

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



ABOUT US

Product Care Recycling is a Canadian not-for-profit association that manages end-of-life programs for paint, household hazardous and special products, lighting products, and smoke and CO alarms.

Formed by more than 700 members—manufacturers, distributors, and retailers—we operate stewardship programs in compliance with provincial Extended Producer Responsibility ("EPR") regulations for the designated products our members make and sell. Operating across all ten of Canada's provinces, along with activity in the United States through our subsidiary, we work with a diverse network of suppliers, transporters, processors, retailers, depots, municipalities, and First Nation communities to deliver free recycling services to the public.

Our operations provide cost-effective regulatory management while delivering environmental outcomes that protect both our members' interest and Canada's environmental future.



OUR VISION

Our vision is to establish Product Care as a leader in the development and management of innovative product stewardship solutions.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide product stewardship solutions that advance the efficiency and effectiveness of program delivery for our members, while caring for the environment, our consumers and our employees.

OUR VALUES

- · Environmental commitment
- Service and member orientation
- Continuous improvement
- Transparency
- Collaboration
- Accountability

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Chair

Vince Rea—Pittsburgh Paints Co. | Paint and coatings

Vice-Chair

Jason Bernard—The Sherwin-Williams Company | *Paint and coatings*

Corporate Secretary

Jeffrey Cattanach—The Home Depot | Retail

Dan Giansante—Rust-Oleum Canada | Other products

Karen Stephenson—Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association (CCSPA) | *Other products*

Jennifer Dolin—Lutron Electronics Co. | Lighting and alarms

Marjorie Dionne—Standard Products Inc. | Lighting and alarms

Marie-Yannick Carrière—Rona Inc. | Retail

Gil Ofek—Liteline Corporation | Lighting and alarms

Steve Urchison—Cloverdale Paint | Paint and coatings

Matthew Nickmann—Home Hardware Stores Ltd. | Retail

Matthew Taggart—Benjamin Moore and Co. | Paint and coatings



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Dear members and industry colleagues,

As I write my final address as Chair, I find myself reflecting on not just the past year, but on the remarkable evolution of product stewardship in Canada, and by extension, Product Care. What began as a pioneering concept has transformed into a sophisticated network of programs that touch communities from coast to coast. Product Care has been a part of this journey since the beginning.

From a single paint recycling program in British Columbia, Product Care has evolved over its 30-year history to oversee more than 22 programs across 12 jurisdictions in Canada and the US. Adding to our portfolio are two new programs that launched this past year; Quebec's non-refillable pressurized fuel containers program and a lights program in Nova Scotia, our sixth for the product category.

Each new program represents years of preparation, stakeholder collaboration, and meticulous planning. None of which would be possible without the extraordinary team at Product Care. The expertise, passion, and determination they bring to work each day has enabled our organization to navigate complexities while continuing to deliver exceptional value. Simply put, we could not achieve what we do without their commitment.

Our geographic expansion is matched by an equally important evolution in our strategic vision. This year marked the creation of a new five-year strategic plan that will guide Product Care through to the end of the decade. As the extended producer responsibility (EPR) model continues to mature, it brings new challenges and expectations. Our new strategy ensures Product Care will continue to be seen as a constructive voice in these discussions, advocating for approaches that balance environmental ambition with practical implementation.

In closing, I want to express my profound gratitude to all of our members. It has been an absolute privilege to work alongside Product Care's exceptional staff and members from various product categories. The collective commitment to responsible product management that I've witnessed gives me tremendous confidence in Product Care's future. With its strong foundation, clear strategic direction, and dedicated team, Product Care stands ready to navigate the future with the same ingenuity and purpose that has characterized its past.

I am humbled by the passion and drive of the entire Product Care team, and it has been an honour to serve as Chair of such a dynamic and committed team.

With sincere thanks,

Vince Rea Board Chair



LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear members, colleagues, and stakeholders,

2024 marked Product Care Recycling's 30th anniversary! Three decades of leadership in product stewardship represents not just a milestone, but a formidable legacy in Canada's EPR landscape.

This anniversary offers an opportunity to honor those who laid our foundation and to recognize the dedicated professionals who have carried their vision forward. I want to particularly acknowledge Mannie Cheung, who has devoted an extraordinary 25 years to Product Care. Mannie's institutional knowledge and unwavering commitment represents the continuity that has been central to our success.

The product stewardship landscape today would be barely recognizable to our founders. We have entered what might be called "EPR 2.0" – a new era characterized by increasingly sophisticated regulatory requirements, demanding more comprehensive collection networks, enhanced transparency, and higher recovery rates. Persistent inflationary pressures following the pandemic have impacted operational costs across all sectors. The recently launched Alberta HSP program and our upcoming work in the Yukon exemplify these realities. Yet despite the complexity, we've worked diligently to minimize the financial impact on our members while meeting expanding obligations.

To ensure Product Care remains at the forefront of product stewardship for the next 30 years, we've developed our new five-year strategic plan. This road-map focuses on three key imperatives: enhancing and expanding our service portfolio, integrating and scaling our organization, and cultivating a partnership mindset with members and stakeholders. We're building on our legacy and leveraging our strengths, while identifying gaps and investing in the areas that will make us more effective in the future.

To our 700+ members, thank you for your continued commitment to responsible product stewardship and your trust in us. To our Board of Directors, including our outgoing Chairman, your guidance has been invaluable. We would not have achieved our successes without the collaboration and participation of a diverse network of suppliers, transporters, processors, collection sites, municipalities, and Ministries. And to our dedicated staff across the country, your hard work makes our mission possible.

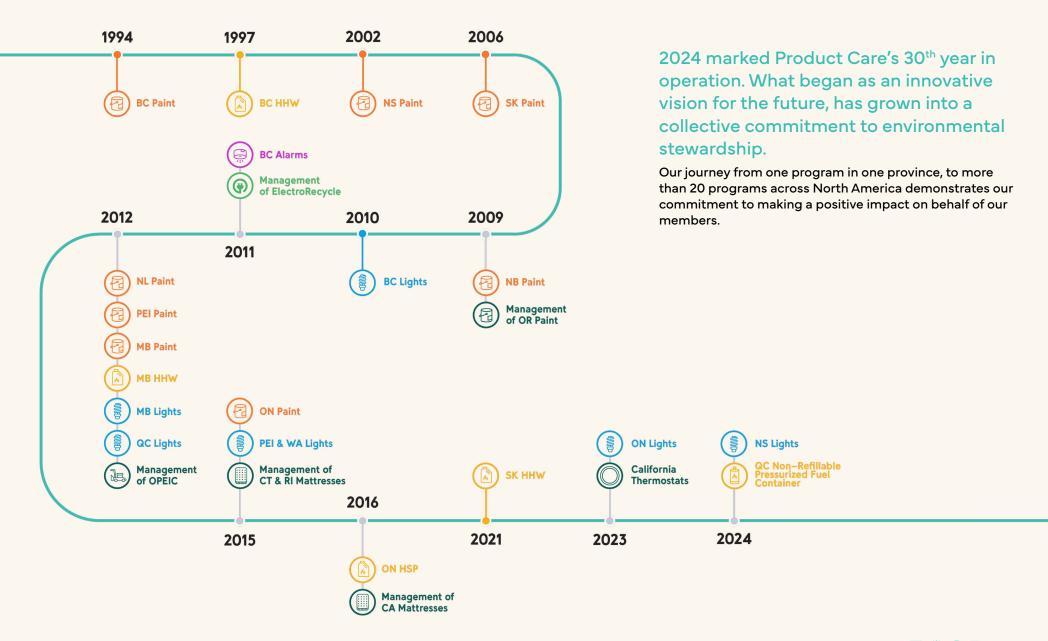
After 30 years of leadership in product stewardship, Product Care is writing the next chapter of our story – one that honors our legacy while embracing the future of environmental responsibility.

With appreciation,

Brian Bastien
President and CEO

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30 YEARS OF COLLECTIVE IMPACT



6

SINCE 1994, WE'VE RECYCLED...



120 MILLION

litres of paint



75 MILLION

light bulbs



1 MILLION

smoke and CO alarms



litres of hazardous materials out of our landfills + waterways



2024 HIGHLIGHTS

3,000+

Collection site locations in Canada

19.4%

Increase in the number of alarms collected from 2023

261,000

Visits to Product Care's Recycling Locator, a 19% increase from 2023

572,000

Litres of HHW collected

8,565,000

Litres of paint collected

14,509,000

Number of light bulbs collected

203,000

Litres of paint redistributed as part of PaintShare program

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

PAINT

Product Care's paint recycling programs continued to expand their environmental impact, building on three decades of paint stewardship that began with British Columbia's pioneering program in 1994.

Collection network expansion

Product Care successfully expanded our paint collection network in 2024. A significant achievement was the strategic expansion of return-to-retail partnerships. Working with such members as Dulux, Sherwin Williams, and Benjamin Moore, we were able to open 83 new retail collection points across five provinces. These retail partnerships enhance consumer convenience and strengthen our accessibility framework, providing members' customers with more options for responsible paint disposal at the point of purchase.

Increased regulatory complexity

New federal regulatory requirements add administrative complexity for collection sites. The amended Federal Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations now require all sites handling dangerous goods to register with Transport Canada, creating additional administrative hurdles for sites and impacting our recruitment efforts.

Product Care is also navigating evolving regulatory expectations around program performance, particularly recovery rate targets. We continue to advocate on behalf of members for reasonable and evidence-based performance metrics and targets. In Newfoundland, we conducted historical data analysis and commissioned an independent assessment to validate our proposal for recovery targets. In Ontario, we shared our data-modeling with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) which helped support regulatory amendments. Recognizing that future programs across the country will likely face similar performance standards, we remain committed to data capture, analysis, and advocacy.

Product Care's paint programs remain a cornerstone of Canada's extended producer responsibility framework, providing members with a reliable, compliant solution for paint stewardship obligations while delivering measurable environmental benefits to communities across the country.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) | HAZARDOUS AND SPECIAL PRODUCTS (HSP)

HHW/HSP programs provide Canadians with safe, convenient disposal options for potentially harmful household products —such as pesticides, toxics, corrosives, and flammables —preventing environmental contamination and protecting public health.

Partnerships to support Indigenous community service

Product Care's participation in Manitoba's Backhaul Project represents an effective model for equitable waste management services. Working alongside eight other Producer Responsibility Organizations and with additional support from Indigenous Services Canada, this collaborative initiative removed 26 semitruck loads of waste material from seven remote First Nation communities accessible only by winter roads. In its sixth year of operation, the 2024/25 season utilized more receiving facilities and hauling partners than ever before, demonstrating the project's growing capacity and community readiness.

Servicing First Nations communities is also a focus area in British Columbia, with many communities accessible only by barge or logging roads. To improve service, Product Care partnered with the Indigenous Zero Waste Technical Advisory Group (IZWTAG), an Indigenous-led organization with deep community ties and effective training and outreach services. Working together we were able to remove quantities of household hazardous waste (along with paint, lights, and alarms) from 32 Indigenous communities across the province.

Municipal partnerships

British Columbia saw notable service expansion through strategic municipal partnerships. Product Care collaborated with the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako to establish four new HHW collection sites, significantly improving regional access.

Service initiatives included partnering with the Parksville bottle depot to return comprehensive paint and HHW services to the municipality, and working with the Regional District of East Kootenay in Cranbrook to establish local collection capabilities.

Regulatory compliance and proposed amendments

Quebec's Non-Refillable Pressurized Fuel Container program collected over 41,000 cylinders since launching on June 30th, and exceeded initial targets by onboarding 89 collection sites. Product Care is working to establish a robust processing and transporting network ahead of ambitious recovery rate targets beginning at 25% in 2027.

In 2024, the Ontario MECP consulted on proposed regulatory amendments to HSP regulation. Product Care, in collaboration with industry, provided detailed analysis of the current system and pragmatic recommendations to overcome current regulatory barriers to compliance.

Looking forward

The management of household hazardous waste will continue to be a dynamic space in the months and years to come. The launch of two new Hazardous and Special Products programs will see Product Care operational in every province in the country; Alberta's HSP program commences April 1, 2025, while Yukon's program is expected to launch in late 2025. Both programs exemplify the challenges facing product stewardship organizations who seek to minimize environmental handling fees, while meeting stringent regulatory requirements and their associated impacts on operations.

As HHW and HSP programs navigate an increasingly complex regulatory landscape—from federal transportation requirements to disparate provincial frameworks—Product Care remains committed to collaborative stakeholder engagement. By sharing our operational insights and program experience, we work to develop programs that serve communities and members, while achieving positive environmental outcomes for all.

LIGHTS

Product Care's lights recycling programs operate across six provinces, building on 14 years of experience since launching in British Columbia in 2010. Our lighting programs ensure mercury-containing and other specialized lighting technologies are diverted from landfills and processed in an environmentally responsible manner.

Program expansion success

Nova Scotia's lighting program launched on August 1, 2024. The program established 44 contracted collection sites across the province, with a commitment to expand to a minimum of 60 sites by end of 2026. Product Care identified eight under-served communities as priority expansion areas, ensuring reasonable accessibility for all population centers. The program's strong foundation includes partnerships with local retailers, processor and contracted transportation services, providing prompt and efficient collection site support.

Ontario continued to grow its lighting collection network adding 65 new locations in 2024, expanding municipal partnerships, and advancing retail and distributor take back through pilot programs.

Navigating market transformation

The lighting industry continues its fundamental shift from traditional mercury-containing lamps (MCLs) to LED technology, creating both challenges and opportunities for stewardship programs. This transition reflects positive environmental progress, as longer-lasting LED technology reduces waste generation and eliminates mercury content. However, the rapid decline in traditional lighting sales, combined with the Products Containing Mercury Regulations taking effect December 31, 2025, creates financial sustainability pressures for existing programs.

The lighting program in Manitoba illustrate these market dynamics, as the focus on mercury-containing lamps faces significant revenue challenges. Product Care has proactively engaged Manitoba Environment and Climate Change (MECC), meeting directly with the Ministry to explain the federal ban's impact, raise financial sustainability concerns, and recommend regulatory adjustments that align obligations with market realities.

The Government of Ontario consulted on amendments to the Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) regulation in 2024, and Product Care, in collaboration with industry, provided MECP with perspective on the challenges to achieving the prescriptive regulatory requirements outlined in the regulation leveraging Product Care's 14 years of experience in establishing successful lighting programs.

Beyond direct government engagement, we've shared insights and recommendations with trade associations, ensuring industry stakeholders understand the impacts of evolving lighting markets. This collaborative approach helps inform policy development that balances environmental protection with program sustainability, ensuring lighting stewardship remains viable as technology continues advancing toward more sustainable products.

As lighting technology continues to advance toward longerlasting, less hazardous alternatives, Product Care remains focused on evolving our programs to meet changing industry needs while maintaining service delivery across all participating provinces.

ALARMS

Product Care's BC alarm program continues to lead Canadian stewardship efforts for the responsible end-of-life management of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Operating since 2011, the program safely manages hazardous materials from ionization alarms while recovering valuable plastics and metals from all device types.

Fire Safety partnership

A highlight of 2024 was Product Care's partnership with the FireSafe Project, a province-wide initiative led by the BC Office of the Fire Commissioner and BC Injury Research and Prevention Unit. The FireSafe Project targets high-risk households across British Columbia, with firefighters providing safety information, testing existing alarms, and installing new units at no cost to residents.

Product Care enhanced this public safety initiative by promoting the campaign through our digital channels while educating residents about proper end-of-life alarm management. This partnership exemplifies how stewardship programs can support broader community safety objectives while building awareness of responsible recycling practices.

Program growth and performance

The alarm program achieved remarkable growth in 2024, with collections increasing nearly 20% over 2023 levels. This performance reflects both growing consumer awareness and an increasingly accessible collection network. By year-end, the program operated 260 contracted collection sites strategically distributed across diverse community types: 80 return-to-retail locations, 63 local government facilities, 110 private recycling depots, four fire departments, and three First Nations facilities.

This diversified collection network ensures convenient access across British Columbia's varied geography and demographics while building partnerships with organizations already engaged in fire safety and community service. The inclusion of fire departments and First Nations facilities demonstrates Product Care's commitment to serving all communities through appropriate, culturally responsive collection options. This collaborative approach helps inform policy development that balances environmental protection with program sustainability, ensuring lighting stewardship remains viable as technology continues advancing toward more sustainable products.

With nearly 20% collection growth and an expanding network of collection sites, the BC alarm program shows strong momentum entering 2025. The successful FireSafe Project partnership illustrates opportunities for continued collaboration between stewardship programs and public safety initiatives, creating value for communities while advancing environmental objectives.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

Product Care's three decades of experience in the Extended Producer Responsibility industry has established us as a recognized leader in the field. This expertise is actively sought by other Producer Responsibility Organizations and jurisdictions across North America seeking proven solutions for complex stewardship challenges.

PCA PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP INC. (PCA PSI)

Product Care is the parent company to PCA Product Stewardship Inc. (PCA PSI), a non-profit industry association formed in 2010 in the state of Oregon. PCA PSI is responsible for product stewardship programs in Washington and California:

Light Recycle Washington

In January 2015, PCA PSI implemented a product stewardship program for mercury-containing light bulbs in the state of Washington. During 2024, the sunset date for the product stewardship program was extended to July 1, 2029. After this date, the stewardship law and program will undergo a sunset review by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee.

Thermostat Care

Since 2022, PCA PSI has managed Thermostat Care, a stewardship program tasked by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control to safely dispose of mercury-containing thermostats to protect human and environmental health in the state. As 2024 was the program's first full year since the submission and approval of the Program Plan and related addenda, Thermostat Care's work throughout the year focused on lowering barriers to participation in the program.

CLIENT PROGRAMS

Outdoor Power Equipment Institute of Canada (OPEIC)

Product Care supports OPEIC in the management of their approved product stewardship program for electric outdoor power equipment pursuant to British Columbia's Recycling Regulation. An updated Stewardship Plan was submitted to the BC Ministry of Environment and Parks on August 7, 2024.

Mattress Recycling Council (MRC)

The Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) is a nonprofit organization formed by the mattress industry to operate recycling programs in states that have enacted mattress recycling laws. Product Care provides multiple administrative services to the programs operating in California, Connecticut, Oregon and Rhode Island.

Major Appliance Recycling Roundtable (MARR)

Product Care provides audits for the Major Appliance Recycling Roundtable (MARR), a not-for-profit stewardship agency responsible for end-of-life of major household appliances in the province of BC.

PRODUCT CARE ASSOCIATION OF CANADA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 31 DECEMBER 2024

Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members, Product Care Association of Canada

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Product Care Association of Canada (the "Association"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2024, and the statements of changes in net assets, operations 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 Association as at 31 December 2024, and its results of operations 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 Association 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.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises: the various Annual Reports that the Association issues for its provincial recycling programs (the "Annual Reports").

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not and will 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 identified above 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.





INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT - Continued

We obtained certain sections of the Association's Annual Reports prior to the date of this auditors' report. If, based on the work we have performed on this other information, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact in this auditors' report. We have nothing to report in this regard.

The complete Annual Reports are expected to be made available to us after the date of this auditors' report. If, based on the work we will perform on this other information, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact to those charged with governance.

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 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 Association'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 Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association'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 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.



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT - Continued

- 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 Association'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 Association'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 of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association 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.

CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

Holfe, Berson LLP

Vancouver, Canada 21 May 2025

Statement of Financial Position 31 December 2024

		2024	2023
Assets			
Current			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	4,849,895 \$	4,970,393
Term deposits (Note 5(a))		9,667,312	18,065,004
Accounts receivable		2,769,262	4,444,127
Prepaid expenses and deposits	_	574,171	668,253
		17,860,640	28,147,777
Restricted cash (Note 3)		2,184,401	2,012,131
Forgivable loans (Note 4)		387,457	373,375
Term deposits (Note 5(b))		2,750,000	1,500,000
Investments - at market value		35,021,856	26,402,161
Tangible capital assets (Note 7)		14,968,836	14,514,493
Intangible assets (Note 8)	_	50,000	50,000
	\$	73,223,190 \$	72,999,937
Current Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 9) Commitments (Note 11) Contingencies (Note 10)	<u>\$</u>	6,713,655 \$	8,398,461
Net Assets			
Unrestricted Invested in tangible capital and intangible assets Internally restricted (Note 6) Externally restricted (Note 12)	_	11,176,582 15,018,836 38,129,716 2,184,401 66,509,535	11,207,548 14,564,493 36,817,304 2,012,131 64,601,476
	_	00,507,555	04,001,470
	\$	73,223,190 \$	72,999,937
APPROVED BY THE DIRECTORS:			

Statement of Changes in Net Assets For the year ended 31 December 2024

	1	Unrestricted	Invested in Tangible Capital and Intangible Assets	Externally restricted	Internally restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
Net assets - beginning of year	\$	11,207,548 \$	14,564,493 \$	2,012,131 \$	36,817,304 \$	64,601,476 \$	67,415,394
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses for the year Transfer to invested in tangible capital and		2,614,657	(706,598)	-	-	1,908,059	(2,813,918)
intangible assets		(1,160,941)	1,160,941	-	-	-	-
Transfer to internally restricted (Note 6)		(1,312,412)	-	-	1,312,412	-	-
Transfer to externally restricted (Note 12)	_	(172,270)		172,270		-	
Net assets - end of year	\$	11,176,582 \$	15,018,836 \$	2,184,401 \$	38,129,716 \$	66,509,535 \$	64,601,476

Statement of OperationsFor the year ended 31 December 2024

		2024	2023
			(Note 18)
Revenues (Note 17)	<u>\$</u>	47,749,748 \$	41,781,651
Expenses			
Processing		25,652,099	21,424,552
Collections		10,796,830	10,690,442
Transportation		7,016,642	7,509,321
General and administration		4,505,274	3,988,411
Program administration		2,452,603	4,523,663
	_	50,423,448	48,136,389
Deficiency of revenues over expenses from operations	_	(2,673,700)	(6,354,738)
Other income (expense)			
Investment income		4,871,685	1,442,671
Interest income		962,048	1,079,685
Gain on sale of marketable securities		8,252	1,156
Unrealized (loss) gain on investments		(1,260,226)	1,017,308
	_	4,581,759	3,540,820
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses for the year	\$	1,908,059 \$	(2,813,918)

Statement of Cash Flows For the year ended 31 December 2024

		2024	2023
Cash provided by (used in):			
Operating activities			
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses for the year	\$	1,908,059 \$	(2,813,918)
Items not involving cash			
Market value adjustments		1,260,226	(1,017,308)
Amortization		706,598	720,452
Loans forgiven		79,078	72,652
Gain on sale of marketable securities		(8,252)	(1,156)
		3,945,709	(3,039,278)
Changes in non-cash working capital balances		, ,	() , , ,
Accounts receivable		1,674,865	(1,180,687)
Prepaid expenses and deposits		94,082	18,125
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities		(1,684,807)	1,737,233
• •		4,029,849	(2,464,607)
Investing activities			
Redemption of term deposits		7,147,693	1,296,782
Restricted cash		(172,270)	139,741
Purchase of capital assets - net		(1,160,941)	(263,971)
Purchase of investments		(9,871,669)	(1,442,671)
1 dichase of investments	_	(4,057,187)	(270,119)
		(4,037,167)	(270,119)
Financing activity			
Issuance of forgivable loans		(93,160)	(98,050)
issuance of forgivable loans		(93,100)	(98,030)
Net (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(120,498)	(2,832,776)
Cash and cash equivalents - beginning of year		4,970,393	7,803,169
Cash and cash equivalents - end of year	\$	4,849,895 \$	4,970,393

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

1. Nature of operations

On 7 May 2001, Product Care Association (the "Association") was incorporated under the Canada Corporations Act. The new entity was the result of the amalgamation of PPC Paint and Product Care Association and Consumer Product Care Association. Effective 7 January 2015, the Association filed Articles of Continuance under the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act and changed its name to Product Care Association of Canada. The Association is a not-for-profit organization and as such, the Association is not subject to income taxes.

The purpose of the Association is to design, implement, and operate product stewardship programs in Canada or elsewhere. Product stewardship programs are industry funded and managed programs which provide a collection system to consumers for unwanted products. The program then takes responsibility for the recycling and proper disposal of the waste products. Products accepted by the Association's stewardship programs include: paint, pesticides, flammable liquids and other household hazardous waste, lighting products and smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. The Association operates product stewardship programs for some or all of these products in BC, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

The Association applies the Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

(a) Financial instruments

(i) Measurement of financial instruments

The Association initially measures its financial assets and liabilities at fair value and subsequently measures all of its financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost, except for investments in equity instruments that are quoted in an active market and investments in other securities, 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 and cash equivalents, restricted cash, term deposits, accounts receivable, and forgivable loans.

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

The Association's financial assets measured at fair value include investments which are comprised of various investments in mutual funds.

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

2. Summary of significant accounting policies - Continued

(a) Financial instruments - Continued

(ii) Impairment

Financial assets measured at cost are tested for impairment when there are indicators of impairment. The amount of the write-down is recognized in the statement of operations. The previously recognized impairment loss may be reversed to the extent of the improvement, directly or by adjusting the allowance account, provided it is no greater than the amount that would have been reported at the date of the reversal had the impairment not been recognized previously. The amount of the reversal is recognized in the statement of operations.

(iii) Transaction costs

The Association recognizes its transaction costs in the statement of operations in the period incurred. However, financial instruments that will not be subsequently measured at fair value are adjusted by the transaction costs that are directly attributable to their origination, issuance or assumption.

(b) Cash and cash equivalents

The Association's policy is to disclose bank balances under cash and cash equivalents, including bank overdrafts with balances that fluctuate frequently from being positive to overdrawn and term deposits with a maturity period of three months or less from the date of acquisition. Term deposits that the Association cannot use for current transactions because they are pledged as security are also excluded from cash and cash equivalents.

(c) Tangible capital assets

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost. The Association provides for amortization using the straight-line method at rates designed to amortize the cost of the tangible capital assets over their estimated useful lives. The annual amortization rates are as follows:

Computer equipment	3 years
Buildings	25 years
Office equipment	2 years
Depot equipment	2, 3 and 5 years
Leasehold improvements	5 years

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

5 years

2. Summary of significant accounting policies - Continued

(d) Intangible assets

Intangible assets are recorded at cost. The Association provides for amortization using the following methods at rates designed to amortize the cost of the intangible assets over their estimated useful lives. The annual amortization rate is as follows:

ERP software

Intangible assets with an indefinite life are not amortized and are assessed annually for impairment.

(e) Impairment of long-lived assets

The Association tests long-lived assets for impairment when events or changes in circumstances indicate that their carrying value may not be recovered. When a tangible capital asset or intangible asset no longer contributes to the services provided by the Association its carrying value amount is written down to its residual value. No impairment losses were determined by management to be necessary for the year.

(f) Revenue recognition

Environmental Handling Fees (EHFs) are received from registered members within the provinces which participate in the Association's programs. The Association recognizes these fees as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. EHFs revenues are recognized as individual members report and remit them as required by the Association's membership agreement which is by the end of the month following the reporting period that the designated program materials were sold by the member.

Members are obligated to remit EHFs for all products sold from the earlier of the programs' start date or the date when the member started selling obligated products. If, for any reason, a member omits reporting and remitting EHFs associated with sold program products, the Association will recognize those EHFs as revenue when the amounts are determinable by the Association.

Other contract fees are recognized as revenue upon completion of the services provided.

Investment income includes interest income, and realized and unrealized investment gains and losses. Unrealized gains and losses are reported in the statement of operations. Investment income is recognized as revenue when earned.

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

2. Summary of significant accounting policies - Continued

(g) Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses and disclosure of contingencies at the date of the statement of financial position. Accounts and disclosures subject to estimates include amortization of tangible capital and intangible assets, accrued liabilities, revenue recognized for EHFs receivable and commitments for unprocessed product on hand. Management believes that estimates utilized in preparing the financial statements are prudent and reasonable, however, actual results could differ from those estimates.

(h) Foreign exchange

Monetary assets and liabilities of the Association which are denominated in foreign currencies are translated at year end exchange rates. Other assets and liabilities are translated at rates in effect at the date the assets were acquired and liabilities incurred. Revenue and expenses are translated at the rates of exchange in effect at their transaction dates. The resulting gains or losses are included in the statement of operations.

3. Restricted cash

Restricted cash is comprised of the following amounts:

		2024	2023
Quebec RecycFluo Program Reserve (Note 12)	\$	2,055,411 \$	2,012,131
Quebec Non-Refillable Pressurized Fuel Container Recycling Program Reserve (Note 12)		128,990	
	<u>\$</u>	2,184,401 \$	2,012,131

The restricted cash for the Quebec RecycFluo Program Reserve and Quebec Non-Refillable Pressurized Fuel Container Recycling Program Reserve is comprised of \$2,044,370 of cash held in a segregated bank account and \$140,031 of cash allocated from the Association's cash and cash equivalents. Subsequent to year end the Association has transferred \$140,031 of cash to the Quebec RecycFluo Program and Quebec Non-Refillable Pressurized Fuel Container Recycling Program's segregated bank account.

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

4. Forgivable loans

The Association has advanced funds in the form of forgivable loans to various organizations for the development of collection facilities for specific programs (Note 11(b)). Providing that the collection facility commences operations and meets the various criteria in the collection site agreement, these funds and any related interest are forgiven at the rate of 10% or 20% of the original amount of the loan on each anniversary of the commencement of the collection site's operations. If the development of the collection facility is not completed, or the collection facility does not commence operations, the amounts advanced are repayable to the Association plus interest at 8% per annum.

	2024	2023
\$	373,375 \$ 93,160 (79,078)	347,977 98,050 (72,652)
\$	387,457 \$	373,375
	\$ 	\$ 373,375 \$ 93,160 (79,078)

5. Term deposits

(a) Short-term

As at 31 December 2024, the Association held term deposits of \$9,667,312 (2023 - \$18,065,004) with maturity dates ranging from 10 January 2025 to 19 August 2025 and bearing interest at 4.8% to 5.84% per annum which have been classified as a short-term assets.

(b) Long-term

As at 31 December 2024, the Association held term deposits totalling \$2,750,000 (2023 - \$1,500,000) with maturity dates ranging from 19 July 2026 to 18 July 2027 bearing interest at 4.5% to 4.75% per annum which have been classified as long-term assets.

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

6. Internally restricted net assets

The PCA Members' Net Assets Management and Allocation Policy includes the establishment of an internally restricted PCA Program Reserve Fund. The PCA program Reserve Fund is presented as internally restricted net assets on the statement of financial position and statement of changes in net assets.

The purpose of the PCA Program Reserve Fund is as follows:

- stabilizing eco fees by being available to manage year to year volume fluctuations;
- covering the costs of winding up the Association by the decision of the members or as consequence of regulatory change, in an orderly manner, not to exceed two years;
- to cover the cost of unanticipated or extraordinary items;
- Interim funding of program expansion;
- to fund other special projects (such as the acquisition or construction of a building);
- to fund the purchase of capital equipment; and
- to act as a sinking fund to cover the cost of managing products with long life spans, for which collection may occur well in the future

The balance of the PCA Program Reserve Fund shall be equal to or be less than programs' total expenses recorded in the most recently completed year, and should never fall below six months of the programs' total expenses. At the discretion of the Directors, the balance of the PCA Program Reserve Fund may exceed the most recent year's expenses in cases where programs have elevated risks due to market conditions compounded with long life spans of associated program products. The amount of the PCA program reserve threshold is recalculated on an annual basis and the reserve value is adjusted accordingly at year end for the associated year which is presented in the statement of changes in net assets as a fund transfer.

The assets in the PCA Program Reserve Fund consist of cash, term deposits and investments in fixed income and equity securities, and are independently managed.

During the year, \$1,312,412 was transferred from unrestricted net asset to internally restricted net assets (2023 - \$11,545,998 was transferred from the internally restricted net assets to the unrestricted net assets).

The balance of internally restricted net assets is comprised of the following amounts:

	_	2024	2023
PCA Program Reserve Fund	\$	36,474,824 \$	35,069,252
Funds available for the development of collection facilities (Note 11(b))		654,892	748,052
Funds available for the development of Saskatchewan collection facilities (Note 11(c))	_	1,000,000	1,000,000
	<u>\$</u>	38,129,716 \$	36,817,304

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

7. Tangible capital assets

	_	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	2024 Net	2023 Net
Land	\$	7,659,119	\$ - \$	7,659,119 \$	7,659,119
Buildings		8,141,509	2,193,940	5,947,569	6,273,229
Depot equipment		3,589,953	2,971,838	618,115	582,145
Office equipment		5,551	5,551	-	-
Leasehold improvements		45,561	4,556	41,005	-
Computer equipment		34,519	5,753	28,766	-
Assets under development	_	674,262	-	674,262	
	\$	20,150,474	\$ 5.181.638 \$	14.968.836 \$	14.514.493

Land and buildings consist of two properties where legal ownership resides with bare trustee corporations. The Association has beneficial ownership of the properties. Included in operating expenses and general and administrative expenses is a total of \$706,598 (2023 - \$720,452) of amortization expense.

8. Intangible assets

	 Cost	Accumulated Amortization	2024 Net	2023 Net
ERP Software Quebec RecycFluo Program	\$ 754,986 50,000	\$ 754,986 \$ -	- \$ 50,000	- 50,000
	\$ 804,986	\$ 754,986 \$	50,000 \$	50,000

During the 2012 fiscal year, the Association acquired certain intangible assets related to commencement of the Quebec RecycFluo Program for \$50,000. The intangible assets acquired consist of the program trademark and the list of program members that was established by the previous program manager. Management of the Association is of the opinion that no impairment allowance is required for the 2024 fiscal year.

9. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities

	 2024	2023
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities Government remittances payable	\$ 6,208,280 \$ 505,375	8,316,632 81,829
	\$ 6,713,655 \$	8,398,461

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

10. Contingencies

On 30 June 2022, the government of Quebec amended the Regulation regarding the recycling and recovery of products by businesses. Under the previous Regulation, the Association had accrued penalties as a result of not meeting certain material collection targets. The amendment of the Regulation resulted in the cancellation of the penalties that had accumulated in previous years.

Additionally, the amended Regulation requires certain collection targets beginning in the Association's 2023 fiscal year, and the Association will be subject to potential penalties if these targets are not met. The Association has met the required target during 2023 and 2024 and has not accrued any estimated penalties in these financial statements.

11. Commitments

(a) The Association has a lease agreement for the Quebec office suite which expired on 31 May 2024. During the prior year, the Association has entered into an extension which expires on 31 May 2027.

The Association has a lease agreement for the Ontario office which expired on 29 February 2024. During the prior year, the Association has entered into an extension which expires on 28 February 2031.

The annual lease payments for the Association's premises are as follows:

2025	\$	203,189
2026	,	205,011
2027		153,664
2028		119,360
2029		119,944
Thereafter		139,934
	\$	941,102

(b) In previous years, the Association's board of directors had passed resolutions to make funds up to \$1,535,000 available which can to be used for the development of collection facilities for certain ongoing programs. These funds are to be disbursed at the discretion of the Association based on an application process from qualifying organizations. As of 31 December 2024, \$880,108 of loans have been disbursed from the pool of available funds (Note 4) and \$492,651 of loans have been forgiven. The remaining undisbursed amount available to be loaned of \$654,892 (2023 - 748,052) has been presented as a component of internally restricted net assets (Note 6).

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

11. Committments - continued

- (c) In previous years, the Association's board of directors passed a resolution to make capital funding of up to \$1,000,000 available to collection sites participating in the Saskatchewan Household Hazardous Waste Program. The terms and conditions of how these funds will be disbursed have not been determined by the Association at the date of the Independent Auditors' Report. The remaining undisbursed amount available to be loaned of \$1,000,000 (2023 1,000,000) has been presented as a component of internally restricted net assets (Note 6).
- (d) At year end the Association had unprocessed product on hand with an estimated cost to process, transport and recycle of \$1,772,182 (2023 \$1,041,533) which will be incurred during 2025.

12. Externally restricted net assets

Externally restricted net assets are comprised of the following amounts:

		2024	2023
Quebec Recycfluo Program Reserve Quebec Non-Refillable Pressurized Fuel Container Recycling Program Reserve	\$	2,055,411 \$	2,012,131
		128,990	
	<u>\$</u>	2,184,401 \$	2,012,131

Pursuant to the agreement between the Association and Societe Quebecoise de recuperation et de recyclage, the Association is required to maintain a reserve fund equal to a minimum of six months and a maximum of twelve months of program operating expenses. The purpose of the reserve fund is to cover the expenses during a potential wind down of the program. During the year, the Association transferred \$43,280 and \$128,990 from unrestricted net assets to the externally restricted net assets related to the Quebec RecycFluo Program Reserve and Quebec Non-Refillable Pressurized Fuel Container Recycling Program Reserve respectively. Additionally, interest income of \$Nil (2023 - \$67,533) was transferred from unrestricted net assets to the Quebec RecycFluo Program Reserve resulting in a total fund transfer of \$172,270 (2023 - \$625,759) for the two programs.

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

13. Ontario Fee Reduction Campaign

On 24 June 2020, the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority ("RPRA") approved the Surplus Fund Transfer Addendum which, among other matters, included a transfer of surplus funds from the previous Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste ("MHSW") program to Stewards or members of the program. On 8 July 2020, the Association entered into an agreement with Stewardship Ontario ("SO") to distribute surplus funds from the MHSW program to the members of the Ontario PaintRecycle Program and the Ontario Pesticides, Solvents and Fertilizers Program (the "Programs"). Under the agreement the Association received total surplus funds of \$16,366,500, of which \$14,586,000 was to be distributed to members of the Ontario PaintRecycle Program and \$1,780,500 was to be distributed to members of the Ontario Pesticides, Solvents and Fertilizers Program by fee reductions and the residual funds that could not be applied towards fee reductions was to be disbursed in accordance with the residual funds addendum. The total of these funds were fully distributed as of 31 December 2021.

During a prior year, SO transferred additional funds of \$585,039, of which \$499,472 was to be distributed to members of the Ontario PaintRecycle Program and \$85,567 was to be distributed to members of the Ontario Pesticides, Solvents and Fertilizers Program. The total of these funds were fully distributed to members as of 31 December 2022.

During the 2022 year, the board of directors approved an extension of the Ontario Solvent fee reduction program. The extended fee reduction program is funded from the accumulated surplus generated by the Association's Solvent program which has been used to reduce EHF's owing by members. During 2023, the board of directors approved the termination of the Ontario Solvent fee reduction program effective from the October 2023 reporting period.

For the year ended 31 December 2024, the extended Ontario Solvents fee reduction program resulted in a decrease in EHF revenue of \$50,819 (2023 - \$639,974) with the 2024 reduction related to member EHF reporting received during the year and related to the period when the fee reduction program was still active.

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

14. Financial instruments

The Association is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments. The following analysis provides a measure of the Association's risk exposure and concentrations at the statement of financial position date, 31 December 2024.

(a) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation. The Association's main credit risks relate to its cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash, term deposits, accounts receivable and forgivable loans. Cash, cash equivalents, restricted cash and term deposits are in place with major financial institutions. Concentrations of credit risk with respect to accounts receivable are limited due to the large number of customers. Concentrations of credit risk with respect to the forgivable loans are limited to the extent that a collection facility who has received a forgivable loan does not become operational and the loan becomes repayable to the Association (Note 4). The Association has evaluation and monitoring processes in place and writes off accounts when they are determined to be uncollectible. There has been no change to the risk exposure from the prior year.

(b) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The Association is not exposed to this risk due to its strong working capital position. There has been no change to the risk exposure from the prior year.

(c) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk comprises three types of risk: currency risk, interest rate risk and other price risk.

(d) Currency risk

Currency risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. The Association has investments denominated in U.S. dollars included in the reserve (Note 6). As such, these investments are exposed to foreign exchange fluctuations.

Certain assets and liabilities are exposed to foreign exchange fluctuations due to transactions denominated in foreign currency. As at 31 December 2024, cash and accounts receivable of \$395,299 USD and \$153,520 USD (2023 - \$271,087 USD and \$154,360 USD) respectively and accounts payable and accrued liabilities of \$11,744 USD (2023 - \$Nil USD) has been converted into Canadian dollars. There has been no change to the risk exposure from the prior year.

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

14. Financial instruments - Continued

(e) 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 Association is exposed to interest rate risk on its fixed and floating interest rate financial instruments. Fixed-rate instruments subject the Association to a fair value risk while the floating-rate instruments subject it to a cash flow risk. There has been no change to the risk exposure from the prior year.

(f) Other price risk

Other price risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or currency risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual financial instrument or its issuer, or factors affecting all similar financial instruments traded in the market. The Association is exposed to other price risk through amounts held in investments. There has been no change to the risk exposure from the prior year.

15. Controlled organization

The Association controls PCA Product Stewardship Inc. ("PCA PSI") as it is the sole member of PCA PSI and has the right to appoint the majority of PCA PSI's Board of Directors.

PCA PSI was created to develop and manage programs in the USA that allow members to easily satisfy state regulations around the end of life handling of various products produced and sold by industry. PCA PSI is currently managing the Washington State LightRecycle program and the California State ThermostatCare program.

PCA PSI believes that the Washington State LightRecycle program will encounter a cumulative deficit in 2026. PCA PSI is actively working with obligated parties to develop a funding model acceptable to all parties. This matter has been highlighted in the PCA PSI Audited Financial Statements. The outcome of this matter is not determinable at this time. Management is of the opinion that the Association is not exposed to any material financial risk from the operations of the PCA PSI or Washington State LightRecycle Program.

PCA PSI has not been consolidated in the Association's financial statements. Financial statements of PCA PSI are prepared in accordance with US generally accepted accounting principals FASB ASC 958, not-for-profit entities. The financial summary as at 31 December 2024 and for the year then ended are based on the audited financial statements as prepared by management and are translated to Canadian dollars using the current rate method.

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

15. Controlled organization - Continued

P	CA	PSI

(unaude Financial Position \$ 2,857,902 \$ 3,412 Total assets \$ 300,809 437 Total het assets 2,557,093 2,974	
Financial Position \$ 2,857,902 \$ 3,412 Total assets \$ 300,809 43 Total net assets 2,557,093 2,974	mber 2023
Total liabilities 300,809 43' Total net assets 2,557,093 2,974	dited)
Total liabilities 300,809 43' Total net assets 2,557,093 2,974	
Total net assets 2,557,093 2,974	2,261
Total net assets 2,557,093 2,974	7,819
	4,442
	2,261
31 December 31 December 2024	mber 2023
Results of Operations (unauc	dited)
	1,228 1,551
Deficiency of revenues over expenses \$ (646,298)\$ (510)	0,323)
31 December 31 December 2024 (unau-	2023
Cash Flows	uneu)
Cash used in operating activities \$ (778,069) \$ (1,34)	7,453)
Decrease in cash \$ (778,069) \$ (1,34)	

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

16. Related party transactions

The Association is related to PCA PSI (Note 15). The following summarizes the related party balances and transactions for the year.

Included in accounts receivable is \$22,384 (2023 - \$22,019) due from PCA PSI. These amounts are unsecured, non-interest bearing and will be received in the 2025 fiscal year.

Included in revenues is \$233,552 (2023 - \$230,061) charged to PCA PSI for administrative expenses.

These transactions are in the normal course of operations and have been valued at the exchange amount which is the amount of consideration established and agreed to by the related parties.

17. Revenue

		2024	2023
Environmental Handling Fees Other	\$	45,993,575 \$ 1,756,173	40,216,607 1,565,044
	<u>\$</u>	47,749,748 \$	41,781,651

18. Comparative figures

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified from those previously presented to conform to the presentation of the 2024 financial statements.