

Consolidated Financial Statements of

STERLING SHOES INCOME FUND

December 31, 2008

(Expressed in thousands of dollars)

Auditors' report

To the Unitholders of
Sterling Shoes Income Fund

We have audited the consolidated balance sheets of Sterling Shoes Income Fund as at December 31, 2008 and 2007 and the consolidated statements of income and comprehensive income, unitholders' equity and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Fund's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Fund as at December 31, 2008 and 2007 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Deloitte & Touche LP

Chartered Accountants
March 10, 2009

STERLING SHOES INCOME FUND**Consolidated Balance Sheets**

(Expressed in thousands of dollars, except per unit and number of unit figures.)

	As at December 31, 2008	As at December 31, 2007
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ -	13,860
Accounts receivable	885	773
Inventory	39,892	29,034
Prepaid expenses and deposits	484	1,008
	<u>41,261</u>	<u>44,675</u>
LEASEHOLDS AND EQUIPMENT [note 3]	19,996	16,648
GOODWILL	828	828
INTANGIBLE ASSETS [note 4]	49,041	49,041
	<u>\$ 111,126</u>	<u>\$ 111,192</u>

LIABILITIES AND UNITHOLDERS' EQUITY

CURRENT		
Bank indebtedness [note 5]	\$ 467	\$ -
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	14,951	18,415
Distributions payable	221	3,905
	<u>15,639</u>	<u>22,320</u>
FUTURE INCOME TAXES [note 12]	7,000	7,724
TERM LOAN [note 5]	5,000	-
CONVERTIBLE DEBENTURES [note 6]	21,847	21,243
DEFERRED LEASE INDUCEMENTS	2,234	1,785
NON-CONTROLLING INTEREST [note 7]	-	11,152
UNITHOLDERS' EQUITY	<u>59,406</u>	<u>46,968</u>
	<u>\$ 111,126</u>	<u>\$ 111,192</u>

COMMITMENTS [note 9]

On behalf of the Board of Trustees

(signed) Rick Mahler
Trustee

(signed) Jeremy Horwitz
Trustee

See accompanying notes

STERLING SHOES INCOME FUND

Consolidated Statements of Income and Comprehensive Income

(Expressed in thousands of dollars, except per unit and number of unit figures.)

	Three-month period ended		Twelve-month period ended	
	Dec 31, 2008	Dec 31, 2007	Dec 31, 2008	Dec 31, 2007
	(unaudited)	(unaudited)		
SALES	\$ 42,520	\$ 36,083	\$ 130,767	\$ 118,759
COST OF SALES	18,703	15,340	64,306	51,210
GROSS MARGIN	23,817	20,743	66,461	67,549
EXPENSES				
Store and selling	13,384	11,499	46,784	41,273
General and administrative [note 11]	2,646	2,729	8,016	7,923
	16,030	14,228	54,800	49,196
Income before interest, amortization, non-controlling interest, and taxes	7,787	6,515	11,661	18,353
Interest expense	676	496	2,322	984
Loss (Gain) on disposal of leaseholds and equipment	-	-	333	(5)
Amortization of leaseholds and equipment	658	791	3,006	2,911
INCOME BEFORE NON-CONTROLLING INTEREST AND TAXES	6,453	5,228	6,000	14,463
Future income taxes [note 12]	-	-	(724)	7,724
INCOME BEFORE NON-CONTROLLING INTEREST	6,453	5,228	6,724	6,739
NON-CONTROLLING INTEREST [note 7]	-	1,075	-	1,393
NET INCOME AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	\$ 6,453	\$ 4,152	\$ 6,724	\$ 5,346
Basic net income income per unit	\$ 0.97	\$ 0.79	\$ 1.06	\$ 1.01
Diluted net income income per unit	\$ 0.90	\$ 0.79	\$ 1.06	\$ 1.01
Basic weighted average number of units outstanding [note 7]	6,641,860	5,313,488	6,328,217	5,313,488
Diluted weighted average number of units outstanding [note 6]	7,823,885	6,641,860	7,510,242	6,641,860

See accompanying notes

STERLING SHOES INCOME FUND

Consolidated Statements of Unitholders' Equity

For the year-ended December 31, 2008

(Expressed in thousands of dollars, except per unit and number of unit figures.)

	Unitholders' capital [note 8]	Equity component of Debentures [note 6]	Cumulative earnings	Cumulative distributions	Cumulative deficit	Unitholders' equity
BALANCE, December 31, 2007	\$ 47,847	2,657	18,909	(22,444)	(3,535)	\$ 46,969
Reclassification of Class D LP units from non-controlling interest [note 7]	11,962	-	4,801	(5,611)	(810)	11,152
Re-valuation of inventory per CICA Handbook s.3031 [note 2]	-	-	3,306	-	3,306	3,306
Net income	-	-	6,724	-	6,724	6,724
Distributions declared	-	-	-	(8,745)	(8,745)	(8,745)
BALANCE, December 31, 2008	\$ 59,809	2,657	33,740	(36,800)	(3,060)	\$ 59,406

See accompanying notes

STERLING SHOES INCOME FUND

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

(Expressed in thousands of dollars, except per unit and number of unit figures.)

	Three-month period ended		Twelve-month period ended	
	Dec 31, 2008	Dec 31, 2007	Dec 31, 2008	Dec 31, 2007
	(unaudited)	(unaudited)		
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Net Income	\$ 6,453	\$ 4,152	\$ 6,724	\$ 5,346
Items not involving cash				
Future income taxes	-	-	(724)	7,724
Amortization of leaseholds and equipment	658	791	3,006	2,911
Loss on disposal of leaseholds and equipment	-	-	333	-
Amortization of deferred lease inducements	(77)	(92)	(359)	(330)
Accreted interest expense [note 6]	158	131	604	131
Non-controlling interest	-	1,075	-	1,393
Revaluation of inventory per CICA HB S3031 [note 2]	-	-	3,306	-
	7,192	6,058	12,890	17,175
Change in non-cash working capital balances related to operations				
Accounts receivable	(373)	53	(112)	(308)
Inventory	5,762	3,529	(10,858)	(10,394)
Prepaid expenses and deposits	316	(46)	524	(383)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(8,193)	(3,404)	(3,464)	4,520
	(2,488)	132	(13,910)	(6,565)
Cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	4,704	6,190	(1,020)	10,610
INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Acquisition of leaseholds and equipment	(1,160)	(1,205)	(6,687)	(6,283)
Proceeds from disposal of assets	-	-	-	5
Lease inducements received	676	301	809	579
Cash used in investing activities	(484)	(904)	(5,878)	(5,699)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Issuance of convertible debentures [note 6]		25,000		25,000
Transaction costs related to convertible debentures [note 6]		(1,230)		(1,230)
Term loan [note 5]	5,000	(7,932)	5,000	(5,000)
Operating loan [note 5]	(7,338)	(4,873)	467	-
Payment of distributions	(1,882)	(2,391)	(12,429)	(12,666)
Cash (used in) / provided by financing activities	(4,220)	8,574	(6,962)	6,104
CASH OUTFLOW DURING THE PERIOD	-	13,860	(13,860)	11,015
CASH, BEGINNING OF PERIOD	-	-	13,860	2,845
CASH, END OF PERIOD	\$ -	\$ 13,860	\$ -	\$ 13,860
Supplemental cash flow information				
Interest paid	\$ 817	\$ -	\$ 1,749	\$ 357

See accompanying notes

STERLING SHOES INCOME FUND

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2008

(Expressed in thousands of dollars, unless otherwise specified and except for per unit amounts.)

1. ORGANIZATION AND NATURE OF OPERATIONS

Sterling Shoes Income Fund (the “Fund”) is an unincorporated, open-ended, limited-purpose trust established under the laws of the Province of British Columbia pursuant to the declaration of trust dated May 31, 2005 (the “Declaration of Trust”). The Fund commenced operations on July 12, 2005 when it acquired an 80% interest in the retail footwear business of Sterling Shoes Inc (“Inc”).

The Fund operates retail stores in five provinces in shopping malls, high-streets and strip malls, principally in Western Canada. The Fund is a leading retailer offering a broad selection of private label and national brand name shoes and accessories through six separate retail banners: Sterling, Joneve, Shoe Warehouse, Freedman Shoes, Gia and Sterling Outlet. The Fund now holds, indirectly, a 100% (2007 - 80%) interest in Sterling Shoes Limited Partnership (“Sterling Shoes LP”), a partnership established under the laws of the Province of Manitoba.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) *Basis of presentation*

These consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”). These consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Fund, and its indirect 100% (2007 - 80%) interest in Sterling Shoes LP. All material intercompany transactions have been eliminated upon consolidation.

(b) *Adoption of new accounting policies*

The following standards were adopted effective January 1, 2008: Handbook Section 3031, Inventories (“Section 3031”), Handbook Section 3862, Financial Instruments – Disclosures (“Section 3862”), Handbook Section 3863, Financial Instruments – Presentation (“Section 3863”) and Handbook Section 1535, Capital Disclosures (“Section 1535”).

STERLING SHOES INCOME FUND

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2008

(Expressed in thousands of dollars, unless otherwise specified and except for per unit amounts.)

(i) *Inventory*

Section 3031 replaces Section 3030 of the same title to provide more extensive guidance, to facilitate the CICA's move towards IFRS, and to reduce the number of alternatives for the measurement of inventories.

Section 3031 requires inventories to be measured at the lower of cost and net realizable value. The Fund determines inventory cost based on a weighted average cost formula and values inventory at the lower of cost and net realizable value. The Fund previously valued its inventory at the lower of average cost and net realizable value less a normal profit margin, using the retail method. Under the previous method, net realizable value included a reduction for a normal profit margin, taking into consideration current and expected selling prices, historic sales patterns for the inventory, recent product introductions and the level of inventory on hand. Section 3031 excludes from the definition of net realizable value the ability to maintain a normal profit margin and notes that the retail method is only an acceptable technique for measuring the cost of inventories, if the results approximate cost.

Incentives received from suppliers are treated as a reduction in the prices of the suppliers' products and are accounted for as a reduction in the related inventory.

Cost of sales is comprised of inventory and inventory-related costs only.

Upon adoption of the new standard, inventory was increased by a one-time adjustment of \$3,306 on January 1, 2008, which was credited to opening retained earnings.

(ii) *Financial Instruments*

Section 3862 and Section 3863 replace Handbook Section 3861, Financial Instruments – “Disclosure and Presentation” to revise and enhance the disclosure requirements, and to carry forward its presentation requirements. These new sections place increased emphasis on disclosures about the nature and extent of risks arising from financial instruments and how the entity manages those risks. The new disclosures are included in Note 10.

Under CICA Handbook Section 3855 - “Financial Instruments – Recognition and Measurement”, financial assets and financial liabilities are initially recognized at fair value and their subsequent measurement is dependent on their classification as described below. Their classification depends on the purpose, for which the financial instruments were acquired or issued, their characteristics and the Fund's designation of such instruments. The standards require that all financial assets be classified either as held-for-trading (“HFT”), available-for-sale (“AFS”), held-to-maturity (“HTM”), or loans and receivables. The standards require that all financial assets, including all derivatives, be measured at fair value with the exception of loans and receivables, debt securities classified as HTM, and AFS financial assets that do not have quoted market prices in an active market. Settlement date accounting continues to be used for all financial assets, except changes in fair value between the trade date and settlement date are reflected in interest and other expenses, net for HFT financial assets, while changes in fair value between trade date and settlement date are reflected in other comprehensive income (“OCI”) for AFS financial assets.

STERLING SHOES INCOME FUND

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2008

(Expressed in thousands of dollars, unless otherwise specified and except for per unit amounts.)

The following is a summary of the accounting model the Fund has elected to apply to each of its significant categories of financial instruments outstanding.

Cash and cash equivalents	Designated as held-for-trading
Accounts receivable	Loans and receivables
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	Other liabilities
Bank indebtedness	Other liabilities
Long-term debt	Other liabilities

Held-for-trading – HFT financial assets are financial assets typically acquired for resale prior to maturity. They are measured at fair value at the balance sheet date. Interest earned, interest accrued, gains and losses realized on disposal and unrealized gains and losses from market fluctuations are included in interest and other expenses, net.

Financial liabilities designated at fair value (“FVO”) are those non-derivative financial liabilities that the Fund elects to designate on initial recognition as instruments that it will measure at fair value through interest and other expenses, net. These are accounted for in the same manner as HFT financial assets. The Fund has not designated any non-derivative financial liabilities as FVO.

Held-to-maturity – HTM financial assets are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and a fixed maturity, other than loans and receivables that an entity has the positive intention and ability to hold to maturity. These financial assets are measured at amortized cost.

Available-for-sale – AFS financial assets are those non-derivative financial assets that are designated as AFS, or that are not classified as loans and receivables, HTM investments or HFT. AFS financial assets are carried at fair value with unrealized gains and losses included in OCI until realized when the cumulative gain or loss is transferred to interest and other expenses, net. The Company has not designated any financial assets as AFS.

Loans and receivables – Loans and receivables are accounted for at amortized cost.

Other liabilities – Other liabilities (“OL”), are recorded at amortized cost and include all liabilities, other than derivatives or liabilities to which the FVO has been applied.

STERLING SHOES INCOME FUND

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2008

(Expressed in thousands of dollars, unless otherwise specified and except for per unit amounts.)

(iii) *Capital disclosures*

Section 1535 specifies the disclosure of: (i) an entity's objectives, policies and processes for managing capital; (ii) quantitative data about what the entity regards as capital; (iii) whether the entity has complied with any capital requirements; and, (iv) if it has not complied, the consequences of such non-compliance. The new disclosure is included in Note 14.

(c) *Income taxes and future income taxes*

As the Fund intends to allocate all of its taxable income and taxable capital gains to unitholders (the "Unitholders"), the Fund itself will not be subject to income taxes.

In June 2007 the Government of Canada substantially enacted new legislation to tax distributions of publicly traded income trusts, commencing in 2011. As a result, the Fund is now required to recognize the future income tax assets and liabilities expected to arise when the tax on distributions becomes applicable.

Future income tax assets and liabilities are determined based on the difference between the tax basis of the Fund's assets and liabilities and the amounts reported in the financial statements. Future tax assets or liabilities are calculated using the tax rates for the periods in which the differences are expected to be settled. Future tax assets are recognized to the extent that they are considered more likely than not to be realized.

(d) *Future changes in accounting standards*

(i) *International Financial Reporting Standards ["IFRS"]*

The Canadian Accounting Standards Board (AcSB) will require all public companies to adopt IFRS for interim and annual financial statements relating to fiscal years beginning on or after January 1, 2011. The Fund will be required to prepare both current and comparative financial information using IFRS.

While the conceptual framework for IFRS and Canadian GAAP are similar, there are significant differences in recognition, measurement and disclosure requirements. The Fund has developed a changeover plan to map its conversion from Canadian GAAP to IFRS by identifying and documenting the areas of significant differences that apply to the Fund, evaluating the different options available under IFRS, assessing the impact of the changes to the Fund's financial reporting, business processes and information systems, and anticipating the steps necessary for successful conversion on the date of transition. The Fund expects training and additional resources will be utilized to ensure timely conversion to IFRS.

The financial impact of the transition to IFRS cannot be reasonably estimated at this time. The Fund will continually review and adjust the changeover plan as necessary to properly address the key elements of the plan.

STERLING SHOES INCOME FUND

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2008

(Expressed in thousands of dollars, unless otherwise specified and except for per unit amounts.)

(ii) Handbook Section 3064, Goodwill and Intangibles (“Section 3064”)

Section 3064 replaces Handbook Section 3062 of the same title and Handbook Section 3450, Research and Development Costs. Section 3064, effective for fiscal years beginning on or after October 1, 2008, establishes standards for the recognition, measurement and disclosure of goodwill and intangible assets. While the standards concerning goodwill are unchanged from the standards in the previous Section 3062, the provisions related to the definition and initial recognition of intangible assets are equivalent to the corresponding provisions of IFRS. The Fund will adopt the new standards effective January 1, 2009. While the Fund is currently evaluating the impact of the adoption of Section 3064, its adoption is not expected to materially impact the amounts presented in the consolidated financial statements.

(iii) Handbook Section 1582, Business Combinations (“Section 1582”)

Section 1582 replaces Handbook Section 1581 of the same title. It provides the Canadian equivalent to corresponding sections of IFRS.

Section 1582 applies prospectively to business combinations for which the acquisition date is on or after January 1, 2011 with early adoption permitted. This section improves the relevance, reliability, and comparability of the information that a reporting entity provides in its financial statements about a business combination. Adoption of this standard is not expected until January 1, 2011. The Fund has not yet determined the impact of the adoption of this new Section on the consolidated financial statements.

(iv) Handbook Section 1601, Consolidated Financial Statements (“Section 1601”) and Handbook Section 1602, Non-controlling Interests (“Section 1602”)

Sections 1601 and 1602 replace Handbook Section 1600, Consolidated Financial Statements and apply to fiscal years beginning on or after January 1, 2011, with early adoption permitted. Section 1601 establishes standards for the preparation of consolidated financial statements. Section 1602 establishes standards for accounting for a non-controlling interest in a subsidiary in consolidated financial statements subsequent to a business combination. An entity which adopts Section 1582, 1601, or 1602 early also adopts the other two sections at the same time. Adoption of this standard is not expected until January 1, 2011. The Fund has not yet determined the impact of the adoption of this new Section on the consolidated financial statements.

(e) *Measurement uncertainty*

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingencies at the date of the financial statements and the reported amount of revenues and expenses during the period. Areas requiring significant management estimates include the valuation of inventory, the valuation of goodwill and intangible assets, the valuation of the liability and equity components of the convertible unsecured subordinated debentures, the recorded amounts of accrued liabilities, the

STERLING SHOES INCOME FUND

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2008

(Expressed in thousands of dollars, unless otherwise specified and except for per unit amounts.)

estimation of future income taxes, and the useful life of leaseholds and equipment. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

(f) *Cash*

Cash consists of cash on hand and bank balances.

(g) *Leaseholds and equipment*

Leaseholds and equipment are recorded at cost. Amortization is provided on a straight-line basis over the following estimated useful lives of the assets:

Furniture and equipment	10 years
Computer equipment and software.....	5 years
Leasehold improvements	initial term of the lease

Amortization is pro-rated in the year of acquisition.

Computer equipment and software acquired for use by the Fund comprises its purchase price and any directly attributable costs to prepare the asset for its intended use. These costs will be amortized over its expected useful life with amortization to commence when the asset is available for use.

Leaseholds and equipment are reviewed for impairment whenever changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable from expected undiscounted future cash flows from their expected use and eventual disposition. If such assets are considered impaired, the impairment to be recognized is measured as the amount by which the carrying amount of the assets exceeds their fair value.

(h) *Goodwill*

Goodwill is recorded at cost and is not amortized. Goodwill is reviewed for impairment at least annually, or whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may be impaired. If goodwill is considered to be impaired, the impairment to be recognized is measured as the amount by which the carrying amount of the goodwill exceeds fair value.

(i) *Intangible assets*

Identifiable intangible assets, including store banners and private label brand names, are carried at cost. These assets have been determined by management to have indefinite lives and are therefore not being amortized. These assets are reviewed at least annually for impairment or whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable from its expected use and eventual disposition.

If such assets are considered to be impaired, the impairment to be recognized is measured as the amount by which the carrying amount of the assets exceeds fair value.

STERLING SHOES INCOME FUND

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2008

(Expressed in thousands of dollars, unless otherwise specified and except for per unit amounts.)

(j) *Deferred lease inducements*

Deferred lease inducements consist of lease incentive amounts received from landlords and rent-free lease periods. These lease inducements are amortized over the life of the initial lease term as a reduction of store and selling expenses.

(k) *Deferred financing fees*

Transaction costs attributable to financial instruments classified as other than held-for-trading are included in the recognized amount of related financial instrument and recognized over the life of the related financial instrument using the effective interest rate method.

(l) *Revenue recognition*

Revenue is recognized at the point of sale, net of a provision for sales returns.

(m) *Foreign currency translation*

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated to the Canadian dollar equivalent at the rate of exchange at the balance sheet date. Purchases transacted in foreign currencies are translated to the Canadian dollar equivalent at the rate of exchange in effect at the time of the transaction. Foreign currency gains and losses are included in the results of operations in the period in which they occur.

(n) *Net income per Unit*

Basic net income per Unit of the Fund (a "Unit") is calculated by dividing net income by the weighted average number of Units outstanding during the reporting period. Diluted net income per Unit is calculated by dividing the income before non-controlling interest, adjusted for the interest expense on the Convertible Debentures (note 6), by the sum of the weighted average number of Units outstanding used in the basic net income per Unit calculation and the number of Units that would be issued assuming conversion of all Class D LP units ("Class D LP units") (note 7) and all Convertible Debentures. On December 31, 2007, Class D LP units became freely exchangeable for Units. As a result, the Class D LP units are no longer classified as non-controlling interest and are not dilutive factors. As at December 31, 2008, the Convertible Debentures were not included in the computation of diluted net income per Unit for the year ended December 31, 2008 because to do so would have been anti-dilutive.

(o) *Long-term incentive plan*

Under the terms of a long-term incentive plan ("LTIP") 10% to 25% of distributable cash in excess of an established threshold is allocated as between: (i) cash awards to participants who already hold significant ownership positions; and (ii) monies to be used by the plan trustee to purchase units of the Fund for other participants. The cost is accrued in the period when distributable cash exceeds the thresholds established by the

STERLING SHOES INCOME FUND

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2008

(Expressed in thousands of dollars, unless otherwise specified and except for per unit amounts.)

LTIP and amortized to compensation expense over the vesting period of the applicable employee award.

As at December 31, 2008, the Fund did not accrue any additional liability in respect of the LTIP (December 31, 2007 - \$825). During the year-ended December 31, 2008 the Fund recorded compensation expense of \$557 (2007 - \$1,598).

(p) *Derivative financial instruments*

Derivative financial instruments are utilized by the Fund from time to time in the management of its foreign currency exposures. The Fund's policy is not to utilize derivative financial instruments for trading or speculative purposes.

The Fund formally documents all relationships between hedging instruments and hedged items, as well as its risk management objectives and strategies for undertaking various hedge transactions. This process includes linking all derivatives to forecasted transactions. The Fund also formally assesses, both at the hedge's inception and on an ongoing basis, whether the derivatives that are used in hedging transactions are highly effective in offsetting changes in cash flows of hedged items.

When the Fund discontinues its designation of a hedging relationship, or when a hedging relationship is no longer effective, hedge accounting is discontinued. When the Fund discontinues hedge accounting, the derivative financial instrument is recorded on the consolidated balance sheet at fair value. Gains and losses that had previously been deferred are carried forward for recognition in the statement of income and statement of other comprehensive income in the same period that the hedged items are recognized. The Fund has decided not to use hedge accounting.

(q) *Cash Flow Statements*

Amendments to CICA 1540, Cash Flow Statements, require entities to disclose total cash distributions on financial instruments classified as equity in accordance with a contractual agreement and the extent to which total cash distributions are non-discretionary. The determination to declare and make payable distributions from the Fund is at the discretion of the board of Trustees of the Fund and, until declared payable by the Board of Trustees of the Fund, the Fund has no contractual requirement to pay cash distributions to unitholders' of the Fund. During the year-ended December 31, 2008, \$8.7 million (2007 - \$9.9 million) in cash distributions were declared payable by the Board of Trustees of the Fund respectively and paid to the Class C and Class D unitholders.

STERLING SHOES INCOME FUND

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2008

(Expressed in thousands of dollars, unless otherwise specified and except for per unit amounts.)

3. LEASEHOLDS AND EQUIPMENT

		December 31, 2008			December 31, 2007		
		Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value
Leasehold improvements	\$	14,114	\$ (4,602)	\$ 9,512	\$ 10,785	\$ (3,268)	\$ 7,517
Furniture and equipment		11,545	(3,314)	8,231	9,439	(2,185)	7,254
Computer equipment and software		3,600	(1,347)	2,253	2,681	(804)	1,877
	\$	29,259	\$ (9,263)	\$ 19,996	\$ 22,905	\$ (6,257)	\$ 16,648

4. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	December 31, 2008		December 31, 2007	
Store banners	\$	29,516	\$	29,516
Private label brand names		19,525		19,525
	\$	49,041	\$	49,041

These intangible assets have no basis for tax purposes.

5. BANK INDEBTEDNESS

	December 31, 2008		December 31, 2007	
Operating loan	\$	467	\$	-
Term loan		5,000		-

The Fund has utilized \$467 of an available \$15,000, 3-year committed revolving loan (the "Operating Loan"). The Operating Loan is available for working capital requirements, capital expenditures and for general corporate purposes. Advances bear interest at the lender's prime rate plus 1.25% to 1.75% or at the banker's acceptance rate plus 2.75% to 3.25%, based on the ratio of debt to earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, calculated on a quarterly basis. This loan is secured by a general security agreement covering all assets of Sterling Shoes LP.

The Fund has also utilized \$5,000 of an available \$10,000 term facility (the "Term Loan"). \$5,000 is available for general funding of new store facilities and the other \$5,000 is available dependent on financial performance. Interest, terms, and security are the same as for the Operating Loan.

STERLING SHOES INCOME FUND

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2008

(Expressed in thousands of dollars, unless otherwise specified and except for per unit amounts.)

6. CONVERTIBLE DEBENTURES

	December 31, 2008	December 31, 2007
Principal amount	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Equity component	(2,657)	(2,657)
Accretion	481	89
Deferred financing fees	(977)	(1,189)
Convertible unsecured subordinated debentures	\$ 21,847	\$ 21,243

On October 3, 2007 the Fund closed an offering of \$25 million of convertible unsecured subordinated debentures (the “Debentures”) at a price of \$1 thousand per debenture. The Debentures bear interest at an annual rate of 6.5% payable semi-annually in arrears on October 31 and April 30 in each year commencing April 30, 2008. The maturity date for the Debentures is October 31, 2012.

The Debentures are convertible at any time at the option of the holders into trust units (“Trust Units”) of the Fund at a conversion rate of approximately 47.281 Trust Units per \$1 thousand principal amount of Debentures, which is equal to a conversion price of \$21.15 per Trust Unit. After October 31, 2010 and on or before October 31, 2011, the Fund will have the right to redeem all or a portion of the Debentures equal to the principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest, provided that the market price on the date on which the notice of redemption is given is not less than 125% of the conversion price. After October 31, 2011, the Fund will have the right to redeem all or a portion of the Debentures equal to the principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest.

The Fund has allocated the proceeds of the Debentures between debt and equity based on the relative fair values of the debt and the conversion option, as determined by the residual valuation of the equity component. Under this approach, the liability component was valued first, and the difference between the proceeds of the Debentures and the fair value of the debt was assigned to the conversion option. The present value of the liability component was calculated using a discount rate of 9.2%, the estimated market interest rate for similar debentures having no conversion rights.

The conversion option was valued at \$2,657 at the date of issuance. The liability portion of the Debentures is being accreted to its face value over the term of the debt. Transaction costs consisting of commissions and professional fees related to the issuance of the Debentures amounted to \$1,231.

STERLING SHOES INCOME FUND

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2008

(Expressed in thousands of dollars, unless otherwise specified and except for per unit amounts.)

7. NON-CONTROLLING INTEREST ("NCI")

	NCI	Cumulative earnings	Cumulative distributions	Cumulative deficit	Total
Balance, December 31, 2007	\$ 11,962	\$ 4,801	\$ (5,611)	\$ (810)	\$ 11,152
Reclassification of Class D LP units to unitholder's equity	(11,962)	(4,801)	5,611	810	(11,152)
Balance, December 31, 2008	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

As of December 31, 2007, the Class D LP units became freely exchangeable for Units on a one-for-one basis. As a result, the Class D LP units have been reclassified from non-controlling interest to unitholders' equity.

8. UNITHOLDERS' CAPITAL

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	Fund Units	Class D LP Units	Unitholders' Capital
Balance, December 31, 2007	47,847	-	47,847
Reclassification of Class D LP units from non-controlling interest to unitholders' equity [note 7]		11,962	11,962
Balance, December 31, 2008	47,847	11,962	59,809

<i>(in number of units)</i>	Fund Units	Class D LP Units	Unitholders' Capital
Balance, December 31, 2007	5,313,488		5,313,488
Reclassification of Class D LP units from non-controlling interest to unitholders' equity [note 7]		1,328,372	1,328,372
Balance, December 31, 2008	5,313,488	1,328,372	6,641,860

An unlimited number of Units may be created and issued pursuant to the Declaration of Trust. Each Unit is transferable and represents an equal undivided beneficial interest in any distributions from the Fund, whether of net income, net realized capital gains or other amounts and in the net assets of the Fund in the event of a termination or winding up of the Fund. Each Unit entitles the holder thereof to one vote at all meetings of voting Unitholders.

The Units are redeemable at any time on demand by the holders thereof, subject to the terms and conditions as outlined in the prospectus of the Fund dated June 30, 2005. The total amount payable by the Fund in respect of those Units and all other Units tendered for redemption in the same calendar month shall not exceed \$50, provided that the Trustees of the Fund may, in their sole discretion, waive this limitation in respect of all Units tendered for redemption in any calendar month.

STERLING SHOES INCOME FUND

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2008

(Expressed in thousands of dollars, unless otherwise specified and except for per unit amounts.)

9. COMMITMENTS

(a) *Minimum rental commitments*

The Fund has the following minimum rental commitments for premises, excluding percentage rent adjustments and operating expense assessments over the next five fiscal years:

2009	\$	15,065
2010		14,020
2011		12,759
2012		12,148
2013		10,966
Thereafter		33,123
	\$	98,081

Certain of the operating leases provide for additional annual rentals based on store sales.

(b) *Letters of credit*

The Fund had letters of credit outstanding on December 31, 2008 securing inventory purchase commitments totaling \$1,516. The last of these letters of credit expires August 31, 2009.

10. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

(a) *Fair value*

Financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable, operating and term facilities, accounts payable, foreign exchange contracts, distributions payable, and the Debentures. The fair values of all financial instruments, other than the Debentures (Note 6), are considered to approximate their carrying values due to their short term or floating rate nature.

The fair value of the Debentures is determined by calculating its present value using the estimated market interest rate for loans with similar terms, conditions, and maturities. By using this valuation method, the estimated fair value of the Debentures at December 31, 2008 was \$15,548 compared to its carrying value of \$21,847. As the Debentures are other financial liabilities and are measured at amortized cost, no gain or loss has been recognized in net income relating to the difference between the Debentures' estimated fair value and carrying value.

STERLING SHOES INCOME FUND

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2008

(Expressed in thousands of dollars, unless otherwise specified and except for per unit amounts.)

(b) *Liquidity risk*

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Fund will not be able to meet its obligations associated with financial liabilities and commitments as they become due. Liquidity risk also includes the risk of not being able to liquidate assets in a timely manner at a reasonable price. The Fund manages liquidity risk by managing its capital and debt structure, its cash flows, and its inventory flow. The Fund believes the future cash flows generated from operations and access to capital and banking markets will adequately meet its financial obligations in the foreseeable future.

(c) *Interest rate risk*

Interest rate risk is the risk that the Fund's financial instruments or cash flows associated with the instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. The Fund's interest rate risk arises primarily from the Debentures, the operating facility, and the term facility. The interest rate on the Debentures is at a fixed rate (Note 6). The loans under the operating facility and term facility bear interest at a floating rate based on the Canadian dollar prime rate or on the bankers' acceptance rates plus, in each case, an applicable margin to those rates. Based on the average carrying value of these facilities, a fluctuation in interest rate of 1% would represent a \$25 change to net income for the twelve-months ended December 31, 2008. The interest rate risk would be mitigated by income received on cash balances.

(d) *Foreign exchange risk*

Foreign exchange risk is the risk that the value of a financial asset or liability or commitment will fluctuate due to changes in foreign exchange rates. The Fund's foreign exchange risk arises primarily from its inventory purchases. During the year ended December 31, 2008, approximately 39% (2007- 39%) of product purchases were denominated in US dollars.

From time to time, the Fund enters into contracts to manage the foreign exchange risk associated with anticipated purchases in US dollars. The Fund does not hold or issue financial instruments for trading or speculative purposes. At December 31, 2008, the Fund did not have any outstanding forward foreign exchange contracts.

(e) *Secured loan*

A loan of \$38,597 has been made to Inc by SS Holdings Trust (the "Trust") (all the trust units of which are owned by the Fund), secured, in turn, by Class A LP units (with a par value of \$38,597) issued by Sterling Shoes LP to Inc.

The secured loan and the Class A LP units, which have the attributes of a liability, are presented net in the consolidated balance sheet of the Fund as this reflects the entities' cash flows and the intention for settlement of the financial instruments, as well as the associated risks related to the cash flows.

STERLING SHOES INCOME FUND

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2008

(Expressed in thousands of dollars, unless otherwise specified and except for per unit amounts.)

11. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

- (a) The Fund leases its head office location from a company in which two trustees and officers of the Fund have an interest. Rent expense recognized on this lease was \$282 for the year ended December 31, 2008 (2007 - \$250) and is included in general and administrative expenses in the statement of income.
- (b) The Fund purchased equipment from a company in which a trustee and officer of the Fund has an interest, for \$430 during the year ended December 31, 2008 (2007 - \$519).

These transactions arose during the normal course of business and have been recorded at the exchange amount, which is the amount agreed upon by the related parties.

12. FUTURE INCOME TAXES

The temporary differences comprising the future income tax liability are estimated as follows:

	December 31, 2008	December 31, 2007
Future income tax liability:		
Intangible Asset - store banners	\$ 4,058	\$ 4,649
Intangible asset - private label brand names	2,685	3,075
Other temporary differences	257	-
Expected reversal of temporary differences prior to 2011	-	-
	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,724

Based on a current estimate of the income tax liability at the beginning of 2011, the Fund recognized a future income tax liability and corresponding non-cash future tax charge to net income in 2007. This non-cash charge relates to the Fund's intangible assets and is based on temporary differences between the accounting and tax basis of the Fund's assets and liabilities expected to reverse after January 1, 2011.

For the year ended December 31, 2008, the estimated future income tax liability was reduced by \$0.7 million based on the temporary differences between the accounting and tax basis of the Fund's assets and liabilities as at December 31, 2008 expected to reverse after January 1, 2011.

13. SEGMENTED INFORMATION

The Fund operates in one industry segment; that being the retail footwear business, offering a broad selection of private label and brand name shoes and accessories.

STERLING SHOES INCOME FUND

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2008

(Expressed in thousands of dollars, unless otherwise specified and except for per unit amounts.)

14. CAPITAL DISCLOSURES

The Fund's capital structure consisted of the following components at December 31, 2008: unitholders' equity of \$59,406 (December 31, 2007 - \$46,968) and the Debentures of \$21,847 (December 31, 2007 - \$21,243). There was no non-controlling interest at December 31, 2008 (December 31, 2007 - \$11,152) (Note 7). The Fund's objectives when managing its capital are to make stable monthly distributions to Unitholders and being in compliance with its bank covenants. The covenants include non-GAAP measures such as adjusted EBITDA. The Fund was in compliance with its bank covenants at December 31, 2008.

The Fund reviews its historic and expected operating results on a regular basis. This review includes consideration of economic conditions, including seasonality, and the competitive environment. In order to maintain or adjust the capital structure, the Fund may adjust the amount of distributions paid to its Unitholders, return capital to its unitholders, issue new Units, or issue or reduce debt. During the fourth quarter of 2008, the Fund announced a reduction in its monthly distribution to \$0.40 on annualized basis per Unit from \$1.50 on an annualized basis per Unit beginning with the November 2008 distribution.