

OPEN THE DOOR TO CO-OP HOUSING



CHF Canada

On June 7, co-op members across Ontario go to the polls to vote in the provincial election. Let's make affordable housing a priority.



Ontarians are feeling the squeeze in the housing market. Rents have climbed 63% since 1992 and the average cost to buy a home in some parts of the province has more than tripled.

We need co-ops to be built and expanded to meet the need for mixed-income, affordable housing.

We need co-op members to call on candidates to **open the door to co-op housing**.

Housing co-ops offer unique benefits found in no other forms of rental housing. Residents in co-ops have an improved sense of community, better relations with friends and family, and acquire new work skills.

WHAT CANDIDATES CAN DO TO SUPPORT CO-OP HOUSING

THE NEXT ONTARIO GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO:

- ***Build more affordable rental housing***
A conservative estimate suggests Ontario needs to generate 6,500 units/year of affordable rental over the next 10 years to meet the need.
- ***Partner with co-ops and non-profits to fix the affordable housing program***
Reset the program design with a flexible mix of loans and capital grants to allow community housing providers to play a more active role in developing new housing.

GROW CO-OP HOUSING

- Historically almost ¼ of community housing developed in Ontario was co-op housing. Today, it's less than 4%.
- Ontario needs to build more affordable housing, and co-ops are part of the solution.
- If government doesn't take action, then low- and middle-income families will continue to struggle to get ahead because of the high cost of their housing.

SIGN ONTO THE NATIONAL HOUSING STRATEGY

- The federal government recently announced its National Housing Strategy.
- With \$40 billion committed over a 10-year period, this may be the catalyst for creating more co-op homes.
- However, \$7.4 billion of the funding is dependent on the provinces sharing the cost.

THE NEXT ONTARIO GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO:

- *At a minimum, sign onto the National Housing Strategy and come forward with its share of funding*
- *Go beyond the benchmarks set out by the Strategy*

The National Housing Strategy is an important first step but each year it will build only 2,000 of the 6,500 new units of affordable housing Ontario needs. British Columbia is addressing their housing crisis by promising to build 114,000 affordable homes over a period of 10 years.

THE POWER OF YOUR CO-OP STORY

When a candidate knocks at your door, share why co-op housing matters to you. Is it the sense of community, a kind neighbour, an affordable place to call home? Stories about your community have a powerful impact in shaping how candidates view co-op housing.

GET INVOLVED

- Talk to candidates at your door. Find out what they will do to support the growth of co-op housing.
- Organize an event with candidates at your co-op. We can help!
- Attend all-candidates events and ask questions about housing.
- Get the co-op vote out! Encourage members to register and vote!



**TWEET
YOUR
CANDIDATES**

Join the larger conversation with CHF Canada and your local federations on Twitter.
#openthedoor



ASK YOUR CANDIDATES IF THEY WILL COMMIT TO

1. Help build more co-op housing to meet the needs of Ontarians looking for good-quality, affordable homes.
2. Fix the affordable housing program so that small community housing providers like co-ops can better participate.



Contact your regional federation or call us:
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Simone Swail sswail@chfcanada.coop (x 223)
Jacob Larocque-Graham jlarcque-graham@chfcanada.coop (x 801)

Contact your candidates about supporting and growing co-op housing:
votecoohousing.ca

Info on registering and voting: **www.elections.on.ca**