

FECHIMM celebrates its 25th anniversary

Last August 30th, FECHIMM celebrated its 25th anniversary, with a big country fiesta in the Parc Jean-Drapeau on Ste-Hélène's Island. Even though not very many members of housing cooperatives attended, those who did appreciated the activities organized by the Federation. According to the organizers, between 600 and 700 people took part in the fiesta.

The cooperatives' participation played a big part in the ambiance. At that level, the contribution of representatives from two cooperatives from Laos (Bonheur Santisouk and Samakhi) deserves to be mentioned. These co-ops invited the public to discover their country's customs and cuisine. The cooperative L'envol also celebrated 25 years of cooperative life with their group Micros Armés who performed on stage at the end of the event. The following cooperatives, Perce-Neige de Verdun, Au pied du courant, Terrasse Soleil, Ville-Marie, Le Martinet, Petit Village, Lezarts, Saint-Denis, Notre-Dame-de-Fatima, Bourg Saint-Antoine, La Guadalupe and Darling were also visible all day long.

Apart from housing cooperative members, the fiesta brought together our partners in the housing cooperative movement and social economy. FECHIMM's cooperative village had about forty establishments at the heart of the park.

This fiesta was made possible thanks to our numerous partners such as the Union canadienne insurance company, the groups Essor and Co-operators along with the Caisse d'économie solidaire Desjardins.

A fiesta supporting international development

After the party, the Federation who had made a commitment to donate 5% of its revenues from the sale of alcohol and food to the National Cooperative Housing Union (NACHU) will donate \$1,000 to support NACHU's actions in developing cooperative housing in Kenya.

FECHIMM campaigning for housing

FECHIMM, with the Cooperative Housing Federation of Canada (CHFC) and the Confédération québécoise des coopératives d'habitation (CQCH), is putting pressure on the candidates from the parties in the federal election to speak on the question of housing.

As we are getting closer to election day on October 14, our organizations are worried about the housing situation. We notice that in 2008, more than 4 million Canadians still need affordable and adequate housing. In the Montréal region, statistics show that one tenant household out of five spend more than 50 % of its income on housing when affordable housing for families are rare.

Our demands

The housing cooperative Movement wants the different parties to pledge to help develop cooperative housing and for low income households to have better access to cooperative housing. It also demands financial support to improve energy performance in cooperatives.

The housing cooperative Movement's action plan

To support our actions, the CHFC has created tools which were mailed out to all the housing cooperatives in the Metropolitan Montréal. The Federation urges you to use these tools when you speak to the candidates in your district about this important issue. You can also use the form available on line at CHFC.

For more information : www.fechimm.coop/actionpolitique.html
www.chfc.ca/

A word from the president **Vote for cooperative housing**

On October 14th, we will be called upon to decide which government will rule our country for the next few years. If housing has not taken a lot of space in the political campaign until now, it does not mean that the issues on that subject are not important. Thousands of citizens in the Montréal region and elsewhere in Québec and in Canada, still need affordable housing that they can't find in the private market.

It's with this in mind that the Housing Cooperative Movement launched the mobilization campaign to which the Board of directors strongly urges you to take part in. It is not our intention to decide for or against a political party in the running, but to make you realize the importance of the housing issue. We find it is our responsibility to make sure that they take our point of view into consideration

It is up to us all, Board of directors and cooperative members, to send a strong message to the parties in the running to convince them of the importance of developing viable housing cooperatives.

A mobilization symposium in November

Under the banner « Proud of our accomplishments », the Confédération québécoise des coopératives d'habitation (CQCH), in collaboration with FECHIMM, is inviting the members and the administrators of the housing cooperatives in the Metropolitan Montréal to a mobilization symposium, next November 14, 15 and 16.

Centered on exemplary practices from housing cooperatives, the symposium will be held at the Centre de villégiature Jouvence, in Orford. The participants will choose between three workshops related to problems experienced by the housing cooperatives in the Metropolitan Montréal. The subjects that were chosen are understanding the financial statements, managing the participation and interculturalism.

Conférence with Sylvie Fréchette

Apart from the workshops, the discussions and a presentation on preventive maintenance, the participants will attend a conference with Sylvie Fréchette, the athlete and businesswoman. She will explain how she succeeded thanks to team work, leadership and motivation.

If you are interested in attending this conference, you must register before October 13, by filling out the form inserted in the FECHIMM portion of the L'Écho-hop ! d'habitation of October. Places are limited and the registration fees are payable upon registering.

For more information : www.fechimm.coop/evenements.html

A new services director at FECHIMM

FECHIMM has a new services director. Monique Cadotte took up her duties last September 29, replacing Raymonde Turcotte, the previous services director. Holder of a bachelorship in management, option urbanism, and a master's degree in administration and development of cooperative enterprises, Mrs. Cadotte has a solid experience as a management consultant. She had administrative duties at the municipal level and also gave courses. In particular, she gave courses on leadership and changes. All the employees of FECHIMM and its administrators wish her the very best in her new duties.

More than 20,000 visits on www.fechimm.coop

FECHIMM's website, launched in October 2007, seems to really meet the needs of housing cooperative members and the public in general. Since the implementation of Google Analytics in November 2007, a tool that evaluates how many people visit a website, our website has received more than 20,000 visitors.

On September 28, more than 13,000 visitors consulted close to 100,000 pages. Sure sign that the public in general is interested in cooperative housing, the pages describing how to access to a housing cooperative and how housing cooperatives function are the most visited after the home page. The viewing of the page on services is also proves FECHIMM members' interest on the subject and it makes it the fourth most consulted page.

Viewing statistics

From 01/11/2007 to 28/09/2008

20,147 **Visits**
98,351 **Pages viewed**
13,251 unique visitors

Most consulted pages

Home page :	19,117	19,44 %
Cooperative housing	10,731	10,91 %
The programs	8,178	8,32 %
The services	5,579	5,67 %
The members	5,455	5,55 %

Upcoming developments

Live tool, FECHIMM's website continues to grow. In the next few weeks, we will finally have an English version and a FAQ section (Frequently asked questions) allowing you to get answers, any time you want, to the most frequently asked questions by cooperative members.

Purchasing groups

Partners with the Global health cooperative (Coopérative de santé globale)

FECHIMM and the Coopérative de solidarité des professionnelles en santé globale du Québec have signed a partnership agreement allowing the members of the cooperatives affiliated to the Federation to receive a 10 % discount on naturopathy, massage therapy and psychotherapy.

An amount corresponding to 5% of the revenues resulting from this agreement will be given to FECHIMM for the promotion of this partnership. The one year agreement can be renewed. The Coopérative de solidarité des professionnelles en santé globale is located at 6865, Christophe-Colomb, suite 109, in Montréal.

For more information : www.coopsanteglobale.ca

Upcoming education workshops

October

DEMOCRATIC MANAGEMENT

Board of directors : role and responsibilities
Tuesday, October 28

GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD

Communication
Wednesday, October 8
Conflict Resolution
Tuesday, October 14
Introduction to mediation adapted to housing cooperatives
Tuesday, October 21

November

DEMOCRATIC MANAGEMENT

Efficient general assemblies
November 4

LEGAL ASPECTS

Law and internal by-laws
Monday, November 24

MAINTENANCE

Plumbing for dummies
Saturday, November 1st
Electricity for dummies
Saturday, November 1st
Maintenance 1 : organizing the maintenance committee
Saturday, November 8

Maintenance 2 : inspecting the housing units and planning the maintenance
Saturday, November 22
Maintenance 3 – maintenance and budget follow-up
Thursday, November 27

SECRETARIAL

Secretarial 1 : secretarial committee, role and responsibilities
Thursday, November 20
Secretarial 2 : taking notes and the minutes
Wednesday, November 26

FINANCES

Financial management
Tuesday, November 18

December

DEMOCRATIC MANAGEMENT

Board of directors : role and responsibilities
Monday, December 8

LEGAL ASPECTS

Suspension and exclusion
Tuesday, December 16

SECRETARIAL

Secretarial 3 : filing and archiving
Wednesday, December 3
Secretarial 4 : Organizing the secretarial and preparing meetings
Thursday, December 11

For fore information : www.fechimm.coop/formation.html

This is your last change to take advantage of the energy economy program

Do you know that Hydro-Québec rates have increased 17 % since 2004 and that more increases are expected ? That 54 % of the electricity consumption is associated with heating?

If you want to take part in our EFFICIENT COOPS program and take advantage of the free installation of electronic thermostats (parts and labour), **you have until November 1st, 2008 to send us your resolution to become a member of the program.** It is possible for you to save up to 10 % of your heating costs by replacing your old conventional bimetallic thermostats with electronic thermostats.

Also, if your coop is already a member of the program, **the Federation has reached a partnership agreement with the company J.D Paré électrique to help the cooperatives implement the « lighting » measure.** You have until the end of the year to claim the purchases of your energy efficient lighting products. Don't wait any longer !

If you have buildings heated with natural gas, actions are also planned for you to save important amounts of gas.

Visit **<http://fechimm.coop/efficaces.html>** for more information or download the membership kit to the program.