

# INTRODUCING

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# VISION

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*The first in a series of newsletter stories on CHF Canada's 2020 Vision*

## What 2020 Vision is all about

In 2006, CHF Canada launched 2020 Vision, a new program that helps our members plan for a strong future. Many housing co-ops are facing the end of their government operating agreements. By the year 2020, 55,000 units of co-op housing will no longer have the protection of government support. 2020 Vision is a program that will help these co-ops get ready for "life after government".

But 2020 Vision is not just about looking beyond the end of government agreements. There are other key issues facing housing co-ops. Our properties are aging and need repairs and renovations. Many co-ops face management and governance challenges. Some struggle financially.

And we need to make sure that what we expect from our members is realistic and we are serving them well. These are key issues for all co-ops, including those that will still have government commitments for some time to come.

If we are going to rise to these challenges we have to take the long view. That's where 2020 Vision comes in. It is a program that supports co-ops in two important ways by

- getting our co-ops ready for a strong, independent future
- starting to plan for that future now

## The elements of 2020 Vision

This all sounds good, you might be saying. But how does 2020 Vision work?

There are three main parts to 2020 Vision that will help your co-op achieve a long and healthy life.

1. The 2020 Compass is a facilitated, step-by-step process that helps your co-op develop a mission statement and a vision for the future, based on your core co-op housing values. This is an important first step towards building a strong future for your co-op. Either through your local federation or CHF Canada, a trained 2020 Compass facilitator can help your co-op through the steps needed to agree on a mission and vision that's right for your members. You can find out more about the 2020 Compass by going to the CHF Canada website at [www.chfcanada.coop](http://www.chfcanada.coop) and following the links to 2020 Vision.
2. The 2020 Toolbox is a set of tools and resources that your co-op can use to make your vision for the future a reality. The toolkit offers you help with
  - putting co-op values to work for your co-op
  - developing good governance and principled leadership
  - making sure you have sound management
  - planning for capital replacements and longer-term investment
  - developing long-term budgeting and refinancing options.
3. 2020 Certification Co-ops that want to show they have reached a high standard of operations can go through the steps towards 2020 Certification. CHF Canada has set eight standards for co-ops to meet to be certified as a 2020 Co-op. The standards measure excellence in different aspects of co-op operations. The 2020 Toolkit will help your co-op meet each one. You can find the 2020 Certification standards on CHF Canada's website, together with a guide that explains how your co-op can meet them.

## More to come on 2020 Vision...

In the second and third articles in this series we'll give you more details on the 2020 Compass and 2020 Certification. Later we'll tell you what else 2020 Vision has to offer as we continue to develop the 2020 program. Meanwhile, get on board, and join the 2020 Vision program – it's the key to a sound future for Canada's housing co-ops!

### 2020 Information line

For more information on the 2020 Vision Project and certification process, and for answers to your questions, call our 2020 information line at 1-877-999-8054 or email [2020info@chfcanada.coop](mailto:2020info@chfcanada.coop)

