Based on this evaluation, management concluded that internal control over financial reporting is effective as at December 31, 2008, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external reporting purposes.

In 2008, there was no change in TransCanada's internal control over financial reporting that materially affected or is reasonably likely to materially affect TransCanada's internal control over financial reporting.

*CEO and CFO Certifications*
TransCanada's President and Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have filed with the SEC and the Canadian securities regulators certifications regarding the quality of TransCanada's public disclosures relating to its fiscal 2008 reports filed with the SEC and the Canadian securities regulators.

## SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES

To prepare financial statements that conform with Canadian GAAP, TransCanada is required to make estimates and assumptions that affect both the amount and timing of recording assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses. The Company uses the most current information available and exercises careful judgment in making these estimates and assumptions. The Company believes the following accounting policies and estimates require it to make assumptions about highly uncertain matters and changes in these estimates could have a material impact to the Company's financial information.

*Regulated Accounting*
The Company accounts for the impacts of rate regulation in accordance with GAAP. Three criteria must be met to use these accounting principles:

- the rates for regulated services or activities must be subject to approval by a regulator;
- the regulated rates must be designed to recover the cost of providing the services or products; and
- it must be reasonable to assume that rates set at levels to recover the cost can be charged to and will be collected from customers in view of the demand for services or products and the level of direct and indirect competition.

The Company's management believes all three of these criteria have been met with respect to each of the regulated natural gas pipelines accounted for using regulated accounting principles. The most significant impact from the use of these accounting principles is that the timing of recognition of certain expenses and revenues in the regulated businesses may differ from that otherwise expected under GAAP in order to appropriately reflect the economic impact of the regulators' decisions regarding the Company's revenues and tolls.

Effective January 1, 2009, the Company's accounting for its future income taxes recorded on rate-regulated operations will change as discussed in the "Accounting Changes" section of this MD&A.

*Financial Instruments and Hedges*

*Financial Instruments*
Effective January 1, 2007, the Company adopted the accounting requirements for the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA) Handbook Sections 1530 "Comprehensive Income", 3855 "Financial Instruments – Recognition and Measurement", and 3865 "Hedges". Effective December 31, 2007, the Company adopted the accounting requirements for CICA Handbook Sections 3862 "Financial Instruments – Disclosure", 3863 "Financial Instruments – Presentation", and 1535 "Capital Disclosures". Adjustments to the consolidated financial statements for 2007 were made on a prospective basis.

The CICA Handbook requires that all financial instruments initially be included on the balance sheet at their fair value. Subsequent measurement of the financial instruments is based on their classification. Financial assets are classified into the following categories: held for trading, available for sale, held-to-maturity investments and loans and receivables.

Financial liabilities are classified as held for trading or other financial liabilities. The Company does not have any held-to-maturity investments.

Held-for-trading derivative financial assets and liabilities consist of swaps, options, forwards and futures. Commodity held-for-trading financial instruments are initially recorded at their fair value and changes to fair value are included in Revenues. Changes in the fair value of interest rate and foreign exchange rate held-for-trading instruments are recorded in Financial Charges and in Interest Income and Other, respectively.

The available-for-sale classification includes non-derivative financial assets that are designated as available for sale or are not included in the other three classifications. These instruments are accounted for initially at their fair value and changes to fair value are recorded through Other Comprehensive Income. Trade receivables, loans and other receivables with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as "loans and receivables" and are measured at amortized cost using the effective interest method, net of any impairment. Other financial liabilities consist of liabilities not classified as held for trading. Items in this financial instrument category are recognized at amortized cost using the effective interest method.

The recognition of gains and losses on the derivatives for the Canadian Mainline, Alberta System and Foothills exposures is determined through the regulatory process. The gains and losses on derivatives accounted for as part of rate-regulated accounting are deferred in regulatory assets or regulatory liabilities.

*Hedges*

The CICA Handbook specifies the criteria that must be satisfied in order to apply hedge accounting and the accounting for each of the permitted hedging strategies, including: fair value hedges, cash flow hedges and hedges of foreign currency exposures of net investments in self-sustaining foreign operations. Hedge accounting is discontinued prospectively when the hedging relationship ceases to be effective or the hedging or hedged items cease to exist as a result of maturity, expiry, sale, termination, cancellation or exercise.

In a fair value hedging relationship, the carrying value of the hedged item is adjusted for changes in fair value attributable to the hedged risk. The changes in fair value are recognized in Net Income. Changes in the fair value of the hedged item, to the extent that the hedging relationship is effective, are offset by changes in the fair value of the hedging item, which are also recorded in Net Income.

In a cash flow hedging relationship, the effective portion of the change in the fair value of the hedging derivative is recognized in Other Comprehensive Income, while any ineffective portion is recognized in Net Income in the same financial category as the underlying transaction. When hedge accounting is discontinued, the amounts recognized previously in Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income are reclassified to Net Income during the periods when the variability in cash flows of the hedged item affects Net Income. Gains and losses on derivatives are reclassified immediately to Net Income from Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income when the hedged item is sold or terminated early, or when a hedged anticipated transaction is no longer expected to occur.

The Company also enters into cash flow hedges and fair value hedges for activities subject to rate regulation. The gains and losses arising from the changes in fair value of these hedges can be recovered through the tolls charged by the Company. As a result, these gains and losses are deferred as rate-regulated assets or liabilities on behalf of the ratepayers. When the hedges are settled, the realized gains or losses are collected from or refunded to the ratepayers in subsequent years.

In hedging the foreign currency exposure of a net investment in a self-sustaining foreign operation, the effective portion of foreign exchange gains and losses on the hedging instruments is recognized in Other Comprehensive Income and the ineffective portion is recognized in Net Income. The amounts recognized previously in Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income are reclassified to Net Income in the event the Company settles or otherwise reduces its investment in a foreign operation.

The fair value of financial instruments and hedges is primarily derived from market values adjusted for credit risk, which can fluctuate greatly from period to period. These changes in fair value can result in variability in net income as a result of recording these changes in fair value through earnings. The risks associated with fluctuations to earnings and cash flows for financial instruments and hedges are discussed further in the "Risk Management and Financial Instruments" section of this MD&A.

*Depreciation and Amortization Expense*

TransCanada's plant, property and equipment are depreciated on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives. Pipeline and compression equipment are depreciated at annual rates ranging from one per cent to 25 per cent. Metering and other plant equipment are depreciated at various rates. Major power generation and natural gas storage plant, equipment and structures in the Energy business are depreciated on a straight-line basis over estimated service lives at average annual rates ranging from two per cent to ten per cent. Nuclear power generation assets under capital lease are initially recorded at the present value of minimum lease payments at the inception of the lease and amortized on a straight-line basis over the shorter of their useful life and the remaining lease term. Other equipment is depreciated at various rates. Corporate plant, property and equipment are depreciated on a straight-line basis over estimated useful lives at average annual rates ranging from three per cent to 20 per cent.

Depreciation expense in 2008 was $1,189 million (2007 – $1,179 million) and is recorded in Pipelines and Energy. In Pipelines, depreciation rates are approved by regulators when applicable and depreciation expense is recoverable based on the cost of providing the services or products. If regulators permit recovery through rates, a change in the estimate of the useful lives of plant, property and equipment in the Pipelines segment will have no material impact on TransCanada's net income but will directly affect funds generated from operations.

*Impairment of Long-Lived Assets and Goodwill*

The Company reviews long-lived assets such as property, plant and equipment, and intangible assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable. If the total of the estimated undiscounted future cash flows is less than the carrying value of the assets, an impairment loss is recognized for the excess of the carrying value over the fair value of the assets.

Goodwill is tested in the Pipelines and Energy segments for impairment annually or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the asset might be impaired. An initial assessment is made by comparing the fair value of the operations, which includes goodwill, to the book values of each reporting unit. If this fair value is less than book value, an impairment is indicated and a second test is performed to measure the amount of the impairment. In the second test, the implied fair value of the goodwill is calculated by deducting the fair value of all tangible and intangible net assets of the reporting unit from the fair value determined in the initial assessment. If the carrying value of the goodwill exceeds this calculated implied fair value of the goodwill, an impairment charge is recorded.

These valuations are based on management's projections of future cash flows and, therefore, require estimates and assumptions with respect to:

- discount rates;
- commodity prices;
- market supply and demand assumptions;
- growth opportunities;
- output levels;
- competition from other companies; and
- regulatory changes.

Significant changes in these assumptions could affect the Company's need to record an impairment charge.