

# Aging in Place Committee Report 2018 Annual General Meeting

## **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 (6) members appointed by CHF Canada's Board of Directors and one board liaison. The Committee's members are:

Dianne Brubaker (BC)

Kathy Dimassi (co-chair, ON)

Jacky Durrie (board liaison, AB)

Jerome Gregg (ON)

Coral Hetherington (MB)

Lyn King (NB)

Linnie Tse (co-chair, AB)

## Committee Priorities

The Committee continues to raise awareness about the needs of older co-op members through resources, regional workshops, and at the annual meeting. The 2017 work plan continued to highlight the way housing co-ops meet the needs of older members that are aging in place through regional eNews profiles. These stories will be compiled into a new resource for members to share. This will be the second edition of the *Aging in Place: Member stories* project.

Also in 2017, the Committee received a presentation from CHF Canada's Asset Management Services team about how to plan for the future and integrate aging in place practices into asset management plans. The Committee plans to collaborate with the Asset Management team to develop a new resource that will be available later in 2018.

The Committee continues to encourage housing co-ops across Canada to celebrate National Seniors Day. A resolution was adopted at the 2015 annual meeting that encourages co-ops to annually recognize October 1<sup>st</sup> and call on their local municipalities to officially recognize National Seniors Day. This year will be the fourth year that CHF Canada has officially marked National Seniors Day.

## Aging in Place at the 2018 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 and Co-operative Management Conference. The following are the workshops being offered this year:

### **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? Join us as we 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.

### **Human rights and your co-op (Member Education Forum and Co-operative Management Conference)**

Is your co-op aware of its human rights obligations? What steps can your co-op take to be proactive about potential human rights violations and prevent complaints? Join us to hear from co-op legal expert Celia Chandler, a partner at Iler Campbell LLP, and explore practical suggestions about how co-op boards can meet their duty to accommodate co-op members.

---

## CHF Canada resources about aging in place

### Aging in place: Member stories (2016 and 2017 editions)

More and more co-op members are choosing to age in place. It can have substantial benefits for older members, their families and the wider co-op community. Each resource shares four stories about aging in place in co-op communities across Canada. An electronic copy of the resource is available on the CHF Canada website.

### Aging in Place in your co-op community – Video (2015)

The video is a follow-up to the Committee's national survey and highlights the personal stories of older co-op members across Canada. The video provides a pan-Canadian view on aging in place from the perspective of older co-op members. We also hear from other members of the co-op community including board members and co-op managers. An electronic copy of the resource is available on the CHF Canada website.

### Excellent Meetings for Everyone – 20 Tips for Inclusive Meetings (2013)

This resource is about improving member involvement in co-op meetings. Older co-op members often face special challenges in meetings. The tips in this resource focus on ensuring that all co-op members are able to participate in their co-op's governance. An electronic copy of the resource is available on the CHF Canada website.

### Alzheimer's disease: 10 Warning Signs (2012)

Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia affect many older Canadians. The Committee decided to publish this resource to equip co-op members, directors, and managers with some basic information about this progressive disease to promote a better understanding and support for co-op members living with Alzheimer's disease. The resource was developed in co-operation with the Alzheimer Society of Canada. An electronic copy of the resource is available on the CHF Canada website.

### Aging in our Co-op Homes: A Survey Report (2011)

This report summarizes the responses of over 450 older co-op members and 162 co-op managers to a survey about aging in place in housing co-ops. The survey's key findings included:

- older co-op members value and are satisfied with co-operative living
- older co-op members are involved in the governance of their co-op homes
- most co-op members and housing co-ops have not made plans that include an aging membership
- there is a shortage of appropriate accessible units for older members within existing housing co-ops

An electronic copy of the survey report is available on the CHF Canada website.