



## Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada

### **Member Profile | CHF CANADA, ONTARIO REGION**

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CHF Canada Ontario Region is the voice of Ontario's co-op housing movement. Its members include over 500 non-profit housing co-ops and other organizations across the province. More than 125,000 Ontarians live in housing co-ops, in every region of the province.

As with most co-ops, our beginnings are grassroots. In the 1970's a federal social housing program provided funding for development. Community organizers helping tenants buy out troublesome landlords and create communities where those living there are empowered through the co-op model. They organized other people to apply to develop new housing co-ops. In the 1980's, federations across the province founded the Co-op Housing Association of Ontario (CHAO). In 1996, CHAO merged with the Co-op Housing Federation of Canada.

We focus on provincial matters that affect Ontario Region members. We do government relations work and provide advice, support and education to co-ops. We also make it possible for housing co-ops to thrive as healthy businesses and communities. A recent success we are proud of is Eviction Law Reform, which took more than a decade to develop, get support for and pass. When it finally was passed in the fall of 2013, the bill had all-party support and passed unanimously!

As the affordable housing crisis has gained more attention, governments are getting more involved and we are looking forward to the development of more co-ops. As older co-ops come out of their mortgages, we are encouraging and assisting them to reinvest in their buildings and to look at adding more units. Until the last two decades, co-ops historically have been 25% of affordable housing developments, and we are determined to get back to that!

Visit them online at [www.chfcanada.coop](http://www.chfcanada.coop)