

The
CO-OPERATIVE
HOUSING
FEDERATION
of Canada



NewsBriefs

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CHF Canada and Manitoba Housing foster strong relationship

In 2009, CHF Canada and Manitoba Housing moved mountains together, signing a landmark partnership agreement and fostering a working relationship that continues to improve.

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Above: Members of CHF Canada's delegation present Kerri Irvin-Ross (left) with The Dunning Report: Dimensions of Core Housing Need in Canada.

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IN JUNE**

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THINK BIG

AT CHF CANADA'S JUNE 2010 ANNUAL MEETING!

It's back! CHF Canada's Annual General Meeting comes alive June 9-12, 2010 in the sweet spring warmth of London, Ontario.

This year, member co-ops will 'Think Big' at two town hall sessions: one on *Sizing up our Future* will examine how co-ops could work together to make the sector stronger, and *CHF Canada's 2020 Vision* will look at how to modernize CHF Canada's role and vision.

We'll also 'Think Big' about the Planet, with something we're calling The Green Spot, featuring ten great workshops on sustainability.

"I'm looking forward to London," says Linda Ferguson, of Village Canadien Housing Co-op in Winnipeg, who attended the 2009 AGM. "It's a great experience to be with so many co-op people. We're all working towards the common goal of providing affordable housing, and there is always so much to learn." Linda advises anyone attending the AGM to select sessions well ahead of time. "They do fill up," she points out, "and be prepared to set aside some time to just sit down and talk with people."

With over 30 workshops designed to give you the tools you need to ensure sound management,

good governance and principled leadership in your co-op, the 2010 AGM is your ticket to best practices. Have your say at the National Business Meeting to help set CHF Canada's priorities and policies for the future.

And remember the Three R's: **Register** early, **Review** the reports and resolutions, and **Ready** yourself to have fun!

For information and registration, visit www.chfcanada.coop and follow the Annual Meeting link.

CHF Canada's Annual General Meeting



As an employee of SAM Management, Cheryl manages six Manitoba housing co-ops. Photo credit: Shaune Robinson

Outstanding Co-operators: Cheryl Krostewitz

Cheryl Krostewitz wears many hats. She is a CHF Canada volunteer, an outstanding facilitator, a Manitoba Advisory Forum executive member, a founding member of the Co-op Development Group of Manitoba and manager of six housing co-ops as an employee of **SAM Management**.

SAM Management is a dynamic non-profit management company that serves a large portfolio of non-profit housing and housing co-ops in Manitoba. Cheryl and SAM Management have helped several co-ops that were in trouble both financially and in their governance structures to get back on track.

Asked what she likes most about working with SAM Management,

Cheryl says it's "because SAM is non-profit and governed by a volunteer board of directors. I think that makes us unique and helps us understand the importance of co-op boards in ensuring a healthy co-op. SAM has also provided me personally with so much encouragement and helped me grow into my position by supporting my continuing education in the co-op sector."

"I love all the great people I work with every day," says Cheryl. "I've had the opportunity to meet so many people who volunteer their time to make their community a better place to live. My colleagues too are the most dedicated group of people I've ever had the privilege of working with; so many people who take it beyond 9 to 5. It's really inspirational."

NEWSBRIEFS

CHF CANADA WELCOMES FOUR NEW MANITOBA MEMBERS!

United Housing Co-op is a 60-unit family co-op located on the north west side of Winnipeg. **Columbus Centennial Housing Co-op** is a 70-unit seniors' co-op located in the north eastern part of Winnipeg.

Centre Village, on Balmoral Avenue, is one of Canada's newest co-ops. Families from many cultures and backgrounds will be moving into the co-op this summer.

Greenheart Housing Co-op is in Winnipeg's West-end neighbourhood. With the support of CHF Canada, the co-op's members and board are working through the many challenges of running a new co-op.

CO-OPS NETWORKING FOR SUCCESS!

On January 10, members from CHF Canada member co-ops in Winnipeg gathered for **CHF Canada's board workshop**. It was a great chance for co-ops to discuss governance in their co-ops. And on March 10, CHF Canada member co-ops and managers met at the Inn at the Forks for a **Networking Lunch** about handling conflict in co-operatives and Mediation Services. It was a well attended event. If you are interested in education or networking opportunities for your co-op, contact Tammy Robinson at 947-5411 or 1-888-591-3301.

THE PAS VALHALLA ANNIVERSARY

Tammy Robinson met with **The Pas Valhalla** in the fall to celebrate their 25th Anniversary. CHF Canada presented them with a beautiful Bill Reid print to commemorate this special occasion!



HELPING CO-OPS PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE



In January and February, **Carpathia Housing Co-op** and **Payuk Intertribal Housing Co-op** met with CHF Canada as part of the 2020 Compass process to prepare for the future. The co-ops appreciated the opportunity to discuss what they plan to do when subsidies from Manitoba Housing end.

EXPERTISE AND INFORMATION FOR CO-OPS



CHF Canada has experts across the country to help you and your co-op. Above (left), David Spackman meets with **Oikos Housing Co-op** about capital reserve planning. Dave has met with many co-ops across the province about operating agreements, maintenance, day-to-day operations, governance and renovation funding.

*(Strong Relationship,
Continued from Page 1)*

CHF Canada member co-ops were allocated over two million dollars of stimulus funding last year, and cemented a positive dialogue and working relationship with a series of high-level meetings and lobbying opportunities.

On September 9, CHF Canada and Manitoba Housing sat down and spoke about how to best help co-ops together. Then on December 10, a CHF Canada delegation met with the new Minister of Housing and Community Development Kerri Irvin-Ross and her Legislative Assistant, MLA Rob Altemeyer. CHF Canada staff, Karla Skoutajan and Tammy Robinson, together with Manitoba region board member Linda Ferguson and co-op development expert Karl Falk of DSI Tandem took this opportunity to brief the Minister about housing co-ops in Manitoba. Minister Irvin-Ross was very positive and eager to learn about the situation and concerns of housing co-ops. It was a very successful meeting.

And in January 2010, CHF Canada met with the CEO of Manitoba Housing, Darrell Jones, and his staff to discuss how to assist and work with co-ops in difficulty.

CHF Canada has been enthusiastically promoting housing co-operatives to the current government, and the government is listening. In October, Tammy Robinson attended the NDP leadership debate at the University of Winnipeg. She asked the candidates "as future premier, how do you plan to support co-op housing and affordable housing in our province?" Both candidates replied by speaking about the relevance of co-ops in Manitoba and their positive impact on our province. The candidates mentioned several times that they each promise new affordable units and more co-op homes.

The future is bright for housing co-ops in Manitoba. We look forward to fostering our improved relationship with Manitoba Housing and building a stronger connection between our members and government.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

APRIL 10

CHF Canada's Spring education event at the Delta Hotel Winnipeg. Manitoba Advisory Forum meeting and regional election will take place during the noon hour program.

APRIL 28 TO MAY 3

Co-op Youth Leadership Camp
For more information call Vera Goussaert at the Manitoba Co-operative Association: 989-5930.

JUNE 9 TO 12

CHF Canada Annual Meeting in London, Ontario (see page 2).

ONGOING

CHF Canada 2020 Compass events (by special invitation only). to help your co-op prepare for the future. Please call Tammy Robinson at 888-591-3301

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