



**ALS Society of Alberta**  
Annual Report 2008

**ALS. Three letters that change people's lives. Forever.**

## Message from our Honorary Chair

### Honorary Chair - Mr Jim Gray

As Honorary Chair of the ALS Society of Alberta, I am very pleased to send my best wishes along to the volunteers, staff and most importantly those individuals affected by ALS.

The mission of the ALS Society of Alberta is to make each day the best possible day for people living with and affected by ALS. 2008 brought the development of a five year strategic plan that will guide the Society until 2013. The plan reflects the expansion of services and awareness across Alberta.

Thank you to all of the countless volunteers, donors and staff who have blessed the Society with their dedication and commitment to raising awareness, providing support and helping to find a cure for this devastating disease.

James K. Gray, O.C., A.O.E.

## Message from Chair and Executive Director

Over the past five years, we have seen a steady increase in the number of persons living with ALS in Alberta. In 2008, we experienced a 20% increase in the number of clients registered with the Society. With these statistics in mind, we anticipate continued demand for our supports, services and much needed research.

In 2008, the board and staff of the ALS Society of Alberta finalized the five year (2009-2013) strategic plan. Seven pillars were established that will guide the organization into the future. They are: Programs and Services, Governance, Management, Advocacy, Public Awareness, Research and Resource Development. 2008 and well into 2009 will bring expansion of our clients services across the province. We are committed to equitable supports and services throughout Alberta.

We will continue to support research through our contributions to our partnership with ALS Canada. Contributions that come as a result of the amazing efforts from our volunteer communities who organize the Walks for ALS and Betty's Run. In 2008, ALS Alberta contributed over \$355,000 to ALS Research, the highest amount of any province in the country.

The ALS Society of Alberta is truly a community of staff, volunteers, donors, partners and individuals living with and affected by ALS. It is a community of people who generously share their gifts wherever and whenever it is needed. It is a community that we are extremely proud to be a part of. In 2008, we held our first long term employee and volunteer recognition events in Calgary and Edmonton. We are very proud to recognize our valuable volunteers and committed employees.

Cathy Martin  
Chair, Board of Directors

Karen Caughey  
Executive Director

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Cathy Martin, Chair**

**Tara Pentney, Vice-Chair**

**Shelley Engstrom,**

**Treasurer**

**Jan Desrosiers, Director**

**Olga Maciejewski, Director**

**Norm Pollock, Director**

**Dave Williams, Director**

**Hank Geerlof, Director**

## **STAFF LISTING**

**Karen Caughey**

*Executive Director*

**Rahael Chester**

*Manager Resource Development & Communications*

**Yulia Eskin**

*Volunteers/Equipment*

**Phyllis Javorsky**

*Administration & Volunteer Services, North Region*

**Bonnie McKittrick**

*Office Coordinator, South Region*

**Patricia Ordynec**

*Manager, North Region*

**Jane Rivest**

*Client Services Coordinator, South Alberta*

**Jeremy Wojtkiw**

*Equipment Program Coordinator*

**Janice Zoeteman**

*Client Services Support,*

# What is ALS?

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a rapidly progressive and fatal neuromuscular disease that is characterized by the degeneration of a select group of nerve cells and pathways (motor neurons) in the brain and spinal cord. This loss of motor neurons leads to progressive paralysis of the voluntary muscles. Since breathing is controlled voluntarily by the chest muscles, death usually occurs when the chest muscles are no longer able to help the lungs achieve adequate oxygenation. Generally, there is little impairment to the brain or the senses.

## ALS Society of Alberta

### **Our vision**

Our vision is to make each day the best possible day for people living with and affected by ALS. We achieve our vision by providing support, facilitating the provision of care, promoting awareness, helping find a cure and advocating for change.

### **Our services**

- Quality care and support to those affected by ALS
- Information and referrals
- Equipment
- Information to build awareness and advocacy

**ALS. Three letters that change people's lives. Forever.**

## Highlights

### Programs & Services

- 2008 showed a significant increase in the number of clients registered with the Society.
- On average, 355 pieces of equipment are lent out each month in Alberta. In response to the increased demand on our capital equipment program, we expanded our budget by 45%.
- Support Groups were held in Calgary and Red Deer for people living with ALS and their families.
- Continue to work closely with the ALS Clinics in Calgary and Edmonton to ensure the needs of individuals and their families are met.
- Continue to provide much needed education and information to health care providers, caregivers.
- Developed a two-year plan for expansion of client services in rural communities.

### Research

- The ALS Society of Alberta contributed more than \$355,000 towards ALS research.
- The Society supported Dr. Stuart Cleary in the Long Volume Recruitment study at the University of Alberta.
- Dr. Chris White, a clinic director at the University of Calgary ALS Clinic, provided an update on ALS research.

## from

### Resource Development & Events

- The Society was involved in more than 30 events across Alberta throughout the year. Betty's Run and the Walks for ALS raised over \$928,000. Charitee Golf celebrated it's 6th successful year.
- New grants were received for the equipment program that allowed the purchase of items such as porch lifts, power wheel chairs and stair lifts.

### Support for Champions

- Support for Champions – we supported more than 13 requests in 2008. Activities such as camp, sports activities and education pursuits. We are very proud of the program and committed to supporting children in upcoming years.



## 2008

### Public Awareness & Advocacy

- The newsletter produced many articles of interest to both supporters and clients, and published submissions from local doctors and research professionals.
- The Society was active during ALS Awareness Month in June 2008. Promoting awareness and education throughout communities in Alberta, the Society developed a presence at many conferences and events by displaying materials and talking to the public about ALS.

### Management & Governance

- In October of 2008, the ALS Society of Alberta hosted their first ever 'Volunteer and Long Term Employee Recognition' events in both Calgary and Edmonton. Awards were presented to several key volunteers and retiring board members. Long term staff members Jane Rivest and Patricia Ordynec were presented with Certificates of Appreciation for their respective ten and eight years of service.
- Continued development of the internal systems and structures to strengthen the infrastructure of the Society.

## 2008 Events

Thank you so much to all of our third party fundraisers. Your hard work and dedication allows us to achieve our vision of making each day the best possible day for those living with and affected by ALS. Thank you....

- ALS Action Group
- Bo's Bar and Grill
- Bonanza Dinner and Silent Auction
- Bilozir Chili Cook Off
- Canal at Delacour Golf Tournament
- Charitee Golf Tournament
- Cochrane Spin-a-thon
- Edson IGA
- From the Heart
- Great Canadian Death Race
- Howard Smith Memorial Calf Roping
- Jasper Hike for ALS
- Killarney's Pub Dinner and Silent Auction
- Lloydminster Charity Dinner
- Lucid Group of Companies Auction
- Notre Dame Silent Auction
- Safeway "We Care"
- Spatial Technologies Golf Tournament
- World's Finest Chocolate



## ALS Walks across Alberta

Our Walks across Alberta raised an incredible \$928,000! This was truly a record breaking year, and it was all thanks to the dedication and support of our fantastic volunteers! Thank you!

- Betty's Run for ALS
- Edmonton Walk
- Lethbridge Walk
- Red Deer Walk
- Medicine Hat Walk
- Manning Walk
- Cold Lake Walk
- Lloydminster Walk
- Grande Prairie Walk



## Awards & Volunteer Recognition

### Certificates of Appreciation awarded to Jane Rivest & Patricia Ordynec

In recognition of their commitment to the Society, Jane Rivest and Patricia Ordynec were presented with a certificate of appreciation and a piece of art at the 2008 Volunteer and Long Term Employee Recognition event. Held in October, this was the first event of its kind held by the society. The purpose of this incredible evening was to show our appreciation to the many people who donate their time and energy to support us. Many of our valued volunteers, board of directors and staff members attended. A special thank you again to all of our staff members and volunteers, who make such a difference through their actions and support.

### Hank Geerlof receives Sidney Valo Exceptional Fundraising Award

Calgary resident and board member Hank Geerlof received the ALS Society of Canada Sidney Valo Exceptional Fundraising Award at an awards ceremony on May 2, 2009, in recognition of his volunteer Contributions. Since his diagnosis in 2003, Hank has been tirelessly fundraising for the ALS Society of Alberta. Having raised over \$80,000 in three years for Betty's Run, Hank continues to be an inspiration to us all. Congratulations, Hank!



*A very special thank you to our dedicated board of directors, who give so generously of their time and expertise. You all make such a difference.*

## With Gratitude

**Our team would not be complete without our many dedicated volunteers and donors. It is with sincere gratitude that we thank each and every one of you. Every volunteer hour, creative thought, stuffed envelope and dollar raised makes a difference in the lives of those living with and affected by ALS.**

*Thank You!*



# Treasurer's Report

**Year Ended December 31st, 2008**

2008 was another great year for the Society. Even in a year where the province started to experience a significant downturn in the economy, the Society was able to increase its revenue by 10.5% from 2007 to over \$1.9 million for 2008. Revenues from Betty's Run and Walk for ALS, two key events for the Society, continue to increase and they account for almost 50% of total revenue. These, along with other significant fundraising activities that our staff and volunteers passionately and tirelessly work on, help to fund the important work that the Society does.

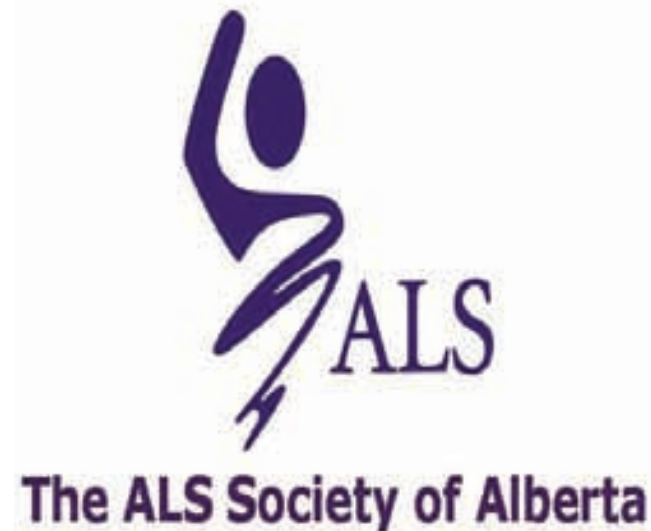
The Society continues to place significant emphasis on expenditures for Research, Client Services and Equipment, which includes equipment purchases, repairs and amortization. This focus reflects our mission of making every day the best possible day for people living with ALS by providing support, facilitating the provision of care, promoting awareness and helping to find a cure.

At year-end, the Society was in a very strong financial position with over \$1.1 million in cash and cash equivalents. This will allow the Society to meet its cash flow needs until major fundraising activities start up again in 2009.

I continue to be amazed and inspired by our dedicated group of staff and volunteers! Their hard work and commitment has paid off again in 2008 and they make a difference every day in the lives of people living with ALS. Keep up the great work!

I look forward to another strong year for the Society in 2009.

Shelley Engstrom  
Treasurer



ALS Society of Alberta  
Suite 400, 320 23rd Ave SW  
Calgary, Alberta, T2S 0J2

(403) 228-3857  
1-888-309-1111  
[www.alsab.ca](http://www.alsab.ca)

Charitable No. 12063 0827 RR0001

**Audited Financial Statements are available upon request**

**AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS  
SOCIETY OF ALBERTA**

**Financial Statements**

**As at December 31, 2008**



**AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF ALBERTA**  
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As at December 31, 2008

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**AUDITORS' REPORT**

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To the Members of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Society of Alberta:

We have audited the statement of financial position of the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Society of Alberta (ALS) as at December 31, 2008 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets, and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the ALS's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

Except as explained in the following paragraph, we conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In common with many charitable organizations, the Society derives revenue from donations and other sources, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Society and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to revenues, excess of revenues over expenses, assets or net assets.

In our opinion, except for the effect of changes that might have been required had we been able to obtain satisfactory audit evidence with respect to the revenues described in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of ALS as at December 31, 2008 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended.

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**Partners**

Tenny S. Lo, MA, FCGA, CFP, CA\*

Elizabeth A. Thompson, FCGA\*

Richard J. Black, CGA\*

\*Professional Corporation

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Tel (403) 283-1088

Fax (403) 283-1044

E-mail: lph@loporterhetu.com

Website: www.porterhetu.com

April 24, 2009  
Calgary, Alberta

Certified General Accountants

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Suite 601, 2535 - 3rd Avenue S.E.

Calgary, Alberta

Canada

T2A 7W5

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**AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF ALBERTA**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
As at December 31, 2008

	2008	2007
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Cash	\$ 636,387	\$ 535,496
Short term investments (note 3)	474,472	458,076
Accounts receivable	7,915	9,734
Prepaid expenses (note 4)	12,078	4,370
	<u>1,130,852</u>	<u>1,007,676</u>
Property and equipment (note 5)	522,841	430,214
	<u>\$ 1,653,693</u>	<u>\$ 1,437,890</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 70,319	\$ 52,552
Deferred contributions related to operations (note 7)	139,365	108,627
Deferred contributions related to property and equipment (note 7)	309,968	343,833
	<u>449,333</u>	<u>452,460</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Invested in property and equipment	212,872	86,381
Unrestricted	921,169	846,497
	<u>1,134,041</u>	<u>932,878</u>
	<u>\$ 1,653,693</u>	<u>\$ 1,437,890</u>

Approved by:

Director: Shelley Engstrom

Director: Coaky Martin



**AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF ALBERTA**  
**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**  
As at December 31, 2008

	2008	2007
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Betty's run for ALS	\$ 543,091	\$ 540,000
Walk for ALS	406,070	311,928
Fundraising	253,837	91,226
Donations	225,701	333,097
Other	222,350	152,859
Third party fundraisers	169,344	139,300
Amortization of deferred contributions related to property and equipment	118,993	151,101
Gift in kind donations	262	34,017
	<u>1,939,648</u>	<u>1,753,528</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Research	356,247	330,688
Client services	309,980	284,164
Amortization	298,377	325,971
Administration	298,476	248,722
Equipment purchase and repairs	211,314	195,976
Volunteer	74,842	30,420
Fundraising	49,364	48,146
Education	43,789	27,376
Betty's run	41,774	7,874
Resource development	29,948	27,611
Awareness	13,661	13,718
Advocacy	10,713	11,258
	<u>1,738,485</u>	<u>1,551,924</u>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<u>\$ 201,163</u>	<u>\$ 201,604</u>



**AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF ALBERTA**  
**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**  
As at December 31, 2008

	Invested in property and equipment	Unrestricted	2008	2007
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 86,381	\$ 846,497	\$ 932,878	\$ 731,274
Excess of revenue over expenses	(179,384)	380,547	201,163	201,604
Interfund transfers	305,875	(305,875)	-	-
<b>Balance, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 212,872</b>	<b>\$ 921,169</b>	<b>\$ 1,134,041</b>	<b>\$ 932,878</b>



**AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF ALBERTA****STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

As at December 31, 2008

	2008	2007
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 201,163	\$ 201,604
Non-cash transactions		
Amortization of property and equipment	298,377	325,971
Amortization of deferred contributions - property and equipment	(118,993)	(151,101)
	<u>380,547</u>	<u>376,474</u>
Change in non-cash working capital		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	17,766	(121,205)
Accounts receivable	1,819	990
Prepaid expenses	(7,708)	725
Deferred contributions	30,738	97,633
	<u>423,162</u>	<u>354,617</u>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Purchase of property and equipment	(391,004)	(345,934)
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Capital contributions received	<u>85,129</u>	<u>145,946</u>
<b>INCREASE IN CASH</b>	<b>117,287</b>	<b>154,629</b>
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of the year	<u>993,572</u>	<u>838,943</u>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 1,110,859</b>	<b>\$ 993,572</b>
 <b>Cash and cash equivalents consists of:</b>		
Cash	\$ 636,387	\$ 535,496
Short-term investments	<u>474,472</u>	<u>458,076</u>
	<b>\$ 1,110,859</b>	<b>\$ 993,572</b>



**AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF ALBERTA**  
**NOTES TO THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
As at December 31, 2008

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**1. PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION**

The Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Society of Alberta (the "Society") is incorporated under the Societies Act of the Province of Alberta and is a registered charity. Under Section 149(1) of the Income Tax Act it is therefore exempt from the payment of income tax. The mission of the Society is to make each day the best possible day for people living with and affected by ALS by providing support, facilitating the provision of care, promoting awareness, helping find a cure and advocating for change.

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**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles and, in management's opinion, have been properly prepared within reasonable limits of materiality and within the framework of the significant accounting policies summarized below.

**Revenue recognition**

The Society follows the deferral method of accounting for externally restricted contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred.

Unrestricted contributions and donations are recognized as revenue when received or receivable, if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

**Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash includes cash and cash equivalents, which include term deposits with a maturity of three months or less and investments in mutual funds that can be liquidated immediately. All are carried at fair value in accordance with the Society's accounting policy for financial instruments.

**Property and equipment**

The Society has adopted a policy of capitalizing the acquisition of property and equipment. Property and equipment are amortized over their estimated useful lives at the following rates and methods:

Office furniture and equipment	15%	straight-line
Client equipment	20%	straight-line
Automotive equipment	20%	straight-line
Computer software	30%	straight-line

**Contributed materials and services**

The Society, in common with many non-profit organizations, makes extensive use of volunteers and donated materials in conducting its activities. Donated materials are recorded at their fair market value with a corresponding amount recorded for donation revenue. No attempt has been made to quantify the value of volunteer services in these financial statements.

*Continued on page 7*

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**AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF ALBERTA**  
**NOTES TO THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
As at December 31, 2008

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

Financial instruments

Except as noted below, the Society classifies all financial instruments as trading and they are therefore carried at their fair value. Unrealized gains and losses on trading assets, if any, are recognized as part of the excess of revenue over expenses. The value of financial instruments reported at fair value is based on current interest rates, market values, and pricing of financial instruments with comparative terms. Because the fair value of financial instruments held by the Society approximates their carrying value, the application of this accounting standard does not have a significant effect on the Society's financial statements.

Financial instruments not classified as trading are accounts receivable which are classified as "loans and receivables", and financial liabilities. These instruments are accordingly carried at cost.

Recent accounting standards changes

The Accounting Standards Board in Canada has issued new standards for financial reporting for not for profit entities. These new standards will require disclosure of the accounting policy used for allocation of general and fundraising expenses, the basis of allocation, and the amounts allocated. ALS has not yet determined the effect of this change.

**3. SHORT TERM INVESTMENTS**

Short term investments are held in a money market fund invested in a Canadian chartered bank. The amounts reported in the financial statements are at cost plus interest, which is substantially equal to fair value.

**4. PREPAID EXPENSES**

\$8,739 of the prepaid expenses are related to 2009 events.

**5. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT**

	Cost		Accumulated Amortization		Net Book Value	
	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
Client equipment	\$ 1,966,622	\$ 1,588,582	\$ 1,473,316	\$ 1,187,082	\$ 493,306	\$ 401,500
Office furniture and equipment	55,028	55,028	34,568	26,314	20,460	28,714
Computer software	12,964	-	3,889	-	9,075	-
	<u>\$ 2,034,614</u>	<u>\$ 1,643,610</u>	<u>\$ 1,511,773</u>	<u>\$ 1,213,396</u>	<u>\$ 522,841</u>	<u>\$ 430,214</u>

**6. FUNDRAISING EXPENSES**

	2008	2007
Salaries and related costs	\$ 49,364	\$ 48,146



**AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF ALBERTA**  
**NOTES TO THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
As at December 31, 2008

**7. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS**

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Utilizations	Ending Balance
<b>Related to operations</b>				
Betty's Run	\$ -	\$ 545,454	\$ 543,091	\$ 2,364
Edmonton Walk to D'Feet, 2007	2,000	-	2,000	-
Designated donations	-	1,000	-	1,000
Charity golf tournament	6,296	218,998	180,204	45,090
Anonymous donor - IT grant	15,000	-	15,000	-
Strategic planning grant	25,000	-	25,000	-
Raiser's edge	-	53,443	26,312	27,131
Minister of tourism, parks, recreation	-	74,600	74,600	-
Support for champions	5,000	-	1,470	3,530
Casino	55,331	77,693	72,774	60,250
	<u>\$ 108,627</u>	<u>\$ 971,188</u>	<u>\$ 940,451</u>	<u>\$ 139,365</u>
<b>Related to property and equipment</b>				
	343,833	85,128	118,993	309,968
	<u>\$ 452,460</u>	<u>\$ 1,056,316</u>	<u>\$ 1,059,444</u>	<u>\$ 449,333</u>

**8. LEASE COMMITMENTS**

The Society has minimum lease commitments under an office lease for the Calgary and Edmonton offices over the next three years as detailed below. The lease on the Calgary property will expire on December 31, 2010, while the lease for the Edmonton property will expire on March 31, 2010

	Calgary	Edmonton	Total
2009	\$ 34,886	\$ 9,138	\$ 44,024
2010	37,642	2,285	39,927

In addition, the Society has entered into a lease agreement with IOS financial services for a photocopier. The Society will pay \$906 quarterly for the next four years.

**9. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

The Society's financial instruments consist of cash, short term interest bearing securities, accounts payable and accrued liabilities, all of which are reported at fair value. Due to their short term nature, the carrying value of these financial instruments approximate their fair value.

Management has determined that the Society is not exposed to significant credit, market or interest rate risk.

**10. COMPARATIVE FIGURES**

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the current year's presentation.

