Annual Report

2001

Environmental Law Centre (Alberta) Society

The Board of Directors

Honourary

G.J. (Gerry) DeSorcy

The Executive Committee

President (to September 2001) Vice-President (from September 2001)

Michael L.J. Morin, Q.C. Assistant General Counsel - Resources Imperial Oil Limited

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Alberta Wilderness Association

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Dr. Harold J. Cardinal Barrister & Solicitor

Peter Lee National Coordinator Global Forest Watch Canada

Letha MacLachlan Barrister & Solicitor

Dr. Mary Richardson Athabasca University

James Tweedie Bert Riggall Environmental Foundation

People at the Centre

Centre Staff

Executive Director

Arlene J. Kwasniak **Staff Counsel**

Cindy Chiasson Brenda Heelan Powell Robert Williams

LibrarianDolores Noga

Financial Officer Laura Ferguson

Office Manager Debbie Lindskoog

Term Lawyers Keri Barringer Ian Zaharko Lisa Shields **Library Assistants -2001**

Anne Marie Melvie Michael Eaton Maureen Ferra

Research Assistants -2001

Alison Peel James Johnson

Search Service Coordinator

Iris Djurfors

Secretary/Receptionist

Fran Schultz

Bookkeeper

Patricia Langan Pam Devine Jan Taylor

President's Message

It is again my pleasure to provide the President's message to friends and supporters of the Environmental Law Centre. Each year, the Centre's mandate seems to become more relevant as society's awareness of its environmental effects grows. In fulfilling its mandate, the Centre's quality of work ensures that it thrives as one of Canada's premier environmental law resources. The following are but a few examples of the Centre's activities in 2001:

The Centre published *Alberta's Wetlands: A Law and Policy Guide* and expanded the scope of its monthly *Regulatory Review* to cover more jurisdictions. In the area of law reform, Centre staff were involved in legislative and policy initiatives at all levels of government.

Regarding information services, 2001 saw a strong revival of the Centre's brown bag lunch seminars. The Centre also started a website update and revision which is to be completed in April 2002.

To accomplish all of the above, and much more, we are most fortunate to have talented, dedicated and knowledgeable staff at the Centre. Our staff's reputation and expertise is well known and sought after throughout Canada, particularly in the areas of applied research, law reform, public education and legal resources. Without them, as well as our friends and supporters, we would not be able to continue the important mandate and work of the Centre. We sincerely thank all of you for your generosity and support.

Finally, I want to advise that, effective January 1, 2002, Arlene Kwasniak retired as Executive Director of the Centre and Cindy Chiasson, current staff counsel, was appointed to this position. We thank Arlene for her significant contributions to the Centre, both as a long time staff member and as Executive Director, and wish her every success in her new endeavours

It has been a pleasure serving as President of the Centre and I thank Arlene, Cindy, the staff, the Executive Committee and the Board for the opportunity and for all their support.

Michael L.J. Morin, Q.C.

About the Centre

The Environmental Law Centre (Alberta) Society* is a registered charity that was incorporated in 1982 to operate the Environmental Law Centre. The Centre's express purpose is to provide Albertans with an objective source of information about environmental and natural resources law.

The Centre's goal is to make the law and legal processes work to protect the environment. To achieve this goal, the Centre pursues three policy objectives:

- To ensure that governments enact good environmental laws;
- To ensure that laws and policies give the public an effective role in environmental regulatory and legislative processes; and
- To ensure that those processes offer a level playing field to all participants.

The Centre carries out activities in three main program areas: public programs; fee for service; and search services. The net revenue from the latter two programs is applied to support the Centre's public programs and technology needs.

Permanent staff members undertake program delivery with assistance of contractors and volunteers, as needed. A volunteer Board of Directors oversees Centre operations. Members of the Board represent a full range of interests in environmental law in Alberta including law, business, industry, environmental organizations, academic institutions and the general public.

 Canadian Customs and Revenue Agency Registration Number 11890 0679 RR0001;

Charitable Fund Raising Act (Alberta) Registration Number 210844

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTRE

204, 10709 Jasper Avenue Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3N3 Telephone: (780) 424-5099 Alberta Toll Free: 1-800-661-4238 Fax: (780) 424-5133

E-mail: elc@elc.ab.ca
Website: www.elc.ab.ca

2001 at the Centre

Highlights

- With funding from the Alberta Law Foundation, the Centre undertook pilot work to extend its public program activities. Work on this pilot focused on youth, aboriginals, and rural areas and interests and included presentations, articles, guest speakers and relationship building. This pilot work will continue in 2002.
- The Centre's revival of its "Brown Bag Lunch Seminars" grew stronger, with four different presentations over the course of 2001. The seminars, hosted by the Centre, provide community members the opportunity to hear presentations by experts on environmental issues free of charge.
- Late in 2001, the Centre began a comprehensive update of its website, funded by the Alberta Law Foundation. The update will streamline the Centre's site and be much more user-friendly. As well, the update will allow the Centre to process charitable donations, publication sales and search service requests on-line. The new website is expected to be launched in the spring of 2002.
- The Centre published *Alberta's Wetlands: A Law and Policy Guide*, a comprehensive guide by Arlene Kwasniak that contains a wealth of information on wetlands law and policy. This publication was funded by the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, through Ducks Unlimited Canada.

Public Programs

The public programs are the core activity of the Environmental Law Centre. These include both ongoing activities and term projects, covering activities including requests for assistance, monitoring and law reform, seminars, education, research, publications and the Centre's public library of environmental law.

Requests for Assistance

Through the Request for Assistance service, the Centre delivers a major component of its public programming and fills Albertans' environmental law information needs. This service, which is unique in Alberta, enables members of the public to contact the Centre and receive environmental law information free of charge from a knowledgeable, independent source. In 2001, Centre staff answered nearly 900 requests for assistance.

In 2001, the Centre completed the final year of a three-year grant from Western Economic Diversification, which enabled it to extend its information and referral services to small and mid-sized businesses in western Canada. The Centre's "Business Connections" program included requests for assistance services, seminars and information sheets geared towards these businesses.

Monitoring and Law Reform

Through these activities, Centre staff pursue the Centre's goal of making laws and policies work to protect the environment. Working to achieve this goal, staff serve on law reform or monitoring committees, participate in important law reform processes and prepare and submit reform briefs.

In 2001, Centre staff provided briefs or comments on the following legislative initiatives:

- proposed Species at Risk Act;
- Canadian Environmental Assessment Act five year review;
- proposed amendments to Waste Control Regulation;
- regulation of intensive livestock operations; and
- proposed Administrative Penalties Statutes Amendment Act.

Seminars

The Centre receives many requests for its staff to speak to a wide range of groups. In 2001, Centre program staff made presentations on many topics, including the following:

- water matters, including the proposed Meridian Dam, Water Act enforcement, regulatory matters related to water quality, groundwater law and wetlands law and policy;
- energy matters, including energy policy and oil and gas regulatory requirements;
- land matters, including contaminated land, preservation of natural areas, laws related to urban development, implementation of municipal ecological land use policies and regulations and tax treatment of conservation lands; and
- procedural and participation matters, including disclosure obligations of environmental consultants, environmental liability of lenders, environmental enforcement and due diligence, legal remedies for private citizens and community-based involvement in environmental monitoring.

The Centre also hosted four "Brown Bag Lunch" Seminars during 2001:

• Dr. Martha Kostuch, "Private Prosecutions and the Federal *Fisheries Act*"

- Allan Wolfleg, "Traditional Knowledge and Environmental Protection"
- Arlene Kwasniak, "Protecting Alberta Wetlands - Law and Policies that Affect Alberta Wetlands"
- Dr. Brian Bietz, "The New Regulatory System for Intensive Livestock Operations"

Education

The Centre pursues opportunities to provide environmental law education services to various audiences. This includes providing assistance and information to students in the public education system and post-secondary institutions, community groups, and environmental and industry organizations through presentations, materials and the Centre's public library of environmental law. In 2001. Centre lawyers taught environmental law courses at the University of Alberta in the Faculties of Business and Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics, and spoke as guests in classes at the University of Alberta Faculty of Law, the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and Olds College.

The Centre also supported the study of environmental law in Canada through its sponsorship of the 10th annual Sir John A. Mactaggart Essay Prize in Environmental Law. The essay competition is open to students studying in a recognized law program at a Canadian university and is sponsored by the Mactaggart Third Foundation, Carswell and the Centre's charitable donors.

Publications

The Centre continues to assist access to environmental law information through its publications. It publishes two ongoing periodical publications:

• *News Brief*, a quarterly newsletter which includes short articles and columns on environmental law and policy developments in Alberta and Canada; and

• The Regulatory Review, a monthly summary of developments in environmental law, policy and cases throughout western Canada. In 2001, the The Regulatory Review was expanded to cover Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

The Centre edits the *Journal of Environmental Law and Practice*, the only scholarly environmental law journal in Canada. The *Journal* is published by Carswell.

In 2001, the Centre also published *Alberta's Wetlands: A Law and Policy Guide*. This book provides an in-depth review of the broad range of laws and policies affecting wetlands and wetland management in Alberta. This publication was funded by the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, through Ducks Unlimited Canada. The Centre was also a partner in preparing the report *Conserving Edmonton's Natural Areas*, to be used as a guide for implementation of the City's natural sites policy.

Public Library of Environmental Law

The Centre's library is a main source of environmental and natural resources law and policy materials in Canada. It is publicly accessible and loans materials free of charge. The Centre's librarian and staff also provide assistance to library users in locating materials and carrying out their research. In 2001, the library collection grew to include over 19,000 items, including journals and periodicals, texts, decisions of courts and administrative tribunals, videotapes and legislation. The library catalogue is Internet searchable through the Centre's website.

Late in 2001, the Centre's librarian and office manager undertook an initiative to update the Centre's website, funded by the Alberta Law Foundation. The new website is scheduled to be launched in the spring of 2002.

Other Services

The Centre offers three services, consistent with its goal and objectives, in addition to its public program activities.

It offers two different environmental information search services on contract to Alberta Environment. The Environmental Enforcement Historical Search Service provides searches of a computer data base for historical information on enforcement action taken by Alberta Environment under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act and specific predecessor legislation. The Wellsite Reclamation Historical Search Service provides searches of a separate computer database for regulatory actions taken by Alberta Environment in relation to land reclamation under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act and specific predecessor legislation. The net revenues from these search services are used to support the Centre's public programs and technology needs.

The Centre's lawyers also continue to undertake fee for service work consistent with the Centre's goal and objectives.

Community Contributions

Based on their environmental law experience and expertise, Centre program staff are often asked to provide input on environmental law and policy and participate in related initiatives. In 2001, Centre program staff sat on these boards, committees and groups:

- Alberta Environmental Network: Steering Committee, Clean Air/Energy Caucus and Toxics Caucus
- Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Council and Environmental Farm Plan Steering Committee
- Bolstad-Phair Committee on Implementation of Edmonton's Natural Sites Policy

- Canadian Environmental Network: Environmental Assessment Caucus and Toxics Caucus
- Clean Air Canada Society: Board of Directors
- Clean Air Strategic Alliance: Board of Directors, Vehicle Emissions Team, Communications Committee and Coordination Workshop Organizing Committee
- EnCompass Magazine Advisory Committee
- Forest Watch Alberta Steering Committee
- Public Legal Education Network of Alberta: Board of Directors
- Regulatory Advisory Committee under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act

Thanks to our volunteers!

The Environmental Law Centre's work cannot be done without the help of its many volunteers, who give so generously of their time to assist in various projects and activities. The volunteer Board of Directors is the backbone of the Centre and the Directors freely gave their time to support its charitable goals. Many others helped the Centre as well:

Facility Community Monitoring Project (Phase II), Advisory Committee

Beth Jenkins
Bill Macdonald, Alberta Environment
Jim Martin, FEESA
Sonja Mihelcic, Sierra Club Prairie Chapter
Albert Poulette, Alberta Environment
JoAnne Volk, Weldwood of Canada

Demystifying Forestry Law: Second Edition, Advisory Committee

Dr. Bruce Dancik, University of Alberta Dr. Glenda Hanna, Alberta Wilderness Association Rick Keller, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development Michael Nelson, Austin S. Nelson Foundation Daryl Price, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development Bob Udell, Alberta Forest Products Association Cliff Wallis, Canadian Nature Federation

News Brief Advisory Committee

Ron Kruhlak, McLennan Ross Marta Sherk, City of Edmonton

News Brief contributors

Environment Canada, Pollution Enforcement Division Jillian Flett, Alberta Environment Elaine Hughes, University of Alberta Scott Livingstone, Alberta Environment J.P. Mousseau, Alberta Energy and Utilities Board Holly Prus, Justice Canada Donna Tingley, Clean Air Strategic Alliance

Journal of Environmental Law and Practice, Editorial Board

Marie-Ann Bowden, University of Saskatchewan
Linda Duncan, Barrister & Solicitor
Lorne Giroux, Laval University
Eric Groody, Gowling Lafleur
Alastair Lucas, University of Calgary
Rod McLeod, Q.C., Miller Thomson
Nancy Morgan, Morgan & Associates
David VanderZwaag, Dalhousie University
Toby Vigod, British Columbia Environmental
Appeal Board

Sir John A. Mactaggart Essay Prize in Environmental Law, Selection Committee

Alastair Mactaggart (Honourary) Jennifer Klimek, Barrister & Solicitor Ray Bodnarek, Alberta Justice Donna Tingley, Clean Air Strategic Alliance

Project Volunteers

Labib El-Ali Shannon Hayes Katherine Storey-Smith Edson Sustainable Communities Initiative

Friends of the Environmental Law Centre 2001

The Environmental Law Centre extends its gratitude to those individuals, companies and foundations who made a financial contribution to support the Centre's operations in 2001. They are:

Benefactors - \$5,000 +

Alberta Law Foundation Alberta Real Estate Foundation Dow Chemical Canada Inc. **Ducks Unlimited Canada Edmonton Community Lottery Board** TransCanada Pipelines Limited Western Economic Diversification Canada

Patrons \$2,500 - \$4,999

Austin S. Nelson Foundation BP Canada Energy Company Fraser Milner Casgrain Luscar Ltd. Petro-Canada **TELUS**

Partners \$1,000 - \$2,499

Alberta Pacific Forest Industries Inc. Canadian Hydro Developers, Inc. Judith Hanebury, Q.C. Nexen Inc. Suncor Energy Foundation Syncrude Canada Ltd.

Associates \$500 - \$999

Garry Appelt City of Edmonton – Asset Management & Public Works Conoco Canada Resources Limited

Field Atkinson Perraton Lorne Fitch Dr. David Ho

Ronald Kruhlak

Lucas Bowker & White

Letha MacLachlan

Mactaggart Third Fund

Dennis Thomas, Q.C.

Donna Tingley

Friends \$250 - \$499

ATCO Ltd.

Ackroyd, Piasta, Roth & Day Chevron Canada Resources

Cindy Chiasson

Keith Ferguson

Ferner Environment Inc.

Arlene Kwasniak

Alastair R. Lucas

Michael L.J. Morin, Q.C.

Cliff Wallis

Contributors \$125 - \$249

Anonymous Paul Edwards Debra Lindskoog Frank Liszczak JGM Consulting Inc. Nature Conservancy of Canada Clifton D. O'Brien Dr. Mary Richardson Shores Belzil Valentine Volvo

Up to \$125

Beresh Depoe Cunningham Michael Callihoo Gerald DeSorcy Thomas Dickson Albert Doberstein Dr. William Fuller Dr. Mary Griffiths Group 4 Securitas (Canada) Limited Thomasine Irwin J. Derek Johnson Andriana Lapchuk Red Deer River Naturalists Society Kim Sanderson

Jan Taylor

United Way of Calgary – Donor Choice Program

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTRE (ALBERTA) SOCIETY

Statement Of Financial Position For The Year Ended December 31, 2001

	Public Program Fund	Technology Fund	Search Service Fund	Fee for Service Fund	Administration Fund	Total 2001	Total 2000
CURRENT ASSETS Cash Term investments (note 3) Accounts receivable Prepaid expenses	\$ 104,745 102,728 42,139 - 249,612	\$ 66,075 - - - 66,075	\$ - 5	\$ 13,154 - 8,445 - 21,599	\$ 9,601 - 13,130 2,975 25,706	\$ 193,575 102,728 63,714 2,975 362,992	\$ 76,167 53,832 71,255 2,200 203,454
LONG TERM INVESTMENTS (note 3)	11,950	,	-	70,000	-	81,950	141,950
	\$ 261,562	\$ 66,075	\$ - 5	91,599	\$ 25,706	\$444,942	\$ 345,404
CURRENT LIABILITIES Accounts payable Deferred revenue (note 4)	\$ 346 119,182	\$ - 31,350	\$ - \$		\$ 5,152 -	\$ 5,498 150,532	\$ 5,435 92,645
	119,528	31,350			5,152	156,030	98,080
	119,326	31,330	-	-	3,132	130,030	90,000
FUND BALANCES Unrestricted funds Externally restricted funds (note 5)	11,950	- -	-	- -	20,554	20,554 11,950	11,950
Board restricted funds (note 6)	130,084	34,725	-	91,599	-	256,408	235,374
	142,034	34,725	-	91,599	20,554	288,912	247,324
	\$ 261,562	\$ 66,075	\$ - 5	\$ 91,599	\$ 25,706	\$444,942	\$ 345,404

Director

APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Director

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTRE (ALBERTA) SOCIETY

Statement of Operations and Change in Fund Balances For The Year Ended December 31, 2001

		Public Program Fund	Т	echnology Fund		Search Service Fund		Fee for Service Fund	Adı	ministration Fund	Total 2001	Total 2000
REVENUE												
Alberta Law Foundation (note 7)	\$	248,500	\$	_	\$	_	\$	_	\$	26 500	\$ 275,000	\$ 180,000
Grants & Fee for Service	Ψ	88,645	Ψ	30,650	Ψ	_	Ψ	44,278	Ψ	20,500	163,573	170,471
Search service fees		-		-		185,905		,		_	185,905	161,730
Charitable donations		58,774		_		-		_		_	58,774	68,260
Western Economic Diversification		50,493		_		_		_		_	50,493	56,830
Publications and Subscriptions		32,827		_		_		_		_	32,827	31,415
Miscellaneous revenue		1,218		-		-		-		22,641	23,859	22,911
	\$	480,457	\$	30,650	\$	185,905	\$	44,278	\$	49,141	\$ 790,431	\$ 691,617
EXPENSES												
Human resources – Salaries	\$	305,570	\$	6,163	\$	34,915	\$	31,665	\$	114,428	\$ 492,741	\$ 428,991
Employer Contributions		51,951		1,047		8,010		5,382		9,781	76,171	98,599
Office Space & Insurance		9,950		-		-		-		30,913	40,863	34,353
Consultants		1,101		29,819		9		653		8,060	39,642	24,490
Travel and Meetings		18,233		-		-		2,554		6,808	27,595	24,894
(Reimbursed expenses)		(16,073)		-		-		(2,973)		(86)	(19,132)	(17,205)
Supplies and Services		6,736		5,126		4,161		65		11,365	27,453	28,274
Library Materials and Searches		22,723		-		-		673		233	23,629	21,112
Office Equipment & Technology		-		15,926		-		-		7,055	22,981	35,398
Copying		13,063		18		904		516		2,399	16,900	11,830
Administration Fee		131,398		2,649		15,016		13,614		(162,677)	-	
	\$	544,652	\$	60,748	\$	63,015	\$	52,149	\$	28,279	\$ 748,843	\$ 690,736
Net Revenue		(64,195)		(30,098)		122,890		(7,871)		20,862	41,588	881
Fund balance at beginning of year Interfund transfers (note 6)		133,339 72,890		14,823 50,000	(- (122,890)		99,470		(308)	247,324	246,443
, ,	•	-	¢	<u> </u>		(,0/0)	•	01 500			¢ 200 012	\$ 247.224
FUND BALANCES AT END OF YEAR	>	142,034	3	34,725	\$	-	\$	91,599	\$	20,554	\$ 288,912	\$ 241,324

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTRE (ALBERTA) SOCIETY

Notes To Financial Statements For The Year Ended December 31, 2001

1. PURPOSE OF THE SOCIETY

Environmental Law Centre (Alberta) Society is incorporated under the Societies Act of Alberta as a not-for-profit organization and is a registered charity under the Income Tax Act. It works to ensure that the law serves to protect and preserve the environment through public information, education, research and law reform.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles, which require management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the period. These financial statements also include the following significant accounting policies:

a. Fund Accounting

The purposes of the funds for the allocation of revenue and expenses are as follows:

- The Public Program Fund is to ensure that the law serves to protect and preserve the environment through public information, education, research and law reform.
- ii) The Technology Fund is to provide the Society with the technical resources to carry out the Society's programs.
- iii) The Search Service Fund is to provide the Society with additional revenue to carry out charitable programs.
- The Fee for Service Fund is to provide services to the general public who have requested special services of the Society.
- The Administration Fund is to segregate administrative functions of the Society from the programs provided.

b. Revenue Recognition

The Society follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

- Unrestricted Contributions
 Unrestricted contributions consist of revenue for general purposes and are recognized in the year received.
- Restricted Contributions
 Restricted contributions consist of revenue for specific projects. The revenue is recognized in the appropriate fund as expenses are incurred over the life of the project.

c. Capital Assets

The Society capitalizes the cost of capital assets over \$5,000 in the year of acquisition. The costs are amortized over one year on a straight-line basis. All other capital assets are expensed in the year of acquisition.

3. INVESTMENTS

The term investments (term under one year) and the long term investments (term over one Year) represent term deposits bearing interest rates of 2.30% to 6.25% and maturing at various dates between June 3, 2002 and December 31, 2006. The carrying amount of the investments approximates their market value.

4. DEFERRED REVENUE

Deferred revenue represents funds net of related expenses, which have been designated for projects extending beyond the fiscal year end

	2001	2000
Balance at beginning of year	\$92,645	\$66,608
Amount recognized as revenue during the year	(31,433)	(43.178)
Amount received related to future years	89,320	69,215
Balance at end of year	\$150,532	\$92,645

5. EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUND

The Mactaggart Essay Prize Fund is a fund for the annual disbursement of an essay prize pursuant to an agreement with the Mactaggart Third Fund. The prize amount reflects investment income earned.

6. BOARD RESTRICTED FUNDS AND INTERFUND TRANSFERS

The Board of Environmental Law Centre (Alberta) Society has internally restricted resources of \$260,158 for use in specific funds as shown in the statement of financial position. The Board further authorized a total transfer of \$122,890 from the Search Service Fund. \$50,000 was transferred to the Technology Fund for technology enhancement, and \$72,980 was transferred to the Public Program Fund for program funding.

7. REVENUE

During the year, the Society received \$275,000 (2000 - \$180,000) of its total revenue of \$794,181 (2000 - \$691,617) from the Alberta Law Foundation as a general grant. Additional grants totaling \$119,550 were received from the same organization, of which, \$84,350 are included in deferred revenue. While project grants are repayable to the extent they are not spent, the Society considers that all project funds will be used.

8. LEASE COMMITMENTS

On April 26, 1996, the Society committed to a ten-year lease for office space. Future payments under this lease are \$31,715 per annum, plus escalations. The Society has an equipment lease expiring January, 2006 with annual payments of \$3,204.

9. STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FINANCIAL POSITION

A statement of changes in financial position has not been provided as the information contained in these financial statements is considered to adequately disclose the changes in the Society's financial position.

10. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Society's financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable, investments and accounts payable. Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the organization is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from these financial instruments.

11. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to the current year's financial statement presentation.