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Newsbriefs

NATIONAL EDITION

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René Daoust elected CHF Canada president

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The AGM in pictures

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Co-op staff honoured

More than 160 co-op housing staff members were honoured at the annual meeting of CHF Canada's Ontario members on June 21.

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Layton inspires delegates

Toronto City Councillor Jack Layton was the keynote speaker at the Ontario meeting.

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CETTE PUBLICATION EST DISPONIBLE EN FRANÇAIS.

Members vote unanimously to help leaky co-ops

You couldn't miss the buttons and T-shirts from CHF BC's leaky co-op committee at CHF Canada's AGM in Hamilton. Many members from across Canada were sporting the familiar logo of housing co-ops slowly sinking in water. And delegates to CHF Canada's annual general meeting unanimously approved a resolution in support of B.C. housing co-ops suffering from premature building envelope failure.

CHF Canada immediately faxed another letter to the Hon. **John Manley**, Minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, calling for immediate, fair and lasting help for leaky co-ops. "Delegates particularly want to make sure that these co-ops can continue to house the same number of low-income households," the letter said. "Our members firmly believe that these co-ops should not be asked to assume unaffordable levels of debt and that their operating autonomy should not be compromised."

CHF Canada has agreed to match the contributions from B.C. housing co-ops, up to \$130,000, for a fund to be used to lobby for a solution for these co-ops. "I'm extremely pleased with the support that members across Canada have shown for our efforts to get leaky co-ops fixed," said **Gary Panagiotidis**, president of **CHF BC**.

CHF Canada has sent out letters to member housing co-ops outside B.C. asking for contributions to the leaky co-op fund. For more information on leaky co-ops, click on <http://members.chfc.ca/eng/pages/leaky.asp>, or contact **Merrilee Robson**, Communications Officer, in our Vancouver office at 1-877-533-2667, ext. 122 (toll-free), or e-mail mrobson@chfc.ca 🏠

**René Daoust elected
CHF Canada president**



The new Board met following the AGM to elect the new executive. **René Daoust** (shown above), Quebec regional director, was elected president. René is Executive Director of **FECHAM**, a Quebec federation, and a member of **Coopérative d'habitation Nouvelle Ère** de Longueuil, in Quebec. **Vince Hall** was elected as Vice President and **Susan Wells** as Treasurer. **Wendy Huggan, Tony Legare** and **Joanne Mick** are the other members of CHF Canada's Executive Committee.

Thanks to retiring directors

At the AGM, members thanked retiring directors **Wes Hosler, Pat Matthews, Donna Charbonneau, Heather Ramsay** and **Bruce Little** for their hard work on behalf of CHF Canada.

20-year members recognized

During the Saturday dinner dance program, members recognized 23 co-ops who have been CHF Canada members for 20 years, since 1982. They were presented with an award thanking them for their long-standing support for CHF Canada. For the complete list of 20-year award recipients, click on www.chfc.coop/eng/chf/chfc_1_2002postagm_2.htm.

Meet your directors

CHF Canada members elected three brand-new directors at the AGM. **Heather Blake** joined the Board as the new Ontario regional director. **Craig Hunter** and **Joanne Mick** were elected at-large. Members also welcomed **David Kelly** as the regional director for Newfoundland and Labrador.

Re-elected for a second term were **Tony Legare**, regional director for British Columbia/Yukon, **Mel Willis**, regional director for Manitoba, **Ken Elliott**, regional director for New Brunswick, and **Wendy Huggan**, director representing the aboriginal community.

There is a vacancy for the position of regional director for Prince Edward Island. Here is a complete list of board members:

Newfoundland and Labrador

David Kelly

Nova Scotia

Susan Wells*

Prince Edward Island (vacant)

New Brunswick

Ken Elliott

Quebec/Nunavut

René Daoust*, President

Ontario

Heather Blake

Manitoba

Mel Willis

Saskatchewan

Laine Braden

Alberta/Northwest Territories

Emil van der Poorten

British Columbia/Yukon

Tony Legare*

Aboriginal Community

Wendy Huggan*

At large

Isabel Evans, Vince Hall*,
Craig Hunter, David Howard,
Joanne Mick*

*Executive Committee



New CHF Canada Board: (left to right) David Kelly, Susan Wells, Ken Elliott, René Daoust, Heather Blake, Mel Willis, Laine Braden, Emil van der Poorten, Tony Legare, Wendy Huggan, Vince Hall, Dave Howard, Isabel Evans, Craig Hunter and Joanne Mick.

Resolutions set the direction for CHF Canada

Members passed several policy resolutions at the annual meeting.

Governance Review

A resolution from the **Co-operative Housing Federation of Toronto** called on CHF Canada to review the current structure of the Board of Directors and to consult broadly with members, including various caucuses and other groups within the membership.

CHF Canada's board had already been planning a governance review process. Included with this issue of *Newsbriefs* is a call for expressions of interest in the new Governance Review Task Force. The Board of Directors will be making appointments to the Task Force at its September meeting. If you are interested, please contact **Nick Sidor**, Director of Corporate Affairs, at 1-800-465-2752, ext. 231 or e-mail nsidor@chfc.ca.

New AGM resolutions process

Delegates approved a new deadline for AGM resolutions. The new policy will allow members to submit resolutions up to 90 days before the anniversary date of the last annual meeting. The resolutions deadline for next year's meeting will be March 23, 2003. The new policy also calls for resolutions to be mailed to members no later than 45 days before the annual meeting.

Amendment to the Shared-Revenue Program

Delegates also changed CHF Canada's shared-revenue

program, which was set up in 1989 to provide financial support for local co-op housing services in regions. The new, fairer formula makes it possible for federations that have merged to continue to receive the same level of funding to provide services in their region.

Affordable Housing for Canadians

This resolution asked CHF Canada to work with federal and provincial governments to ensure new housing co-ops can be built and that the government develops a national housing strategy.

Seniors and housing co-ops

Members voted on a resolution from **Hugh Garner Housing Co-operative** to ask housing co-ops to adopt a statement of principle relating to seniors. The resolution lists a number of things co-ops can do to support this principle, including helping members take advantage of community services, and adding or renovating units that are appropriate for seniors.

A new International Co-op Principle for staff

Delegates approved a resolution from the **Co-operative Staff**

Association of Central Ontario (CSACO) to lobby for a new International Co-operative Principle, stating that, "co-operatives treat their employees fairly and value their contribution to the co-operative movement."

Infill co-operative housing

A resolution from the CHF Canada board asked housing co-ops to consider adding infill units to their co-ops, as a way of providing more housing. CHF Canada will support and assist member housing co-ops in this work.

ICA's RIOCOOP 2000 declaration

Delegates passed a resolution from **Beaver Creek Housing Co-operative** to endorse the declaration passed by the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) in December 2000. The declaration is a commitment from the co-operative movement to work together for peace, solidarity, equity, justice, equality, environmental protection and sustainable development.

The complete set of AGM resolutions can be found on the Web at www.chfc.coop/eng/chf/chfc_1.htm ↑

Thanks to the Hamilton volunteers

*CHF Canada would like to thank **Angie Armstrong** and the local organizing committee, the **Golden Horseshoe Co-operative Housing Federation**, and the hard-working AGM volunteers who welcomed us all to Hamilton.*

Youth participate in AGM

Co-op Youth Caucus

Do you know someone between the ages of 16 and 21 that lives in your co-op? Are they interested in getting involved and talking to other co-op youth? CHF Canada has a youth caucus meeting room located on *Co-op Talk*. Youth can register by contacting **Karla Skoutajan** at 1-800-465-2752 (230-2201 in Ottawa), ext. 241, or e-mail kskoutajan@chfc.ca.

Sending Youth to Camp

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 seven co-op youth in four regions were sponsored to attend camps across the country.

CHF Canada 2002 sponsorships were made possible through the generous support of: **Blain Allen Inc.; CANA Management Associates Ltd.; The Exchange Chartered Accountants; Morneau Sobeco; Prentice Yates & Clark; Print Action; and Worton Hunter & Callaghan.**

This year youth from the following co-ops attended camp:

- **The Birches Housing Co-op**, Digby (NS)
- **Beothuck Housing Co-op**, Grand Falls-Windsor (NF)
- **Mondragon Co-op**, Brampton (ON)
- **Atkinson Housing Co-op**, Toronto (ON)
- **Riverdale Co-operative Houses**, Toronto (ON)
- **West Heritage Manor Co-op**, Calgary (AB)
- **Dundee Court Co-op**, Vancouver (BC).

This year 12 youth from housing co-ops participated in CHF Canada's youth forum held during the AGM in Hamilton. For the very first time, the youth were invited to attend and participate in the AGM business meeting. The youth observed and participated in the discussion of resolutions and were successful in getting the resolution on the structure of the board amended to include consultation with co-op youth representatives. Youth also attended Member Education Forum workshops as well as special youth forum workshops.

For information about the 2003 Youth Forum, contact **Karla Skoutajan** at 1-800-465-2752 (230-2201 in Ottawa) ext. 241, or by e-mail at kskoutajan@chfc.ca. ↗

New dues schedule approved

Members approved the following schedule for 2003 dues:

Members

Housing Co-ops	\$3.30 per unit per month (up from \$3.20)
Housing Co-ops under Development	\$95 per year
Student Housing Co-ops	\$6.90 per bed per year (up from \$6.70)
Resource Groups	1% of revenue from the development of federally funded housing co-ops, \$256 per year minimum (up from \$248)
Sponsoring Organizations	\$825 per year (up from \$800)
All Other Voting Members	\$256 per year (up from \$248)

Associates

Organizational	\$256 per year (up from \$248 in 2002)
Individual	\$95 per year (up from \$88 in 2002)

Thanks to our sponsors

*Thank you to the sponsors who helped make our AGM a success: **Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Prentice Yates & Clark, The Co-operators, HB Group Insurance Management Ltd., Morneau Sobeco, Canon, Sprint Canada, Print Action and Canadian Travel Co-op.***

CHF Canada AGM 2002

Over 800 participants from nearly 400 member housing co-ops; 150 staff attending the Staff Development Conference; 90 workshops; and so much more.... Check out www.chfc.coop for the complete AGM photo gallery!



Get ready for Halifax

*Mark your calendars for **June 3-7, 2003**, when the CHF Canada annual general meeting will take place in Halifax. Nova Scotia members are already working to make next year's AGM a meeting to remember.*

Help for the homeless

At each year's annual meeting, CHF Canada members make donations to a local group that works with homeless people.

This year, the local committee chose the **Good Shepherd Centres** in Hamilton to receive the donations. Members heard about the shelters, food bank, and other programs this organization offers. Donations totaled \$1,784, and CHF Canada will match those donations. Thanks especially to the CHF Canada board of directors whose singing at the Thursday night social raised \$384! (And some people even thought they sounded good.)

Small co-op program a success

Thanks to a new registration fee for small co-ops and to an improved travel pool, 19 small housing co-ops were able to attend the Hamilton AGM.

Thanks to those who donated funds to make this possible: **Atlantic People's Housing**, Moncton (NB), **Barsa Kelly/Cari-Can Co-operative Homes**, Etobicoke (ON), **Bethany Co-operative Homes**, Keswick (ON), **Hunter Estates Housing Co-operative**, Calgary (AB), **Otter Creek Co-operative Homes**, Whitby (ON), **Peel/Halton Co-operative Housing Federation**, Mississauga (ON), **Richmond Hill Housing Co-operative**, Richmond Hill (ON), **Southern Alberta Co-operative Housing Association**, Calgary (AB).

These donations to help smaller co-ops participate in the CHF Canada annual general meeting were very much appreciated.

More than 155 attend Staff Development Conference

This year over 155 co-op staff attended the Staff Development Conference held during the AGM in Hamilton. Staff chose from more than 35 workshops held over two days. It was a great opportunity for co-op staff to share experiences and learn new skills in many areas of co-op management.

On Tuesday evening, the Conference kicked off with an opening plenary at the Sheraton Hotel and was followed by a social at Slainte Irish Pub. During the Conference plenaries, participants received a report on the Co-op Staff Development Fund, information about the Co-op Staff Meeting Room, participated in a discussion about using the Employee Benefits Plan and completed a survey about the structure of the Conference. Participants received reports from the Ontario Council (**Donna Charbonneau**) and the Federations Committee (**Scott Piatkowski**) and also from **Wes Hosler**, CHF Canada President and **Nicholas Gazzard**, Director, Sector Development. A new resource for co-ops – *Dealing with Harassment and Discrimination in the Workplace* was launched.

Co-op staff elected a new committee to start planning the 2003 Staff Development Conference in Halifax. Elected were **Dawn-Leah McDonald (Delta Green Co-op)** and **Fran Power (Sand Hills Co-op)**. **Michelle Arscott (Harbourside Co-op)** was elected as co-op staff's representative to the Federations Committee. Michelle will join the members of the Planning Committee to plan the 2003 Conference. ⬆

Making co-ops better workplaces

Dealing with Harassment and Discrimination in the Workplace is a new resource for housing co-ops and their staff. The guide and model policy/by-law are intended to help co-ops ensure that the co-op's workplace is free from harassment and discrimination. And it is important to prevent discrimination and harassment. Co-ops should provide information about workplace discrimination and harassment to board members, staff and co-op members. This resource outlines a process to help co-ops respond if co-op staff make a complaint.

The guide and model policy/by-law is available on CHF Canada's Web site. Co-ops can also get a copy mailed to them by contacting **Karla Skoutajan** at 1-800-465-2752 (230-2201 in Ottawa), ext. 241. ⬆

CHF Canada's Ontario Region

Co-op staff honoured with new service award

More than 160 co-op housing employees were honoured at the annual meeting of CHF Canada's Ontario members on June 21 in Hamilton. The long-term service awards were one of the highlights of the Ontario Region meeting, which drew hundreds of co-op delegates, staff, municipal representatives and observers. Taken together, the staff who were recognized have given about 1,500 years of service to their housing co-ops. This is the first year that service awards were presented to co-op staff, so there were a large number of people to be recognized. The full list of staff is posted on the Ontario Region home page of the CHF Canada Web site at www.chfc.coop.

Layton inspires delegates

Toronto City Councillor **Jack Layton**, a long-time housing advocate and past president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, gave an inspiring presentation as keynote speaker at the Ontario annual meeting. Layton applauded the values and dedication of co-op housing members, and urged co-ops to continue to be leaders in the campaign for more housing for all Canadians.

Ontario Council 2002

Delegates elected three at-large Council members, and staff associations acclaimed one Council

member, to fill out the slate of the Ontario Council of CHF Canada for 2002-2003. On April 27, CHF Canada members in Northern Ontario elected that region's Council member. On June 23, the new Council held its first meeting and elected its executive.

The Ontario Council for 2002 is: **Tina Stevens***, President; **Lori-Anne McDonald***, Vice-President; **Ivy Tait***, Second Vice-President; **Bob Wiseman** (staff associations member), Treasurer; **Mark Paul** (federations member); **Karen Francis***; **David Spackman** (Northern Ontario member); **Heather Blake** (Ontario regional director); **David Howard** (appointed as second CHF Canada board representative). *at large

Thanks to retiring Ontario Council members

CHF Canada would like to thank the following former Council members for their hard work: **Brian Burch**, **Mark Klein**, **Joyce Morris** and **Marg Uhelak**. Thanks also to **Donna Charbonneau**, who retired as CHF Canada's Ontario regional director and to **Vince Hall**, who served as Ontario Council President for the past year.

Strong municipal focus

The new era of municipal administration was a major focus at Ontario Region workshops and the Ontario annual meeting. Over the past year, about 250 provincial

co-ops have been transferred to municipal administration in Ontario. The workshops looked in detail at how the new program works and gave co-ops and service managers a chance to talk about issues of common concern.

Housing officials from 15 Ontario municipalities participated in the workshops or attended the annual meeting. The municipal representatives were also guests at a special luncheon, co-sponsored by the Ontario Region office and the **City of Hamilton**, on June 21. The municipalities at the AGM were: **Chatham-Kent**, **Sudbury**, **London**, **Durham**, **Leeds and Grenville**, **Niagara**, **York**, **Brantford**, **Ottawa**, **Toronto**, **Waterloo**, **Halton**, **Peel**, **St. Thomas** and Hamilton.

Setting the course

Delegates passed two resolutions that set the course for the Ontario Region over the coming year. The first resolution, **Getting Reform Right for Ontario-Program Co-ops**, calls for specific changes to the program rules under the *Social Housing Reform Act* to deal with concerns about the administration of rent-geared-to-income programs and give co-ops secure funding. The second resolution, **New Federal-Provincial Funding for Co-op Housing**, sets out goals for new affordable housing, including new co-ops. The full text of both resolutions is posted in the Ontario Region section of the CHF Canada Web site at www.chfc.coop/eng/ont/chfco_2.htm.

Newsbriefs

THE LAST WORD



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Members honoured with awards



Thom Armstrong, Executive Director of the **Co-operative Housing Federation of BC**, was named honorary lifetime associate of CHF Canada. Thom spent 10 years as CHF Canada's Director of Corporate Affairs before joining CHF BC in 2000. In his many years of involvement with co-op housing, Thom developed co-ops in Saskatchewan and Ontario, and was a CHF Canada instructor and active member of the education committee. He also served on the boards of CHF Canada and the **Co-operative Housing Association of Ontario** (now CHF Canada's Ontario Region).



Betty Ann Baker was presented with the CMHC Award for Outstanding Contribution to Co-op Housing on Friday afternoon at the AGM business meeting. Betty Ann is the executive director of **Niagara Peninsula Homes**, a resource group that has developed numerous housing co-operatives.

Working with a group of other women, she started **Niagara Presents**, which provides a market for local produce and employment for women in the community. Congratulations, Betty Ann!