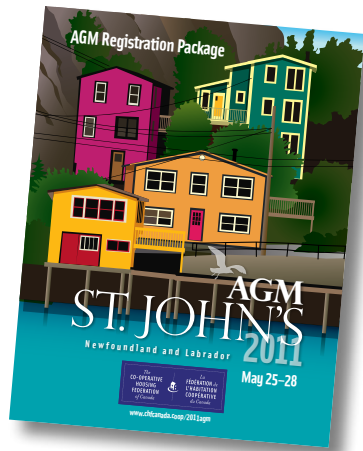


Picture Yourself at the 2011 AGM!

You definitely won't want to miss CHF Canada's 2011 Annual Meeting unfolding in friendly, historic St. John's, Newfoundland from May 25-28. With over 30 workshops to choose from, and a dynamic town hall session on Getting Governance Right, you'll want to start planning now for an unforgettable experience. Ensure a strong future for your co-op, as you explore the many tools for good governance and share ideas and expertise with other co-op members. Find common ground with volunteer leaders and managers from co-ops across the country. Best of all, discover for yourself why the AGM receives rave reviews year after year.



little bit, find out what others do in their co-ops, and they find out what you do in yours."

Norm Martel of Willow Park East Co-op in Winnipeg appreciated the opportunity to have his say at the national business meeting on behalf of his co-op when he attended the 2010 AGM in London. He also enjoyed networking with other members. "It always helps to brainstorm a

Breathe in the clean, fresh sea air as you explore the live music venues, restaurants and shops of St. John's. This vibrant city is fast becoming the cultural capital of Canada. Join us for the 2011 AGM, and find out why. Register now at www.chfcanada.coop so that you and your co-op can be a part of this year's excitement.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE SPRING EDUCATION EVENT!

**SPRING EDUCATION EVENT
SATURDAY, APRIL 9**

*Delta Winnipeg
350 St. Mary Avenue*

You don't want to miss this great event! Meet other co-operators and gain valuable knowledge with workshops on

1. Reading financial statements
2. Board governance
3. Aging in place

For more information, contact Tammy Robinson at 1-888-591-3301 or trobenson@chfcanada.coop.

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SPRING EDUCATION EVENT *Page 4*

Members of Manitoba's Co-op Housing Development Group and CHF Canada staff meet with the Minister of Housing and Co-operative Development, Kerri Irvin-Ross. Pictured from left are (back row) Deputy Minister Joy Cramer; Minister Kerri Irvin-Ross; CHF Canada Program Manager, Manitoba Tammy Robinson; (front row) co-op developer Terri Lynn Proulx; SAM Management's Laurie Socha; CHF Canada Regional Director Linda Ferguson; and CHF Canada Director, Sector Development, Karla Skoutajan.



MAKING THE CASE FOR CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING

In December, members of the Manitoba Co-op Housing Development Group and CHF Canada staff met with Kerri Irvin-Ross, Manitoba's Minister of Housing and Co-operative Development. They spoke with the Minister about opportunities for expanding existing housing co-ops and addressing refinancing barriers for co-ops on leased land. They also discussed funding education for new co-op members and governance training for co-op boards.

CHF Canada's Manitoba Regional Director, Linda Ferguson, says the Minister responded favourably, particularly on the issue of co-op leases. "It's clear that the Province values co-ops and co-op development as part of its mandate."

"It's great that the co-operative sector has the opportunity to engage in open dialogue with the Manitoba Government and that we are all working with the same vision in mind," says S.A.M. Management General Manager, Laurie Socha. "We are making great progress in putting co-ops at the forefront of the Government's agenda."

The Government of Manitoba, in partnership with the federal government, has made significant financial commitments to invest in the development of affordable housing. Manitoba's 46 housing co-ops are administered by the province, but these responsibilities will cease when the operating agreements end and the co-ops' mortgages are paid off over the next 15 years.

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Columbus Centennial Housing Co-op when it was founded. Today, the river bank trees are gone and the stairs are rotten.

COLUMBUS CENTENNIAL FACES RIVER EROSION

Situated on the bank of the Red River, Columbus Centennial housing co-op has a stunning view from their co-op common room across the water to Winnipeg's downtown. However, the co-op's beautiful location has also led to a potentially dangerous situation that threatens the stability of its foundation.

Since the co-op was first built twenty years ago, the river has steadily been eroding the bank. In the past two years, the erosion has increased rapidly from extreme spring floods. This process has dislodged a number of the property's trees, leaving the co-op's summer deck and waterfront stairs inaccessible, explains Columbus Centennial's Vice President Andrea Helgason, who also chairs the co-op's Riverbank Erosion Committee.

This vibrant co-op community, one of CHF Canada's newest members, is home to members age 55 and older.

"It's a wonderful group of people, eight people have been here since the beginning, so you can imagine how sad it is for them to lose something they worked so hard for and looked after so well," says Helgason.

Despite visits from their city councilor, MLA and MP, Helgason expressed frustration that so far, their concerns have been passed from one level of government to the next.

"We don't have the money to hire an engineer so at this point we're at a standstill," she says. "I wish we could all get together and work towards a solution. It's not just us on the river bank."

The co-op recently received a list of engineering consultants from the city, but they are very worried about the cost of reinforcing the riverbank. The co-op has invited Winnipeg Mayor Sam Katz to attend a meeting. Helgason hopes this meeting will inspire all levels of government to work together on a solution that ensures the co-op's members continue to enjoy their beautiful waterfront property.

"We will continue to help Columbus Centennial search for solutions to this urgent matter," says CHF Canada's Program Manager for Manitoba, Tammy Robinson.

NEWS BRIEFS

CO-OPERATION PAYS OFF IN MANITOBA

A new tax credit is encouraging co-operation among co-operatives in Manitoba. The Co-operative Development Tax Credit is available to all Manitoba co-ops and credit unions who contribute to the Cooperative Development Fund administered by the Manitoba Cooperative Association.

Cheryl Krostewitz, Cooperative Development Advisor and Fund Administrator for the MCA, says the tax credit is already benefitting the fund, which received \$72,000 from 29 co-ops between the time the credit was announced in October 2010 and the end of the year. "The money raised will be used to provide technical assistance and small grants to support emerging and expanding provincial co-operatives," she says.

Contributions up to \$1,000 will receive a refundable 75% tax credit. Grant applications are available on MCA's website www.manitoba.coop. For more information call Cheryl Krostewitz at 204-989-0096.

WINNIPEG NORTH CANDIDATES FORUM

On November 25th, co-op members in the federal riding of Winnipeg North braved the cold to attend

a meet and greet with bi-election candidates co-hosted by Willow Park East Housing Co-op and CHF Canada. The riding fell vacant after NDP MP Judy Wasylycia-Leis retired from federal politics in April, 2010.



The Liberal, NDP, Green and Pirate Party candidates for the November 29 Winnipeg North by-election spoke about issues of importance to co-op members. The bi-election was won by Liberal candidate Liberal Kevin Lamoureux.

NEW LAW REQUIRES CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS IN MANITOBA HOMES

Manitoba is set to become the first province to require that carbon monoxide detectors be installed in homes. Effective April 1, 2011, anyone applying for a building permit will be required to install a hard-wired carbon monoxide detector.

This building code change applies to all new homes, as well as those undergoing major renovations. New homes with electric heat will not be exempt. The majority of Manitoba's co-op homes will not be affected, but it is important to be aware of the change in the event that co-ops undertake any major renovations in the future.

CO-OP MEMBERS ARE GETTING GOVERNANCE RIGHT!

On November 18, Tammy Robinson travelled to Northern Harmony Housing Co-operative's AGM in Thompson, Manitoba to present the workshop "Whose Job is it Anyways!?" on board governance. Northern Harmony Director Yvonne Johnson says the workshop helped her better understand her role as a director, in relation to the role of the co-op's manager. "If I had known this for the past term I would not have felt like I am always in the middle and have to deal with all the members' concerns."



Making the Case continued from page 2

While there are many challenges to developing new co-op homes in the current economic environment, CHF Canada's Program Manager for Manitoba, Tammy Robinson, is optimistic that working in partnership with the government can help ensure that new opportunities for co-op development are realized in the near future.

"We are pleased to have such a supportive government that recognizes the benefits that co-op housing brings to communities. We look forward to strengthening our relationship with the government over the next few months."

