

2015 SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

RESOLUTION #1

You Hold the Key – Fix the Co-op Housing Crunch Safeguarding Affordable Co-op Homes

Submitted by:

CHF BC Board of Directors

Contact:

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WE RESOLVE:

THAT we continue to call on the government of British Columbia to introduce a rent supplement program for low-income co-op households as federal program operating agreements come to an end;

THAT we call on the government of Canada to reinvest the savings from expiring federal subsidies by sharing the cost of a rent supplement program with the province;

THAT we call on all parties running candidates in the 2015 federal election to commit to:

1. assisting provincial and territorial governments, on a cost-sharing basis, to deliver rent supplement programs for low-income households living in federal-program housing co-ops as their CMHC funding agreements expire;
2. increasing federal funding to the provinces and territories for housing as needed to provide this cost-shared support;

THAT we call on those parties to include these commitments in their written campaign platforms;

AND THAT we continue to work in partnership with CHF Canada and other regional federations to support our mutual efforts on this most critical issue.

REASONS FOR THIS RESOLUTION:

1. Over the next ten years, more than 200 housing co-ops in British Columbia will come to the end of their federal program operating agreements. As a result, more than 3,500 low-income co-op households will face a crisis as their homes become unaffordable.
2. The impact of this crisis will be felt most directly by people who have the fewest options in Canada's most expensive rental housing market: seniors, people with disabilities, single parents, new Canadians and many others on limited or fixed incomes.
3. CHF BC has proposed a simple, cost-effective solution to the co-op housing crunch: a provincially-funded rent supplement program for low-income co-op members whose federal program agreements are coming to an end.
4. While housing is now a provincial responsibility, the federal government will save roughly \$1.7 billion a year by the time all of its housing subsidy obligations come to an end. CHF BC believes that some of these savings should be reinvested in additional transfers to the provinces to help pay for continuing rent supplements.
5. Co-op members in BC have been attending rallies and meeting with their elected representatives in support of our efforts. And more than 50 housing co-ops in BC have formally endorsed resolutions supporting the *You Hold the Key* campaign. We are making progress, but there is much more to be done.
6. The problem of expiring federal rent assistance affects housing co-ops and low-income co-op households all across Canada. That's why we are partnering with CHF Canada and regional federations everywhere on a national *You Hold the Key* campaign.
7. Our campaign is having an impact and our voices are being heard. The recent federal budget appears to have left the door open for the government to reinvest some of the savings it will realize from expiring federal agreements. The upcoming federal election will be our opportunity to secure commitments from all parties in support of our campaign.
8. We will make a difference by working together, because we hold the key!

COST:

The cost of implementing this resolution is included in the approved budget for the current year ending July 31, 2015 and in the proposed budget for next year. CHF Canada, our national partner, is also sharing in the cost of the campaign.