# **Treasurer’s Report**

**International Council on English Braille**

**8th General Assembly**

**Auckland, New Zealand**

**May 2024**

## **Introduction**

This report provides a summary of our finances from the 7th General Assembly in 2020 to March 2024. Note that unless otherwise specified all amounts in this report are in U.S. dollars. The Operations Account and the Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC) are both in U.S. dollars.

## **Previous Year-End Balances**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Operations Account | CDN Account | GIC |
| 2020 | $17,636.25 |  | $10,411.20 |
| 2021 | $10,859.91 | $38.78 | $20,465.98 |
| 2022 | $14,231.89 | $471.05 | $20,487.66 |
| 2023 | $16,312.27 | $2,151.35 | $20,852.13 |

## **2020-2023 Totals**

Income: $14,044.83

Expenses: $2,856.13

Total Net Income: $11,188.70

Interest on GIC: $440.93

## **Income to Date for the Current Year**

USD: $2,482.00

CAD: $1,320.90

Interest on GIC: $140.29

## **Expenses to Date for the Current Year**

USD: $18.00

CAD: $2576.30

## **Balances as of March 23, 2024**

Operations Account: $18,794.27

CDN Account: $895.95

GIC: $20,992.42

## **Notes**

1. In 2021 we received the refund from the President’s flight to London. This had originally been booked in 2020 and was then cancelled due to the General Assembly taking place on Zoom. The refund was made in Rand instead of U.S. dollars, so it was necessary to open a Canadian account.
2. Anthony Tibbs has been serving as the second signatory on the ICEB account. His term as Treasurer of Braille Literacy Canada (BLC) ended in 2022. I recommended that his name remain on the account, as he has continued to serve on the BLC Board of Directors.
3. In 2021 ICEB purchased a DBT licence for the Code Maintenance Committee Officer at a cost of $695.00. We also paid the American Council for the Blind for web hosting and domain name registration at a total cost of $134.95.
4. ICEB hired Matthew Horspool to manage the livestream and podcast for the Midterm Executive Meeting.
5. Some countries did not factor in the fee for a wire transfer but it is not worth the cost of collecting the difference. I have clarified this issue on the invoices and it does not occur as frequently. Occasionally a country pays slightly more than the required amount. International wire transfers can still be somewhat convoluted because of wire transfer fees and currency conversions.
6. In the spring of 2023 I set up a PayPal account to give member countries another way to pay their annual membership fees.
7. Michael Lavin, treasurer of Irish National Braille and Alternate Formats (INBAF), reviewed the ICEB Financial Statements for 2020 – 2023. His comments and questions were extremely helpful and his diligence is very much appreciated. He has provided certification in writing that all is in order with the statement that I have submitted to this General Assembly.
8. When I present this report at the General Assembly I will provide current account balances and any other relevant updates since the time of writing.

## **Fundraising**

In November 2017 the Finance Committee was given a charge to develop a list of fundraising suggestions in collaboration with the Public Relations committee. The main challenge is that we don’t have official registered charity status in any of our member countries. I recommend that the incoming Executive Committee review this charge and consider whether or not it should be retained.

## **Treasurer Procedures**

In 2023 the Executive Committee asked me to create a document that outlines the procedures and other considerations that would be helpful for future ICEB treasurers. This document has been reviewed by the Finance Committee and approved by the Executive.

## **Conclusion**

In closing I would like to thank Ilka Stäglin and Ntshavheni Netshituni for serving on the ICEB Finance Committee for the past four years. I have enjoyed serving as the ICEB Treasurer, in spite of – or perhaps because of – the intricacies and vagaries of international funds transfers. Once all expenses related to the General Assembly have been reconciled I will begin the process of transferring the ICEB funds to the incoming Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Goulden, ICEB Treasurer

Ottawa, Ontario

March 23, 2024