

To the members of the Board of directors

A word from the president
FIGHTING AGAINST UNJUST
AND COUNTERPRODUCTIVE
POLICIES

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FEDERAL BUDGET

100 000 UNITS REQUESTED IN ORDER TO MEET NEEDS



The *Petits et grands* Housing Co-operative, a project of 46 dwellings for families, in construction in Hochelaga-Maisonneuve district.

A coalition of seven organizations working in the Canadian housing sector is calling on the federal government to reinvest in affordable housing in order to create 100,000 units across the country within five years.

The representatives of these organizations, including the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada (CHF Canada), are asking the federal government to include funds in its budget to ensure the protection and renewal of existing social housing, the construction of 100,000 new social and affordable housing units, and support for community projects across the country.

FECHIMM's main demand during the last election campaign is also part of the requests, that is the re-establishment of grants for low-income households in housing co-operatives

and other organizations at the end of their agreement with CMHC.

The coalition is convinced that investing in housing will allow the government to achieve its objectives for the economic recovery in the short term, in addition to reaching important social goals in the longer term, such as reduced homelessness, satisfying the needs of indigenous people, the fight against climate change, and the reduction of poverty.

Encouraged by the intentions announced by the new government, the seven organizations signatories of the joint statement are offering their collaboration in the development of a national housing strategy. However, they expect the federal budget to provide the critical investments required for housing.

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REMINDER

Your co-op must produce a RL-31 slip for all
its nonsubsidized tenants at the latest on February 29

You need help? Contact us !

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FECHIMM eXpress

Newsletter from the Fédération
des coopératives d'habitation
intermunicipale du Montréal
métropolitain

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Marcel Pedneault

EDITION AN COMPUTER GRAPHICS
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coopératives d'habitation intermunicipale
du Montréal métropolitain is published
6 times a year.

An electronic version is distributed to
subscribers to the mailing list. FECHIMM
express is also available for download on
fechimm.coop.

Solidarity greetings to all cooperators,

We must acknowledge, in this wintery month of February, that it is not nature that imposes the toughest conditions. The coldest wind is still coming from the liberal austerity of the Quebec government!

To cope with the damage caused by this icy wind, we need, now more than ever, to stand up and tackle it ... FECHIMM, in its specific areas, be it the development of the co-operative model and the extension of the right to housing, should, alongside other actors of the civil society (unions, popular groups, environmental groups, students ...), denounce and fight the unjust and counterproductive policies indiscriminately imposed by the government, in the name of a cold accounting ideology, to the vast majority of the population.

For FECHIMM, at the forefront of policies that must absolutely be rejected is the Quebec government's intention to move away from contributing to the development of social housing, which contribution until now came through the AccèsLogis program. Already the cuts to this program in the last budget have resulted in reducing by half the number of new units planned.

We now fear that the current government will go further and fully withdraw its funding for the construction of housing projects in

order to provide only temporary housing assistance enabling the neediest tenants in the private sector. The only ones who would benefit in the long run from such an approach would be certain private landlords. According to the political priorities identified at the last general meeting, 2016 will be a year of fierce struggle to defend the public funding of social housing.

And, speaking of general meeting, our federation's 2016 general assembly is coming up. It will be held for the third consecutive year at the Collège de Maisonneuve, a place that the members seem to agree on. This year, however, the meeting will be held slightly later than usual, on May 6 and 7.

I now invite you to get ready for this meeting. Discuss it in your committees, identify the issues that matter to you and prepare draft resolutions to be submitted to the assembly if you consider it necessary. The Training Forum which brought together many of our members last fall at the Collège de Maisonneuve once again demonstrated how the Federation's members crave for exchanges and debates!

Luc Brisebois
President

AccèsLogis DEEP CONCERN AT THE DAWN OF THE NEW PROVINCIAL BUDGET

As we approach the 2016-2017 budget of the Quebec government, there is great concern among the defenders of social and community housing who fear a complete cutoff of the investment in AccèsLogis, which budgets have already been reduced by 50 % in 2015-2016.

FECHIMM, like all organizations working in the sector, demands instead a reinvestment in housing. The aid package to

develop 3,000 new units per year on a recurring basis represents a minimum target for FECHIMM.

However, in its brief submitted to the Quebec Government in 2014, the Federation estimated that 10,000 social and community housing units per year were needed to meet the current needs.

FECHIMM WANTS TO MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER JUSTIN TRUDEAU



FECHIMM's Executive Director, Marcel Pedneault

The Federation, through the voice of its new Executive Director, Marcel Pedneault, requested a meeting with Canada's new Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, who is also the Member of Parliament in FECHIMM's riding of Papineau.

In a letter to the Prime Minister, the Federation expressed high expectations with regards to the Infrastructure Plan announced by the Liberal Party during the section on housing. Welcoming the intention of the new government to implement a plan encouraging the construction of new housing, the renovation of the existing stock, and the renewal of the agreements signed with the co-operatives, FECHIMM also welcomed the promised re-establishment of grants to low-income households living in co-operatives, NPO's, and public housing.

While being confident that the government will honor the promises of its party, FECHIMM's Executive Director requested a meeting with the Prime Minister in order to submit simple and effective solutions to these housing issues.

FECHIMM intends to argue that housing co-operatives, where you find democracy, sharing and mutual aid values, are powerful social integration tools that can as well meet the needs of immigrants, the elderly, single people, single parents, and many other Canadians who have difficulty finding adequate housing.

2016 AGM

WE ARE ALREADY PREPARING THE MEETING TO BE HELD ON MAY 6 AND 7 AT THE COLLÈGE DE MAISONNEUVE

Preparations for the 2016 General Meeting are underway and your co-operative is required to forward to FECHIMM the resolutions it wishes to submit to the assembly. In order for your resolutions to be included in the information package that will be sent to all member co-operatives, they should be sent to FECHIMM at least 40 days before the general meeting.

Late resolutions may also be added to the agenda by May 7. In accordance with FECHIMM's by-laws, any proposal submitted less than 40 days before the meeting is a late resolution that will be discussed only if a majority of delegates at the AGM agree to consider it.

Following the amendments adopted by the assembly in 2015, proposals submitted directly at the assembly no longer have to be approved by a resolution of the Board or the general assembly of a co-operative to be discussed.

You will find the Policy on receiving and processing resolutions at the 2016 AGM and a proposal template to be downloaded at fechimm.coop/AGA2016 (FR).



Elections to the Board of Directors

The nomination period for the positions on FECHIMM's Board of Directors will open on April 15.

This year, four positions will be available. Among these, two will be reserved for members who are on the board of directors of their co-operative. The other two will be for members of co-operatives, whether or not they are serving on the board of directors of their co-operative.

The candidates for a position on the Board will get visibility at fechimm.coop and will receive training on the role and responsibilities of a director in a Federation.

The nomination form, the information on the nomination period, and the presentation sheet for the nomination are available at fechimm.coop/AGA2016 (FR).

Large joint reflection

MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PLANNING OF THE EVENT

Next fall, all the members of housing co-operatives on the territory will be invited to participate in a large joint reflection. This triennial event, decided at the 2014 AGM, aims at enabling our members to address various topics of interest in a friendlier environment than a general meeting.

The organizing committee of this event, composed of FECHIMM's Board

members and, wishes to recruit representatives of member co-operatives. Those wishing to participate in the organizing committee are invited to contact Grégory Brasseur, director of membership and administrative affairs, at 514-843-6929, extension 243, or by email at gbrasseur@fechimm.coop.

Management NEW TOOLS ONLINE



Housing co-operatives using the Federation's website can now download new tools (FR) by logging into the member area of fechimm.coop. Two guides for writing leases, one for an apartment in a housing co-operative, and one for affordable housing, are also available.

An updated version of the template for general by-laws in housing co-operative is also available. This new version includes the changes introduced by the adoption of amendments to the Co-operatives Act, including the provisions of Article 221.2.3 which came into force in 2015.

TO CONNECT TO FECHIMM.COOP

A username and a password, given to your Board of Directors, allow you to connect to fechimm.coop member area. To obtain this code once again, you are invited to contact us at diffusion@fechimm.coop.

Upon request, these codes, which allow you to update your co-op's page on FECHIMM's website, may be sent to a representative of the Board. Depending on your needs, we can also generate additional codes allowing members of your co-operative to access the different documents published online, while preventing them to bring changes to your co-operative's page.

Solidarity partnership THE GOOD FOOD BOX: FRUITS AND VEGETABLES AT ECONOMIC PRICES



Successive increases in the cost of your food basket put more and more pressure on many families' budget. In this context, it sometimes becomes difficult to maintain healthy eating habits.

To face this challenge, the NPO The Good Food Box offers a fruits and vegetables distribution service at economical prices which may be a worthy option. FECHIMM, who has just concluded a solidarity partnership agreement with this organization, is inviting the members of housing co-operatives to consider the possibility of participating in its program.

How to order boxes

The program proposed by The Good Food Box runs all year long. The boxes, available in three sizes, are sold at fixed prices and are delivered every two weeks in not less than 125 pick-up locations across the Greater Montreal.

Their content varies according to the season. The summer-autumn box is larger and includes products mainly from local farms while the winter-spring box contains more root vegetables and so-called exotic produce.

Please note that it is not necessary to be a subscriber to use the service. To order a box according to your needs, you must first find the nearest pick-up location and contact it in order to place your order.

Your co-operative: a pick-up location?

Do you think that many members of your housing co-operative might be interested in this formula? With a minimum of ten participants in the program, your co-operative could become a pick-up location for The Good Food Box, so that your members won't have to go out of their way to get their order.

To get more information and to find out the nearest pick-up location, go to www.bonneboitebonnebouffe.org/en.

If your co-operative is interested by becoming a pick-up location, get in touch with the organization at 514 344-4499 or by email at client@bonneboitebonnebouffe.org.