop a vision of integrating environmental protection and sustainable development</b>	I suggest ideas to protect the environment in the area where I live.	57%	70%
<b>Engage as a citizen</b>	I can name some issues that affect my community	67%	82%
	I understand how citizen engagement can help change fundamental things in our society.	80%	89%
<b>Prepare integration into the labor market, a return to school or other life projects.</b>	I know what steps I should follow to achieve my career goals.	62%	76%
	I can recognize the aspects of my personality changed after training or as a result of my participation in an apprenticeship program.	75%	86%

## VICTORIANVILLE – PEACE BUILDERS

- In March 2011, Katimavik announced its decision to rotate out of Victoriaville, Quebec after a fruitful five-year partnership. But Martin Yelle, coordinator at Centre Emmaüs des Bois-Francs and community partner, thought there was more work to be done. Why not mobilise the community and municipality to keep Katimavik in Victoriaville? This was the beginning of a successful partnership between Katimavik and Centre Emmaüs, which came to fruition last January 4, when 11 youths inaugurated the Katimavik-Victoriaville pilot project.

- Its volunteers were invested in an important municipal cause: peace, or more specifically, the prevention of violence and intimidation. The Centre Emmaüs and Katimavik are also associated with Tools of Peace, a network of organizations promoting peace by developing a community mentorship initiative to prevent violence and intimidation. Through cooperative approaches using

such activities as photography, interviews and interactive theatre, the volunteers' mission was to collect information on acts of violence and intimidation in schools. Additionally, they organized a community forum that mobilised Victoriaville's key actors, other youth organizations partnered with the project, and the general population to work on preventative strategies.

- This Katimavik project is the first of its kind to be entirely community-initiated and funded by a number of sources such as the municipality, regional youth funds, the school board and Quebec's Peace Grantmakers Network. We hope it will be a model for other communities. Funding for the project is planned for the next two years and may be extended to three years, with a flexible implementation model for young people to serve the peace building goal of the project.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA YOUTH AT RISK

- This year Katimavik was able to concretely demonstrate its ability to tailor programs for vulnerable youth with the implementation of a pilot "Youth at Risk" program in 2011. This program was developed in collaboration with the provincial ministry of Social Development in British Columbia.

- The project took a group of eight youth, six of whom were referred to us by the ministry of Social Development, and two others from Quebec who had applied for the classic Katimavik programs. The goal was to help young people transition to an independent life after having been in care.

- All groups were supported by a live-in project leader as well as their own social worker who was available for them at all times

during the program. This element of support was crucial to the success of the volunteers in the program and is an element that we feel should remain in all vulnerable youth-themed programs implemented by Katimavik.

- Youth completing the program, staff, and other program stakeholders reported that intended program objectives were met and exceeded in most cases. Social workers who were consulted for evaluative purposes were very happy with program outcomes and stated that, in all cases, their expectations for the effect on their young clients were surpassed. They recommended the B.C. government continue its partnership with Katimavik (Katimavik Partnership Pilot Evaluation, MSD British Columbia – Katimavik, p. 20, 2012).



# REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

## ECO-INTERNSHIP

• Although not new, Eco-Internship continues to be a flagship program for Katimavik. The success of the program model has encouraged us to begin developing similar programs for other provinces and/or territories.

• From April 2011 to March 2012, three cohorts of Eco-internship took place and 40 students (our target per year) between the ages of 18 and 35 successfully completed the Eco-internship program. The programs took place in Montreal, Quebec, Baie-Saint-Paul, Baie-Comeau and Rimouski.

• These Katimavik Eco-Interns were able to:

- Develop their leadership and environmental skills notably through training and pre-departure seminar sessions as well as through the post program conference focused on eco-citizenship.
- Benefit from working as a full-time volunteer in the field of the environment and of sustainable development impacting sectors such as urban planning, agriculture and food production, waste management, water and energy efficiency, education on the environment and biodiversity.
- Deliver six concrete projects working with environmental groups in Quebec. These collective projects helped facilitate the implementation of gardens in containers in primary schools in Quebec; promote food self-sufficiency in Rimouski; support the diversification of agricultural activities in Baie St. Paul; fight against food waste in Montreal; promote the practice of composting in Montreal; and in Rimouski educate the population on the important matter of energy efficacy using vacuum reservoir technology.

• Thanks to the program, many of the interns received academic credit, others were offered a work contract by the organization in which they were doing their internship and still others found employment outside their immediate practicum setting at the end of the program.

• When asked what has been the impact of the program on their social commitment to the environment, the interns noted many benefits, namely having built a solid professional network, having received valuable training and having had the opportunity to understand communities and their environmental issues and initiatives. The program provided these youth with a stage for future environmental leaders to take action today.

## LOOKING FORWARD

• Katimavik is compelled to be innovative, flexible and to act with a sense of urgency in looking at new ways to:

- provide high value experiences for youth and important targeted segments such as vulnerable youth;
- meet the growing and changing demands of communities, not-for-profit partners and funding partners;
- develop new program facets that can better align Katimavik volunteering youth with future employment and academic/vocational opportunities;
- develop productive partnerships with the business sector that may also be aligned with vocational / educational partners;
- develop and adapt to ever changing technologies – especially social networking and communications.





# THE NEW PROGRAM STREAM MOVING FORWARD

• Katimavik understands that youth are looking for opportunities to take part in a unique, significant and transitional experience at the turning point from emerging adulthood to adulthood. Katimavik will focus program development to provide youth with an opportunity for...

## Self-discovery and self-legitimizing

- Developing independence / confidence
- Experimenting with employment and vocational career options; getting work experience
- Getting a sense of life's options
- Experiencing authenticity
- Experiencing situations outside of the comfort zone
- Stepping up to a challenge and realizing it is fun

## Learning/exploring/travelling/discovering

- Learning about individuals and other cultures in Canada
- Obtaining credits towards a post-secondary certification, diploma or degree

## Making a difference

- Helping others
- Being recognized for having done something beneficial
- Providing access to cost-effective additional resources to address social needs and community projects that could not otherwise be accomplished
- Katimavik youth acting as role models for local youth who might be encouraged to become engaged citizens and better contribute to their community
- Attracting potential new employees and citizens to their community and region.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### To the Directors of Corporation Katimavik-Opcan

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the summary financial position of Corporation Katimavik-Opcan as at March 31, 2012 and the summary statements of revenues, expenses and net assets for the year then ended are derived from the audited financial statements of Corporation Katimavik-Opcan for the year ended March 31, 2012. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated June 17, 2012. Those financial statements, and the summary financial statements, do not reflect the effect of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on those financial statements.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of Corporation Katimavik-Opcan. For more information on the Corporation's financial position, results of operations and cash flows, reference should be made to the related complete financial statements which may be obtained from the Corporation.

### Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial statements in accordance with applied criteria dictated in note 1.

### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements."

### Opinion

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of Corporation Katimavik-Opcan for the year ended March 31, 2012 are a fair summary of those financial statements in accordance with the criteria dictated in note 1.

*Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton LLP*

Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton LLP | Chartered Accountants | Montréal, November 12, 2012

<sup>1</sup> CPA, auditor, CA public accountancy permit no. A117472



## Summary of Financial Position March 31, 2012

	2012	2011
<b>Assets</b>		
Total current assets	\$ 4,382,590	\$ 2,706,999
Capital assets	167,219	268,199
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 4,549,809</b>	<b>\$ 2,975,198</b>
<b>Liabilities and net assets</b>		
Total current liabilities	\$ 3,761,513	\$ 2,539,683
Deferred contributions related to projects	37,500	
Deferred contributions related to capital assets	167,219	268,199
Total liabilities	3,966,232	2,807,882
Net assets – unrestricted	583,577	167,316
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$ 4,549,809</b>	<b>\$ 2,975,198</b>

## Summary Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Net Assets For the year ended March 31, 2012

	2012	2011
<b>Revenues</b>		
Contributions from Canadian Heritage	\$ 15,963,123	\$ 15,296,831
Contributions from the Quebec government	400,000	
Others contributions	97,405	
Rendered services	10,959,317	10,749,518
Amortization of deferred contributions related to capital assets	155,611	162,565
Contributed supplies and services	454,112	248,377
Participant revenues	235,143	283,719
Katimavik Youth Services Contribution	13,496	81,908
Katimavik Fund Contribution	202,313	4,099
Other	43,499	25,287
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>\$ 28,524,019</b>	<b>\$ 26,852,304</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Salaries and benefits	\$ 7,329,314	\$ 6,201,067
Rendered services	10,959,317	10,749,518
Travel expenses	2,895,339	3,081,624
Rent	2,858,080	2,580,426
Daily allowances and incentive bonuses	438,771	781,457
Food	1,253,694	1,248,680
Training, recruiting and development	571,473	398,662
Office expenses	657,231	604,172
Learning program	378,171	400,369
Professional fees	288,166	332,915
Interest on bank loan	1,078	5,296
Amortization of capital assets	155,611	162,565
Other	321,513	138,237
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$ 28,107,758</b>	<b>\$ 26,684,988</b>
<b>Excess of revenues over expenses and net assets, end of year</b>	<b>416,261</b>	<b>167,316</b>

Note 1: The summary financial statements are an extract of the audited financial statements of the Corporation prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. The extracts chosen are considered important amounts necessary for the understanding of the financial position of the Corporation.

# TESTIMONIALS

*Our inter-city school has benefited from the Katimavik volunteers that the program has provided us with. I am the Learning Assistance teacher at our school and I work with the neediest students in our population. The Katimavik volunteers have enabled our school to give these students one on one assistance which has been absolutely invaluable. These volunteers have helped to teach these students how to read which is the foundation to living. I am eternally grateful to their selflessness and dedication to work in our school.*

## **CHRISTINE MURPHY**

*Learning Assistance Teacher, Sacred Heart School  
Prince George, British Columbia*

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*As a mother of a daughter who is a project leader and a son who was a Katimavik volunteer, I thank Katimavik for helping my children come into their own. Katimavik has taught them numerous skills that most people do not accumulate in a lifetime. Let's face it how many of us (and be honest) can survive living with 11 other people in a different region? My children can and they are better people for it.*

*The lessons learned are too numerous to list: from interpersonal skills to community integrating skills to networking and helping your fellow man. These lessons are extremely valuable to each individual volunteer who is our future. Katimavik offers an opportunity to leave behind the selfish needy demands of an individual and teaches the young and our future to become part of a larger unified community called "Canada".*

*For my son, Katimavik has eased the transition from teenager to a young responsible adult who has been living on his own for the last three years and maintaining a part-time job and going to school full-time. For my daughter the ability to live and manage the numerous personalities she encountered has been priceless not only in the house where she lived (which is 24/7) but also externally with the community at large.*

## **ELIZABETH DERENIOWSKI**

*Brantford, Ontario*

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*Even though I always wanted to pursue education, I was uncertain if it was the right field for me. I had finished my third year of University, before embarking on the experience that would change my life forever. Katimavik opened up my eyes to the diverse beauty that Canada beholds from British Columbia to New Found Land. By doing Katimavik, I firstly became more aware about Canadian issues. Being from a minority group, I was also able to help others learn more about diversity and multiculturalism.*

*The best part of my experience was working in L'École Le Tournant in Dolbeau, Quebec, and working with the children. The teachers gave me the freedom and responsibilities I needed to do what I enjoyed most, and teach and work with children on an individual basis. By watching the students respond and succeed, I confirmed that at the end of this year, I will be putting in my Teachers College Application. My goals have motivation, which I proudly thank Katimavik for.*

## **ARUCHUNA (ARCHIE) RAJAH**

*Assiniboia, Saskatchewan and Dolbeau-Mistassini, Quebec*

*As you know, in today's world we talk a lot about the environment but we rarely take action. The Eco-Internship program provides youth with the opportunity to get involved in a variety of communities. It's the kind of work that we need to be doing more and more of. And investing in this type of approach means investing not only in today but in tomorrow as well.*

*The interns decided to green-up and beautify an alleyway. The young adults spoke with residents about what they wanted and were able to transform dreams into reality. Every time an eco-intern gets involved somewhere, there are direct and indirect benefits not only for the residents in immediate proximity, but also for the broader community.*

*The environmental sector is one of the areas with the fewest resources to do the work necessary to find solutions to all its issues and problems. A program like Eco-Internship can truly make all the difference, and I've witnessed it first-hand. There are projects that would never get off the ground without the involvement of an eco-intern.*

*For me, it's extremely important. Continued investment in this type of program is crucial. The more young people show us the way and take environmental leadership, the more we'll have friendly and viable communities. And that's what we need.*

**MICHEL SÉGUIN**

*Coordinator for the Project C-Vert. – Not-for-profit organization and work partner for the Eco-Internship program*

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*My internship went really well. I was very happy to have volunteered within an organization whose mission is environmental education. They lead a project in Brazil, my home country. I was also really happy to be able to develop pedagogical tools and meet with my peers to discuss issues such as those touching the Amazon; a Brazilian issue which as it turns out are common to issues in Quebec.*

*Eco-interns have two goals. The first is that must carry out an assignment within an organization or private business. And the second goal is to develop and carry out a community project. Given that the first objective is linked to sustainable development and that the second is linked to the community, it's clear why Eco-Internship is so important.*

*My group shared a common interest, which was to work with Quebec's aboriginal communities. We found a solution by trying to bring together the Québécois community and the aboriginal community.*

*As soon as I arrived in Quebec, I stumbled upon the Éco-Francisation project, which is part of an Eco-Internship community project. And afterwards, I continued working on my personal community project, a living library on the aboriginal peoples of Quebec. This is done on a volunteer basis.*

*My level of satisfaction is very great. I'm extremely proud to be a part of the Eco-Internship group because I met new people, brilliant people. I learned a lot and it also gave me a lot of confidence to continue my projects. Overall, I'm happy. Thank you Eco-Internship.*

**PAULA MAZZEO**

*2010 Eco-Intern*

