

OUR COMMITMENT to Members

We provide **CONVENIENT** digital banking and **WELCOMING** in-branch service in the English or Lithuanian language, with no account fees or charges for everyday banking services.

We support the **GROWTH** and **WELL-BEING** of our local community – youth, culture and the elderly are a focus.

We **PROTECT** our Members by adhering to industry best practices for security and privacy.



Happy 70th Birthday, Parama

Heartfelt congratulations to the Executive and all Parama Team members. Your hard work has created a great Credit Union.

Our almost 93-year-old father has a somewhat shared history. He came from post World War II Germany in 1955. The streets of Toronto were not that welcoming to Catholic German newcomers at that time. When he was finally able to open up his small jewellery store across the street from the first Parama branch, he was quickly welcomed by the Canadian Lithuanian community.

Soon after his store opened, people from Parama invited him to become a Parama member.

Our father has been forever thankful that he could join. He soon asked if his two brothers could also become members. The Wuebbolt family tree has grown with Parama memberships since that time.

I recall that when I asked my dad at a young age “what is a credit union?”, my dad answered me saying “they help you!”.

Today we thank the Parama team for their support and encouragement. We are proud members and have even grown to become neighbours to Parama. It is hoped that the Wuebbolt generations that follow will continue in the effort to grow, support and strengthen Parama.

All the best for the future and thank you.

A proud (and grateful) member,

Peter Wuebbolt



MESSAGE FROM the Board



Tomas Kuras
Chair

PARAMA CREDIT UNION'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

Busy lives keep us anchored to the present, but anniversaries provide an opportunity to reflect. I am feeling appreciation for the generations before us that left all they knew to make a better life for their families. After the turmoil in eastern Europe post-WWII, Canada offered a chance at rebuilding a life. At that time it was far more difficult than today for a newcomer to secure financial assistance to buy real estate or set up a business. PARAMA Credit Union was a way to engage the power of the Lithuanian community to help each other.

A lot has changed since 1952, but in all the important ways we are the same. Immigrants continue to arrive in Canada, and we help them get established. COVID remains a challenge to everyone; we are grateful that from a position of financial strength we are able to help our Members and our community weather the storm. PARAMA continues to be a strong, safe and growing financial institution. 2021 was a particularly successful year and we are proud to have donated over \$136,000 back to our community organizations.

Please join me in celebrating 70 years of serving our community – we hope to celebrate in person soon. I am very proud of what PARAMA has been able to accomplish over the past seven decades and am excited about what we will accomplish in the decades to come. Wishing all of our Members health and prosperity in 2022!

With gratitude for your patronage,

Tomas Kuras

Chair

“Early in the pandemic we switched to online Board meetings and I recall those were peppered with a friendly chorus of ‘don’t forget to unmute!’. While I appreciate the convenience, I miss coming into the branch, meeting up with Board members and management in person and being able to discuss issues face-to-face.”

- Monika Spudas, Audit Committee Chair

MESSAGE FROM the Chief Executive Officer



Tarmo Lõbu
Chief Executive Officer

GROWTH AMID CHALLENGES

As we enter our 70th year, I am extremely pleased to report on what has proved to be another remarkable year for PARAMA.

While the return to normal which we had all been eagerly looking forward to a year ago did not materialize as expected, we continued to make significant strides in adapting our business to new systems and evolving regulatory requirements in an increasingly competitive and rapidly changing business environment.

More notably, 2021 goes down as a year in which PARAMA managed to achieve record levels of growth and financial performance. PARAMA's pre-tax profits more than doubled to just shy of \$5.5million before patronage distributions. Asset levels climbed to \$479 million, up \$60 million from 2020. PARAMA continued to achieve double digit growth in loans and deposits, both of which closed the year at around \$435 million.

After all taxes and patronage payouts, PARAMA was still able to reinvest over \$4 million into its business at a time when capital levels continue to take on greater importance for all financial institutions. PARAMA's retained earnings or net worth now exceeds \$30million.

These results did not come without effort. COVID risks required us to limit in-branch service and implement other precautions, requiring sacrifices from employees and members alike. While we have been successful in preventing any workplace spread of the virus these risks continue to linger. I can't say enough about how grateful I am for your patience and perseverance as we continue work through these challenges together to keep everyone safe.

We continue to make improvements in our service offerings as we adapt our systems and develop functionality to prepare us for the future. Last year we introduced a series of improvements to on-line services affecting member statements, fraud alerts and e-transfers. These initiatives will continue into 2022 with the planned launch of enhanced security measures and further improvements to on-line payments and other services.

I'm also pleased to announce that upgrades to PARAMA's newest location to accommodate meeting/reception facilities along with additional work areas are now complete. We look forward to hosting you in this venue once pandemic risks subside.

As we move into our 70th year – one can only wonder whether PARAMA's founding members might have envisioned how far banking services will have advanced over the past decades. While the industry has evolved our core commitment to you, our Members and the communities which we serve, has not. We continue to strive to bring you the best in financial services with industry leading savings rates and no fees on everyday banking transactions, all of which are available through the latest in digital platforms and friendly in-branch service. All of this is made possible by a highly committed and dedicated staff – to whom I am eternally grateful. We remain committed to remain abreast of these changes as we work to solidify our relevance to you, our members.

Real-time processing, open banking, increased competition in a digital world and greater regulatory scrutiny all combine to promise an exciting future for PARAMA. PARAMA's evolution continues to offer more and more exciting opportunities for bright and enthusiastic individuals. If you or someone you know is interested in developing a rewarding career in financial services within a highly successful, community-based institution where you can make a real difference, please give us call – you may be pleasantly surprised.

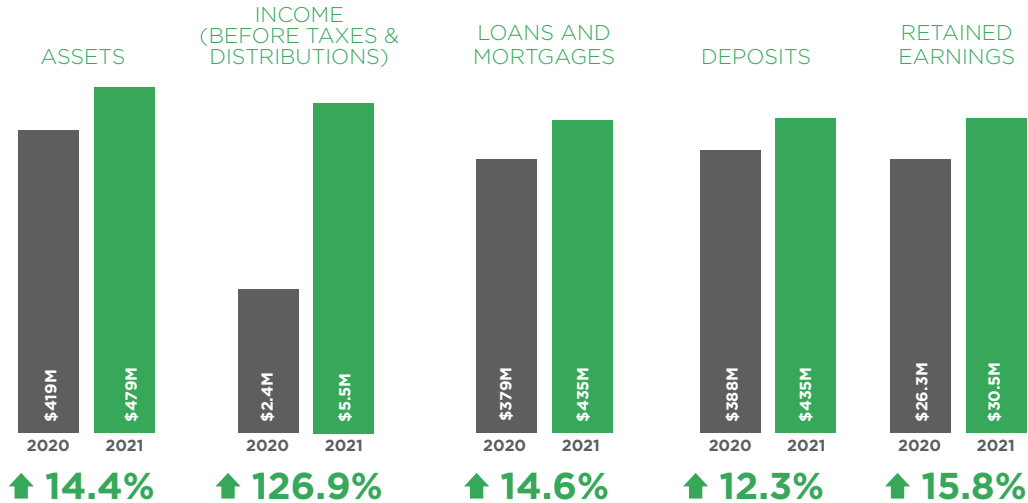
Lastly, I can't thank you enough for the high level of confidence and trust which you place in PARAMA. We are extremely grateful for your patronage and very much look forward to continuing to serve you going forward.

Tarmo Lõbu

Chief Executive Officer

FINANCIALS

Financial Highlights 2021



2021 - A growth story

PARAMA achieved record levels of growth and financial performance in 2021. Pre-tax profits more than doubled to just shy of \$5.5million before patronage distributions. Asset levels climbed to \$479 million, up \$60 million from 2020. PARAMA continued to achieve double digit growth in loans and deposits, both of which closed the year at around \$435 million.

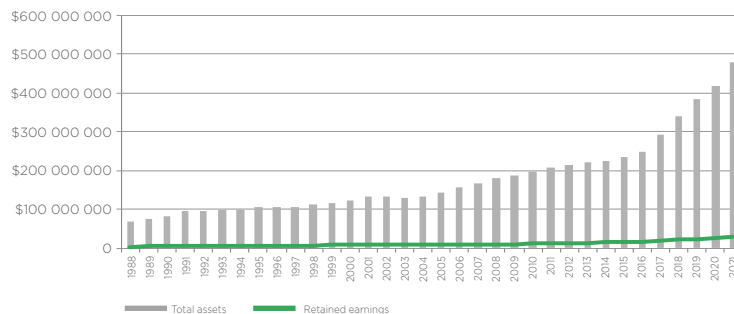
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FINANCIALS

Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Assets		
Cash	10 641 581	6 047 011
Investments	25 510 762	26 683 705
Loans receivable	434 604 178	379 343 945
Other assets	3 789 579	2 153 194
Property and equipment	4 236 927	4 464 842
	478 783 027	418 692 697
Liabilities		
Member deposits	435 949 581	388 176 853
Demand loans payable	7 000 000	-
Other liabilities	5 130 631	3 986 997
Member shares	239 665	230 425
	448 319 877	392 394 275
Members' Equity		
Retained earnings	30 543 470	26 298 422
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(80 320)	-
	30 463 150	26 298 422
	478 783 027	418 692 697

Total Assets and Retained Earnings



FINANCIALS

Statement of Income

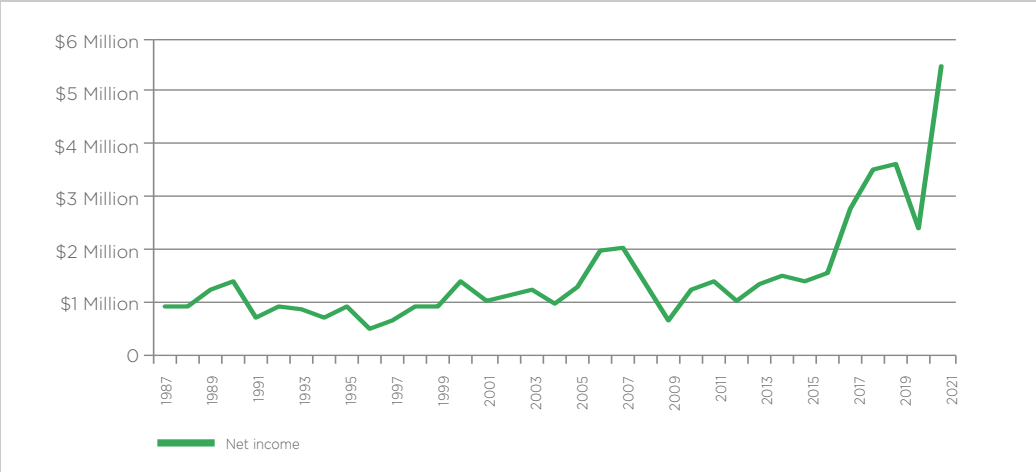
For the year ended December 31, 2021	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Interest income		
Loans receivable	14 980 615	14 031 510
Investments	148 653	364 738
	15 129 268	14 396 248
Interest expense		
Member deposits	5 628 524	6 979 664
Other	47 856	106 825
	5 676 380	7 086 489
Net interest income	9 452 888	7 309 759
Provision for loan losses	180 000	435 000
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	9 272 888	6 874 759
Other income	1 528 906	529 120
Net interest and other income	10 801 794	7 403 879
Operating expenses		
Salaries and benefits	2 658 184	2 488 761
Administrative expenses	1 733 201	1 662 056
Insurance	499 260	483 108
Advertising and promotion	232 150	166 212
Depreciation	220 865	198 868
	5 343 660	4 999 005
Income before distribution and taxes	5 458 134	2 404 874
Distribution to members	183 276	178 507
Income before income taxes	5 274 858	2 226 367
Income taxes		
Current	1 068 337	426 218
Deferred	(38 527)	(90 555)
	1 029 810	335 663
Net income	4 245 048	1 890 704

FINANCIALS

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended December 31, 2021	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Net income	4 245 048	1 890 704
Other comprehensive loss		
Unrealized loss on fixed income investments	(80 320)	-
Total comprehensive income	4 164 728	1 890 704

Net Pre-Tax Income



COMMUNITY

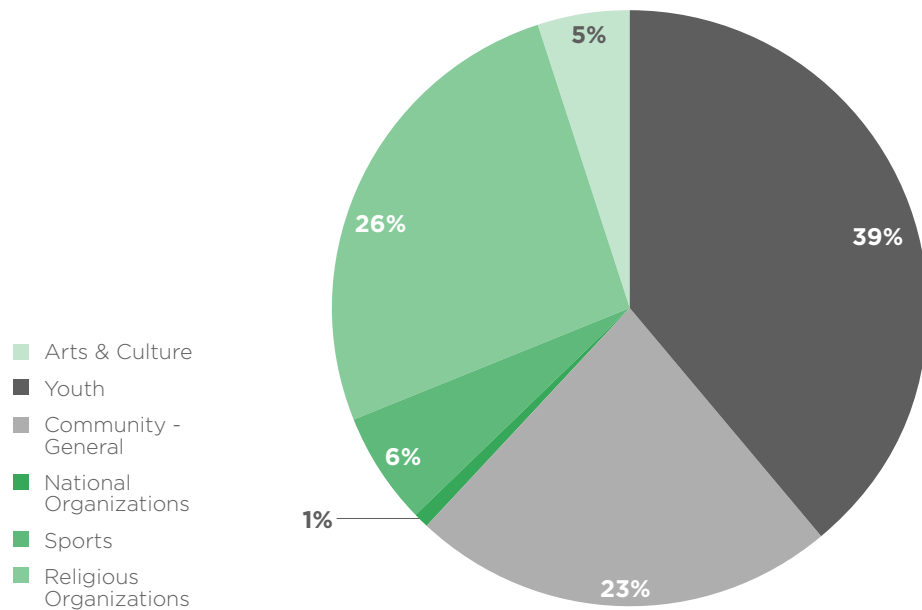
PARAMA's Community Impact Report 2021



FOCUSING ON THE FINANCIAL WELL-BEING OF OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1952.

This past year continued to be a challenging one for everyone. Charitable organizations and the families they support have once again been impacted negatively. In 2021, we remained focused on commitments made to our charitable partners and for 2022, we're happy to be able to provide additional support and special assistance as the pandemic goes on.

2021/2022 Community Giving



HERE ARE SOME OF THE ORGANIZATIONS THAT PARAMA'S COMMUNITY GIVING PROGRAM SUPPORTED THROUGHOUT 2021/2022.



Aušra Sports Club was formed in 1955 to offer youth and adult basketball, hockey, swimming and other sports programmes to Toronto area community members. Aušra competes in GTA house leagues and in international tournaments hosted by junior sports organizations in the US and Europe.



The Lithuanian Canadian Community represents all Canadian residents who consider themselves Lithuanian either by birth or descent or loyalty or who choose to be supportive of Lithuania.



Romuva is a camp located near Huntsville on the shores of Fox Lake. It provides a venue for the community to experience the outdoors – and a home for various Scouts organizations such as Satrija, Rambynas and Sea Scouts which teach youth skills, the values of community and principles of self reliance.



Lithuanian Martyrs RC Church, the St. John Lithuanian cemetery and Anapolis Halls serve the parish and community and are based in Mississauga.



Lithuanian Museum Archives of Canada is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the historical and cultural legacy of Lithuanians in Canada.



Volunge Lithuanian Choral Ensemble is a mixed voice choir.



Since 1955 the Gintaras dancers have brought life to traditional forms of dance, music and cultural activities.



Established in 2002, Labdara is a 90-bed long-term care home for seniors located in the West End of Toronto, Ontario.



Resurrection Parish Church / Toronto Priskėlimo Parapija serves the parish and west end Community.

COMMUNITY

2021 Scholarship Winners

We are exceptionally proud of our 2021 scholarship winners and wish them the very best as they continue their studies or go on to start exciting careers. Join us in congratulating the community's future leaders.



Vincent Gibowicz



Joris Meiklejohn



Aleksa Groen in 't Woud



Andriejus Sukauskas



Aida Vilkelis



Linas Kairys



Emilia Degutis



Linas Gabrys



Melanie Gegar



Zoe Hlady



Alexander Nigro

ABOUT US

Board of Directors



Tomas Kuras
Chair



Rita Urbonavičius
*Director,
Chair (2009 to 2021)*



Janė Macijauskas
Vice-Chair



Monika Spudas
*Audit Committee
Chair*



Audrius Vaidila
Director



**Edmundas (Ed)
Pamataitis**
Director



Rimas Kružikas
Board Secretary

Friendly Branch Staff



Roncesvalles Branch



Kingsway Branch

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS

PARAMA Credit Union – Looking back from 2022

Being a financial resource for our Members as they work towards life goals keeps us firmly rooted in what matters most - helping our members. While much has changed since 1952, in the important ways we are still the same.



Emigrants enroute to Canada



PARAMA's first branch, 1952



PARAMA's first Board of Directors, 1952/53

Let's take a look at the events that led to the world's largest Lithuanian credit union being located in Toronto.

Credit unions and other cooperative, consumer-based movements have a long history in Lithuania. The first consumer-based cooperative movement was started in Lithuania in 1869. By 1928 there were 624 credit unions, 884 consumer's unions and 516 cooperative dairies in Lithuania. This familiarity with the cooperative structure was carried with Lithuanians as they left Europe to escape first the Nazis and then the Soviet occupying forces.

After WWII, thousands of Lithuanians immigrated to Canada - as they began their new life in Toronto they needed a financial institution that would help them fulfil their plans of buying real estate, starting businesses and entering into trades and professions. It was difficult to secure financial assistance because local banks required established credit ratings. It was also difficult to communicate for the new arrivals, making it almost impossible to obtain the loans they needed.

At the time government regulations were such that a credit union could only be established within the boundaries of organizations, workplaces or parishes. At the time, the only established organization to which Lithuanians belonged to, and which had its own charter, was the Lithuanian House.

At the end of the summer of 1952 three community members, having cooperative experience and a common goal, set out to establish a credit union based on the Lithuanian House organization's charter and boundaries. On October 7, 1952 they called a founders' meeting to take place at the Lithuanian House (on Ossington St. at the time). 21 founding members gathered that day and each purchased shares of \$5 and paid a \$00.25 registration fee. An application for a credit union charter under the name "Parama (Toronto) Credit Union Limited" was subsequently submitted. The name "Parama" was selected as it means "support" in Lithuanian.



First branch manager, Aleksandras Kisonis, 1953



Toronto Star, April 1956



Newly opened branch at Lithuanian House, 1573 Bloor St. West



Kingsway Branch, 2975 Bloor St. West, 2021

The charter was granted by the Province of Ontario on December 19, 1952; an inaugural members' meeting was held in the New Year on January 17, 1953. The first board meeting was held February 2, 1953. Banking operations began February 20, 1953 and was available one evening a week at the Lithuanian House.

By 1956 Parama was open for business five days a week.

On September 15, 1973 Parama moved into a new location at 1573 Bloor St. West. At the end of 30 years membership was at 4,550 and assets had reached almost \$33 million.

In 1982 the name was changed to "Parama Lithuanian Credit Union" and in 1996 the by-laws were changed to include not only Toronto Lithuanians but those living throughout the Province of Ontario.

As the Lithuanian community flourished, a 2nd location became necessary and in April 1996, 2975 Bloor Street West near Royal York was purchased and opened for business in January 1997.

In 2009, Parama's membership was opened to all residents of Ontario, regardless of ethnicity.

Over 2020/2021, we renovated our branches, and acquired a property near the Kingsway branch to facilitate our growing staff and provide space for larger meetings. This will be opening in 2022.

2022 is PARAMA's 70th anniversary, assets are at \$478 million, a growing portion of which is the result of expanding memberships outside the Lithuanian community to residents both established and newly arrived in Canada.

A lot has changed in Toronto since 1952, but throughout the years we have retained a commitment of providing quality service to members - the credit union owners. Our commitment today remains to serve our members and our community as needs present and our means allow. In this way, we haven't changed at all.

PARAMA gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the Lithuanian Museum Archives of Canada in providing photos from their archival collection.



PARAMA
CREDIT UNION

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