

BARRISTERS AND ACCOUNTANTS AML/ATF BOARD

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2023

Those Charged with Governance's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

These financial statements have been prepared by those charged with governance, who are responsible for the reliability, integrity and objectivity of the information provided. The preparation of financial statements necessarily involves using management's best estimates and judgments, where appropriate.

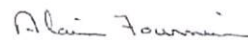
Those charged with governance are responsible for maintaining a comprehensive system of accounting records, internal controls, policies and management practices, designed to provide reasonable assurance that transactions are properly authorized and in compliance with legislation, assets are safeguarded, and reliable financial information is available on a timely basis.

Those charged with governance are responsible for ensuring that they fulfill their responsibility for financial reporting and internal controls. They meet periodically to discuss matters relating to financial reporting, internal control and audits. They also review the financial statements before approval. The financial statements have been approved by those charged with governance and have been examined by the Office of the Auditor General.

The accompanying Independent Auditor's Report is presented herein.



Mr. Michael Fahy, JP
Chairman



Mr. Alain Fournier
Director



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the Barristers and Accountants AML/ATF Board

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Barristers & Accountants AML/ATF Board, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2023, and the statements of operations and changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Barristers & Accountants AML/ATF Board as at March 31, 2023, and the results of its operations, changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations generally accepted in Bermuda and Canada.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in Bermuda and Canada. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Barristers & Accountants AML/ATF Board in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Bermuda, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

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

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting standards for non-for-profit organizations generally accepted in Bermuda and Canada, 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 Barristers & Accountants AML/ATF Board'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 Barristers & Accountants AML/ATF Board or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Barristers & Accountants AML/ATF Board's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in Bermuda and Canada 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 auditing standards generally accepted in Bermuda and Canada, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I 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 my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than from one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Barristers & Accountants AML/ATF Board'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 Barristers & Accountants AML/ATF Board's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Barristers & Accountants AML/ATF Board 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.

I 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 I identify during the audit.

I also provide those charged with governance with a statement that I have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on my independence and, where applicable, related safeguards.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Office of the Auditor General website at: www.oagbermuda.bm. This description forms part of my auditor's report.



Hamilton, Bermuda
March 18, 2025

Heather Thomas, CPA, CFE, CGMA
Auditor General

BARRISTERS AND ACCOUNTANTS AML/ATF BOARD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

MARCH 31, 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	1,083,973	935,064
Accounts receivable (note 4)	5,093	736
Prepaid expenses	-	642
	<u>1,089,066</u>	<u>936,442</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	7,959	5,937
Deferred revenue (note 6)	<u>421,712</u>	<u>419,478</u>
	429,671	425,415
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted net assets	<u>659,395</u>	<u>511,027</u>
	<u>1,089,066</u>	<u>936,442</u>

CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS (note 8)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

BARRISTERS AND ACCOUNTANTS AML/ATF BOARD

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
REVENUES		
Cost defrayment income	547,687	577,701
Donated audit services	17,000	16,560
Registration fees	13,112	13,150
Fit and Proper Person certifications	8,100	7,150
	<u>585,899</u>	<u>614,561</u>
EXPENSES		
Supervisor consulting fee	150,000	150,000
Salaries, wages, taxes and benefits	138,785	195,407
Chairman fee (note 7)	60,000	60,000
Accounting services	19,920	19,920
Audit services	17,000	16,560
Rent	16,800	16,800
License fees	11,709	11,037
Office expenses	11,484	8,371
Hardware, website redevelopment and maintenance	9,309	15,315
Bank charges	2,524	2,971
	<u>437,531</u>	<u>496,381</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	148,368	118,180
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>511,027</u>	<u>392,847</u>
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	<u><u>659,395</u></u>	<u><u>511,027</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

BARRISTERS AND ACCOUNTANTS AML/ATF BOARD
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of revenues over expenses	148,368	118,180
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable	(4,357)	475,180
Decrease in prepaid expenses	642	910
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	2,022	(5,685)
Increase (decrease) in deferred revenue	2,234	(32,297)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET INCREASE IN CASH	148,909	556,288
CASH, BEGINNING OF YEAR	935,064	378,776
	<hr/>	<hr/>
CASH, END OF YEAR	<u>1,083,973</u>	<u>935,064</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

BARRISTERS AND ACCOUNTANTS AML/ATF BOARD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2023

1. AUTHORITY AND NATURE OF OPERATIONS

The Barristers and Accountants AML/ATF Board (the “Board”) is a statutory board established on January 20, 2011 jointly by the Bermuda Bar Association (the “Association”) and the Chartered Professional Accountants of Bermuda (“CPA Bermuda”) under their respective incorporating Acts of Parliament.

The function of the Board is to act as the supervisory authority for regulated professional firms of barristers and accountants as per section 5 and part 4A of the Proceeds of Crime (Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorist Financing Supervision and Enforcement) Act 2008 (the “Act”). On August 10, 2012, the Minister of Justice, in exercise of the power conferred by section 4 of the Act, designated the Board, per Designation Order BA 64/2012, as a supervisory authority in relation to independent professionals as defined in Proceeds of Crime (Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorist Financing) Regulations 2008.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of presentation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations generally accepted in Bermuda and Canada. For financial reporting purposes, the Board is classified as a not-for-profit organization and has adopted accounting policies appropriate for this classification. The policies considered particularly significant are as follows:

(a) Revenue recognition

Registration fees are paid by regulated professional firms upon initial registration and at annual renewal periods. Fees are recorded as revenue when they are received and receivable. Fit and Proper Person certification fees are recognized as revenue when they are received and receivable.

The Board charges registration and cost defrayment fees to all firms subject to Board oversight. The Board invoices the fees in advance for the following calendar year. Revenue from these fees is deferred initially and recognized subsequently in the appropriate period of the following calendar year.

The Board also invoices for other miscellaneous services, the revenue for which is recognized either when received or receivable.

BARRISTERS AND ACCOUNTANTS AML/ATF BOARD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2023

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(b) Cash

Cash includes all cash held with financial institutions that can be withdrawn without prior notice or penalty.

(c) Donated goods and contributed services

Donated goods and services are recorded as revenue when a fair value can be reasonably estimated and when the goods and services would otherwise have been purchased or incurred.

Volunteers contribute time to assist the Board in carrying out its activities. Except for donated audit services, contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements due to the difficulty in determining their value.

(d) Tangible capital assets

In prior years in accordance with the accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations generally accepted in Bermuda and Canada, the Board was not required to record tangible capital assets as its average annual revenue was less than \$500,000. However, over the past three years, the average revenue of the Board has exceeded the threshold. The Board is currently working on a capitalization policy to be effective March 31, 2024. Note 5 outlines the amount expensed in the current year.

(e) Measurement uncertainty

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations generally accepted in Bermuda and Canada. These standards require management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the year. A significant area requiring use of estimates includes estimated accruals. Estimates are based on the best information available at the time of preparation of the financial statements and are reviewed annually to reflect new information as it becomes available. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

BARRISTERS AND ACCOUNTANTS AML/ATF BOARD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2023

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(f) Financial instruments

The Board's financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable and accounts payable and accrued liabilities. It is management's opinion that the Board is not exposed to significant interest rate, currency or credit risks arising from these financial instruments.

Cash: The carrying values of amounts reported in the statement of financial position for these financial instruments approximate their fair values due to their short-term nature.

Other assets and liabilities: Accounts receivable and accounts payable and accrued liabilities are initially measured at fair value and subsequently at amortized cost.

3. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

Prior to April 2021, the Board was economically dependent on grants from the Association and CPA Bermuda for its daily operations and cash flow. For financial years beginning April 2021, in agreement with the BAR Association and CPA Bermuda, the Board restructured its revenue model such that the Association and CPA Bermuda no longer provided grants to the Board. The Board changed its revenue model to a fee for service structure for the current and planned future financial years.

4. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Accounts receivable at year end represent registration, cost defrayment and Fit and Proper Person certification fees due from firms and individuals subject to the Board's oversight. The Board expects collection to proceed in the normal course of business and has not made any provision for uncollectible accounts.

5. TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS CHARGED TO THE STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

In accordance with the accounting policy for tangible capital assets (note 2(d)), the Board expensed items in the amount of \$ 959 (2022 - \$Nil).

BARRISTERS AND ACCOUNTANTS AML/ATF BOARD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2023

6. DEFERRED REVENUE

During the year, the Board invoiced the Association and CPA Bermuda member firms subject to registration for registration fees and cost defrayment fees. The applicable revenue period for these invoices covers the following calendar year. The Board recognizes revenue on a quarterly basis in each financial year and defers revenue to future periods where applicable.

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Deferred Revenue, beginning of financial year	419,478	451,775
Revenue invoiced calendar 2022	-	-
Revenue for calendar 2022 recognized during the year	(419,478)	(451,775)
Revenue invoiced calendar 2023	562,282	558,554
Revenue for calendar 2023 recognized during the year	<u>(140,570)</u>	<u>(139,076)</u>
Deferred Revenue, end of financial year	<u>421,712</u>	<u>419,478</u>

7. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Chair received remuneration of \$60,000 (2022 - \$60,000) which is approved by the council members of the Association and CPA Bermuda through the annual budget.

8. CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

On March 31, 2023, the Board renewed their office lease agreement with Graham Holdings Ltd. for a new term of 12 months commencing April 1, 2023, at a cost of \$1,400 per month. The remaining rent obligation for the unexpired term of this contract as of March 31, 2023, is \$16,800.

The Board renewed the contract with the Supervisor for the period from February 1, 2021, to December 31, 2024, under the same terms as the previous year. The remaining contractual obligation for the unexpired term of this contract as of March 31, 2023, is \$262,500.

In accordance with Section 25B(1)(a) of the Bermuda Bar Act 1974 ("Bermuda Bar Act") and Section 8(b)(1)(a) of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Bermuda Act 1973 ("CPA Act"), the Chairman of the Board was jointly appointed by the Bar Council and the Council of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Bermuda under letters dated June 7,

BARRISTERS AND ACCOUNTANTS AML/ATF BOARD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2023

8. CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS (continued)

2017 and May 23, 2017, respectively. The contract is a contract for services, which sets out his role, rights and duties.

Effective October 1, 2020, the Board entered into a contract with a new Chairman to replace the previous Chairman. The Chairman's term of appointment is three years from the date of appointment. The remaining contractual obligation for the unexpired term of this contract as of March 31, 2023 is \$30,000.

In September 2018, the Board entered into a contract with World Check / Refinitiv for the provision of background checking services with automatic renewal of one year periods with three months termination notice from either party at a monthly fee of \$958. Effective January 2023 the monthly fee increased to \$1,029.

In June 2020, after the completion of a database development project, the Board engaged Browser London to provide site hosting services. The contract to provide hosting services has a rolling term of twelve months. For the period November 1, 2022, to February 29, 2024, the contractual monthly fee is \$518 (GBP £406). Beginning March 1, 2024, the contractual monthly fee is \$554 (GBP £434).

9. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

The Board has exposure to counterparty credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk associated with its financial assets and liabilities. The Board members have overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of its risk management framework. The Board's risk management program seeks to minimize potential adverse effects on the Board's financial performance. The Board manages its risks and risk exposures through sound business practices.

(a) Credit risk

Credit risk arises from cash held with banks and accounts receivable. The maximum exposure to credit risk is equal to the carrying values of these financial instruments. Cash is held in current bank accounts. Credit risk associated with cash is minimized substantially by ensuring that these financial assets are invested with highly rated financial institutions. The Board determines, on a continuous basis, amounts receivable on the basis of amounts it is reasonably certain to receive based on their estimated

BARRISTERS AND ACCOUNTANTS AML/ATF BOARD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2023

9. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT (continued)

(a) Credit risk (*continued*)

realizable value. The amount outstanding at year end related to accounts receivable is current.

There have been no significant changes from the previous year in the exposure to risk or policies and procedures and method to measure credit risk.

(b) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk the Board will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due.

The Board's objective in managing liquidity is to ensure that it will always have sufficient liquidity to meet its commitments when due, without incurring unacceptable losses or risking damage to the Board's reputation. The Board manages exposure to liquidity risk by closely monitoring supplier and other liabilities, generating positive cash flows from operations and establishing and maintaining good relationships with various financial institutions.

The expected cash flows of financial liabilities for accounts payable and accrued liabilities are current.

There have been no significant changes from the previous year in the exposure to risk or policies and procedures and method to measure liquidity risk.

(c) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices, such as foreign exchange rates and interest rates, will affect the fair value of recognized assets and liabilities or future cash flows of the Board's results of operations. The Board has minimal exposure to market risk.

(d) Foreign exchange risk

The Board's business transactions are mainly conducted in Bermuda dollars and, as such, it has minimal exposure to foreign exchange risk.

There have been no significant changes from the previous year in the exposure to risk or policies and procedures and method to measure market risk.

BARRISTERS AND ACCOUNTANTS AML/ATF BOARD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2023

10. CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

The Board's objective when managing capital is to hold sufficient unrestricted net assets to enable it to withstand negative unexpected financial events. The Board seeks to achieve this objective through receipt of grants from the Association and CPA Bermuda, and excess of revenues over expenses. The Board maintains sufficient liquidity to meet its short-term obligations as they fall due. The Board is not subject to any externally imposed capital requirements.

11. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Board exercised their option to extend the office lease agreement with Graham Holdings Ltd. for 12 months commencing April 1, 2023, at a cost of \$1,400 per month.

The Board exercised their option to further extend the office lease agreement with Graham Holdings Ltd. for 12 months commencing April 1, 2024, at a cost of \$1,400 per month.

On January 18, 2024, the Board approved a 25% rebate to all regulated entities conducting specified activities under the Board's remit, on fees paid for the most recent registration period. Entities with no specified activity received a \$500 rebate on their registration fees. Rebates came into effect for the period 2024/2025.

The Board's contracts with the Chairman and Supervisor expired on October 1, 2023 and December 31, 2024, respectively. The services of both the Chairman and Supervisor continued on a month-to-month basis on the same terms and conditions as the previous contracts. The Board is in the process of finalizing its contract renewals with the Chairman and Supervisor.

On January 16, 2025, the Board approved an increase in stipend of \$8,000 for the Chairman to assist the Supervisor on national agenda matters as a result of increasing requirements from National Anti-Money Laundering Committee.