

# Southern Alberta Co-operative Housing Association eNews



110 Battleford Ave SW Calgary, AB T (403) 233-0969 F (403) 237-9181 [www.sacha-coop.ca](http://www.sacha-coop.ca)

SACHA eNEWS

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## CO-OPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

1. Voluntary and open membership
2. Democratic control
3. Member economic participation
4. Autonomy and independence
5. Education, training and information
6. Cooperation amongst co-operatives
7. Concern for community

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## Our Movement, Our Future, Voicing Our Vision

At the end of February, Brenda Davies, Colleen Rollinson, Linda Bouchard, SACHA's Chair, and Ana Martinez, SACHA's Treasurer, were among 72 co-op housing leaders who met at a **Vision Summit** in Toronto to share ideas about the future of the co-operative housing movement. The Vision Summit built on a series of webinars, which had been held in the preceding months as a result of co-op members voting in favour of The **Our Movement, Our Values** project at the CHF Canada Annual General Meeting of 2016.

Housing co-op members from across the nation responded to three questions: what co-op housing meant to them, important ideas that support the growth of cooperative housing

and how we want to move forward. The second phase of the project was an exploration of key values that expressed: community, affordability, safety, stability, autonomy and The Co-operative Principles. The **Vision Summit** then focused on refining the results of exploring these questions and values and crafting a vision for how we are going to move forward.

With the new National Housing Strategy offering new opportunities for community housing advocates, the co-op members had a lot to discuss. One of the consistent themes of the **Vision Summit** was the desire to build more co-operative housing. With 50 years' experience in successfully providing affordable homes within a co-operative community, members' began to widen their focus from protecting existing homes to the idea of building new co-op units.

The **Vision Summit** has generated a feeling of optimism and excitement as we move forward into the next 50 years of Canada's co-operative housing movement. A final vision framework document will be presented for feedback and action at the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada's Annual General Meeting in June 2018.

So stay tuned. This is OUR movement and OUR future – we're dreaming BIG!

## SACHA's Fall Education Event

*"Learning to be the best Board member I can be."*

*"I thought it was an excellent day with knowledgeable presenters."*

*"This was a fabulous day. Thank you."*

*"I am determined to make a positive impact at my co-op."*



SACHA's Fall Education Event was held on November 18, 2017 and was a resounding success.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Goldeye Conference**  
September 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>



**SACHA would love to share your news. Please contact our office to submit an article or picture**

## The Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada is Celebrating 50 Years – What’s Next?

For 50 years, the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada has worked to support housing co-operatives across Canada and, through Rooftops, the development of housing around the world.

### The Bad News is:

- 1.6 billion people are currently living in sub-standard housing world-wide
- 100 million people are homeless world-wide
- In Canada, 1 out of 4 renters face an affordable housing crisis
- By 2025 it is estimated that one-fifth of the world’s population will lack safe, secure and adequate housing

### The Good News is:

- 250,000 people live in safe, affordable community oriented housing in Canada

How can we share and spread the advantages of co-operative housing so that we can all live in a place that is more than a house – it is a home?

### Let’s Celebrate 50 Decades of Canadian Co-operative Housing by:

- Coming together
- Being inspired
- Ensuring that the generations of today and tomorrow have a place to call home

Working together to create more cooperative housing, we can turn hopes into dreams and dreams into reality for Canada and the world.

*This article is taken from the music video ‘A special place’ – Dominique Grant CHF Canada 2017. To see the video go [HERE](#).*



## New Growth Opportunities for Housing Co-ops!

**Spring** is a time of growth – buds on the trees, green shoots in the garden, baby ducks on the river – but we haven't seen much growth in the housing co-op sector until this year!

**The City of Calgary Affordable Housing Department** is offering two new grant programs:

- Up to \$20,000, for community development projects for affordable housing providers
- Up to \$50,000, for improvements that serve a community, e.g., improved lighting in common areas, playground upgrades, increased security (gates on common areas)  
go [HERE](#) for more information

### The National Housing Strategy

Housing co-operatives across Canada have been struggling to protect their most vulnerable members when their mortgages are paid off and federal subsidizing funding disappears. **SACHA** and **CHF Canada** have lobbied on behalf of housing co-ops for many years and welcomed the announcement November 22, 2017, by the federal government of a National Housing Strategy.

“After years of uncertainty, we welcome the federal government’s detailed plan on how it will protect the affordability of co-operative housing for our low-income neighbours,” said CHF Canada President Nicole Waldron.

On April 4, 2018, the first phase of the Federal Community Housing initiative was launched. Eligible housing co-ops will be provided continuing federal financial assistance. The program is worth \$38 million and provides support to co-ops whose operating agreements expire between April 2016 and March 2020. Phase two will continue support for low-income households until 2028 for a total investment of \$500 million.

“The launch of the Federal Community Housing Initiative is welcome news to CHF Canada’s members,” said CHF Canada Acting Executive Director Karla Skoutajan. “But we still have more work to do in supporting our members with provincially administered agreements, and we are calling on federal, provincial and territorial governments to act swiftly to protect more households in need of assistance.”

Adam Vaughan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development (Housing and Urban Affairs), commented, “For decades, community housing, and in particular the co-op sector, have been important partners in the delivery of Federal housing investments. Sustaining this relationship and making sure residents who are supported by this housing model is critical to the success of the National Housing Strategy. Phase I is just the beginning, but an important first step, in making sure thousands of Canadians have secure access to affordable housing.” Learn more [HERE](#).

**‘Cooperative enterprises build a better world.’**