

**A word from the president – Louis-Philippe Duperré
2007 EGA: A SUCCESSFUL MEETING OPENING DOORS TO OTHER
CHALLENGES**

FECHIMM's extraordinary general assembly, which was held last November 24th, has allowed the representatives of more than 50 cooperatives to be heard on subjects that may seem unimportant to daily concerns, but which will certainly influence the future of our Movement.

As the new president of the Federation, I am especially proud of the quality of the opinions heard all day long and of the impressive interest shown by the delegates in the discussions on the revision of the structures of the Movement and the Federation's political priorities. This reality is significantly expressed by the participants' enthusiasm to join the delegation which will represent FECHIMM at the extraordinary general assembly of the Confédération québécoise des coopératives d'habitation (CQCH), on February 16th, 2008 in Laval.

It is also very encouraging for the board of directors who has recently set up a political action committee to see how many cooperatives wish to communicate with the other coops in their area. Meeting the challenges brought by the end of the operation agreements as to the aid to the individual and the need for development caused by the increasing demand of housing units for low and middle income households, this contribution by the members is all the more necessary for the Federation to succeed.

Further to the assembly, the housing cooperatives located in the Metropolitan Montreal region might have cause to worry about the low representativeness the proposed revision of the Movement's structures FECHIMM, the most important of all seven federations members of the CQCH, has to work with. The present representation method of the CQCH was adopted in May 2003 following a year of uncertainties resulting precisely from a chronic sub-representation of FECHIMM at the different authorities of the Movement. We cannot return to these unfair conditions.

Besides, the rejection of recommendation number 4 on the composition of the Board of directors of the Confederation suitably expresses the general assembly's concern. It will thus be important to depend on a sound delegation who will be able to defend the Federation's point of view in deference to the other actors of our Movement, at the CQCH's EGA next February.

Until then, I urge you to take advantage of the Christmas holidays to reboost your energy level. For the board of directors of FECHIMM, I wish to offer all our members a very good 2008 where we will be celebrating our federation's 25th anniversary.

OUR BEST WISHES FOR 2008

The board of directors and FECHIMM employees wish you the very best for the New Year. May 2008 bring peace, health and joy in your homes.

REVISION OF THE STRUCTURES

FECHIMM's member cooperatives reunited in an extraordinary general assembly gave their opinions on the recommendations submitted by the committee on the revision of the structures of the housing cooperative Movement. If the delegates supported most of the recommendations concerning the sound management methods, they went along with FECHIMM's board of director's proposal and rejected the recommendation about the composition of the Board of directors of the Confédération québécoise des coopératives d'habitation.

For the moment, FECHIMM, with its membership representing 48% of the CQCH cooperatives, has 33 % of the votes at the CQCH. The proposed revision, which gives two federation executive directors the right to vote, would mean a decrease in voting power at the Confederation for FECHIMM.

The revision started in 2004 plans on identifying the type of organization that will give the best support the cooperatives member of the housing cooperative movement need or hope for. The consultation process will conclude at the CQCH's EGA on February 16th in Laval.

Visit the News section of our website to read up on the CQCH and FECHIMM's recommendations.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES FOR CQCH EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The interest shown by the members for FECHIMM's delegation at the CQCH's extraordinary general assembly was so great that an election was necessary. The newly elected delegates are added to the delegates chosen at the 2007 AGA. The Federation's delegation also includes the members of FECHIMM's board of directors.

Elected at the November 24 EGA	
Marie-Hélène Gascon La collective Céline Procacci De L'esplanade Hamid Terzi Petit-train de Viauville	Albert Pearson Mon toit Marie-Josée Laporte Le clan des pacifistes Jean-Paul Patenaude Mon toit François Valiquette Union du paradis Chantale Lapierre À tout hasard Claude Talbot Joyeux lurons de Verdun
Substitutes Philippe Banville Les Copains d'abord Sylvain Belisle Cagelais	

THE FEDERATION'S POLITICAL PRIORITIES

The development of housing cooperatives and maintaining the aid to the individual at the end of the operating agreements constitutes two priorities for the political action committee that FECHIMM's board of directors just set up. FECHIMM's November 24 extraordinary general assembly ratified the two priorities submitted by the board of directors.

The political action committee

FECHIMM's political action committee's mandate will be to let more than 400 housing cooperatives be heard. Its actions will make up strategies or go along with the privileged strategies at the national and at the CQCH levels. It is made up of delegates from the housing cooperatives and from the board of directors. The committee will be finally complete at FECHIMM's AGA in April 2008.

Priority number 1 : the development

Because of the constant demand for housing units for low and middle income households, the committee will continue its interventions with the appropriate authorities, especially the cities of Montreal and Laval in order to **gather the conditions suitable to the development of housing cooperatives.**

The extension of inclusion policies, the composition of municipal banks of land dedicated to housing projects and the public financing to develop cooperatives will constitute the committee's projects.

Priority number 2 : maintaining the aid to the individual

The committee will give itself a regional action plan, in agreement with the CQCH's plan on the national level in order to guarantee the maintenance of the aid to the individual at the end of the operating agreements. Beyond the required political actions, the committee also intends to give all the housing cooperatives in the region, information on the operating agreements and what awaits them at the end of those agreements.

Visit the **News** section of our Website and consult the resolutions adopted by the extraordinary general assembly.

YOUR EMAIL FOR A COMPUTER

Étienne Savard, president of the **Coopérative d'habitation Pile ou face** in the Villeray district, is the happy winner of the contest « My email for a computer » (Mon courriel pour un ordinateur). The name of the winner was revealed at the November 24, 2007 extraordinary general assembly. Associated with the launching of FECHIMM's new Website, the contest allowed us to collect email addresses of more than 250 persons interested in cooperative housing. A new edition of the contest will be launched at the beginning of 2008.

THE COOP QUIZZ

More than \$1,400 in attendance prizes were awarded to the participants at FECHIMM's last November 24 extraordinary general assembly. The prizes were awarded following the Coop Quizz, an experimental activity, aimed at reminding the members of the role of the Federation along with the various services and advantages offered to the cooperatives.

Claude Georges of the Coop Pierre Lemoyne d'Iberville won the first prize, a trip to Quebec City for two including transportation by Via Rail in economy class and two luxury nights at the Auberge L'autre Jardin.

INTERCOOPERATION, IT WORKS!

At the request of the Coopérative Notre-Dame-de-Fatima, representatives of four cooperatives in the Mile-End district took part in an Intercoop education workshop at the end of October. The participants of Skanagowa, Adrienne, Coup double and Notre-Dame-de-Fatima cooperatives attended the workshop on the role and responsibilities of administrators.

Erik Desranleau of Coopérative Notre-Dame-de-Fatima, the hostess for the event, is delighted with the experience and notices that certain people's objections in the coop concerning the project were soon wiped out at the beginning of the workshop. He explains that the technique initiated by Nelson Harrison and Alison Lush has enabled them to find out how others solve problems in their coop.

Christian Daigle, head of the education department at FECHIMM is also delighted with the event. According to him, beyond the interest in sharing experiences, the project turns out to be also interesting for its economic nature.

He specifies that this at home workshop has a value of \$245 whether it is given to one or twenty participants. It is thus in the interest of all cooperatives to get together and reduce the cost of education.

Already, at the Cooperative Notre-Dame-de-Fatima, a lucky coop that has a large community hall in its basement, we are planning on repeating the experience. To this effect, FECHIMM reminds you that intercooperation is one of the great principles of cooperatism and invites all cooperatives wishing to repeat such an experience to get in touch with the Federation to obtain the list of cooperatives in their district.

THE 2008 ADVANTAGES FOR FECHIMM MEMBERS

The cooperatives who are members of FECHIMM should renew their membership contract with the Federation as soon as possible. The cooperatives who pay their member contribution before January 4, 2008 become eligible to win an all-equipped computer. Part of 2008 advantages, the housing cooperatives also obtain a \$40 to \$120 reduction on workshops along with the CD-ROM, *La Régie du logement de A à Z* (The Rental Board from A to Z).

Increase of 1,2 % of the membership contribution

At the 2007 annual general assembly, the delegates from the cooperatives have accepted to index the Federation's membership contribution for the year at the rate of inflation registered in Montreal on December 31 of the previous year. In 2008, the indexing voted will mean an increase of 1,2 %. This increase must allow the stabilization of the members' input in FECHIMM activities and must protect its financial viability.

AN ADVANTAGEOUS PARTNERSHIP WITH INSERTECH ANGUS

FECHIMM and the social economy firm Insertech Angus have concluded a partnership allowing housing cooperatives who are members of the Federation along with their members to benefit from substantial rebates on the purchase and repair of computer equipment.

Therefore, on showing their Multiservices card, the residents of housing cooperatives will receive a 3 % rebate when buying new equipment and a 10 % rebate when repairing and purchasing used equipment. For more information, call Insertech Angus at 514.596.2842 or visit their website at www.insertech.qc.ca.

2008 EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

February

- Basic Plumbing
Saturday, February 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Basic Electricity
Saturday, February 9 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- Conflict resolution
February 5 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
- Mediation
February 12 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
- Suspension and exclusion
February 19 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

March

- Efficient general assembly
March 4 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

- Maintenance 1
March 11 at 7 p.m.
- Maintenance 2
March 18 at 7 p.m.
- Maintenance 3
March 25 at 7 p.m.
- Cooperative's Act and internal by-laws
March 13 at 7 p.m.

April

- Member selection
April 1st at 7 p.m.
- Administration of AACR
April 8 at 7 p.m.

YOUR PRODUCTS AND SERVICES COUNSELLOR

Do you know all the advantages and services your coop and your members are entitled to through its membership with FECHIMM ?

Jean-François Gagné, counsellor to the members, is ready to show you the vast range of products and services offered by the Federation. He can go to your cooperative and give you a free presentation according to your needs. In order to do this, you must contact him at **514-843-6929, extension 242**, or by email at jgagne@fechimm.coop.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Please be notified that our offices will be closed from Saturday, December 22, 2007 until Sunday, January 6, 2008.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

We wish you a holiday season without snags, but, if problems occur during this period, please call one of these experts.

The FECHIMM is not responsible for the quality of the services offered by these suppliers. The present list is provided to you as an indication.

Real estate insurance: ESSOR: 1-877-773-8825

Tenant insurance: HB: 1-800-387-1963

PLUMBERS

Métayer & Lacombe
938, rue Duluth, Montreal
Tel. : 514-523-5040

Plomberie Gilles David & Fils Ltée
5550, rue Chapleau, Montreal
Tel. : 514-523-2161

Chayer Roger Plomberie Inc.
5535, rue Chapleau, Montreal
Tel. : 514-590-0666

P M F Inc.
7245, rue St-Jacques, Montreal
Tel. : 514-484-8002

ELECTRICIANS

Guimont Michel Entrepreneur Electricien Ltée
1130, rue Sauvé Est, Montreal
Tel. :e: 514-389-9534

Les entreprises d'électricité Midalou inc.
6784, 27e Avenue, Montreal

LOCKSMITH:

Serrurier Amherst
Tel. : 514-525-6010