

TRUST FUND FOR ABANDONMENT OF THE PIPELINE ASSETS OF  
NOVA GAS TRANSMISSION LTD.

**TRUST FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(AUDITED)

For the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022



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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Trustee of the Trust Fund for Abandonment of the Pipeline Assets of NOVA Gas Transmission Ltd.

### *Opinion*

We have audited the financial statements of the Trustee of the Trust Fund for Abandonment of the Pipeline Assets of NOVA Gas Transmission Ltd. (the Entity), which comprise:

- the statement of net assets as at December 31, 2023
- the statement of operations and changes in net assets for the year then ended
- and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies

(Hereinafter referred to as the “financial statements”).

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity as at December 31, 2023, and its results of operations for the year then ended in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

### *Basis for Opinion*

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the “**Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**” section of our auditor’s report.

We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

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



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

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, 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 Entity'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 Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

### ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the 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.

- 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 Entity'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 Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to Entity 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.
- 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.

*KPMG LLP*

Chartered Professional Accountants

Calgary, Canada

April 10, 2024

## Statement of net assets

<b>at December 31</b>		
(thousands of Canadian \$)	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 5)	<b>9,064</b>	7,003
Contributions receivable (Note 3)	<b>6,594</b>	6,617
Interest receivable	<b>1,245</b>	1,038
Investments (Note 6)	<b>797,503</b>	695,364
	<b>814,406</b>	710,022
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable (Note 7)	<b>9,829</b>	3,003
Deferred tax liabilities (Note 8)	<b>6,052</b>	—
	<b>15,881</b>	3,003
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>798,525</b>	707,019

The accompanying Notes to the trust fund statements are an integral part of these statements.

## Statement of operations and changes in net assets

<b>year ended December 31</b>		
(thousands of Canadian \$)	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Interest income	<b>9,972</b>	7,793
Dividend income	<b>6,546</b>	5,895
Change in fair value of investments		
Realized gains (losses) on sale of investments	<b>(12,647)</b>	(13,437)
Unrealized gains (losses) on investments	<b>67,174</b>	(81,715)
	<b>71,045</b>	(81,464)
<b>Expenses</b>		
Administrative expense	<b>(530)</b>	(724)
<b>Income (Loss) before Income Taxes</b>	<b>70,515</b>	(82,188)
Current income tax (expense) recovery (Note 8)	<b>(3,677)</b>	(2,982)
Deferred income tax (expense) recovery (Note 8)	<b>(6,052)</b>	7,724
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>60,786</b>	(77,446)
Contributions (Note 3)	<b>78,713</b>	77,896
Distributions (Note 3)	<b>(47,993)</b>	(40,851)
<b>Change in Net Assets during the year</b>	<b>91,506</b>	(40,401)
<b>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>707,019</b>	747,420
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	<b>798,525</b>	707,019

The accompanying Notes to the trust fund statements are an integral part of these statements.

# Notes to the trust fund financial statements

## 1. DESCRIPTION OF TRUST FUND

Commencing January 1, 2015, NOVA Gas Transmission Ltd. (NGTL or the Company) is required by the Canada Energy Regulator (CER), to collect funds to cover estimated future pipeline abandonment costs. The requirement to collect funds is in accordance with directions from the MH-001-2013 Decision that approved set-aside and collection mechanisms for abandonment cost funding for CER regulated pipeline companies. The CER approves amounts to be collected by the Company from its customers in respect of estimated future pipeline abandonment costs. Amounts collected by the Company are used to fund the trust (Trust Fund) that holds and invests these funds.

The Company is the beneficiary of the Trust Fund, however, the Company may only access the funds held by the Trust Fund with approval of the CER.

The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce is the trustee, custodian and investment manager of the Trust Fund.

### **NGTL and NGTL GP Ownership Transfer**

On August 18, 2023, NGTL and NGTL GP Ltd. (NGTL GP), on behalf of NGTL Limited Partnership (NGTL LP) jointly filed an application (the Application) with the CER to transfer ownership of the NGTL System, in whole, from NGTL to NGTL GP. The Application is subject to CER approval. NGTL and NGTL GP requested that CER issue its decision on the Application by January 31, 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter, to support closing of the transfer, as proposed. Refer to Note 10 Subsequent Events.

## 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### **Basis of Presentation**

These financial statements present the information of the Trust Fund as a separate reporting entity independent of the Company. They are prepared for regulatory purposes only, in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The Trust Fund is considered an investment company under GAAP and follows the accounting and reporting guidance applicable to investment companies. The Trust Fund financial statements do not portray the funding requirements of abandoning the pipeline.

### **Use of Estimates and Judgment**

In preparing these financial statements, NGTL is required to make estimates and assumptions that affect both the amount and timing of recording assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses since the determination of these items may be dependent on future events. The Company uses the most current information available and exercises careful judgment in making these estimates and assumptions. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

### **Cash and Cash Equivalents**

The Trust Fund's Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash and highly liquid short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less.

### **Financial Instruments**

All of the Trust Fund's investments, receivables and payables are non-derivative financial instruments. Cash and cash equivalents, Contributions receivable, Interest receivable and Accounts payable have carrying amounts that approximate their fair value due to the nature of the item or the short time to maturity. The Trust Fund's investments are designated and recorded at fair value on the Statement of net assets. Fair value disclosures relating to these investments are included in Note 9 of these Trust Fund financial statements. Purchases and sales of investments are recorded as of the trade date. Transactions that have not been settled are reflected in the Statement of net assets as receivables or payables. Changes in fair value are recognized in the Statement of operations and changes in net assets.

**Interest Income**

Interest income on investments represents coupon interest and is recorded when earned.

**Dividend Income**

Dividend income on investments represents dividends earned and is recorded when earned.

**Net Realized Gains and Losses on Sale of Investments**

Net realized gains and losses on the sale of investments are the differences between the net proceeds received and the cost of investments sold.

**Net Unrealized Gains and Losses on Investments**

Net unrealized gains and losses arise from changes in the fair value of investments.

**Foreign Currency Translation**

Purchases and sales of foreign securities are converted to Canadian dollar amounts at the prevailing rate of exchange on respective transaction dates. All assets and liabilities of the Trust denominated in foreign currencies are translated into Canadian dollar amounts based on the end-of-period exchange rate.

Foreign currency differences arising on translation are recognized in Unrealized gains (losses) on investments in the Statement of operations and changes in net assets.

**Administrative Expense**

Administrative expense consists of administration fees and audit costs incurred by the Company and paid or payable by the Trust Fund.

**Income Taxes**

The Trust Fund is a Qualifying Environmental Trust as defined in the Canadian Income Tax Act (Income Tax Act) and is subject to income taxes on earnings from the Trust pursuant to Part XII.4 of the Income Tax Act. The Trust Fund uses the asset and liability method of accounting for income taxes. This method requires the recognition of deferred income tax assets and liabilities for future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases. Deferred income tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates at the statement of net assets date that are anticipated to apply to taxable income in the years in which temporary differences are expected to be reversed or settled. Changes to these balances are recognized in net income (loss) in the period in which they occur.



### 3. CONTRIBUTIONS AND DISTRIBUTIONS

The Company contributes amounts to the Trust Fund which are collected from customers through abandonment surcharges as approved by the CER. At December 31, 2023, the Trust Fund accrued \$7 million (2022 - \$7 million) of Contributions receivable, which represents amounts related to December transportation services that will be collected from the customers and subsequently contributed to the Trust Fund in January.

Distributions from the Trust Fund are subject to CER approval and are restricted for use towards abandonment activities. For the year ended December 31, 2023, \$48 million (2022 - \$41 million) was distributed to the Company from the Trust Fund.

### 4. CAPITAL DISCLOSURES

The Trust Fund defines capital as all investments including cash and cash equivalents. The Trust Fund's objective is to accumulate assets in a consistent and rational manner over the useful life of the pipeline so that funds are available to meet the pipeline's future abandonment obligations.

The trustee is responsible for ensuring that the assets of the Trust Fund are managed in accordance with the Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures (SIPP) and the objectives and goals outlined within.

### 5. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

The following table summarizes the cash and cash equivalents held by the Trust Fund:

at December 31	2023		2022	
	Cost	Fair Value	Cost	Fair Value
(thousands of Canadian \$)				
<b>Cash and cash equivalents</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	6,432	6,432	3,733	3,733
Cash in foreign currency <sup>1</sup>	2,652	2,632	3,284	3,270
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>9,084</b>	<b>9,064</b>	7,017	7,003

1 The cost for cash in foreign currency represents historical translation amount in Canadian dollars.

## 6. INVESTMENTS

The following table summarizes the investments held by the Trust Fund:

at December 31			2023		2022	
(thousands of Canadian \$)	Coupon Rates	Maturity Dates	Cost	Fair Value	Cost	Fair Value
<b>Fixed income securities - Canadian government bonds</b>						
	2.00%	2028	—	—	7,622	7,029
	2.35%	2028	—	—	7,658	7,444
	2.65%	2028	—	—	25,231	22,238
	3.25%	2028	<b>3,468</b>	<b>3,512</b>	—	—
	3.50%	2028	—	—	12,659	12,566
	2.10%	2029	<b>14,393</b>	<b>13,067</b>	14,393	12,672
	2.25%	2029	<b>13,482</b>	<b>13,430</b>	5,185	4,708
	3.63%	2029	<b>2,528</b>	<b>2,215</b>	2,528	2,176
	4.00%	2029	<b>8,471</b>	<b>8,535</b>	—	—
	5.75%	2029	<b>8,783</b>	<b>7,356</b>	12,052	9,868
	0.50%	2030	<b>46,405</b>	<b>40,910</b>	54,029	45,742
	1.25%	2030	<b>40,765</b>	<b>35,744</b>	56,846	47,685
	1.75%	2030	<b>33,560</b>	<b>29,186</b>	37,237	30,990
	1.10%	2031	<b>14,820</b>	<b>13,637</b>	18,525	16,306
	1.40%	2031	<b>9,456</b>	<b>8,713</b>	9,456	8,363
	1.50%	2031	<b>84,986</b>	<b>79,343</b>	101,459	90,431
	1.60%	2031	<b>12,592</b>	<b>12,033</b>	12,592	11,574
	1.90%	2031	<b>12,597</b>	<b>11,287</b>	12,597	10,891
	2.15%	2031	<b>12,264</b>	<b>10,919</b>	12,264	10,562
	2.45%	2031	<b>8,637</b>	<b>8,375</b>	8,637	8,126
	2.00%	2032	<b>32,853</b>	<b>33,258</b>	34,895	34,437
	2.50%	2032	<b>35,889</b>	<b>36,302</b>	11,805	11,475
	3.55%	2032	<b>24,118</b>	<b>24,292</b>	17,536	17,103
	2.75%	2033	<b>26,106</b>	<b>26,339</b>	—	—
	3.25%	2033	<b>19,713</b>	<b>20,261</b>	—	—
	3.65%	2033	<b>17,785</b>	<b>18,070</b>	—	—
	4.15%	2033	<b>7,323</b>	<b>7,733</b>	—	—
	5.75%	2033	<b>11,955</b>	<b>12,122</b>	—	—
			<b>502,949</b>	<b>476,639</b>	475,206	422,386
<b>Equity index funds</b>	N/A	N/A	<b>241,906</b>	<b>320,864</b>	234,688	272,978
<b>Total Investments</b>			<b>744,855</b>	<b>797,503</b>	709,894	695,364

## 7. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The following table summarizes the Trust Fund's accounts payable:

<b>at December 31</b>		
(thousands of Canadian \$)	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Securities purchased	<b>6,132</b>	—
Income taxes payable	<b>3,677</b>	2,982
Administrative expense payable	<b>20</b>	21
	<b>9,829</b>	3,003

## 8. INCOME TAXES

The following table presents a reconciliation of income tax (recovery)/expense:

<b>year ended December 31</b>		
(thousands of Canadian \$)	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Income (loss) before income taxes	<b>70,515</b>	(82,188)
Federal and provincial statutory income tax rate	<b>23.0%</b>	23.0%
Expected income tax expense (recovery)	<b>16,218</b>	(18,903)
Non-taxable (gain) loss on investments	<b>(4,816)</b>	12,488
Increase (decrease) in valuation allowance	<b>(1,673)</b>	1,673
<b>Income Tax Expense (Recovery)</b>	<b>9,729</b>	(4,742)

The following table presents the deferred income tax assets and liabilities:

<b>year ended December 31</b>		
(thousands of dollars)	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Deferred income tax asset (liability)		
Unrealized (gains) losses on investments	<b>(6,052)</b>	1,673
Valuation allowance	—	(1,673)
<b>Net Deferred Tax Asset (Liability)</b>	<b>(6,052)</b>	—

As at December 31, 2023, deferred income tax liabilities totaled \$6 million (December 31, 2022 - nil) for unrealized gains on investments. Income tax payments of \$3 million were made in 2023 (2022 - \$3 million).

The Trust is a resident of Alberta and pays income taxes at a rate of 23.0 per cent (15.0 per cent Federal, eight per cent Alberta) in 2023 and 2022 on its income earned.

The Trust is not able to carry forward net capital losses as these losses are allocated to the beneficiary in the year sustained. As a result, the Trust cannot recognize a deferred income tax asset related to net capital losses.

## 9. RISK MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Trust Fund's investments are governed by the SIPP which outlines investment guidelines and monitoring procedures appropriate to the objectives of the Trust Fund.

The investments held by the Trust Fund are exposed to financial risks which can include market risk (consisting of interest rate risk, equity price risk and foreign currency risk), and counterparty credit risk. These risks are managed by maintaining and following the SIPP which provides guidelines for the asset mix of the investment portfolio regarding equity market exposure.

### **Market Risk**

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of an investment will fluctuate as a result of changes in market conditions and consists of the following:

#### ***Interest Rate Risk***

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The fixed income securities held by the Trust Fund are directly exposed to interest rate risk.

The following table summarizes the fair value of fixed income securities held by the Trust Fund, by maturity dates, as well as the average effective yield by class of investment:

at December 31 (thousands of Canadian \$)	2023		2022	
	Fair Value	Average Effective Yield	Fair Value	Average Effective Yield
Canadian government bonds (maturing 1 to 5 years)	3,512	3.17%	—	—
Canadian government bonds (maturing 5 to 10 years)	473,127	3.22%	422,386	3.46%
	476,639		422,386	

#### ***Equity Price Risk***

Equity price risk is the risk that the value of an equity investment will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices, whether caused by factors specific to an individual investment or by other factors affecting all instruments traded in the market. Equity index funds held by the Trust Fund are exposed to equity price risk which is managed by limiting amounts invested in equity holdings, in accordance with the SIPP. At December 31, 2023, the Trust Fund held \$321 million (2022 - \$273 million) in equity index funds.

#### ***Foreign Currency Risk***

Foreign currency risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate as a result of changes in foreign exchange rates. Foreign currency-denominated cash and cash equivalents and foreign equity index funds held by the Trust Fund are exposed to foreign currency risk. Fluctuations in the relative value of foreign currencies against the Canadian dollar can result in a positive or negative effect on the fair value and future cash flows of these investments. Foreign currency risk is managed by limiting the Trust Fund's investment in foreign securities, in accordance with the SIPP. At December 31, 2023, the Trust Fund held \$321 million (2022 - \$273 million) in foreign currency-denominated equity index funds and \$3 million (2022 - \$3 million) in U.S. dollar-denominated cash.

## Counterparty Credit Risk

Counterparty credit risk represents the financial loss the Company would experience if a counterparty to a financial instrument failed to meet its obligations in accordance with the terms and conditions of the related contract or agreement with the Trust Fund. Investments of the Trust Fund are exposed to counterparty credit risk through bonds and money market instruments. This risk is managed through the SIPP which limits the Trust Fund's debt investments exclusively to instruments that have an investment grade rating with a prescribed rating agency at the time of purchase. The Trust Fund's investments in Canadian government bonds minimize its exposure to counterparty credit risk.

## Fair Value of Financial Instruments

When fair value measurements are required for the Trust Fund's financial assets and liabilities, they are classified into one of three categories based on the fair value hierarchy below.

Levels	How fair value has been determined
Level I	Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities that the Company has the ability to access at the measurement date. An active market is a market in which frequency and volume of transactions provides pricing information on an ongoing basis.
Level II	This category includes interest rate and foreign exchange derivative assets and liabilities where fair value is determined using the income approach.  Inputs include published exchange rates, interest rates, interest rate swap curves, yield curves, and broker quotes from external data service providers.
Level III	This category includes transactions in certain markets where liquidity is low and the Company uses the most observable inputs available or, if not available, long-term broker quotes to estimate the fair value for these transactions. Where appropriate, these long-dated prices are discounted to reflect the expected pricing from the applicable markets.  There is uncertainty caused by using unobservable market data which may not accurately reflect possible future changes in fair value.

The Trust Fund's Investments in fixed income securities are recorded at fair value which is based on the extrapolation of inputs including interest rates and yield curves and are classified in Level II of the fair value hierarchy. The Trust Fund's investments in equity index funds are recorded at fair value which is determined by reference to quoted prices in active markets for identical assets at the measurement date, and are classified in Level I of the fair value hierarchy. Credit risk has been taken into consideration when calculating the fair value of these assets.

There were no transfers from Level II to Level I for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022. Furthermore, the Trust Fund has no Level III financial instruments.

## 10. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The CER approved the Application on February 16, 2024, and it did not have a material impact to The Trust Fund's financial statements.

Subsequent events have been evaluated through April 10, 2024 the date that these financial statements were authorized to be issued, and there were no additional events or transactions during the period that would require recognition or disclosure.