

## 2007 EGA

### Extraordinary general assembly

FECHIMM invites all of its members, on November 24, 2007, to an extraordinary general assembly bearing on the structures and political priorities of the housing cooperative Movement. At the 2007 Annual general assembly, the members decided to hold this extraordinary assembly in order to pursue the discussion started in 2004 to help the Movement accept the challenges it faces.

The review started in 2004 wants to identify the type of associations that could offer the support required and needed by the cooperatives who are members of the housing cooperative Movement. The activity is carried out taking into account four main goals/objectifs.

The review must ensure a better representation of the cooperatives, privilege the improvement of services offered to the cooperatives and their members, get the most out of the resources in order to reduce the operating costs and allow a better sharing out of the responsibilities and of the jurisdictions.

This year, the Federation is moving to the Rosemont - La Petite Patrie borough for its extraordinary general assembly. Delegates are expected at the Centre des congrès de Rosemont, 2953 Bélanger street, as of 8 o'clock a.m.

If you want more information on this important meeting and want to find out the day's complete program, visit the Event section on our Website and look out for the insert in the October copy of the *L'Écho-hop ! d'habitation* magazine.

### Cancellation of the Fall symposium

Please be advised that the education symposium that was planned for October 20 is cancelled. The activity will be replaced by an extraordinary general assembly to be held on November 24.

**A word from the chairperson:  
Future architects**

Whether we agree or not, economic, political and social realities the cooperative Movement must deal with compel us to constantly try to find ways to protect our acquired experience and ensure the growth of our housing habits. It becomes even more obvious when we agree, as I have done, to get involved on the Federation's Board of directors.

The challenge can seem enormous. Members' participation is a recurring problem in many of our cooperatives and it is clear that education, although essential, cannot be a remedy to all wrongs. Other important subjects like the place of women, youngsters and single people, are questions we must contend with in our Movement.

I don't pretend to have the answers to all these questions, however I believe we must address them frankly. I also believe in our power to collectively set things in motion. If we can expect more substantial investments from the government for cooperative housing, it is obvious that we will not do so without calling up the troupes. We can do it, we proved it last Spring with our petition campaign to save the AccèsLogis program.

As the theme of our extraordinary general assembly on the structures and the political priorities of the housing cooperative Movement indicates, **we are the architects of our future** and the notion of interdependence assumes all its meaning. To better play its role, the Federation needs all the support from its members. The cooperatives must also be able to depend on a dynamic Federation firmly committed to satisfying their needs to radiate and develop their particularity.

Actions towards this goal have already been put into motion and will continue to do so. The creation of the EFFICIENT COOPS program, an initiative to which my predecessor Denis Plante has largely contributed, and the recent launching of a web site appropriate to FECHIMM testify to this determination to better serve the housing cooperatives of metropolitan Montréal.

As president of the Federation, I also want to take part in the development of our network, an essential element for the future success of our Movement. I sincerely hope to see you at our next extraordinary general assembly in November. You have the power and the means to influence the orientations and the priorities of your Federation. It's up to you to show up with your judicious ideas.

Michelle Laurin  
President

## Celebrating coops !

Two housing cooperatives celebrated the anniversary of their institution this summer. Last August 25, Coopérative d'habitation Village Côte-des-Neiges celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a party on Lacombe street. An exposition of pictures recalling the history of the cooperative was displayed and the mayor of the Côte-des-Neiges - Notre-Dame-de-Grâce borough, Michael Applebaum, attended the event.

Coopérative Nos Rêves, located in the Parc-Extension district, celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, on Saturday, September 8 also with festivities to which were invited the residents of the district. Gathering more than 250 people in the Athéna park, located just in front of the cooperative, the party drew representatives from various cultural groups involved in the district.

The event in which FECHIMM representatives took part was also used to make the community aware of the importance of cooperative housing. Many politicians participated in the event : the MP for the Papineau riding, Vivian Barbeau, and the NDP candidate, elected at the partial elections in the Outremont riding, Thomas Mulcair.

Visit the « Pictures » section on our website to see the pictures of these two events.

### In 2008, FECHIMM celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary

The passion of these two cooperatives bodes well for the 2008 festivities surrounding the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Federation. A committee has been set up to organize the event. The group had its first meeting to evaluate the various possible formats for the celebrations. Cooperatives who want to share their suggestions with us are invited to do so. They can contact our communications agent, Richard Audet, at 514-843-6929, poste 238.

### [www.fechimm.coop](http://www.fechimm.coop)

#### A new address for cooperative housing in metropolitan Montréal

Since last September 20<sup>th</sup>, FECHIMM has its own Website at [www.fechimm.coop](http://www.fechimm.coop). As an additional tool to the window of the housing cooperative Movement ([www.cooperativehabitation.coop](http://www.cooperativehabitation.coop)), the Website provides information on the various services offered by the Federation.

People looking for housing will also be able to find the procedure to follow in order to obtain a cooperative housing unit in the Federation's regional territory. The Website also includes different tools allowing coop members to have easier access to their Federation. If you are interested in taking a course, you can register on line to one or the other scheduled courses.

The Federation hopes to make this interface, the basic tool for its communications. We also hope that the website will become the mirror of the vitality of the groups giving life to FECHIMM's member cooperatives. Besides, the home page highlights our partners in the housing Movement.

Just as we are writing these words, most of the pages on the website are already accessible. The entire expected content will be on line before the end of October. The website also

includes publicity space allowing FECHIMM to offer its partners a better visibility in the cooperative field.

### **My email for a computer**

To launch the website and to encourage its members to use this inescapable tool, the Federation is having a contest called « My email for a computer ». All the residents of the cooperatives that are members of the Federation are invited to put their name on the Federation's distribution list to have a chance to win an all-equipped computer. Thanks to the collaboration of the social economy business called Insertech Angus, the prize will be awarded at the time of the drawing to be held at the Extraordinary general assembly of next November 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Coops that are more and more net zero energy**

The Efficient coops team is carrying on with its support work to implementing energy efficiency measures in housing cooperatives in metropolitan Montréal. 150 cooperatives have already joined the program and the delivery of the workshops called « My efficient coop », first stage towards the implementing the measures projected in the program, are well under way.

### **Concrete measures**

Setting up these measures is also progressing well. The Federation came to an agreement with an electrical contractor who is getting ready to start replacing bi-metal thermostats with electronic models in participating cooperatives. Also, member cooperatives who have taken part in the « My efficient coop » workshop and wish to carry out renovation work to their thermal building envelope can now submit their project in order to obtain financial support to carry out the renovation works.

Every coop who took part in the « My efficient coop » workshop received 3 compact fluorescent bulbs. If your cooperative is interested in this program, you can obtain more information on FECHIMM's website in the section « EFFICIENT COOPS ».

### **Coop Z.O.O Worth considering**

In the Saturday, September 15 edition of the journal *Mon toit* of the *La Presse* newspaper, there was an article on the difficulties the residents of the Coopérative d'habitation Z.O.O on the Benny Farm site in the Notre-Dame-de-Grâce district are facing. Under the title, « *An ambitious project meets with serious problems* », the daily newspaper tells of the setbacks this green property project has been dealing with, a project that awarded prestigious prizes to its promoters.

It is reported that the winter has been very rough in the complexe including a renovated building and a new construction. The tenants had to put up with heating and ventilation problems, hot water shortage, water infiltration and some cases of mould in the basement.

The death of a resident following a pulmonary illness and who was living just above the basements contaminated with mould created quite a turmoil in the cooperative, even though no link between his death and the mould problem has been established. The situation has deteriorated so much that the City of Montréal decided to get involved and settle the problems before the cold season.

Far be it for FECHIMM to oppose these green construction projects, it absolutely supports sustainable development but, nevertheless recommends that groups who develop such projects do so with caution. And as noble as those projects are, you have to be able to afford your high ambitions.

For more details on the last developments in this dossier, consult the section « News » in our website.

### **Invitation to young cooperators**

The Alliance of young cooperators, new institution of the Conseil québécois de la coopération et de la mutualité, recruits delegates aged from 18 to 35 years old, from all Quebec regions and from all sectors of activities with a view to hold an assembly in March of 2008 in Québec city.

Established in November 2006, the Alliance's mission is to promote the cooperative and mutualistic formula with the youths, to increase and to secure their commitment, and their representativeness among the Quebec cooperative and mutualistic movement.

The candidates who are interested in taking part in the activities of the Alliance can contact Richard Audet, the communications agent at FECHIMM, at 514-843-6929, extension 238. You can also find more information on the Alliance in the « News » section of our website.

### **Scheduled workshops**

With the return of Fall, the workshops are back at FECHIMM. Three courses are already on the calendar and others could be added in the next few weeks.

Bookkeeping (18 hours)  
Saturdays, October 20 and 27 and November 3

Coop 101  
Tuesday, October 30

### Secretarial

Secretarial committee : role and responsibilities  
Wednesday, November 7

Taking notes and minutes  
Wednesday, November 14

Filing and archiving

Wednesday, November 21

Please check for new workshops on our website in the « Education » section under the heading « Services ». You can also call Natalie Joseph, education assistant, at 514-843-6929, extension 246, for more information. Please note that you can register on line for any of the workshops advertised.

**Telephone counseling service**  
Véronique answers your questions

All the cooperatives who are members of the Federation can avail themselves of the free telephone counseling service. You just have to call the Federation at 514-843-6929, extension 227. Since this summer, a new counselor, Véronique LeVasseur, has taken over from Christian Daigle who is now in charge of the education department. Véronique answers your questions, Monday to Thursday, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. She can help you on lots of subjects related to cooperative housing.