

Visit us on the Web at www.chfc.ca

Newsbriefs

NATIONAL EDITION

INSIDE

Now easier for small co-ops to attend AGM

Lower fees and more support from the travel pool will make AGM attendance more affordable for small co-ops.

PAGE 2

Financial statements: Don't leave your (co-op) home without them!

Board members need to review and understand the financial statements to tell how healthy (or not) their co-op is.

PAGE 3

In memory of Aaron Webster

The senseless murder of Cityview Housing Co-op's president causes co-op members to think more about tolerance.

PAGES 6-7

NEWS FLASH

Dotcoop set to go

Act now to register a .coop domain name for your housing co-op.

PAGE 8

No Sunday meeting headlines AGM changes for 2002

This year's CHF Canada Annual General Meeting will have a different look. The 2002 meeting, in Hamilton, Ontario from June 19 to 22, will end on Saturday, with no Sunday session. To make that change, the national business meeting will start on Friday afternoon, and end at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Nick Sidor, CHF Canada's Director of Corporate Affairs, says that the push for this change came directly from members. "We surveyed participants at last year's AGM in Victoria. The survey told us that 80 per cent of the participants had enjoyed the Sunday session in 2001, which was two hours shorter than usual. And two-thirds of the participants – a big majority – said we should try to eliminate the Sunday session altogether."

"For a long time," says Sidor, "members have asked CHF Canada to try to make the AGM less stressful, more enjoyable and productive." To end the meeting on Saturday, and still have plenty of time for discussion, says Sidor, the national business meeting in 2002 will start on Friday afternoon. As a result, the business meeting will be only one-half hour shorter than the Victoria session.

Ending on Saturday will also save money. "With no big costs for Sunday facilities," says Sidor, "we've been able to reduce the registration fees, compared with 2001. That helps keep the AGM as affordable as possible, so that more members can attend."

Kim Weiman of Ontario's **Jackson's Point Co-op** is not convinced that eliminating the Sunday meeting will work. "I like the Sunday meeting," she says. "It's a really good wind-down, and it allows people to consider any emergency resolutions that may come up."

Visit the Web site for AGM info

"Everything members need for the AGM is now on the Web," says **Louise Briglio**, CHF Canada's Co-ordinator, Information Systems.

Co-op Talk, the discussion section of the CHF Canada Web site, has a separate section for the 2002 CHF Canada AGM, where members can learn about potential candidates and discuss the resolutions to be debated in Hamilton. To find the Members Network, click on <http://members.chfc.ca/eng/pages/memberhome.asp>.

Information about the AGM has been mailed out to members and is available on line at http://www.chfc.ca/eng/chfc/chfc_1-2002.htm

Calling All Candidates!

CHF Canada's nominating committee is seeking candidates for the Board, Ontario Council and Finance Committee. Nominating Committee members are:

- ▶ **Heather Ramsay**, PEI regional director
- ▶ **Dave Howard**, an at-large director from Ontario
- ▶ **Isabel Evans**, an at-large director from British Columbia
- ▶ **Ivy Tait**, representing the Ontario Council

Scott Piatkowski is the first candidate to come forward. He has indicated that he will be seeking election for the position of staff organizations' representative on the Ontario Council.

A call for candidates and nomination forms have been mailed out to all members and this information is also available on the CHF Canada Web site.

Helping small co-ops to attend the AGM

by Allan Meltzer

For small co-ops, finding the money to send a representative to CHF Canada's Annual General Meeting can be difficult. "There was no way that many of our smaller co-ops could afford to send someone to the AGM," says **Dave Adams** of the **Co-op Housing Association of Newfoundland and Labrador** (CHANAL).

One result is that small co-ops are not well represented at the AGM. Only 11 per cent of co-ops with fewer than 25 units sent delegates to the 2001 AGM. In comparison, about 27 per cent of member co-ops with between 25 and 50 units and 46 per cent of member co-ops with more than 50 units attended the meeting.

Dave Adams says Newfoundland housing co-operatives have discussed ways of generating the funds. "We have tossed around ideas like trying to get some of the smaller co-ops to pool their money to send a delegate. But they didn't fly."

The AGM travel pool, which offsets the costs of travel for smaller co-ops, has been increased. Last year, rebates reduced the total travel costs for co-ops with 25 units or less to \$800. Many small co-ops found this too expensive, so for 2002, the travel pool will be used to reduce small co-ops' travel costs to \$50.

Registration costs for smaller co-ops have also been reduced. Based on the early registration fee of \$565, the fee for a co-op of from one to 25 units will be \$140, a discount of more than 75 per cent. The fee for co-ops of 26 to 40 units is now \$395, a discount of 30 per cent. Co-ops with 41 to 50 units will now pay \$480, a reduction of 15 per cent.

A brand new initiative will make it even easier for smaller co-ops to attend the AGM. Larger co-ops will be asked to contribute to a fund to help small co-ops with their accommodation costs. The 2002 AGM registration form contains a section with several suggested amounts. The member co-op can check a box beside the amount and add the contribution to their registration fee. It's a great way to help small housing co-ops "have their say".

Heather Ramsay, CHF Canada's regional director from PEI, feels that small co-op involvement at the AGM is critical to community building. "We need to have more of CHF Canada's 140 small co-ops attend the AGM. In a small co-op you feel isolated. It just takes one person to go to an annual meeting to make the co-op feel part of this community."

see "Helping small co-ops" on page 4



Financial Statements

Don't leave your (co-op) home without them!

You are a board member at your co-op. Do you see the co-op's financial statements regularly? Do you understand them? If you answered no to either question, you are missing vital information about the health – or lack of it – of your co-op.

Proper financial statements tell you things about your co-op that directors need to know:

- ▶ How much money you have in the bank
- ▶ How much members owe to the co-op (the arrears)
- ▶ Whether your co-op is losing money from vacancies
- ▶ Whether your expenses are in line with your budget
- ▶ How much you have in your reserves
- ▶ Whether your co-op is operating at a loss

and much more.

The board needs financial information to help make management decisions for the co-op – whether marketing is needed to fill empty units, for example, or even whether the housing charges need to be raised to cover costs. It's not just a good idea for the board to be able to make these decisions – it's the board's duty to stay on top of the co-op's business.

So what are “proper” financial statements? First, let's list the statements you should be seeing:

a balance sheet: information about what your co-op owns, what it

owes, and what others owe to the co-op

an income statement: information about revenues and expenses compared to your budget

an arrears report: how much your members owe to the co-op and who those members are

a cheque register: a list of the cheques your co-op has written, to whom, for how much, and why

And you should also have a chance to look at source documents – the cheque book, the deposit book, the bank statements, and the bank reconciliation. At least your treasurer should see these documents regularly.

How often do we need statements?

You should get financial statements within 30 days of the end of each month. In other words, you should have the May financial statements by the end of June.

Who does them?

You need accurate financial statements that are prepared according to proper accounting standards – what are called “Generally Accepted Accounting Principles”, or GAAP. To meet these needs, every co-op should have a bookkeeper who:

- ▶ is professionally trained
- ▶ can explain the statements in a way the board can understand
- ▶ is not a member of your co-op

Your auditor can give you advice on finding a suitable bookkeeper, if you need it.

Good financial statements are key tools of sound management. Don't leave your (co-op) home without them!

For more information about this and other co-op management issues, you can contact **Karla Skoutajan** at our Ottawa office: 311-225 Metcalfe Street, Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1P9 or kskoutajan@chfc.ca 📍

Planning your co-op's finances?

The following publications deal with every subject that affects the financial management of co-ops: *Financial Management*, *Preparing a Budget*, *Understanding Your Co-op's Audit* and *Managing Arrears*.

Take this opportunity to make sure your co-op is well prepared for this year's budget meeting! These publications would regularly sell for a total of \$62. All four books are now available for \$48, a greater than 20% savings until **March 31, 2002!** Use the order form included with this issue or visit the Co-op Housing Bookstore Web site at <http://www.coophousing.com/bookstore.html>.

New for 2002 AGM

Nominations to close earlier

The way that delegates to CHF Canada's Annual General Meeting vote for candidates for elected leadership will change this year.

First, for the 2002 AGM, nominations to the Board of Directors, the Ontario Council and the Finance Committee will close at **5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 19**, two days before the national and Ontario members meetings start. Nominations from the floor of those meetings will no longer be possible.

This change to the election procedures was driven by the membership, says Nick Sidor, CHF Canada's Director of Corporate Affairs. "Members have often complained about last-minute candidates that come forward after the Meet the Candidates session. Our members have told us they would like AGM participants to be able to hear from, and question, each and every candidate who wants their support. CHF Canada's Board of Directors and Ontario Council have adopted the new deadline to do that."

Second, all of the national board elections held during the AGM will be held at the same time, without separate elections for regional and at-large positions on the CHF Canada Board of Directors.

Third, candidates for at-large positions will no longer make their speeches to participants during the national business meeting. The Meet the Candidates session, to be held late Friday morning (June 21) in Hamilton, will be the members' opportunity to hear what the candidates have to say.

"Most national co-operative organizations close their nominations well before they vote," says Nick Sidor, "to provide a longer time for voters to get to know the candidates. CHF Canada members have said they want the same opportunity."

For more information, contact **Nick Sidor** by phone at 1-800-465-2752, ext. 231, or e-mail at nsidor@chfc.ca 🏠



continued from page 1

No Sunday

She's concerned that even if the meeting starts Friday, there may not be enough time to finish business, and discussion may be stifled. "I'm worried that business may not be completed by Saturday and discussion on important issues may have to be cut short. At last year's AGM, we did finish, but I don't remember that happening before. I'm also worried that some presentations that aren't considered business, like the youth presentation, may be cut because there won't be enough time."

The elimination of the Sunday meeting is not carved in stone, says Nick Sidor. "There should be enough time to do all our business, and to make sure that members have their say. But we'll watch it closely and see how members like it. If it doesn't work out for CHF Canada members, we can always switch it back." 🏠

continued from page 2

Helping small co-ops

The new financial help will increase small co-op participation, says Heather. "A member of a small co-op told me he has lived and been active in his co-op for 12 years and had not been to an AGM. He would love to have gone, but his co-op could not afford to send him. With the new measures, now he can go." 🏠

Allan Meltzer is a freelance writer and member of an Ottawa housing co-op.

Your co-op and September 11

Insurance in the wake of disaster

Most co-op members were probably unaware, when they watched the disastrous events of September 11 on television, that those events would affect their own housing co-op. But co-op members will see the impact of those events when it is time to renew their insurance.

Insurance markets around the world had been getting tougher leading up to September 11 but, since the terrorist attacks, the trend toward higher premiums and more restrictive coverage has increased.

Insurance underwriters and actuaries try to decide what to charge for insurance today to cover possible losses in the future. When they're right, losses and expenses are covered. When they're wrong, insurance companies lose money and start looking for ways to turn their businesses around. And according to *Thompson's Insurance News*, Canadian insurance companies have been wrong more often than they've been right lately. There were huge losses reported through the year 2000, and the first half of 2001 was not much better.

Rising claims costs also affect insurance premiums. Insurance companies buy reinsurance in order to protect themselves against huge, catastrophic losses leading to large claims. Reinsurance costs can be driven up by hurricanes, floods, or ice storms anywhere in the world. There were a series of catastrophic losses in 1999 and 2000 that led reinsurers to begin raising their premiums.

Claims against insurance from September 11 may reach as high as \$100 billion US. Such a huge spike in claims costs for insurers and reinsurers whose policyholders suffered losses will be passed on to consumers everywhere through higher premiums.

The possibility of future terrorist attacks means insurers are redefining the risks they are willing to accept and the prices they will charge for doing so. Co-ops

participating in CHF Canada's insurance programs have seen rate increases for 2002, due in part to these worldwide issues.

For more information on CHF Canada's insurance programs, contact **Linda Stephenson** at lstephenson@chfc.ca or call 1-800-465-2752, ext. 234. 📍

Co-op members respond to September 11

Co-op members responded in various ways to the attacks on New York City's World Trade Centre on September 11. Some made donations to help the victims in New York City; others sent aid to help refugees fleeing the war in Afghanistan.

Some BC housing co-op members were directly involved. **Ed Pickett**, a Vancouver firefighter and member of **H.W. Flesher Housing Co-op**, joined with members of his union local to raise over \$600,000 to go toward grief counselling for New York firefighters. He flew to New York to attend services for firefighters who died on that day.

Debbie Clyne, of **Misty Ridge Housing Co-op** in Burnaby, BC, spent three weeks supervising volunteers at one of two Red Cross respite centres set up near "ground zero". Police, firefighters and other rescue workers would come to the centre for food and rest during the rescue efforts.

And **Don King**, an instructor for the **Co-operative Housing Federation of BC**, worked in Manhattan co-ordinating trauma counselling services for three New York schools, and for a centre set up to help the families of people who died at the World Trade Centre. 📍

In memory of Aaron Webster

Aaron Webster: A co-op brother who will not be forgotten

by Craig Hunter



Early in the morning of November 17, 2001, Aaron Webster was murdered in a public park. According to witnesses, he was attacked by a group of three or four men. The Vancouver Police have stated that they are treating the case as a hate crime, as his murder was motivated by the fact that he was gay.

This story broke across Canada. In the following days, there was sorrow, anger, accusations and some new promises. I feel that the most important thing is that we cannot let Aaron's story go untold, that we must share it with everyone until what happened to Aaron Webster has touched all of us.

My partner Jason and I attended the vigil in Toronto's Cawthra Square Park on November 24, 2001.

We looked around the crowd for familiar faces. There were faces that we recognized from our work in Toronto's gay community. There were faces that we recognized from our work in the co-op community. And, more importantly, there were many faces we did not recognize.

It was a quiet and reflective gathering and, in a way, quite beautiful. There was candlelight and messages of support for Aaron's friends and family, his co-op and the LGBT Communities of Vancouver.

"I feel sorrow and anger... It could be my own child. Things have changed, but this (attack) set everything back 10 years."

— Helen Knight (mother of a lesbian daughter)
The Toronto Star, November 25, 2001

These people shivering in the darkness had come from different ethnic and social backgrounds. Some of them were gay, some of them were not. Tonight it didn't matter. Tonight we all had a common bond: we were the people who had come out to mourn a victim of senseless violence. We listened to the speakers, to those who talked about the horror that had happened and to those who talked about the man we had lost.

We stayed afterwards and listened to people tell stories of how they had been victims of homophobia and gay bashing. Some of those people

lived in co-ops. There was anger in some of the voices, hopes for healing in others. All plainly stated that this must never happen again.

"We will neither forget Aaron and the horrific way he died, nor will we be silent in our grief and outrage... A hate crime has been committed here."

— United Church Rev. Brad Newcombe
Xtra West

Aaron Webster's death underscores the violence that members of the LGBT communities face on a daily basis. The fact that Aaron was a co-op member brings that fact closer to home for many of us. Homophobia is real. And, it does happen in our co-ops. Not in every co-op – but even one co-op is one too many.

The co-operative housing movement lost an important member in Aaron Webster. He was president of his co-op. He was someone's child, someone's friend, and someone's neighbour. Don't let the violence happen to your children, your friends or your neighbour. 🏠



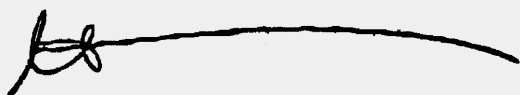
Craig Hunter at the vigil held in Toronto. A member of Bread and Roses Housing Co-op, Craig is writing on behalf of CHFT's LGBT Caucus.

For Aaron Webster, a fellow co-operator

On a fall evening in late November, I stood in the courtyard of Cityview Housing Co-op in downtown Vancouver and paid my respects to the memory of the co-op's President, Aaron Webster. I was honoured to be allowed to celebrate Aaron's life and mourn his senseless death along with his friends and fellow co-op members in Cityview.

Such violence has to stop. It has to stop now, and you and I, my fellow co-operators, must see to it that Aaron's death has meaning, a purpose. We must commit ourselves to rebuilding this country into one in which every citizen is equal, a country in which every citizen is free to be who he or she is.

We must take up this cause, we must enter the battle for dignity and justice, and we must win. I ask every co-operator in this country to join me. Let's get it done.



Wes Hosler, President
CHF Canada

What you can do

Cityview Co-op members have asked that, in Aaron's memory, donations be sent to groups working to fight intolerance and hate crimes.

Complete copies of the articles for use in your co-op's newsletter are available by contacting **Craig Hunter** at **Bread and Roses Housing Co-operative**, by e-mail at breadandroses@on.aibn.com or by phone at 519-742-4886.

Another way to help is to respond to the *Call to Action* from **EGALE** (Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere) and contact the Justice Minister today.

- ▶ Tell him it's time to take action to protect lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered people from hatred and violence;
- ▶ Ask when he will be amending the Criminal Code to include lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered people within the hate propaganda provisions;
- ▶ Ask when he will reform provocation law so that gay-bashers can no longer rely on the discredited "homosexual panic" defense to justify violence against members of our communities.

Write to the Minister of Justice, the **Hon. Martin Cauchon**, MP at: House of Commons, Ottawa, ON

K1A 0A6 (postage free). Call (613) 995-7691, fax (613) 995-0114 or e-mail: Cauchon.M@parl.gc.ca

Let EGALE know what response you get. Call 1-888-204-7777 or e-mail egale.canada@egale.ca 🏠

Celebrating diversity and tolerance

CHF Canada's Diversity Committee was created in 1993 after members wanted a Board that better represented our diverse membership. The committee identified certain groups as underrepresented in the leadership of the co-op housing movement:

- ▶ Aboriginal people
- ▶ new Canadians
- ▶ people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered
- ▶ people of colour
- ▶ people living in poverty
- ▶ people whose mother tongue is neither English nor French
- ▶ people with disabilities
- ▶ people with low literacy levels
- ▶ seniors
- ▶ youth

CHF Canada quickly learned that a representative leadership is only one goal related to diversity. The goals of the Diversity Committee are to:

- ▶ promote equity among all groups in the Canadian co-op housing movement
- ▶ develop leadership in underrepresented groups
- ▶ develop materials and a training program on diversity issues
- ▶ provide education for CHF Canada members on issues of diversity, and
- ▶ research diversity issues. 🏠

BULLETIN BOARD

CHF Canada to review governance

A sub-committee of CHF Canada's Board of Directors is now considering how CHF Canada's governance could be reviewed from time to time. The sub-committee will also be looking at the best ways to consult members about CHF Canada governance.

Welcome to new members

A warm welcome to **Terra Nova Housing Co-op** in Richmond, BC; **Westboro Housing Co-operative** in Ottawa, Ontario, and **Four Corners Housing Co-operative** in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. A special welcome goes to Four Corners, a 122-unit housing co-op formed by the merger of four smaller co-ops.

Comings and goings

CHF Canada welcomes **Eugene Evanetz** as the second "leak avenger" in our Vancouver office. Eugene will be working with **Roland Nogue** to provide advice and support to leaky co-ops. Eugene has a degree in architecture and an extensive background in development and project management consulting.

Although temporary employment contracts for both **Brian Eng** and **Christopher Wilson** ended on December 31, Brian will continue to administer our *Co-op Talk* discussion groups and work on municipal downloading in Ontario. Christopher will work on the national agency negotiations.

Laurette Jones returned February 4 as the part-time Registrar for the 2002 Annual General Meeting. We are glad to have her back.

Dotcoop set to go

Since January 30, co-operatives and credit unions can register internet domain names under the new .coop domain. The domain .coop is available only for co-operatives and credit unions.

Canadian co-ops wishing to register domain names can go to **www.coop** to register and click on "Buy your Domain". That's also the best place to go for background information on the .coop domain.

Co-ops need a credit card to purchase domain names. Each costs \$80 US per year, with a minimum two-year registration. You'll be asked to enter contact information, and indicate whether you belong to any specific co-operative organization. CHF Canada members are affiliated with the **Canadian Co-operative Association** through our membership, and should select CCA on the pull-down menu of participating organizations. Use "CHF Canada" as your second reference.

Board sets priorities for 2002

At its annual planning session in September, the Board of Directors set the following priorities for 2002:

- ▶ Help for leaky co-ops in BC
- ▶ Complete negotiations for the new agency
- ▶ Help co-ops in difficulty
- ▶ Expand member relations
- ▶ Support the new national housing initiative
- ▶ Recruitment of new members, particularly in Manitoba and Saskatchewan

In Ontario, CHF Canada's most important work will continue to be helping in the transition of Ontario-program co-ops from provincial to municipal administration.

Interested in the Stabilization Fund?

CHF Canada's Board would like to hear from people interested in serving as trustees of the **Federal Co-operative Housing Stabilization Fund**. ILM-program housing co-ops contributed to this fund which provides them with loans and other assistance if they find themselves in difficulty.

Trustees serve two-year terms and cannot serve longer than six years. The CHF Canada board will be making a new appointment at its March meeting. For more information, contact **Nick Sidor** in the Ottawa office or e-mail nsidor@chfc.ca.

National agency update

Only a few issues remain before the working group of CHF Canada, CMHC and several provinces can report to the new Minister Responsible for CMHC, **John Manley**.

On January 17 and 18, CHF Canada presented a detailed analysis of the costs of the new agency's operations. At the meeting, CMHC provided their evaluation of the agency proposal, using the federal government's **Alternative Service Delivery** (ASD) criteria. These are the criteria under which the agency would be established. CMHC and CHF Canada are working closely on the ASD follow-up.

The next working group meetings are scheduled for early March. CHF Canada representatives hope that the agency file will move quickly to the new minister following that meeting. [↑](#)

PARCOM helps member involvement, communication

"The committee said that there was room for improvement, and we agreed," said CHF Canada President, **Wes Hosler**. "We will improve our connections with members, especially on political action."

PARCOM, the Political Action Review Committee, was established by the board after a resolution at the 2000 AGM in Ottawa. The committee gave an interim report to members at the 2001 AGM in Victoria and submitted its final report last September. In November, the Board responded to PARCOM's report.

The board agreed with PARCOM's recommendations calling for better communication and more member involvement in CHF Canada's political and lobbying campaigns. PARCOM highlighted several ways to do this, and the board will be putting these in place over the next couple of years.

For more information, click on <http://members.chfc.ca/eng/pages/memberhome.asp> and follow the links in the PARCOM story. [↑](#)

New affordable housing agreements welcomed

British Columbia is the first province in Canada to sign an affordable housing agreement with the federal government. The agreement includes \$177.4 million over the next five years to supply affordable housing in British Columbia.

This was the first signing by a province following the November meeting of federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for housing in Quebec City, where the Government of Canada reaffirmed its \$680 million commitment for affordable housing.

Quebec signed the second agreement on December 21. The federal allocation of \$161.65 million over five years will be matched by the province. Over the next two years, Quebec intends to create some 6,500 new units of affordable housing, which will generate total investments of \$485 million in Quebec's economy.

The federal, provincial and territorial governments all acknowledge that a long-term strategy is needed to handle the housing needs of Canadians. CHF Canada, which has lobbied for more affordable housing, welcomed this first step. Plans for co-op housing projects that could take advantage of this new funding are underway in many regions.

President **Wes Hosler** sent a letter to **Prime Minister Jean Chretien**, thanking him for the housing initiative. We hope to be involved in any further government discussions on a long-term housing strategy. In the meantime, senior consultant **Mark Goldblatt** is in touch with co-op housing developers across the country. [↑](#)

Regional update

NEWFOUNDLAND

Regional Director to be elected April 27

Member housing co-ops in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador will elect their regional director in the region for a two-year term on the CHF Canada Board of Directors, on April 27 in St. John's. Watch for more detail on this meeting.

NOVA SCOTIA

Halifax office to open soon

CHF Canada has hired new Halifax-based staff to work with co-ops in difficulty in Nova Scotia. **Dave Emery**, a co-op veteran formerly with **Atlantic People's Housing**, joins CHF Canada on March 1. In the meantime, CHF Canada is advertising for another Halifax staffer, to handle member relations and deliver other CHF Canada services to members in the province. Plans include a local committee of CHF Canada's 57 member co-ops in Nova Scotia.

NEW BRUNSWICK

Taco Pica voted best for good food and romance

Anyone living or travelling in New Brunswick might be interested to know that a worker co-op, Taco Pica Restaurant, has received two awards from a weekly newspaper in Saint John, NB. Readers of

Here, News for the New Saint John (November 20, 2001) voted Taco Pica the "Best Place to Eat in Saint John" and the "Best Place for a First Date in Saint John."

QUEBEC

Adieu, Jean Mathieu

Jean Mathieu has left the **Confédération québécoise des coopératives d'habitation** (CQCH) after eight years with the Quebec provincial organization. We wish him all the best as he pursues new opportunities.

New co-op in the Cloverdale development

The residents of the Cloverdale development in Montreal voted in December to form a housing co-op. At 243 units, it will be the largest co-op in Quebec. The **Groupe CDH** is working with them on the conversion, as is former CHF Canada director **Louise Constantin**.

ONTARIO

GHCHF event draws over 200

On January 19, The Golden Horseshoe Co-operative Housing Federation held its most successful AGM and education event ever. Over 200 members attended the workshops, business meeting and dinner. GHCHF staffer **Dave Smart** sent thanks to workshop leaders, including CHF Canada's

Diane Miles, Judy Shaw and **Harvey Cooper**, for their contribution to a successful event. The federation will be hosting the Thursday night social at the CHF Canada AGM in Hamilton, to be held in the spacious and spectacular **Liuna Station**.

CHFT appointment

The Co-operative Housing Federation of Toronto (CHFT) is pleased to announce the appointment of **Jon Harstone** as Manager of New Housing Initiatives. Jon is returning to the CHFT staff after an absence of 27 eventful years. CHFT is looking forward to working with Jon on the promotion and development of new affordable housing.

CHFT presents co-op housing awards

The fifth annual Co-operative Housing Federation of Toronto awards night was held November 1, 2001. President **Heather Blake** and Executive Director **Tom Clement** hosted the evening. More than 250 co-op members and guests honoured the outstanding Toronto co-ops of 2001. **Campus Co-operative Residence** received the long-term contribution award, as well as a 65th anniversary plaque. Campus is the oldest housing co-op in Canada. Achievement of the year went to **55 Howard Park Avenue Co-operative** and **Newmarket Co-operative Homes**.

Honorary lifetime membership went to **Brian Burke** and

CHF Canada's **Penelope Winter** was named honorary lifetime Board Member. The Rooftops Canada award went to **Riverdale**

Co-operative Homes. Other awards went for best gardens, best newsletter and best Web page. **Jean Doig** of **Beech Hall Housing Co-operative** and **Mike Saramaki** of **Ramer's Wood Co-operative** received the Unsung Hero award. Congratulations all!

Kingston Student Housing Co-op Conference

Brent Bellamy, general manager of the **Science '44 Co-op** in Kingston, reports that the Kingston Student Housing Co-operative Conference was a tremendous success. All five student housing co-operatives in Ontario were represented, with 69 participants. Board presidents and general managers of the five co-ops are now meeting regularly and working together. CHF Canada provided financial support for the conference through the Student Co-op Loan Fund.

Northern Ontario election for Council member

CHF Canada's members in Northern Ontario will elect their Ontario Council member at a meeting to be held in Sudbury on April 27. Members located outside of Sudbury will be able to vote by mail. Nomination forms and election information have been sent to all CHF Canada member co-ops in Northern Ontario.

Thanks to Thunder Bay Co-ops

Thunder Bay members **Castlegreen Co-op** and **Superior View Co-op** welcomed CHF Canada President **Wes Hosler** on January 19. Thanks

to members and staff at both co-ops for organizing the meetings and social.

MANITOBA

Congratulations to the Manitoba Advisory Forum

Hats off to CHF Canada's Manitoba members and Director of Manitoba Operations, **Jocelyn Peifer**, for another successful year. In 2001, members built a Co-operative Housing Investment Program and brought co-ops the savings of the Cost Cutters group buying program. This year's work-plan calls for more recruitment, strong networking among both co-ops and Manitoba co-op staff, a fall education conference, and work on fine-tuning the structure of the Forum's Executive. The next Forum meeting will be on May 29.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

One federation in BC

At the annual meeting of the **Co-operative Housing Federation of BC**, CHF Canada President **Wes Hosler** presented **VICHA** President **Candace Bunting** with a cheque for \$7,000. This was the final instalment of a \$19,000 CHF Canada loan to provide services to co-ops on Vancouver Island, while the two BC federations discussed their merger. The loan will be a forgivable loan once the merger is complete. Members of both federations have now voted in favour of the merger and **VICHA** has wound down its operations. CHF BC is opening an office in Victoria to provide services to island co-ops.

Overseas job posting

Rooftops Canada has advertised for a technical advisor for the Inner City Housing Upgrading Trust. The technical advisor will work with the Inner City Housing Upgrading Trust (ICHUT) and the City of Johannesburg to implement the Better Buildings Program.

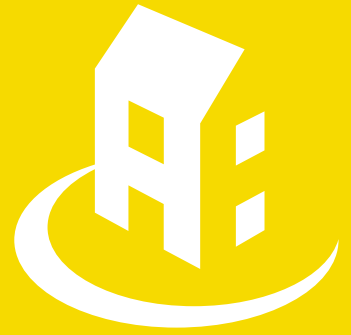
This is a two-year contract position based in Johannesburg starting May 1, 2002 or earlier if possible. Salary/benefits will depend on experience and Canadian International Development Agency norms. Interested candidates should submit their resumes and a covering letter before February 26, 2002 preferably by e-mail to **Barry Pinsky** at Rooftops Canada, barry@rooftops.ca

Rooftops also has a young professional program which places nine young people on six-month internships with overseas partners. Candidates must be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants, between the ages of 19 and 30. Interns must have graduated within the last three years with a university degree or a college diploma, and be currently unemployed or underemployed.

For more information on this program, contact **Preet Segaric**, Program Officer at preet@rooftops.ca

Affordable Housing Awards

CMHC has announced their 2002 awards for affordable housing innovations. If you have implemented a solution to make housing more affordable, you can apply for an award under: Concept and Design; Finance and Tenure; Planning and Regulation; Process and Management; and Technology and Production. For more information, visit www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca.



Newsbriefs

THE LAST WORD



Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada

National Office

311-225 Metcalfe Street,
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1P9
Fax (613) 230-2231
Telephone (613) 230-2201
Toll-free 1-800-465-2752

Ontario Region

207-2 Berkeley Street,
Toronto, Ontario M5A 4J5
Fax (416) 366-3876
Telephone (416) 366-1711
Toll-free 1-800-268-2537

Vancouver Office

204-5550 Fraser Street,
Vancouver, BC V5W 2Z4
Fax (604) 879-4186
Telephone (604) 879-4116
Toll-free 1-877-533-2667

Winnipeg Office

Suite 192, 162-2025 Corydon Avenue,
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3P 0N5
Fax (204) 487-6407
Telephone (204) 989-5963
Toll-free 1-888-591-3301

Editor: Merrilee Robson

Story ideas, comments or questions?
Please call **1-877-533-2667**
(879-4116 in Vancouver).
E-mail: mrobson@chfc.ca

© CHF CANADA 2002. MATERIAL MAY BE
COPIED. PLEASE CREDIT CHF CANADA.

CHF Canada welcomes new ministers

CHF Canada welcomes the appointment of the **Hon. John Manley** as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Infrastructure and Crown Corporations. He now has responsibility for CMHC. Manley is the Member of Parliament for Ottawa South and has 13 co-ops (1,081 units) in his riding. With active housing co-ops in his riding, Manley is well acquainted with co-op housing issues, and is believed to support our proposal to create a national agency to administer co-op housing programs.

Congratulations to **Bill Graham**, MP for Toronto Centre-Rosedale, who was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs. Graham represents the largest number of co-ops of any federal MP, with 36 co-ops and almost 5,000 units of co-op housing in his riding. Graham has been one of our biggest supporters during the agency campaign.



Ellen Lougheed, president of the Co-operative Housing Association of Eastern Ontario, presents the Hon. John Manley with a plaque to thank him for supporting co-op housing during the national agency campaign.

CHF Canada also thanks former Minister **Alfonso Gagliano**, who has become Canada's ambassador to Denmark. During his time as Minister Responsible for CMHC, he stopped the transfer of co-op housing programs to the provinces. 🏠