



NATIONAL EDITION

Newsbriefs

Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 3, JULY 2000

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Over 800 members meet in Ottawa for AGM

Over 800 people gathered in Ottawa May 17–21 for CHF Canada's 32nd annual meeting.

"It was very impressive," said first-time delegate **Vanessa Mackenzie** from Vancouver's Paloma Housing Co-operative. "It was great to realize that this is a huge movement and we do make a difference. It was very empowering to see everyone working together and talking about the resolutions."

Delegates from across Canada were welcomed warmly by local volunteers in bright orange T-shirts. Thanks to the local federation, the Co-operative Housing Association of Eastern Ontario (CHASEO), local meeting co-ordinator **Ann Marie Martins**, and everyone else who worked so hard to make the meeting a success.

This issue contains an update on AGM events—resolutions, elections, and other activities.

The next AGM is the week of June 5–10, 2001 in Victoria, BC. The deadline for resolutions for that meeting is December 31, 2000. Please use the form included with this issue. ★

Business MemberTel is Here... 6.5 Cents A Minute on Your Co-op's Long Distance!

By now you should have received your invitation to join our latest group buying program, Business MemberTel.

Business MemberTel is a partnership between CHF Canada and the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) for co-op office phone services. Because of our huge combined business volumes, we have one of the very best long distance rates in Canada. Sprint Canada beat the competition to help us offer this great new program.

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as soon as leased lines are available at better rates, but unfortunately, that will depend on the CRTC—the federal commission that regulates telecommunications in Canada.

So...stay tuned. Starting in July, Business MemberTel will offer business Internet services, with features and prices tailored to our members' needs.

To join Business MemberTel, just call Sprint Canada at 1-888-552-0165. And for more information, or to request an information package, just call your local CHF Canada office. ★

Save on your own long-distance costs

A reminder that members and staff of CHF Canada members can also save money on their personal long-distance and Internet costs through MemberTel—and contribute to a stronger co-op sector at the same time. Call Primus Canada at 1-877-885-9961 for more information on co-op housing MemberTel. ★

Newsbriefs



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AGM News

Co-op's work for social change recognized at AGM

Downtown Toronto's Bleecker Street Co-operative Homes did well at the CHF Canada AGM, winning both the Award for Management Excellence from the Federal Co-operative Housing Stabilization Fund and our own Jim MacDonald Award for Social Change.

Bleecker Street was originally built by the Toronto Housing Corporation and converted to a co-op in 1991. The co-op managed to pay off existing debts and fund its reserves, as well as upgrade the property. Bleecker Street has strong member involvement and offers a wide variety of services to its members. The co-op reserves one-quarter of its subsidized units for people living with HIV, a history of mental illness, or those leaving domestic violence.

Bleecker Street didn't spend much time resting on its laurels after the AGM. The co-op entered a float in Toronto's recent Gay Pride Parade.

The float's theme was "Bleecker Street Co-op: Built on Heroes" in honour of everyone who has played a role in making the co-op what it is today—a caring community. This year's co-op Pride Committee boasted twenty members, and many more than that joined in the march alongside the parade float. To cap the celebration, about 200 members attended the Friday-night Pride Party. Many of the members in attendance were not part of the gay community, but wanted to show their support for their co-op and its commitment to diversity. Congratulations, Bleecker Street. ★

Glenn Haddrell wins CMHC award

CHF Canada's first executive director is the winner of this year's CMHC Award for Outstanding Contribution to Co-operative Housing. **Glenn Haddrell** first got involved with co-op housing in 1968 when he was working at

his local credit union in Abbotsford, BC. Knowing that many people in the community could not afford even the modest price of a home in the area, Glenn wanted the credit union to build affordable rental housing. Because of the credit union's co-operative roots, he thought it would be nice if the housing could be a co-operative.

Abbotsford Co-op was the first housing co-operative in BC. There was no government funding. The cost of the mortgage was paid back over the life of the project. Today, the co-op still provides affordable housing.

When several sponsoring organizations started up a new organization to promote co-operative housing, Glenn was the first person hired. He travelled across the country lobbying for government support. At the time, government funds could only go to government organizations. As a result of Glenn's work, the National Housing Act was changed in 1973 to allow co-ops to get government subsidy.

Meanwhile, the federal government had announced a fund that allowed housing projects to borrow money at a lower rate of interest. Lobbying led to approval of funding for five new co-ops in different parts of Canada, and eventually to a new co-op housing program. The rest is CHF Canada history. ★

Ursula Kieley retires

Ursula Kieley, who retired May 31 after 29 years with CHF Canada, was named an Honorary Life Associate of CHF Canada. Ursula received the CMHC award in 1990, one of the few people in the co-op movement to have received both honours.

Ursula has seen many changes in her time at CHF Canada. One thing she says has changed over the years, "People don't ask 'what is co-op housing?' any more. Most people I meet have heard of co-ops."

When Ursula announced that she would be retiring at the end of May, Executive Director

Alexandra Wilson had this to say: "When I ask myself what CHF will lose when you turn in your keys and say good night to your colleagues for the last time, many things spring to mind: your unshakeable faith in our common project of building Canada's co-operative housing movement; your matchless knowledge of CHF's corporate history; your quiet reliability; your wit; your skill with a pen; your tact and good humour. But, for me, first among your many fine qualities is your constant habit of putting the needs of our members—singly and collectively—before all else."

Ursula will be spending her retirement in her birthplace in Ferryland, Newfoundland. She'll be missed by her co-workers and her neighbours at Coady housing co-op in Ottawa. But the many co-op members she got to know over the years will miss her most of all. Good luck Ursula, and happy retirement! ★

Members vote to work on homelessness, government lobby

Delegates heard from directors **Heather Paynter** and **Debbie Saidman** about work CHF Canada has been doing to raise the issue of homelessness. A group of volunteers from Peterborough, Ontario displayed the colourful banners they have used in their campaign for more affordable housing.

In response, delegates passed a resolution urging the federal government and the provinces to adopt a national housing strategy and commit financial resources for new affordable housing.

Delegates also passed a motion to continue with our campaign to press the federal government and interested provinces to transfer co-op housing programs outside Quebec to an independent, non-governmental agency based in the co-op housing sector. ★

New Board elected

New directors **Tony Legare**, **Mel Willis**, **Brian Phinney**, **Wendy Huggan**, and **Lillian Loppie** are joining the board. President **Wes Hosler** was elected for another term. **Bruce Little** and **Donna Charbonneau** were also re-elected.

The new board of directors is:

BC/Yukon

Tony Legare*

Alberta/Northwest Territories

Debbie Saidman*

Vice President

Saskatchewan

Ambrose Reschny

Manitoba

Mel Willis

Ontario

Donna Charbonneau*

Treasurer

Quebec/Nunavut

René Daoust*

New Brunswick

Brian Phinney

Nova Scotia

Susan Wells

Prince Edward Island

Heather Paynter

Newfoundland/Labrador

Bruce Little*

Aboriginal Community

Wendy Huggan

At large:

Vince Hall

Wes Hosler* (President)

Lillian Loppie

Patricia Matthews

Gary Panagiotidis

** Executive committee member*

Membership dues for 2001

Delegates approved a dues increase for next year. In 2001, dues for housing co-ops will be \$3.10 per unit, per month—up from \$3 this year. For housing co-ops under development the cost will be \$75 per year. Student housing co-ops will pay \$6.50 per bed per year.

Dues for sponsoring organizations will be \$780 per year, and for all other voting members, \$240 per year.

Organizational associates will pay \$240 per year and the cost for individual associates will be \$85 per year. ★

Dues capped for largest co-ops

Delegates passed a motion capping the number of units on which a co-op pays dues at 500. Until now, co-ops paid membership dues on a per unit basis. This is a fair way of assessing ability to pay—in most cases. But extremely large co-ops may not need or get services in proportion to their size. The new policy is similar to the practices of other co-op organizations, such as the Credit Union Central of Canada.

At the moment, this change affects only one co-op. But there may be other very large co-ops in the future, particularly if some public housing buildings convert to co-ops. ★

Guess who's coming to dinner?

CHF Canada members returning to the conference centre after a full day of workshops on Thursday were confronted with an unusual sight—banks of television cameras and lots of nervous looking security people. It turned out that the Ontario Progressive Conservatives, and Premier **Mike Harris**, were holding a dinner and fund-raiser in the same building.

Staff had heard that the fund-raiser was taking place, but it wasn't until that evening that the size

and scope of the event became clear. The rumoured arrival of federal Tory leader **Joe Clark**, and Canadian Alliance party leadership hopefuls **Tom Long** and **Preston Manning** brought the media out in force.

Several media reports made mention of the brightly coloured banner of CHF Canada's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Caucus but, although we talked to the media, they were much more interested in the politicians than in co-op housing.

Delegates were understandably upset to be confronted by a media scrum on their way to our meeting. During the business meeting on Sunday, members expressed concern at the lost media and lobby opportunity. A late resolution was passed calling on CHF Canada to strike an ad hoc political action committee.

"We were not told how big this event was going to be," said Executive Director **Alexandra Wilson**. "We were taken by surprise, but we made efforts to talk to the media and to the politicians once we realized this was more than a quiet dinner."

"We recognize that many of our members were dismayed by this event, as was evident by the resolution passed late Sunday morning" said CHF Canada president Wes Hosler. "The board will, as it has always done, respond to the concerns of the membership. The board and Ontario Council discussed the issue immediately following the AGM business meeting and we will return to the subject at our September meeting. Between now and then we will invite further comments from our members across Canada, to ensure that this resolution is followed up in the best interests of all CHF Canada's members." ★

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered Visibility

AGM delegates approved a resolution to promote more visibility for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) members in our sector. Some LGBT people have found that parts of the

AGM can be difficult for them. For example, they sense that not all members are comfortable with them dancing with same-sex partners at social events. To help with this and other examples of discrimination and harassment, the CHF Canada board adopted an anti-discrimination policy and complaint resolution process for the AGM. The goal of the policy is to ensure that all members are treated with respect and feel welcome at our AGM. The Diversity Committee is actively involved in this issue too.

The new resolution calls for CHF Canada to post information on the LGBT caucus on our web site. CHF Canada will also promote the participation of housing co-op federations in their local LGBT pride events and encourage them to cover those events in their newsletters.

Members directed CHF Canada's nominating committee to reach out to diverse parts of our community and encourage new people to run for the board. The resolution also asks us to encourage co-ops to include effective anti-harassment and anti-discrimination rules in their by-laws.

Much of this work is already underway at CHF Canada. Some co-ops and federations are already actively involved in their local pride events. We'd like to hear about your co-op's or federation's activities. Contact **Merrilee Robson** at the Vancouver office, 1-877-533-2667 toll free (879-4116 in the Vancouver area) or e-mail mrobson@chfc.ca. ★

Youth in Ottawa

The fifth annual youth forum took place May 18-21 and was a hit at the AGM. This year's forum received generous financial support from Mountain Equipment Co-op. Youth from across the country made an inspiring presentation at the business meeting on Sunday morning. Their presentation included skits on dealing with conflict and homelessness.

During the four-day forum, youth attended their own sessions and member forum workshops. This

see **Youth in Ottawa** continued on page 6

year special attention was given to homelessness. Their experiences also included visiting and volunteering at the Ottawa Food Bank and Centre 507 (an inner city drop-in centre). Youth forum participants also provided some enthusiastic leadership at the Saturday dinner/dance.

Every year CHF Canada finds sponsors to send youth from housing co-ops to co-operative young leaders camps. The camps are sponsored by regional affiliates of the Canadian Co-operative Association. This year nine youth will attend camps in four regions of the country.

CHF Canada 2000 camp sponsorships were made possible through the generous support of: Blain Allen Inc.; CANA Management Associates Ltd.; The Exchange Chartered Accountants; Iler, Campbell Barristers and Solicitors; Morneau Sobeco; Nesbitt Burns; Prentice Yates & Clark; Print Action; Sound Advice; and Worton Hunter & Callaghan.

A draw is held at each AGM to pick the co-ops that will receive a sponsorship to send a member to a young leaders camp in their area. This year youth from the following co-ops will attend camp:

Beechwood Co-operative Homes, Waterloo, Ont.
Don Area Co-operative Homes, Toronto, Ont.
Future Housing Co-operative, St. John's, Nfld.
Jackson's Point Co-operative, Jackson's Point, Ont.
Las Americas Co-operative Homes, Mississauga, Ont.
Pine Ridge Housing Co-operative, Burnaby, B.C.
Ramsay Heights Housing Co-operative, Calgary, Alta.
Quebec Manor Housing Co-operative, Vancouver, B.C.
Sutherland Place Co-operative Homes, Cobourg, Ont.

For more information on CHF Canada's youth programs, contact **Karla Skoutajan** at 1(800) 465-2752 (230-2201 in Ottawa) or e-mail kskoutajan@chfc.ca. ★

Check out *MemberTel*[™]

For information, call toll-free
1-877-885-9961

Staff Development Conference

This year almost 150 co-op staff attended the Staff Development Conference held during the AGM. Staff chose from more than 35 workshops held over three days. The workshops gave them an opportunity to discuss co-op housing issues and develop new skills.

During the conference plenaries, participants received an update on the activities of staff associations and other staff groups from across the country. They also reviewed and discussed important issues involved in the development of a model workplace harassment by-law.

Co-op staff elected a new committee to start planning the 2001 Staff Development Conference. Elected were **Marg Bacon** (Peggy and Andrew Brewin Co-op) and **Dawn-Leah McDonald** (Delta Green Co-op). They are joined on the committee by **Scott Piatkowski** who was re-elected for another two-year term as the staff representative to the CHF Canada Federations Committee.

During the AGM business meeting, delegates passed a resolution directing CHF Canada to promote the education of co-op boards in their role as employers. The resolution also calls on us to support the education of co-op staff in their role as administrators and promote the development of management teams in co-ops, including both staff and boards. ★

New by-law adopted

At the 1999 annual meeting, members approved in principle a new By-law No. 1 for CHF Canada. This was in anticipation of the new *Canada Co-operatives Act* becoming law. The new Act finally came into effect on January 1, 2000. Final approval of the new by-law at this year's AGM was the final step in updating our by-laws to comply with the new Act.

The new by-law will be posted on our web site at www.chfc.ca. Or you can get a copy by contacting **Louise Briglio** at our Ottawa office, 1-800-465-2752, e-mail lbriglio@chfc.ca. ★

Changes to Shared Revenue Program

AGM delegates also approved changes to our Shared Revenue Program. Since the early 1990s, CHF Canada has been sharing revenue with member federations. Funds came from sector support contributions paid by developing co-ops to support a strong sector and from interest on the national endowment fund. At the time we thought that the number of co-ops would continue to grow, and that all regions would eventually have a federation to provide local services.

The end of federal co-op programs has changed things. It is clear that some regions may never have enough co-ops to support a local federation. Yet those co-ops paid support to the sector and need services just like others.

A decision made by co-ops in Manitoba to close their local federation and open a local CHF Canada office in Winnipeg is another new development. In order to support the local office, members now pay dues equal to what they were paying to CHF Canada and the local federation combined.

The change in policy will allow members outside Quebec to get the benefit of shared revenue directly from CHF Canada in areas where there is no local federation, including areas where members are paying extra dues to support a local CHF Canada office. ★

Organizing for success

After a year-long discussion that began at the 1999 AGM, delegates approved a plan to look at the best way to maintain a strong co-op housing sector for the future.

At the 1999 meeting, members asked the board to consult with member co-ops and local federations about how we divide up the job of providing services to co-ops, how we pay for that work, and how we can help federations that run into financial difficulty. This year, delegates agreed on

what we're trying to achieve and what our working assumptions will be as we deal with change and the challenges that come with it. The point of the exercise is to deliver excellent services that support housing co-ops and strengthen the co-op housing sector at the same time.

Members will hear more about this as CHF Canada works with housing co-ops and local federations in each region of the country. ★

Help for leaky co-ops

Delegates passed a resolution sponsored by the Co-operative Housing Federation of BC calling on CHF Canada to support housing co-ops facing water penetration disasters wherever those co-ops are in Canada.

The resolution declares that CHF Canada should hold the federal government accountable for its responsibilities so that leaky co-ops can be restored to a safe, healthy condition.

CHF Canada, CHF/BC, and a number of co-ops have been working to ensure that government assistance for co-ops with water damage leaves enough subsidy to allow existing low-income members to continue paying the same housing charges. CMHC has proposed workout plans for some Vancouver co-ops that mean many low-income members could not pay the housing charges and would have to leave the co-op. The resolution directs CHF Canada to gain a commitment from CMHC and the federal minister's office to set up flexible loan conditions so that co-ops can continue to operate as affordable, mixed-income communities.

The BC government announced a year ago that it would provide 10-year, interest-free loans to owners of homes with water leakage problems, including housing co-ops. More than 20 co-ops have already applied for loans totalling over \$25 million.

In June, CMHC announced that it would match

see **Help for leaky co-ops** continued on page 8

BC's \$75 million contribution to this loan fund. While housing co-ops welcomed this announcement, it does not fully address the problem. Some co-ops have such serious damage that they can't afford the cost of an interest-free loan that large, under the conditions CMHC is setting. These co-ops need grants or more flexible loan conditions so their members can rely on healthy, stable housing again. ★

Ontario members look at housing policy

Housing co-ops have played a key role in the development of housing policy in Canada over the past four decades. That's what Prof. **David Hulchanski**, the keynote speaker at the May 19 annual meeting of CHF Canada's Ontario members, told delegates in Ottawa. Hulchanski is an internationally respected housing researcher at the University of Toronto.

"Co-op members should not be discouraged by recent federal and Ontario decisions to abandon social housing," he said. "Housing policy tends to run in ten-year cycles and the next upswing is expected soon."

In her report, Ontario Council President **Joyce Morris** pointed to big wins in the past year. An intense campaign resulted in federal co-ops being removed from the social housing transfer early in 1999. In November, hard work by co-ops again paid off when rent supplement programs used by federal co-ops in Ontario were moved to the federal level.

However, the 21,000 households in Ontario provincial co-ops are preparing for major changes as the province moves ahead with its plan to transfer provincial social housing programs to municipal administration. **Dale Reagan**, Managing Director of the Ontario Region, updated delegates on social housing reform and the download plan.

"We're at a crunch point," he warned. "We don't think the new system will work as well as it could

have. That said, there could still be some real gains for co-ops. We could win a fixed financial deal and long-term rent supplement agreements. But we know there will be tradeoffs. The question will be, what are they and can we live with them in exchange for the gains?"

At the meeting, our Ontario Region launched a mini-campaign calling on all co-ops to write to the Ontario Legislature asking for public hearings on the legislation. Ontario members passed an eight-point resolution on social housing reform and downloading. Delegates also called for action by the Ontario Region and its members to "get Ontario back into the housing business."

The Ontario Region of CHF Canada was created in 1996 when the Co-operative Housing Association of Ontario merged with CHF Canada. Ontario members hold their annual meeting at the same time as the CHF Canada annual meeting. More details on the Ontario meeting are on the CHF Canada web site. For information, call **Michael Shapcott** at 1-800-268-2537 (in Toronto, call 416-366-1711). E-mail: mshapcott@chfc.ca. ★

Thanks to our sponsors

A huge vote of thanks to the AGM sponsors and suppliers for their generous support:

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Mountain Equipment Co-op

And thanks to those who showed their support for CHF Canada by advertising in our AGM Information Book.

This support helps keep the cost of the meeting affordable for our members. Sponsorship revenue this year reduced the cost of registration by \$25 for each person at the AGM. ★

Get your souvenir photo

There are still a few of the large, poster size AGM photos left. The picture gives a view of AGM delegates with a background of the Parliament Buildings and the Rideau Canal. Photos are \$13.50, including mailing costs. Contact **Louise Briglio** at our Ottawa office, 1-800-465-2752 toll free or (613) 230-2201 in the Ottawa area. Or e-mail lbriglio@chfc.ca. ★

Serving our members

Member-only Savings from CHF Canada

We're always looking for ways to help co-op members save money. Programs like **MemberGuard**, **AutoGuard** and **MemberTel** combine the buying power of thousands of co-ops members across Canada. We want to make sure that every co-op member knows about these great deals. So we're sending information on our programs right to your doorstep—enough copies for every household in your co-op. Please help us out by delivering this material to your members when it arrives—and please put up the posters that come with the mailing in a place where your members will see them.

Thanks for your help. We hope that many more co-op members will soon be enjoying the benefits of our national group buying programs. ★



New student co-op housing fund

CHF Canada has established a new University Student Co-operative Housing Fund. The fund can provide loans to help develop student co-op housing or to assist existing student co-ops with their housing operations. Student co-ops must be or become CHF Canada members in order to qualify for loans, or loan guarantees.

The funds came from a student housing co-operative in Vancouver that closed in 1969. The money was held by the Co-operative Trust Company of Canada until it was transferred to CHF Canada in 1999. For more information about the new fund, contact **Mark Goldblatt** at our Ottawa office, 1-800-465-2752 toll free or (613) 230-2201 in the Ottawa area. Or e-mail Mark at mgoldblatt@chfc.ca. ★

Get those surveys in please

In the next issue of *Newsbriefs* we'll include information from our latest member survey. Many co-ops have sent us their good ideas for service to their members and the community. We'll include some of the best suggestions in the next issue. If your co-op hasn't returned the survey, please send it in as soon as possible. For more information, call our Ottawa office at 1-800-465-2752. ★

CHF Canada's seniors project

A resolution was adopted at the AGM calling on CHF Canada to do more research on the challenges facing seniors in housing co-ops. The resolution also directs us to encourage housing co-ops to adopt policies and adapt their buildings to help members meet those challenges.

We offered two workshops at the 2000 AGM on issues for seniors in housing co-ops. One

see CHF Canada's Seniors continued on page 10

workshop was on seniors and Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia. Participants told us that this is a very difficult issue for co-ops to deal with and that they were very pleased that CHF Canada is doing something on this question. We handed out copies of a draft policy to help co-ops make decisions when a member has Alzheimer's. Our goal was to find out from participants if the policy would make it clearer and easier to decide what to do in that situation. We will be consulting further with members over the summer and will have a final policy and guidelines by the end of 2000.

The second workshop was for "seniors-only" co-ops. We have two goals in this area. The first is to examine the challenges faced by "seniors-only" co-ops as their members age. And the second goal is to develop management approaches and techniques to overcome these challenges. Again, we will be consulting widely with members over the summer on the specifics of a new publication dealing with these issues. It too will be available by the end of the year.

If you would like to review either of the documents as part of our summer consultation process, you can get a copy from **Penelope Winter** in the Ontario Region office, 1-800-268-2537 toll-free or (416) 366-1711 in the Toronto area. Or e-mail pwinter@chfc.ca. ★

What language do you speak?

During the 2000 AGM, CHF Canada asked participants to fill out a language survey. The purpose of the survey is to find out what languages are commonly spoken in housing co-ops across the country. The Diversity Committee wants this information in order to decide which languages the publication *What is Co-op Housing?* should be translated into. In addition to French and English, the document is available in Vietnamese, Polish, Spanish, Somali, Chinese, Tamil and Ojibway. If you didn't fill out a survey at the AGM, please take a few moments to fill out the copy included with this issue. Please return it to **Penelope Winter** in our Ontario Region office. ★

Link to our web site

Does your co-op have a web site? Send us your URL and we'll add a link to our own site. And you may want to add a link from your site to ours. The CHF Canada site can be found at www.chfc.ca. We'll be introducing a new design and new features soon, including a part of the site for members only. Contact **Merrilee Robson** at our Vancouver office or e-mail mrobson@chfc.ca. ★

Want an electronic Newsbriefs?

To keep a handle on printing and mailing costs, CHF Canada is only able to provide a few copies of *Newsbriefs* to each member. But, thanks to new technology, we are now able to create an electronic distribution list so that we can e-mail individual co-op members their own personal copy of the latest co-op news.

If you're interested, please e-mail **Merrilee Robson** at mrobson@chfc.ca. ★

Information for co-ops

ILM mortgage payments on the rise

Co-ops developed under the Federal Co-operative Housing Program (1986-1991) have what is known as an Index-linked Mortgage (ILM). ILM payments are adjusted each year by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index, less two per cent. This two per cent adjustment is called the "tilt".

Throughout much of the 1990s, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was increasing at less than two per cent a year. That meant ILM payments were actually going down. Now, however, with inflation starting to creep up a little, we are starting to see annual CPI changes of around three per cent. That means that, even after we take away the two per cent tilt, ILM payments are on the rise — by one percent if the CPI change is three per cent.

For co-ops with the ILM, the annual replacement reserve contribution and the allocation to the Security of Tenure Fund are adjusted by the same formula as the mortgage payment. The good news is that your Federal Assistance payment—what the government gives to you—is adjusted in the same way too.

CHF Canada regularly sends ILM adjustment factors to FCHP co-ops. You can use these factors to calculate the changes to your ILM payment, Replacement Reserve and Security of Tenure contributions, and your Federal Assistance. The overall effect of higher CPI changes will be an increase in operating expenses for FCHP co-ops. So be sure to budget carefully for these adjustments, which will affect how you set your housing charges.

For more information about the effects of CPI for FCHP co-ops, contact CHF Canada's national office at 1-800-465-2752, or send an e-mail to info@chfc.ca. ★

New publications for your co-op board

The Co-op Housing Bookstore launched two new publications at this year's national AGM. *Conflict of Interest* and *A Few Words for Directors* are ideal for co-op boards and staff, or for co-op members who want to run for the board.

Conflict of interest in co-ops has always been a topic of much debate. This book will clarify a difficult issue and provide a model by-law to help deal with it. It also gives good advice to directors and staff on how to act in the best interests of their co-op community.

Conflict of Interest sells regularly for \$18. It will be on sale for \$14 until September 1, 2000.

The co-op community has a language all its own. *A Few Words for Directors* is a shorter version of the Co-op Housing Dictionary. It is a package of 10 brochures with commonly used co-op terms. It is designed to be given out to co-op directors so that everyone understands the words being used in meetings.

A Few Words sells regularly for \$10 for a package of 10 brochures. It is on sale for \$8 per package until September 1, 2000. ★

Politically Speaking

Help for the homeless?

The federal government has announced the allocation process for the \$305 million Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI). Eighty per cent of the funds will go to areas with the highest rates of homelessness—Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Hamilton, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec City and Halifax. Housing activists have complained that the funding will go only to temporary shelters or transitional housing. They have called for a new national housing program.

CHF Canada members passed a resolution at the AGM urging the federal and provincial governments to adopt a national housing strategy and commit meaningful financial resources to affordable housing. ★

People and places

Best wishes to Mary

Mary Flynn has left the Co-operative Housing Federation of BC after 17 years as executive director. The current issue of CHF/BC's SCOOP magazine includes a two-page tribute to Mary and her contribution to the federation. A special resolution was passed at the CHF/BC semi-annual meeting to name its housing co-op award the "Mary Flynn award" in honour of Mary's many years of service and dedication to the federation. ★

Visit CHF Canada on the Web
www.chfc.ca

Co-op conversion gets help from The Co-operators

The Atkinson Housing Co-operative, which is in the process of converting the Alexandra Park public housing project to a non-profit co-op controlled by the project's residents, got a big boost from The Co-operators Group. The Co-operators has donated \$25,000 toward the cost of the conversion. Alexandra Park is a 410-unit project in downtown Toronto that was built in 1968. Over 20 languages are spoken in the community. The co-op conversion of Alexandra Park will be the first project of its kind in Canada. There are 200,000 units of public housing similar to Alexandra Park across Canada. ★

René Daoust heads funeral co-op

Residents of Quebec can be co-op members literally from the cradle to the grave, thanks to the growing number of funeral co-operatives in that province. The creation of these co-ops was prompted by the trend of large American corporations buying out local funeral homes and driving up prices. Co-operatives were started to provide an alternative service, with lower costs. Today, funeral co-operatives have the largest share of this business in some regions. There is now a provincial federation.

Our Quebec regional director, **René Daoust**, has recently become the new executive director of the Coopérative funéraire de la Rive-Sud de Montréal. ★

Funding for housing ideas

Homegrown Solutions will give grants of up to \$20,000 for seed funding of new housing initiatives. This project was created by CHF Canada, the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association, Canadian Home Builders' Association, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The deadline for expressions of interest is August 14. For application information, see the website at

www.hgown.org or call (613) 722-0110. You can also contact **Mark Goldblatt** in our Ottawa office for more information. ★

Get ready for Co-op Week

It's not too early to make plans for Co-op Week (October 15-21) and Co-op Housing Day, October 19. The third week in October is a time to celebrate the special nature of co-operatives. It's a good opportunity to get your community to fly the co-op flag and to raise awareness of co-op housing. Send us your plans and we'll share them in the next issue of *Newsbriefs*. Contact **Merrilee Robson** at 1-877-533-2667 (in the Vancouver area call 879-4116) or e-mail mrobson@chfc.ca. ★

New Stab Fund offices

The Federal Co-operative Housing Stabilization Fund has moved to:

150 Isabella Street, Suite 605,
Ottawa, Ontario K1S 1V7
Tel.: (613) 569-9636 Fax: (613) 569-9638

Volunteers needed

CHF/BC has participated in Vancouver's Gay Pride Parade in the past but this year is planning to enter a float. The federation is looking for decorating help to transform a truck into a float, a volunteer driver and lots of enthusiastic participants for the August 6 event. Anyone interested in volunteering should leave a message for **Diane Winkler** at the CHF/BC office, (604) 879-5111. ★

What's new with you?

Anything new? Send us news about your co-op or federation activities. Contact **Merrilee Robson** at our Vancouver office at (604) 879-4116 or toll-free at 1-877-533-2667. Or e-mail mrobson@chfc.ca. ★