

FECHIMM is 25 years old

First, a 5 to 7 with our partners

FECHIMM has officially launched its celebrations for its 25th anniversary by holding a 5 to 7 cocktail jointly with the FECHAM (Fédération des coopératives d'habitation montréalaise), on last March 19th, at the Carrefour financier solidaire. About a hundred guests, partners and representatives of community housing organizations came to this event.

Cosmo Macciocia, mayor of the Rivière-des-Prairies—Pointe-aux-Trembles borough and responsible for housing matters at the Ville de Montréal's executive committee level, paid tribute to the role of the Federation in the development of the housing cooperative model. Representatives from the city of Longueuil, from the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal (CMM) and from the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada also attended the event. For the occasion, Keith Harding, president of CHFC, gave FECHIMM's president, Louis-Philippe Duperré, a commemorative plate.

**A date for August 30th, 2008 at the Parc Jean-Drapeau
An invitation to live the party!**

For its 25th anniversary of institution, the FECHIMM invites all the residents of the federate cooperatives to a big country fiesta, on Saturday, next August 30th, at the parc Jean-Drapeau. Demonstrating our pride in being part of the world of cooperative housing, the fiesta will be held on Sainte-Hélène's island, near Jean-Drapeau metro station.

More than 400 cooperatives in the Greater Montréal are invited to take part in the building of a temporary village in the park. The invitation will also be sent to our partners in the cooperative housing Movement.

Like nomads, the housing cooperatives are invited to come and pitch their tent in this one-day village. Symbol of our solidarity and of our will to pursue the development of an essential housing network, the temporary installation will also be a place to meet and exchange ideas for thousands of cooperators from different origins.

Many activities are on the menu. The fiesta will end with a free show. The cooperatives will receive a formal invitation specifying the various possible ways of getting involved in May. The groups interested in taking part in the Fiesta can call Richard Audet, communications agent at FECHIMM, at 514-843-6929, extension 238, or by email at raudet@fechimm.coop.

Looking for talent in our coops

In preparation of next August 30th fiesta, Jorge Chorro, administrator at FECHIMM, is setting up a cooperative musical group putting together singers, musicians and dancers.

Whatever your favorite style of music, if you want to share a unique experience at our 25th anniversary, please get in touch with Jorge by email at latinusal@yahoo.ca.

The GRT Réseau 2000 Plus joins FECHIMM for the development in Laval and the Laurentians

Already active in the development for the past two years, FECHIMM has reached a new phase in its development activities. In March, the Federation reached an agreement with the GRT Réseau 2000 Plus (Technical Resource Group) from Laval for the development of new housing cooperatives and solidarity projects in Laval and the Laurentians.

According to the terms of the agreement, the GRT Réseau 2000 Plus becomes affiliated to FECHIMM. Therefore, 6 of the 9 officers of the GRT will be entrusted to FECHIMM representatives. According to Neil Mc Neil, development director at FECHIMM, « the agreement corresponds to the goals of the Federation who wants to be partners with the GRT environment ».

According to the agreement, the Federation and the GRT will share the work load and the revenues and their development capacity will only increase. This agreement should also allow FECHIMM to generate more development activities.

More information concerning this agreement will be provided at FECHIMM's 2008 Annual General Assembly, next Friday, April 18th.

New commitment from the provincial government in favour of the *AccèsLogis* program

The Housing cooperative Movement heaves a sigh of relief ...

The Housing cooperative Movement is relieved by the announcement in Monique Jérôme-Forget's last budget of the production of two thousand new community housing units in the AccèsLogis program. The Confédération québécoise des coopératives d'habitation (CQCH) thinks that this measure will allow the projects in waiting to make headways and will encourage the mobilization of the local communities to develop housing cooperative projects that are better suited to their environment.

CQCH now hopes that the government will pursue this line of thought because the need for community housing will keep on growing in the next few years on account of the population getting older. The Confédération, however, is sorry that the minister has not taken into account the community organizations' repeated request for longer term programs, at least for a five year term.

FECHIMM'S place among the Movement

Delegates from various regional federations of housing cooperatives in Québec, reunited in an extraordinary general assembly in Laval, last February 16th, have adopted a proposal to review the structures which reduce the place of the Fédération des coopératives d'habitation intermunicipale du Montréal métropolitain in the Quebec housing cooperative Movement.

The adopted proposal allows a maximum of 3 elected officers from FECHIMM on an increased board of directors of 12 members. The two newly created jobs are reserved for

representatives from small federations and non federate regions. Therefore, the Confédération reduces from 33 % to 25 % the representation of the biggest regional federation regrouping close to 50% of the federate cooperatives in the province of Québec.

Even though FECHIMM acknowledges the democratic nature of this decision adopted by a weak majority of the delegates (18 vs 17), it nevertheless thinks that the new formula does not show a fair representation for our 406 member cooperatives. In a letter addressed to all the partners in the Movement (a copy of this letter is attached), the president of FECHIMM, Louis-Philippe Duperré, is asking the various federations to « think about the possibility of reconsidering this decision and to give FECHIMM back its 33 % of administrators at the CQCH ».

He also specifies that « our Federation, even though it understands the legitimate need of the regions to be heard, does not however see grounds to give up a fair representation to defend the interests of its own members ». The matter should be discussed at the end of May, at the CQCH's annual Congress. The matter will also be addressed at FECHIMM's next Annual general assembly, on April 18th and 19th.

The 2008 AGA

The time for associations

Networking at the core of the 2008 AGA

Within its 2008 AGA, FECHIMM is inviting its member cooperatives to explore the various forms of collaboration they could develop to ensure their success. In order to do this, the Federation will take advantage of the time span reserved for the workshops to regroup the delegates of participating cooperatives according to their place of residence.

These delegates will be invited to establish priority matters among a series of subjects of interest for their collective enterprise. Once these choices are determined, the group will be divided into sub work groups to continue their discussions and to work out projects to be submitted to the boards of directors of interested cooperatives. Organizers from FECHIMM will help the groups in their moves.

For the best thought out projects in the network workshops to go beyond the stage of good intentions, the participants will be invited to give themselves an implementation and a project follow-up strategy. To make sure the ideas are spread out over the Metropolitan Montréal area, each region will be called upon to share its observations and projects with all the AGA delegates.

A review of 2007

2007 will have been a repositioning year for FECHIMM following to the strategic planning done in 2006. Establishing quality and cost control mechanisms have enabled us to improve the services offered to the cooperatives. The implementation of these measures and the notable decrease of the sector contribution have however affected the Federation's financial results. The first night of the annual general assembly will be devoted to the 2007 annual report and to the auditor's report. A question period will then allow the delegates to get some explanations on the various subjects addressed in the reports.

Modification to the Internal by-laws

In order to offer the housing cooperatives in the metropolitan Montréal region a complete representation in the Movement, FECHIMM's Board of directors proposes to modify the internal by-laws for the election of administrators on FECHIMM's board of directors (section 5) and of the delegates (section 8) for the Confédération québécoise des coopératives d'habitation's (CQCH) general assembly. The changes will also allow these candidates to be better prepared.

FECHIMM's place in the Movement

The Confédération québécoise des coopératives d'habitation's (CQCH) extraordinary general assembly, held on February 16, 2008 in Laval, adopted a proposition to review the structures affecting FECHIMM's representation in the Movement. The project adopted by the assembly allows a maximum of 3 administrators from FECHIMM within an extended board of 12 members. The two new seats are for representatives of small federations and non-federated regions. We therefore decrease from 33% to 25% the representation of the biggest regional federation which regroups close to 50% of the federate cooperatives in the province of Québec. Keeping in mind the democratic pattern, FECHIMM's AGA will emphasize the positions our delegates should favour at the CQCH's AGA.

Elections

Anybody interested in getting involved in the Federation can submit his or her name for any position available.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Board of Directors

Commission de crédit

FECHIMM'S delegation to CQCH's annual general assembly

FECHIMM committees (recruiting members)

- Political action committee
- Sustainable development committee
- Education committee

New partners for FECHIMM

Nettoyants Lemieux

Ecological and efficient solutions

Firmly established supplier of biodegradable cleaning products, Nettoyants Lemieux offers a complete variety of ecological products for household maintenance of common spaces and housing units in your cooperatives. The company also invites you to discover the efficiency of its products for body care.

Also, Nettoyants Lemieux offers a 15 % rebate on all regular* price products sold at its stores at 4777 Papineau and 1329 Mont-Royal East in Montréal. All you have to do to take advantage of this offer is to show you Multiservices card at the store!

The Spring workshops

SELECTION

Member selection – April 15th, 2008 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD

Introduction to peaceful conflict resolution– May 13th, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.h

SECRETARIAL WORKSHOP

Secretarial committee : role and responsibilities – May 8th, 2008 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Taking notes and the minutes – May 15th, 2008 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Filing and archiving – May 22, 2008 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

LEGAL ASPECTS

The lease : front to back – April 22nd, 2008 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Introduction to mediation adapted to cooperatives – May 20th, 2008 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Suspension and exclusion – June 10th, 2008 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Board of directors : role and responsibilities – May 27th, 2008 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The Cooperatives Act and internal by-laws – June 3rd, 2008 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

MAINTENANCE

Maintenance 1 : the organization of the maintenance committee – April 26th, 2008 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Maintenance 2 : inspecting the housing units and planning the maintenance – May 3rd, 2008 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Maintenance and budget follow-up – May 10th, 2008 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Basic electricity – May 24th, 2008 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Basic plumbing – May 24th, 2008 from 9 a.m. to noon

Efficient coops

Hurry up and participate ! The program ends on December 31st, 2008.

- Free electronic thermostats (parts and labour)
- Subsidies available to improve your buildings' insulation when doing major repairs:
- ENERGY STAR Windows and patio doors – Roof insulation – Exterior walls and foundation insulation
- Subsidies to replace your gas equipment with high energy efficiency appliances