

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF YOUR CO-OP'S PRESIDENT?

The president unites the community by leading the board of directors, members and staff to work together toward achieving the co-op's goals of good governance, sound management and principled leadership.

Together with the vice-president, the co-op's president

- ensures that education for the board, staff and members is a priority each year
- helps inform new directors of their responsibilities
- ensures that directors review, understand and sign an ethical conduct agreement form
- works with staff and the secretary to set the agenda for meetings
- sees that directors and members receive timely notice on agenda items
- ensures that there is a report on the board's activities at all general meetings
- explains by-laws, policies and board decisions to members in terms everyone can understand
- leads a review of the board's performance before the election, and shares this evaluation with the new board
- ensures that a director represents the co-op to neighborhood organizations
- ensures the co-op appoints a representative to attend CHF Canada's Annual General Meeting



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE SPRING EDUCATION EVENT!

NOVA SCOTIA SPRING EDUCATION EVENT SATURDAY, APRIL 2ND

*Holiday Inn Harbourview
101 Wyse Road, Dartmouth*

Want to meet other members from around the province and gain valuable skills and knowledge? This is the place to come to. We are again offering three half day sessions in both the morning and afternoon. Workshop leaders will be covering a variety of topics certain to be of interest to all members. Look for all the details in the Spring Education Event brochure scheduled to be mailed to your co-op on February 28th.

Sign up today and don't miss out!

For registration information, visit www.chfcanada.coop or contact Debbie Hamilton at 1-866-213-2667 or dhamilton@chfcanada.coop.

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Members of Hubtown Housing Co-op in Truro celebrate their 25th Anniversary with a co-op flag presented to them by CHF Canada Member Services Co-ordinator Debbie Hamilton.



Greetings from your Regional Director



Jeanene Harnett
Nova Scotia Regional Director

A belated happy New Year! I want to update members on the work that I have done in the months since my last update.

During the September planning meeting in Ottawa, the board worked with the Ontario Council to plan for our future as an organization and to work on a strategic plan. We also participated in workshops and several training sessions with the Institute on Governance, a non-profit institution dedicated to advancing better governance in the public interest. Through these sessions, we learned about our responsibilities as directors as well as the importance of engagement. These training sessions had an immediate impact on the board's performance, encouraging individuals who might not usually contribute to do so with confidence.

I also attended meetings with provincial representatives to announce the stimulus funding granted to co-ops in our region. As I stated in my last report,

I envision my role and duty as your regional director to develop a rapport with government and to maintain a high profile for the co-op housing movement through open lines of communication. Regular information sharing provides opportunities for future success. This is a duty I will continue to perform to the best of my ability.

I have enjoyed my two years representing Nova Scotia co-ops and look forward to the election for regional director in April. I have learned so much over the past year, including the importance of transparency and education in my role to support the members I represent in all that we do as a co-op movement. I plan to continue meeting members and visiting co-ops as often as possible. I will be pleased to continue to serve, and so have decided to seek re-election as your regional director this year.

See you at the spring education event on April 2nd!

GET THE EDUCATION YOUR CO-OP NEEDS!

Education provides opportunities for co-ops to gain a wide range of new skills that contribute to running a successful cooperative. CHF Canada provides many ways for members in Nova Scotia to gain new skills through education events, portable workshops and the Annual Meeting happening this year in St. John's from May 25 to 28.

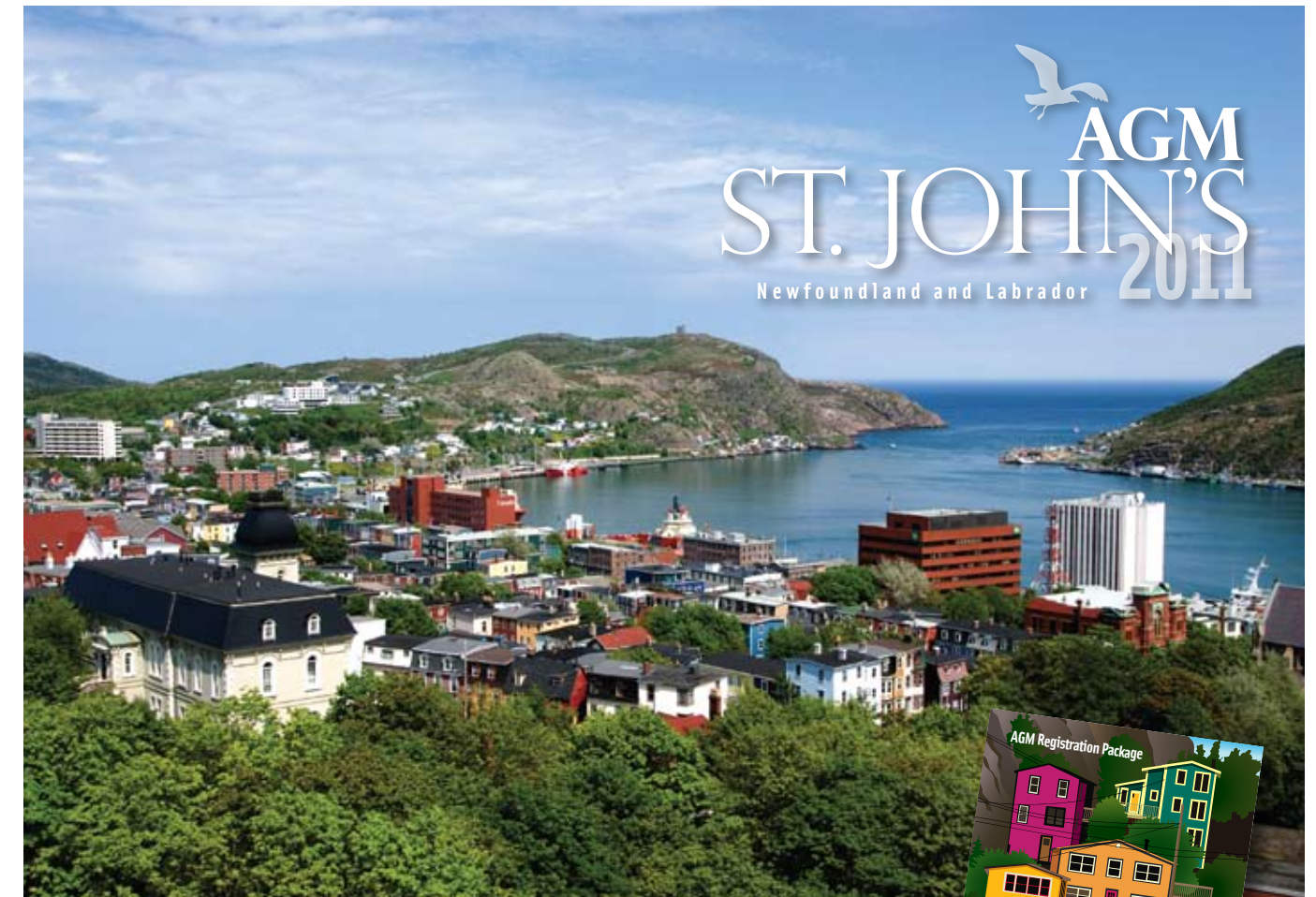
The Nova Scotia education events occur twice a year, in spring and fall. They feature a wide range of workshops to educate members or act as a refresher on a number of co-op topics. These local events are excellent opportunities for you to meet and share experiences in a relaxing, friendly and fun environment.

Portable workshops are available for two-hour, three-hour or full-day sessions to be held in the convenience

of your own co-op. These customized sessions address important aspects of successful co-op governance including board decision making, financial decisions and long-term planning for the future of your co-op.

CHF Canada's Annual Meeting, like the regional education events, provides co-op members with a number of beneficial workshops to learn new perspectives on important co-op issues. The AGM event is the perfect opportunity for co-op members from across Canada to learn from each other while taking part in the democratic functioning of CHF Canada.

For more information about education opportunities or to book a workshop for your co-op please contact Karen Brodeur at 1-866-213-2667 or kbrodeur@chfcanada.coop



Picture Yourself at the Annual Meeting in St John's

by Cindy Long

You definitely don't want to miss CHF Canada's 2011 Annual Meeting unfolding in friendly, historic St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador from May 25-28. With over 30 workshops to choose from, and a dynamic town hall session on the Year of Getting Governance Right, you'll want to start planning now for an unforgettable experience.

Ensure a strong future for your co-op as you explore the many tools for good governance, and share ideas and expertise. Find common ground with members and managers from co-ops across the country. Discover for yourself why the AGM receives rave reviews year after year.

Donna Cosgrove of New Armdale Westside Housing Co-op in Spryfield attended her first AGM last year. "The social events were great, but the best part was networking with other members who were all dealing with the same issues," she says. "I really don't think I had ever felt that much pride before in the 19 years I've been involved as a volunteer for my co-op. It was an incredible time."

Breathe in the clean, fresh sea air as you explore the live music venues, restaurants and shops of this friendly city. St. John's is fast becoming a cultural capital of Canada. Join us for the 2011 AGM to find out why.



Visit www.chfcanada.coop to register now so that you and your co-op can be a part of this year's excitement.

