



Fédération des coopératives
d'habitation intermunicipale
du Montréal métropolitain

AGA 2016 TROUSSE D'INFORMATION
6 ET 7 MAI 2016

INFORMATION KIT 2016 AGM

LES COOPÉRATIVES AU CŒUR D'UNE

ECONOMIE
SOLIDAIRE



CO-OPERATIVES AT THE HEART OF A SOLIDARITY-BASED ECONOMY

Welcoming address

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL 2016 AGM
ACTIVITIES ARE IN FRENCH**

My friends,

Once again, we meet to share our movement's most important moment. The annual general meeting of the Federation's members is that special moment where you are called upon to exercise your duties and assert your democratic rights.

This year, our meeting is focused on a special theme that, as much for our Board members as for FECHIMM's employees, has become essential at a time when the contradictions and shortcomings of the dominant economic model always generate more suffering, injustice, and inequality.

Cooperatism and mutualism, social economy, solidarity economy and saving costs by sharing... Different names are used to identify economic approaches that carry the values and methods they have in common to try to meet basic human needs: shelter, food, work, transportation ... By focusing on sharing, mutual assistance, and the pooling of resources and expertise, these approaches are getting farther away from competition, individualism, and the pursuit of profit at all costs.

How to recognize right from wrong when talking about social economy? How to avoid the diversion of our objectives when the State claims to promote social economy in order to make you forget and to offset the withdrawal of its core mission for a lower cost? And these "cool" multimillion companies on the Internet, UBER, Airbnb and others, can they be viewed as social enterprises? How can FECHIMM espouse this approach and participate in the construction of a wider solidarity and ecological economy involving for example the working world, communications?

These questions and reflections will be addressed at the meeting. We would like this collective reflection to lay the groundwork for a broader co-operative project in which FECHIMM could be a trigger and an important actor.

This reflection on building an economic alternative does not exempt us from focusing on our associative mission and our role of political representation. As always, the AGM will allow you to take stock of the services offered by your Federation, especially in light of the reorganization and the reassessment of the services that was initiated in 2015 and will continue in the coming year.

2015 was busy on the social action plan and political representation. Whether it's the eternal question of the end of the federal operating agreements, of the issue with long-term leases, of the question of expanding the Federation's territory, of our particular involvement in Montréal-Nord, of the continuing action to defend the AccèsLogis program and to have a say on how the Fonds québécois d'habitation communautaire is used, of our action on the Canadian scene with our allies in CHF-Canada, not to mention numerous pre-budget representations conducted at the end of the year, the results are consistent and in line with the political priorities adopted by the members.

Money is the sinews of war, and we will take as much time as needed to present the financial statements for the past year and the budget for the coming year. If the results of 2015 and the forecasts for the current year are quite positive on the whole, we should not forget that the longer-term prospects are more negative, if the approach taken by the Quebec government does not change radically.

This year, four positions are vacant on the Board. This is a major procedure in which you can make yourself heard and choose who you think will be the best candidates to bring the Federation in the direction you think best. The same goes for the resolutions that member co-operatives can submit and adopt at the AGM. This is again one of the avenues that are available for your co-op to be heard on priority issues.

Our Federation is defined first and foremost by its unwavering commitment to democratic practice and the broadest possible access it gives to member participation. I hope this meeting will have a record turnout, which will be a perfect example of how FECHIMM works!

In solidarity,

Luc Brisebois, President

Why is it important for your co-operative to attend?

The annual meeting is the ideal democratic place where co-operatives can be heard, express their expectations, provide their Federation with the guidelines needed to deliver the goods and elect directors who will see to their implementation. This is also where the co-operatives and their members can reaffirm the specificity and importance of the co-operative movement and reconnect with the basic values guiding the day-to-day life of their co-operative.

The federation represents some 450 co-operatives. The annual meeting allows members to rely on the political and economic weight they represent in order for the Federation to fulfill its role of spokesperson with the governments.

The positions you express at the AGM have a real impact. For example, the mandate given to FECHIMM to intervene on the issue of the end of the federal operating agreements has led to several actions. With the collaboration of the members of the political action committee (PAC), workshops and information activities have been set up. During the past year, five intercoop meetings were held in different neighborhoods (and three others the previous year), which allowed us to get in touch with more than 2,300 households. And FECHIMM and its members were fully invested in the election campaign to enforce the demands of the movement.

Another example: at the 2015 AGM, the members asked FECHIMM to support the co-operatives undertaken under the Québec Affordable Housing (LAQ) program which are having particular difficulties and which receive no subsidy for their low-income members. FECHIMM summoned the co-operatives concerned to paint a portrait of the situation. This resulted in a questionnaire that was sent to the 13 co-operatives of the LAQ program. Their answers will help prepare arguments. In parallel, FECHIMM made several representations in person or with the filing of briefs to defend the interests of LAQ and AccèsLogis co-operatives, with the Minister and the President of the Quebec Housing Corporation (Société d'habitation du Québec).

- **Take part in the Salon de l'habitation coopérative (Co-operative Housing Show) on Friday afternoon to further familiarize yourself with the range of services offered by your Federation**
- **Take stock of the Federation's 2015 activities and financial situation**
- **Elect your representatives on the Federation's Board of directors**
- **Discuss the submitted proposals in order to decide the Federation's guidelines**
- **Meet with some of the suppliers associated with the Avantages coop program or the solidarity partnership program**

These are just two examples among many. The ideas adopted during the democratic debates at the annual meeting guide the Federation's activities. Democracy is the basis of the co-operative model and your Federation is committed to having its actions consistent with the resolutions adopted by the Assembly. All the resolutions will not necessarily be realized overnight, but at one time or another, they will guide the actions of the Federation and the allocation of its resources. **THIS IS WHY YOUR CO-OPERATIVE SHOULD ATTEND.**

This information kit will help you prepare for the annual meeting. It will inform you on the issues that will be discussed, it will give you advice and practical information on how to register and how to get to the Collège de Maisonneuve as well as putting together the necessary additional documentation.

Get ready!

What will we do at that meeting

INVITATION NOTICE 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Montreal, April 4, 2016

To the directors of member co-operatives,

Mr. Richard Lemay, secretary of the Board of Directors at FECHIMM, is notifying the board of directors of FECHIMM's member co-operatives that the 2016 Annual General Meeting will be held:

DATE AND TIME: Friday, May 6, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday May 7, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

PLACE : Collège de Maisonneuve (Nicolet entrance)
2701, Nicolet St., Montréal (Québec)
Salle Le Vivoir (universally accessible place)

A draft regulation to change the recruitment territory as defined in the Federation's articles of incorporation will be dealt with on agenda item no. 11. This notice is accompanied by the proposals booklet, where you will find a copy of the draft regulation proposed.

Agenda

Friday, May 6, 2016 – from 3:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

- 3: 30 2016 Co-operative Home Show (first part)
- 5: 30 Supper for the participants of the afternoon activities
- 6: 00 Welcome, registration, coffee
- 6: 15 Optional: questions and answers on the meeting's main procedures
- 7: 00 1. Opening of the meeting and welcoming words
 A word of welcome from the President
 A word of welcome from the Executive Director
 Introduction of guests and partners of the AGM
 Explanation of the AGM proceedings
- 7: 10 2. Nomination of a chairperson and a secretary for the meeting
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Adoption of the minutes of the 2015 AGM
- 7: 30 5. Reports to the assembly
 Highlights of 2015
 2016 outlook
 Discussion and questions
- 8: 25 6. Auditor's report and 2016 draft budget
 Presentation of financial statements by the auditor
 Questions
 Presentation of financial forecasts
 Appointment of auditor for 2016
- 8: 55 7. Adjournment and recall of next day's activities
- 9: 00 Beer, wine and snacks, courtesy of the ASSURANCES COOP program and
 Lussier Dale Parizeau

Agenda

Saturday, May 7, 2016 – from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- 8 to 9:00 Welcome, registration, coffee and pastries
Receiving late proposals (registration table)
Receiving nomination applications to various vacancies (registration table)
- 9: 00 A word of welcome
Introduction of guests and partners
Reminder of the day's proceedings
- 9: 10 8. Resuming the meeting adjourned the night before
9. Lecture and discussion on "Co-operatives at the heart of a solidarity economy"
- 10: 45 Coffee break
- 11: 00 10. Question period and discussion
- 11: 45 Launching of the intercoop partnership with COOP 3P
- 12: 00 Lunch break
- 12: 30 2016 Co-operative Home Show (second part)
- 1: 30 11. Resolutions processing
Amendment to the regulation concerning the territory for recruiting members
Other proposals
- 3: 45 12. Elections
Information on election procedures and nomination of the president, secretary, and scrutineers for the elections
- 12.1 Elections to the Board
Nomination and introduction of the candidates for the Board of Directors
Vote and counting of ballots
- 12.2 Elections to the Credit Committee
Nomination and introduction of the candidates for the Credit
Committee
Vote and counting of ballots
- 4: 30 13. The floor is yours
- 4: 45 14. Prize draws, closing remarks, thanks and closing the meeting

Detailed presentation of the activities

Friday, May 6

3: 30 Co-operative Home Show

On Friday, it is with enthusiasm that the Federation's employees and key partners will be on site to offer flash consultations and answer your questions on hot topics regarding your co-operative. You will also be able to attend mini-conferences and workshops for small groups. Here are some of the topics proposed:

- What legal obligations my co-op must pay attention to since the Co-operatives' Act was updated in 2015? What does the enforcement of Article 221.2.3 imply?
- What steps have to be followed in a major renovation project and how can we get funding to implement it?
- Can my co-op obtain the status of municipality and thus obtain GST-QST reimbursements?
- How can my co-op's web page on FECHIMM's portal make it easier to recruit new members?
- How can my co-op deal with the end of its operating agreement?
- How can I save on my internet, telephone and cable TV services with Coop3P?
- How can my co-op save on insurance premiums?
- How can FECHIMM's training workshops help manage my co-operative?

Saturday at noon, the suppliers and partners of the AVANTAGES COOP program will be available to present the different services and products offered to co-operatives and their members in order to facilitate their co-operative management and to save money.

5: 30 Supper on site included for the participants in the afternoon activities

6: 00 Welcome, registration, coffee

6: 15 Optional: questions and answers on the meeting's main procedures

7: 00 Opening of the meeting, annual activity report, auditor's report and financial forecasts

The annual general meeting is primarily a time for presenting reports. Delegates will be able to review 2015 at FECHIMM by attending a presentation of the highlights of the activity report, which will be followed by a presentation of the prospects for 2016 as well as a question and exchange period. Subsequently, the auditor will present the 2015 financial statements and will answer your questions. The 2016 financial forecasts will then be tabled and we will proceed to the appointment of the auditor for 2016.

9: 00 Cocktail and snacks, courtesy of the broker Lussier Dale Parizeau and the ASSURANCES COOP program

This relaxing moment is an opportunity for the participants to socialize and chat. Who knows ? The discussions will perhaps support nominations to the Board, inspire resolutions to bring to the plenary on Saturday, or just allow to share ideas and achievements.

Saturday, May 7

8: 00 Welcome, registration and coffee-pastries (optional)

Are you an early bird? In order to allow you to continue your discussions with other delegates or employees of the Federation, the doors of Collège de Maisonneuve will open at 8:00 o'clock. Coffee and pastries will be served. This will also be the time to hand in your late resolutions or your nomination application for a position on the board.

9: 00 Resuming the meeting adjourned the night before

We will introduce the Federation's guests and partners. We will explain the day's activities, especially those during the lunch break.

9: 15 Lecture and discussion: co-operatives at the heart of a solidarity economy

To clarify what is meant by solidarity economy, proposing a reflection on the new forms arising from the collaborative economy and exploring opportunities for co-operative housing to participate in and to transform our economy, the day will begin with a conference on the theme: co-operatives at the heart of a solidarity economy. The conference will be illustrated by the testimony of innovative practices. A question-comment period will follow the presentations.

After the break, participants will be invited to continue the discussion in small groups, on the one hand, on the possibilities found in solidarity economy experiences to improve the quality of life and financial security of co-operatives members and, on the other hand, ways in which housing co-operatives could further integrate these practices and influence their neighbourhood and their environment.

11: 45 Launching of the intercoop partnership with COOP 3P

It is with pride that FECHIMM will launch a new major purchasing group with the co-operative COOP 3P, internet, telephone and TV service provider.

12: 00 Lunch break and continuation of the 2016 Co-operative Home Show

After lunch, which is included in the registration fee, the participants will meet with our partners' and suppliers' representatives associated with the AVANTAGES COOP program and get more information on the products and services that are included in the purchasing groups and solidarity partnerships.

1: 30 Resuming the meeting and processing resolutions

This is the time to discuss the resolutions submitted by the members and the Board of Directors and adopt the guidelines to provide FECHIMM with for 2016.

3: 45 Elections

The members who want to get involved in the Federation's mission are invited to submit their application to one of several vacancies on the Board. The candidates will receive free training on April 12, and visibility for their application on FECHIMM's website by submitting their application no later than April 29, at noon. The

candidates interested in following the training workshop have to register on fechimm.coop or contact the Federation at 514-843-6929, extension 228.

Second, we shall elect two members on the Credit committee. The chairperson will explain the role of the Credit committee and the responsibilities of the Commissioners.

4: 30 The floor is yours

This period is to allow members to freely discuss topics of interest. Achievements, invitation to community activities... the representatives of the participating co-operatives have the floor. The activity will begin during the counting of votes for the elections. Cooperatives wishing to speak are invited to let us know before the meeting by writing to lconstantin@fechimm.coop or at the registration table at the meeting.

4: 45 Prize draws, closing remarks, thanks and closing the assembly

We say goodbye and see you next year.