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# Newsbriefs

MANITOBA EDITION

## BULLETIN BOARD

### Job mart

**Village Canadien Co-op** wants to hire a part-time maintenance person. They would like to job share with another housing co-op in Winnipeg, so that the maintenance person would work part time at Village and then part time at the other housing co-op, and therefore have full time work. Village thinks that then both co-ops would be more likely to hire and employ on a long-term basis a qualified part-time maintenance person. If your co-op is interested in doing this, please contact **Bruce Gartside**, General Manager at Village Canadien Co-op at 257-2501.

### Notice of office closure

The CHF Canada Manitoba Office will be closed until Monday, August 11, 2003 while **Jocelyn Peifer** is away on vacation (and her honeymoon!). During that time, if your co-op requires assistance or has a membership inquiry, please contact our national office at 1-800-465-2752 and someone will be pleased to assist you. Have a great summer and see you in September!

### Welcome new members

Welcome to our newest Manitoba member housing co-ops: **Central Park Housing Co-op**, **Payuk Inter-Tribal Housing Co-op**, and **Oikos Co-operative** all located in Winnipeg. Our newest Operational Service Group members are: SAM inc. Management, NewWest Enterprise Property Group and Winpark Dynasty Properties, all based in Winnipeg. Welcome!

## PIPED Act: What is it?

The *PIPED (Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents) Act* is a federal law that protects the privacy of personal information. The Act regulates the collection, use and disclosure of personal information. There is growing concern about the amount of personal information governments, businesses and other organizations have. Organizations collect personal information on application forms, email messages, faxes and messages left on answering machines, to name a few of the most common ways. Computer databases and electronic communications have made sharing and storing this information much easier than in the past.

The *PIPED Act* only applies when an organization collects information during a commercial activity. For housing co-ops, the commercial activity is providing housing. You collect personal information to provide housing when you:

- Process member applications
- Verify income
- Maintain records relating to housing charges
- Process internal moves
- Administer the waiting list
- Maintain emergency contact information
- Handle member complaints

The *PIPED Act* takes effect on January 1, 2004 for housing co-ops. Is your co-op ready? Contact the CHF Manitoba Office for more information, or plan to attend one of our fall workshops on the *PIPED Act* (see the *Events and meetings* section). 🏠

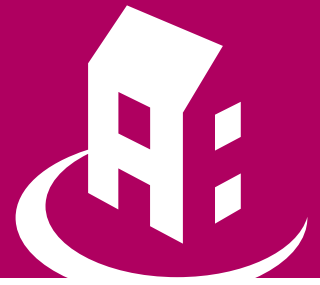
### Got Year-16 anxiety?

Do you live or work in a Federal Co-op Housing Program (FCHP) or Index Linked Mortgage (ILM) co-op, developed between 1985 and 1992? If so, is your co-op prepared for the funding changes that occur beginning in Year 16?

Don't wait – be prepared for the funding changes coming your way. Contact the CHF Canada Manitoba Office for further information or to request an on-site workshop for your co-op.

# Newsbriefs

FOR MANITOBA HOUSING CO-OPS



## EVENTS AND MEETINGS

### Manitoba Advisory Forum meeting

The CHF Canada Manitoba Office will host an Advisory Forum meeting in Winnipeg on Saturday, October 18 at 1:00 pm.

### Administrative networking luncheons

The CHF Canada Manitoba Office will host administrative networking luncheons from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at the Round Table Restaurant in Winnipeg on Wednesday, September 17 and Wednesday, November 19.

### Maintenance networking luncheon

The CHF Canada Manitoba Office will host the next maintenance networking luncheon from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at the Round Table Restaurant in Winnipeg on Wednesday, October 22.

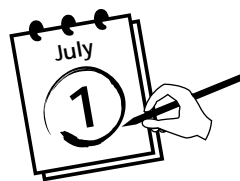
### Privacy Act workshops and Member Appeals and Tribunal Training sessions

The CHF Canada Manitoba Office will host *Privacy Act* workshops and Member Appeals and Tribunal Training sessions on:

- Saturday, October 4 in Brandon
- Saturday, October 18 in Winnipeg

Look for further information on these events and registration forms to be sent to your co-op in September. Contact the CHF Canada Manitoba Office for further information.

## One year left for your co-op to re-state bylaws



By July 1, 2004 all housing co-ops in Manitoba will need to have their past bylaws re-stated and approved by their members and the provincial government, so as to adhere to the new *Co-op Act*. Under the new Act, there is a specific section related to housing co-ops. There are several changes

that co-op's need to now adhere to, such as changes to the member appeal and termination process. Make sure your co-op re-states your bylaws before July 1, 2004.

Contact the CHF Canada Manitoba Office for further information, or to request an on-site workshop about what changes your co-op needs to make and the process for making those changes. 🏠

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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 four years! For further information, contact the CHF Canada Manitoba Office. 🏠