

2000 AGM RESOLUTIONS SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN AND DIRECTIONS PROPOSED

This summary deals with resolutions that were adopted by the delegates, referred to the board or deferred to future annual meetings.

Shared Revenue Program

This resolution adopted a new Shared Revenue Program Policy for CHF Canada, beginning in 2000. Strong 2000 returns on the CHF Canada Endowment Fund more than made up for the reduced proportion of the program's revenue that went into the two funds set aside for federations. Meanwhile, the new 5% fund for unfederated regions helped to mount education events last year, for members in Saskatchewan, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, where local federations do not exist. CHF Canada will be holding more education events this year in unfederated regions, using this fund.

Campaign for Sector-based Co-op Programs Agency

In December 2000, a joint CHF Canada/federal/provincial working group began a review of CHF Canada's proposal for a national agency to administer co-op housing programs. Participants will hear a report on the working group at this annual meeting. You can also look for news about the working group on CHF Canada's Web site at www.chfc.ca, and in Newsbriefs.

We have come a long way since we first began our campaign in 1996. Together, we won government support to keep 90 per cent of federal co-ops outside Quebec from being transferred to or staying under provincial administration. Today, we are at the table with governments, talking about our agency proposal. Meanwhile, our partners in Quebec have already won their government's support for a parallel agency to serve Quebec housing co-ops.

We have not yet achieved all our goals. But the progress we have made shows once again how strong we can be when we work together for what we believe in.

A National Housing Strategy

Following the annual meeting in 2000 CHF Canada sent letters to Minister Gagliano and the provincial ministers responsible for housing to ask them for prompt action. We received replies from four governments. In 2001, CHF Canada has again taken on the role of secretariat to the National Coalition on Housing and Homelessness, and we are participating actively in the Coalition's discussions. Recently, CHF Canada's President Wes Hosler wrote to the Prime Minister, to follow-up on the Liberals' announcement in the Speech from the Throne of new money for housing.

In this letter, he set out what CHF Canada believes will be needed if new federal spending on housing is to benefit those most in need of help — Canadians of low and modest incomes, for whom market rents are a barrier to good housing. CHF Canada is planning events for this annual meeting to draw attention to the need for a national housing strategy and the role the federal government must play to bring affordable housing to Canadians.

Organizing for Success: Shaping our Sector for Tomorrow and Beyond

CHF Canada's operating plan for 2001 reflects the direction set out in this resolution. In our work in support of federations and regional services delivery, we have encouraged our members to think about change in regions where it has proved difficult to offer local services to housing co-ops. Currently, we are working with our members and member federations in two regions to help improve and strengthen local service delivery to co-ops. In a third region, two member federations are working closely together on how best to serve co-ops in the future. We will continue to help federations plan for sound operations and to assist them to develop value-added services for their members.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Visibility

Among other activities, we are now using the CHF Canada Web site to promote LGBT awareness and to provide a forum for discussing LGBT issues. The Nominating Committee for this annual meeting has worked with the Diversity Committee to try to recruit candidates for election to the Board from under-represented groups. We are also working this year on a model anti-discrimination and anti-harassment by-law that our members can use.

Education for Boards and Staff

Since the last Annual meeting, the Co-op Housing Bookstore has published *Evaluating Staff*, a comprehensive guide to effective evaluations for co-op staff. Work is moving forward on the development of a *Model Workplace Harassment By-law*. It will be available in the summer of 2001.

At this year's Member Education Forum, we are focussing on the theme of "co-ops as effective employers". We are also planning to use CHF Canada's Web site to help co-ops and their staff to work together as a team.

Theme for 2001 Annual General Meeting

This resolution was about the challenges facing seniors in co-ops and co-ops housing seniors. In early 2001, we published two guides through the Co-op Housing Bookstore that deal with issues for seniors in housing co-ops: *Seniors Housing Co-ops, Making Them Work, Keeping Them Strong* and *Alzheimer's and Other Forms of Dementia, The Challenge for Housing Co-ops*.

Alzheimer's and Other Forms of Dementia will be supported and promoted by workshops during the 2001 Member Education Forum and through our regular communications to members. At this annual meeting we will be adding a seniors' caucus for the first time.

Water-Damaged Co-operatives

Since the 2000 annual meeting CHF Canada has continued to make action on leaky British Columbia housing co-ops a priority. Working closely with the Co-operative Housing Federation of BC (CHF/BC) we have:

- used the 2000 federal election campaign to press for action on leaky co-ops by the federal government
- continued to press our concerns with CMHC's senior national staff
- pressed for additional financial tools to be available in government workout solutions
- hired a full-time staff person for six months in our Vancouver office to work with affected co-ops, their federations and government agencies on timely solutions for the building problems faced by leaky co-ops.

Despite all this, progress has been slow. Of the estimated 50 co-ops in BC that have problems with leaks, only a handful have received the government help they need to fix their leaky co-ops. CHF Canada is committed to continue working on behalf of leaky co-ops until the problems are solved.

Political Action Committee

At its September meeting the board agreed to strike a political action review committee (PARCOM) drawn from our membership across the country. The board gave PARCOM a mandate to carry out a review of our political affairs activities, both nationally and in the Ontario Region. The board appointed directors Debbie Saidman and Tony Legare to the committee and, at the board's invitation, the Ontario Council nominated Mark Klein. The Executive Committee appointed other members to the committee in October 2000.

PARCOM is meeting through a discussion area set aside for it on CHF Canada's web site. It has also had two conference calls to discuss its mandate and the process for doing its work. PARCOM will be reporting to members during this annual meeting.