

The
**CO-OPERATIVE
HOUSING
FEDERATION**
of Canada



CHF Canada Operating Priorities (2010)*

CHF Canada will continue to deliver a full program of work across all divisions and regions to serve and represent housing co-operatives and other members. We will place particular emphasis in 2010 on the following priorities.

1. Protect and enhance the autonomy of co-ops that operate under Ontario's *Social Housing Reform Act*.

SHRA co-ops need more independence to succeed as co-operative communities. In 2010, we will press for changes to the *Social Housing Reform Act* to enhance community control in co-ops. We will work with SHRA co-ops to strengthen their operations, the better to preserve their independence. We will go to court, when necessary, to challenge unjustified receiverships or to block takeovers of co-ops by service managers. And we will promote the supervisory management services of the Community Housing Management Network as a constructive alternative to receivership.

2. Expand participation by member co-operatives in CHF Canada's 2020 Vision initiative.

CHF Canada's 2020 Vision project promotes high standards of management and governance among member co-ops now and in the future. In 2010, we will continue to promote 2020 Vision and the toolkit that CHF Canada has developed to support it. We will widen participation in the 2020 Compass and the 2020 Co-op certification program, and respond to international interest in 2020 Vision.

**It had been expected that the 2010 Priorities would include eviction law reform in Ontario. Developments late in the year, however, introduced uncertainty and have made it impossible to conclude exactly what CHF Canada would aim to achieve in this area. So no priority on eviction law reform has been included. Improving the eviction system for Ontario housing co-ops, however, will remain a key focus of the Ontario Region's work in 2010.*

3. Begin a discussion with members about how we can combine our strengths through joint ventures, strategic alliances and mergers of co-ops and the organizations that support them.

In Canada, unlike some other countries, housing co-operatives are typically quite small. So are many federations that serve them. In 2010, CHF Canada will help members discuss how changes to increase the scale of the co op housing sector could make our movement stronger, and provide advantages in governance, management and the development of new housing co operatives. We will work with members that wish to explore specific opportunities for reorganization.

4. Promote professional standards of housing co-op management.

Very high standards of professional management are needed for co-ops' survival and success. In 2010, CHF Canada will continue to develop and deliver training programs for co-op managers, promote co-op management excellence, and highlight the services of the Community Housing Management Network to co-ops facing financial failure. We will continue to develop new resource materials that help housing co-op volunteers make the best use of professional management.

5. Provide leadership in advocating for the housing policy goals established by CHF Canada's members.

In 2009, members set three public policy goals: an expanded CMHC Direct Lending Program to allow co-ops to take out new mortgages, pay off their existing debt and renovate their properties; a new subsidy program to support low-income members when co-op operating agreements expire; and an accountability framework for federal spending on housing. We will also lobby to influence the redesign of the federal Affordable Housing Initiative to improve its effectiveness in reducing core housing need and to make the program more accessible to co-op housing developers.

6. Work toward policy and program changes that support co-op housing when Ontario's Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy is put in place.

Ontario's Affordable Housing Strategy is expected in late Spring 2010. Work will then begin on program changes and new programs to implement the strategy. We will use this historic opportunity to try to win changes to the *Social Housing Reform Act* and to Ontario's Affordable Housing Program to support co-ops' independence and growth.

7. Equip co-ops with new tools to support their members age in place.

Seniors are a growing percentage of the Canadian and co-operative housing population. Co-ops have asked for new tools and information so that seniors can stay in their co-op homes and continue to be active in their communities. During 2010, a new committee will begin its two-year mandate to guide CHF Canada's workplan on aging in place.