



Manitoba Newsbriefs

News for Manitoba Housing Co-ops

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Open for Business

Housing co-ops in Manitoba are celebrating the Millennium with some big changes and **we're open for business.** We dissolved our provincial federation, the Housing Co-op Council of Manitoba (HCCM), at the end of 1999 and began the year 2000 with a new CHF Manitoba office based in Winnipeg.



services, like the *Co-op Housing Investment Program (CHIP)*; co-ordinating a local education program; and handling communications with members.

She will also co-ordinate our provincial government relations work.

We're excited about the

future and we want housing co-ops to know about the many benefits and programs that CHF Canada has to offer. We recently sent to your co-op some information on the services and programs we offer. If you're interested in hearing more about our services, contact the office.

CHF Canada is one of the best-kept secrets around – but we're willing to tell all!

Jocelyn Peifer has been hired to staff the new office. She will represent CHF Canada to members, non-members, government and the public. Her job includes recruiting new members; introducing new member

Enjoy spring in Ottawa at the 2000 AGM

The annual general meeting is an opportunity to meet co-operators from across the country and features over 75 workshops. It takes place May 17 – 21 during Ottawa's Tulip Festival. For more information contact Sophia Rollin at 1-800-465-275 or e-mail agm@chfc.ca.



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You could be a millionaire...

Okay, maybe not a millionaire, but your co-op could be sitting on some **unclaimed money?**

Most housing co-ops have claimed GST rebates as qualifying non-profits, getting back 50% of the total GST paid to their suppliers. Now your co-op can get an extra rebate on

your rent-geared-to-income (RGI) units by asking Revenue Canada to treat your co-op as a municipality for GST purposes.

CHF Canada has worked with Revenue Canada to achieve this ruling for housing co-ops. If your co-op meets a few simple rules you could receive the

municipal designation for your RGI units and get the extra rebate.

You can even claim the **extra rebate as far back as 4 years!** CHF Canada has produced a publication called *Supplement to "Your Co-op and the GST"*. Contact us for more information.



Housing Co-ops take on Parliament Hill

The recent announcement that Minister Gagliano, responsible for CMHC, has agreed to let the Province of Manitoba return federally funded housing co-ops to federal jurisdiction was **good news for Manitoba housing co-ops**.

Co-op members have worked hard for this and are to be congratulated for their efforts. We're thrilled about the decision. It's the first step towards achieving our sector's long term goal of the development of a **new non-governmental agency** to administer co-op housing programs outside Quebec.

But the federal government's decision to accept the return of federal housing co-ops in Manitoba

does not mean we will then automatically be transferred to the new administration agency once it is operational. Now, more than ever we need to join our fellow co-operators across Canada in the push for the new non-governmental agency to secure our future.

We're asking housing co-ops to write to Minister Gagliano thanking him for accepting the return of federally funded housing co-ops, and urging him to keep his promise of reviewing CHF Canada's proposal



Many voices make a difference...

for a new non-governmental administration agency. We also want you to send a thank-you letter to Minister Tim Sale, responsible for housing in Manitoba. **Manitoba is the first province** to agree to return co-op programs to the federal government and we want to thank Minister Sale for his support in helping us achieve this milestone.

We have sample letters and sample resolutions your board and/or members can pass in support of the administration agency. Our office will be in touch with your co-op to assist you in your efforts, or you can contact us directly for the information.

Networking Luncheon



The year 2000 is here. Is your co-op ready? Co-op staff face many challenges in their work and need opportunities to meet with resource people and other co-op staff in order to do their jobs effectively.

The CHF Canada – Manitoba office is addressing this issue by hosting its first **Networking Luncheon** on Tuesday, 25 April 2000, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Viscount Gort Hotel, 1670 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg.

Guest Speaker, **Larry Roy** (lawyer with Monk Goodwin) will discuss the **New Cooperatives Act** and how it directly affects housing co-operatives.

Cost, including buffet lunch, is \$15.00 for CHF members and \$18.00 for non-members.

This luncheon kicks off a series of networking opportunities that will occur throughout the year.

To attend the luncheon, you must pre-register!

To confirm call:

1-888-591-3301

or 989-5963

e-mail: jpeifer@chfc.ca

or fax: (204) 487-6407

Deadline is 19 April 2000

Don't Forget...



Co-operative Housing Investment Program (CHIP) is a financial program that offers participating housing co-ops a better way to manage their funds. Participating housing co-ops get an advantageous rate of return on accounts and short term deposits based on the total amount of CHIP funds on deposit.

We are conducting a survey.

The forms were mailed out in early March to each housing co-op. Thanks to those who have already faxed their completed survey forms to the CHF-Manitoba office. We have extended the deadline date to **Friday, 14 April 2000.**