



Let's join and work together

CHAS Mission Statement:

As one voice we will have a strong positive influence while working on collective interests that strengthen all Saskatchewan Co-operatives"

Perhaps we should call this Newsletter the Pre-Spring edition. I am sure we all are awaiting the sounds and aromas of spring. It seems like it has been a long winter with cold, wind, and a fair amount of snow, but yes we still have to get through March.

Now with the weather report out of the way I will endeavor to bring you up to date on any news items, or developments that hopefully will be of interest and concern to all our Co-ops.

The C.H.A.S. Board of Directors

Held their last meeting in Moose Jaw at Crestview Manor on February 7th 2009, seven Board Members, 2 guests from Moose Jaw, 1 from Saskatoon, and SHC representative, Myrna Mikonnen attended the meeting.

Topics of interest to our Housing Co-ops that were discussed.--

1. Federal budget – the announcement on January 27, 2009, of the allocation of funding for more affordable housing and renovation was welcome news to housing co-ops.

CHF Canada is the national voice of the Canadian Co-operative Housing movement who has lobbied hard for funding for renovations and energy retrofits, and it appears the federal government is paying some attention to the views of housing co-op members. CHAS appreciates what is being done at the federal level on behalf of our housing co-ops.

2.Provincial budget-- and how will it impact co-op housing. We know that they have allocated

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funding for the renovation of some affordable housing units, but will our government realize and see the need for more co-op housing units? Just as CHF Canada is the national voice for all Co-op housing in Canada and Territories, so CHAS is the provincial voice for all Saskatchewan housing co-ops.

We have begun a process to make our case known to the Government as we have noticed that many of our MLA's, if not all, who represent our constituency know very little, if anything, about a housing co-operative or how it is operated.

Action-

(a)A poll was to be conducted of our housing co-ops to get an idea of the number of units that make up all the co-ops "Waiting List". To date I only have received information that 9 out of our 17 co-ops have replied, indicating they have 338 units on their waiting lists, so if the other eight co-ops were included it would be safe to assume that well over 500 families are waiting for co-op housing accommodation. With our turn over rate being very low the need for more co-op housing is obvious.

(b)Letters have been written to all the MLA's and to the Minister of Sask. Housing explaining the need for more co-op housing. By including these numbers and hopefully making them aware of our presence in the province they serve, this should be a priority for our Government to take seriously.

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(c) Although there was no action taken, another point of interest and discussion was the lack of affordable "Health Care facilities" for those who require level one and two care. If there could be ways to acquire a co-op health care facility for this purpose, however this is still on the table for much more discussion.

(d) The CHAS Board would like to encourage all housing co-ops to invite your MLA in for a meet and greet time over coffee, whether it be with your Board or all members. This is an excellent way for them to see your co-op with an understanding that they represent your interests.

(e) Board members for C.H.A.S.- until such a time as there is an interest for more housing co-ops members to be on the Board, the present Board has taken the option of appointing those who have consented to do so.

We are pleased that two of the guests that attended the last Board meeting were appointed and both agreed to serve. I will include their names in the Newsletter following the AGM along with others who may be appointed and the C.H.A.S. officers for the coming year.

3. CHAS Annual General Meeting-

The Board is contacting the Minister of Sask. Housing to be the guest speaker. We know their agenda's are set ahead, so this has not been confirmed as yet.

The AGM this year will be held on May 23rd in Regina at Lakewood Manor Housing Co-op 1123 Devonshire Drive.

At 10:00 A.M.

The noon lunch will be supplied by C.H.A.S. and the ladies at Lakewood Manor will convene. The cost will be \$10.00 per person with proceeds going back into C.H.A.S account. (This is considered a bit of a fund-raiser for C.H.A.S. as at the present time there is no other means of funding)

The Board would like to encourage delegates from every housing co-op to attend. Your co-op will be eligible to send 1 delegate for every 10 units. This will give your co-op one (1) vote on any motions, so it should be decided before the meeting who of your delegation will be the voter.

If there is a need to confer with each other as to how to vote during the meeting, time will be allotted for that.

A CHAS Board member from your co-op is not included in your co-op delegation, as they will be counted as a Board member and will vote as such.

You will be receiving more detailed information on the AGM, at a later date from our Secretary Lorraine.

4. Web Page-

I am so pleased and excited to announce that the C.H.A.S. Web-page is up and running, Please check it out at ---
<http://www.coophousingsk.ca/>

It already includes good information, and our web master says that more is yet to be added.

Our Web Master is Bruce Lotts and although this has been quite an undertaking for him to fit in along with his work schedule plus commitments to his housing co-op, the CHAS Board of Directors really appreciate the time and effort that he has put into this, and Bruce please accept our thanks for a job well done.

To each housing co-op, please bookmark this site and come back and check often for any updates or new information.

Please consider sending information on your housing co-op to be added.

You can send your information as an attachment by e-mail to aphc@accessomm.ca or it can be faxed to (306) 949 9616

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