

2008 AGM RESOLUTIONS
SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN AND DIRECTIONS PROPOSED

- 1. Empowering CHF Canada's Diversity Committee**
Submitted by: Bleecker Street Co-operative Homes Inc.

AGM Action: Defeated as amended

No action is required.

- 2. Helping co-op's in high-vacancy neighbourhoods**
Submitted by: Ann Marie Hill Housing Co-operative Inc.

AGM Action: Adopted

This resolution called on CHF Canada to place particular emphasis on securing new rent-geared-to-income (RGI) subsidies for federal co-ops in neighbourhoods with high vacancies.

Since the 2008 annual meeting, CHF Canada has continued to lobby actively on several important issues, including new RGI subsidies. We successfully lobbied for \$2 billion in federal and provincial funds to renovate and retrofit housing co-operatives — this work took place during the fall and winter of 2008 – 2009. Members know and expect that the development of a new subsidy program for federal co-ops could take a long time.

Securing additional RGI subsidies will continue to be a principal focus of our national government relations program.

- 3. Honouring volunteer directors of housing co-ops**
Submitted by: Board of Directors

AGM Action: Adopted

This resolution called on member co-ops to celebrate the commitment of volunteer boards of directors.

In 2009, using our new website (May/June 2009), we will begin a dialogue with member co-ops about practical ideas that co-ops can use to recognize the commitment made by their volunteer directors.

- 4. Growing the co-operative housing movement**
Submitted by: Church Isabella Residents Co-operative Inc.

AGM Action: Adopted

This resolution called on the board to report each year to members on its work toward the development of new co-ops in Canada, and to mount a workshop on “growth of the co-operative housing movement” at each annual meeting.

Information on CHF Canada’s work toward new development, which includes lobbying in Ottawa and with provinces, will be included in the reports presented at the Ontario and national business meetings. This year’s government relations workshop, held at the annual meeting, will develop some of the communications ideas expressed in the resolution.

5. Endorsement of “Housing Not War” campaign
Submitted by: CoAction Staff Association

AGM Action: Defeated

No action is required.

LATE RESOLUTIONS

L1. Federal action on Canada’s affordable housing shortage
Submitted by: Board of Directors

AGM Action: Adopted

This resolution set out members’ goals for federal action to address Canada’s shortage of affordable housing. It forms the foundation of CHF Canada’s 2009 national government relations program.

Our lobbying efforts since the 2008 annual meeting have been successful at helping to deliver a renewal and increase in federal funding for the Affordable Housing Initiative. Following this announcement, we are shifting our lobbying efforts in support of new development to provincial governments, which are responsible for the delivery of new affordable housing, including co-ops. We continue to play a leadership role within a coalition of affordable housing groups.

In February 2009, in recognition of our lobbying successes, Nicholas Gazzard was named as one of Canada’s top 100 lobbyists by the Hill Times, Canada’s parliamentary newspaper.

L2. Saving Thornhill Green Co-operative
Submitted by: Board of Directors

AGM Action: Adopted

Since the AGM, CHF Canada Ontario Region has worked on several fronts to try to stop the takeover of Thornhill Green Co-op, to improve its management and governance and to return it to member control.

In court

There have been three Commercial List (receivership court) hearings to try to stop the sale, and two Divisional Court hearings. In July 2008, the Commercial List court turned down our motion for an interim injunction. We appealed the decision, but then withdrew the appeal when the Divisional Court agreed to a full hearing before any action was taken on the sale.

In early October, the Divisional Court agreed to a full judicial review hearing on how the service manager dealt with the co-op. We argued there was no procedural fairness.

Later in October there was a Commercial List hearing on the receiver's motion to sell. Frank Bennett, Canada's foremost expert on receivership, joined our legal team. Another Commercial List hearing took place in early November on a motion that we brought to remove the receiver's power of sale.

The judicial review took place on December 5.

On February 11 the Divisional Court issued its ruling. The Court supported Thornhill Green and CHF Canada on all the legal issues raised, finding that the service manager treated the co-op unfairly, and was wrong not to take into account the nature and benefits of co-op housing when deciding to try to absorb the co-op into its municipal housing company. The court, however, declined to quash the Region's decision to try to sell, saying that the co-op will have a chance to have all the issues considered by the Commercial List court when it makes its decision. We decided in March to appeal this decision.

At the time of writing, the Commercial List Court still had not issued its ruling and it was not clear whether and how the judge may be guided by the Divisional Court's ruling.

Support to the Co-op

Ontario Region staff have worked closely with and supported the Thornhill Green board since the spring, holding regular meetings and providing corporate support.

Political work

Ontario Region staff have worked with members of the York Region Council and the Markham Council to try to open the door to ways to resolve York Region's concerns that do not rely on a legal decision. We have sent three mailings to members of both councils and, with Thornhill Green board members, met with senior representatives of the two Councils in December. We continue to send the message that we and the co-op want to work with them to find a resolution to their concerns that leaves the co-op a co-op.

Community Outreach

We have worked with the co-op to build support in the local community. Co-op members have also networked extensively with local community members. We organized and held a very successful rally in July 2008. Over 300 people attended from the co-op, local community and the co-op sector with participants from as far away as Ottawa and Sudbury. CHF Canada president Ken Elliott spoke at the event.

On December 3 we held a second rally in a local church with more than 150 people attending. Again co-op members and staff travelled from across the province to attend. CHF Canada board member Ivy Tait spoke at the rally.

Media

We have generated considerable media coverage particularly in the local newspaper, the Liberal, which has run regular, supportive stories. We have also received extensive coverage from the local Rogers cable TV.

The co-op set up its own website on their efforts to save the co-op and the Ontario Region has maintained a special lobby section of our site with regular updates.

Fundraising

Co-ops from across the country have contributed more than \$50,000 to CHF Canada's Legal Defence Fund. We organized a new appeal for donations in March.