

# Co-op Housing News

***An e-mail bulletin for municipal service managers***



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## **CHF Ontario Region annual meeting**

Two hundred and twenty delegates and hundreds of alternates, staff and observers gathered for the 2003 Ontario Region annual meeting in Halifax on June 6. The Ontario meeting is always held in conjunction with the national meeting of CHF Canada, which moves from city to city across the country.

The following service manager representatives attended the meetings as workshop presenters or guests:

Kathleen Blinkhorn, City of Toronto  
Rob Horne, Region of Waterloo  
Gwen Mahoney, Region of Halton  
Shirley van Steen, Region of Durham  
Eleanor MacDonald, Region of Durham  
Karen Drake, Niagara Region

Also in attendance from the SHSC and SHSC Financial Inc. were:

Dr. Gordon Chong  
Rosabelle Gonzalez  
Brian Coleman  
Danielle Cécile

Members passed three resolutions that set the priorities for the Ontario Region for the year ahead. Delegates unanimously approved Resolution 1, **Speaking up for Co-op Housing in the Next Provincial Election**, which sets the direction for the Ontario Region campaign in the coming election. The campaign focuses on:

- creating more co-op housing;
- fixing the *Social Housing Reform Act* to make it work for provincial co-ops.

Check out our [Provincial Election 2003](#) Web site for election information.

The second resolution, **Guaranteed Investment Option in Social Housing Investment Funds**, asks for a new fund to be added to the Social Housing Investment Funds that would give co-ops the option of investing capital reserves in securities that are issued or guaranteed by the federal government or a province.

**Rethinking Co-op Housing Evictions** calls on the Ontario Region to look into ways of reforming the Ontario *Co-operative Corporations Act* so that housing co-ops can deal with evictions outside the courts. Several delegates spoke about difficulties they have experienced with the current court system and expressed their strong support for the resolution.

For a complete report on the annual meeting, visit the [annual meeting pages](#) of our Web site.

## **Service managers build links to CHF Canada**

Fourteen Ontario service managers have joined the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada as associates. They are: Hamilton, London, Dufferin, Leeds and Grenville, Chatham-Kent, Durham, Niagara, Peel, Waterloo, York, Sudbury, Toronto, Windsor and Halton.

Associates receive all the publications, technical documents, reports and newsletters from CHF Canada at the same time as they are sent to housing co-ops in Ontario. By joining CHF Canada as an associate, municipalities also get access to the Members' Network part of CHF Canada's Web site and show their support for CHF Canada.

For more information on joining CHF Canada, send an e-mail to [info@chfc.ca](mailto:info@chfc.ca) or call the Ontario Region at 416-366-1711.

## **Forum for Service Managers on Social Housing**

Three CHF Ontario Region staff took part in the workshops at the Forum for Service Managers on Social Housing sponsored by the Ontario Regions Social Housing Group and the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association.

- Working in Partnership with Providers and Provider Associations, Dale Reagan

- Social Housing Benchmarking: The Common Ground of Service Managers and Providers, Harvey Cooper
- The SHRA and its Regulations: Recent Changes and What Needs Fixing Next, Diane Miles

## **Latest *Downloading Details***

The Ontario Region sent out two more issues of *Downloading Details* in March. *Downloading Details* is an education series published by CHF Ontario Region to help Ontario-program co-ops understand and comply with the new provincial program.

Issue #20 gives some background on the Social Housing Investment Funds and answers many of the questions co-ops are asking. It also includes a sample investment policy that co-ops can use to bring their by-laws into line with the *SHRA* requirements.

Since the Province passed the *SHRA* Ontario-program co-ops with a seniors' mandate have faced a lot of uncertainty about who they can house. Issue #21 gives some background on the problem and offers advice on what co-ops can do to try to deal with it.

For more information on [\*Downloading Details\*](#), log onto the CHF Canada Web site.

## **Co-op housing bookstore resources**

For most service managers dealing with housing co-ops is a new job. Visit the [Co-op Housing Bookstore](#) Web site for a complete listing of education resources on co-op housing.

The Co-op Housing Bookstore is a joint project of the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada and the Co-operative Housing Federation of Toronto. The Bookstore provides educational materials to help housing co-ops run their housing well and to build strong communities. Many of these materials are also valuable tools to help service managers understand how co-ops work. Most publications are written using plain language and some are available in French. In particular, we recommend:

Board of Directors  
 New Members in Your Co-op  
 Good Management in Your Co-op  
 Managing Arrears  
 Creating Healthy Communities  
 Job Descriptions  
 Words... Words... Words: The Co-op Housing Dictionary  
 A Review of Evictions in Ontario  
 Plain Language and Clear Design: A co-op writer's guide