

CHF Canada's Aging in Place Committee

2019 Annual Report

The Aging in Place Committee's mandate is to:

- develop a unified picture of seniors' issues in housing co-ops
- promote the need for housing co-ops to continue offering low-cost housing to low-income members including seniors when operating agreements end
- develop tools for new housing co-op design using the principles of universal design or visitability
- create guidelines and information for housing co-ops to help them adapt to the changing needs of their members as they age in place by networking with resource and advocacy groups inside and outside CHF Canada
- gather and promote information on community support and referral services for seniors so they can remain in their co-op homes as long as possible
- document best practices on aging in place

Committee membership

The Committee currently has six (7) members appointed by CHF Canada's Board of Directors and one board liaison. The Committee's members are:

- Linnie Tse (co-chair, AB)
- Kathy Dimassi (co-chair, ON)
- Jacky Durrie (board liaison, AB)
- Stephen Davies (board liaison, NB)
- Dianne Brubaker (BC)
- Silke Force (ON)
- Jerome Gregg (ON)
- Coral Hetherington (MB)
- Mary Morrison (PEI)

Overview of 2019 Work and Initiatives

The Committee undertook a review of its work and accomplishments since its inception. Overall, the committee felt it has and continues to fulfill its mandate as outlined above. Annex A provides an overview of this work and accomplishments.

Members of the Committee provided input and exchanged on the role and continued work of the Committee. The Committee felt areas needing continued work included advocacy to government, awareness and education on the needs of Aging in Place members. It was felt that the Committee served to keep these Aging in Place issues and needs top of mind. Member stories were viewed as a positive way to share and increase awareness of member experience with Aging in Place.

At each Committee meeting, Committee members provide updates and exchange on Aging in Place issues, practices and work among their housing co-ops. From these discussions, emerging needs inform potential additional resources or education. Consequently, a new resource is being developed, aimed at outlining low cost and easy to implement adaptations for housing co-ops to undertake to assist members Aging in Place.

Again this year, housing co-ops across Canada were encouraged to celebrate National Seniors Day. A resolution was adopted at the 2015 annual meeting that encourages co-ops to annually recognize October 1st and call on their local municipalities to officially recognize National Seniors Day. This year will be the sixth year that CHF Canada has officially marked National Seniors Day.

As part of ongoing work and promotion of Aging in Place accommodations among housing co-ops, CHF Canada continues to provide information on integrating Universal Design practices and accommodations to support aging members. As part of CHF Canada's Asset and Financial Planning Services, staff review and promote Universal Design practices with co-op housing members where opportunities arise.

Aging in Place at the 2019 Annual General Meeting

Each year at the annual meeting, workshops that relate to Aging in Place are included as part of the Member Education Forum (MEF) and Co-operative Management Conference (CMC). These workshops provided information and a discussion forum for topics such as universal design, accessibility, age-friendly co-ops, and government funding programs. Appendix B includes a list and description of the workshops offered at the MEF and CMC in 2019.

The Committee discussed the 2019 workshops held, exchanged feedback and ideas from the workshops from the Annual Meeting. There was some discussion on how, or whether the workshop content could be shared with those not able to travel and attend the MEF and CMC. The use of technology to increase reach and accessibility of CHF Canada's education programs is being examined for future consideration.

Annex A: Overview of Aging in Place Committee Mandate and Accomplishments

Committee function	Deliverable/initiative	Status
Develop a unified picture of seniors issues	❖ <i>Aging in our co-op homes survey (2011)</i>	Complete
Advocate for low-income members (EOA)	❖ <i>You Hold the Key Campaign</i> ❖ <i>National Seniors Day promotion</i>	Complete Ongoing – yearly promotion
Develop tools and resources to assist co-ops	❖ <i>Alzheimer's disease: 10 warning signs (2012)</i> ❖ <i>Excellent meetings for everyone (2013)</i> ❖ <i>Aging in Place (video) (2015)</i> ❖ <i>Aging in Place: Member stories (2017-2018)</i>	Complete

Committee function	Deliverable/initiative	Status
Create guidelines and information	❖ <i>Duty to Accommodate</i> ❖ <i>Integration into Asset management & Planning Services</i>	Ongoing Ongoing
Gather/promote information on community supports	❖ <i>Provide members with information/services available for older co-ops members</i>	Ongoing
Documenting best practices	❖ <i>Aging in Place: Member stories (https://chfcanada.coop/tag/aging-in-place/)</i> ❖ <i>Aging in Place video</i>	Ongoing Complete

Appendix B: 2019 Annual Meeting Aging in Place Related Workshops List

Accessibility, aging in place and universal design

(Joint workshop between Member Education Forum and Co-op Manager's Conference)

As co-op buildings age, so do the people living in them. Many co-ops are thinking about how to upgrade community spaces and member homes to make them more accessible, friendlier to aging members and more compliant with universal design standards. These considerations are now regularly becoming part of capital replacement planning. Join us for a lively discussion of the changing needs in our co-ops as we look at:

- how BCAs can assist us in recognizing opportunities for accessibility improvements
- how we can incorporate these improvements into long-term capital plans
- what kinds of features are available to co-ops
- what general standards need to be met.

Creating an age-friendly co-op

(Member Education Forum)

We know that co-op members are increasingly choosing to age in place in our co-op communities. Is your co-op ready? Back by popular demand, this workshop will cover issues related to the diverse and aging membership within the co-op sector. We'll discuss:

- current trends in aging
- how to communicate effectively with an aging membership
- health issues related to aging and their impact on the co-op.

Introduction to human rights and housing

(Member Education Forum)

Is your co-op aware of its human rights obligations? Does your co-op understand what "duty to accommodate" actually means? Join us in this introductory session to hear from a co-op legal expert as we explore practical suggestions about how co-op boards can meet their duty to accommodate co-op members.

Navigating new programs: SEED Fund and Co-investment Fund

(Joint workshop between Member Education Forum and Co-op Manager's Conference)

As part of the National Housing Strategy, the federal government introduced SEED Funding and Co-investment Funding. These two programs have streams for preservation, repair and renewal, and new construction. They are of great interest to housing co-ops as qualifying co-ops can now access funds to help with:

- pre-development activities
- long-term planning work
- new construction costs
- repairs and renewal of existing co-op homes.

We'll hear from CMHC representatives who work with the program as well as from housing co-ops that have submitted applications. We'll learn about navigating the ins and outs of who is eligible, how to apply and some of the challenges of accessing funding. Join us to learn how these funds can benefit qualifying co-ops and support the growth of the sector.