

Communications Report January - March, 2023



This communications report is being sent from Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship", first signed with the British Crown in 1725. This treaty did not deal with the surrender of lands, but instead was meant to build a relationship between nations.

Current Neighbourhoods

Compass NS	Units
Capeland Neighborhood Spryfield, NS	3
Chameleon Neighborhood Sackville, NS	22
Central Dartmouth Neighborhood Central Dartmouth, NS	19
Gimmie Shelter Neighborhood Sydeny, NS	9
Lake City Neighbourhood Dartmouth, NS	4
New Armdale Westside Neighborhood Spryfield, NS	26
Topshee Neighborhood Antigonish, NS	10
Spanish Bay Neighborhood Sydney, NS	18

<u>Vacancies</u>

There are currently six vacancy units. One unit is being used for members in the Spanish Bay neighborhood while they are completing kitchen and bathroom renovations. Another unit just received extensive repairs and should be available for occupancy in April 2023. The remaining three units in the Gimmie Shelter neighbourhood need extensive repairs which will be completed under CHIRP funding.

<u>Membership</u>

Compass NS welcomed one new member into New Armdale Westside Neighbourhood. Welcome Angela!

Governance

Board of Directors

Mikaila Borden, approved as Secretary in November 2022 by the Board was interested in becoming a Director at Large. Tina Hiscock accepted the position as secretary until the next Annual General Meeting.

Annual Planning

The Board completed a 2023/2024 annual planning session in January 2023. This plan will start in August 2023. The 2023/24 annual plan as well as the current plan can be found in the planning section on the members portal.

General Membership

A General Membership Meeting was held on March 15th, to approve the 2023/2024 budget. The budget was approved unanimously and the members will be receiving housing charge notices.

Member Engagement

Membership Engagement Project

A formal extension has been approved by the Community Housing Transformation Centre for this project in order to complete the project and adequately address the information provided by the membership.

The focus areas over the next couple of months are technology, education and membership communication.

Education – Draft information presentations have been created on *general Compass NS information, membership roles and duties, board member roles and duties, how to access the membership portal and how to access the membership portal access* **Technology** – Feedback is being analyzed and a process will be created to support the Board's commitment to eliminate barriers and provide members with the tools and resources they require to stay informed.

Member Communication: All members will be provided with open and consistent communication to support informed decision making and engagement.

Co-op Week

The Co-op Week Promotion concluded and all of the people whoentered were contacted and received a prize. Thank you everyone that entered and viewed the Co-op Week page.

Education & Training

C<u>HF Canada AGM</u>

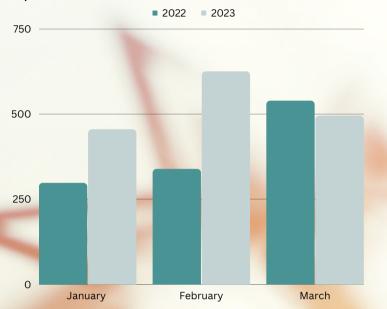
CHF Canada's Annual General Meeting is being held in Ottawa from June 15-17. The AGM and regional events provide an opportunity for members to attend workshops and network with their peers. This year's event is focused on the sector vision of *Co-op Housing for All.*

Compass Ns will be hosting a tradeshow table with two New Brunswick housing cooperatives, Unified Saint John and The Range. This will give co-ops across the country the opportunity to learn more about the Compass NS model, support Compass NS's commitment to share within the sector nationally and support Compass NS's core value of collaboration.

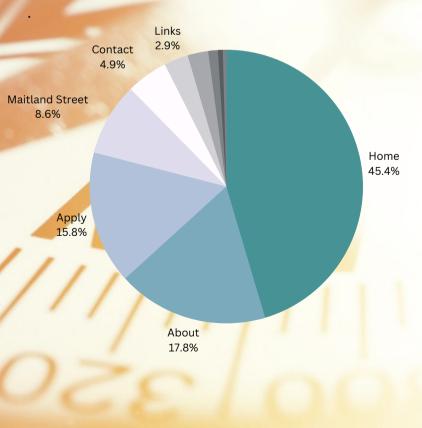
Media and Communications

<u>Website</u>

Compass NS had a 34% overall increase this quarter in website visits over the same quarter in 2022.



Interest in general information about the coop, and how to apply are some of the highest traffic areas. 38 applications were submitted



Membership Portal

The membership portal has been updated to ease the access to information for members. Instead of long lists of items to scroll through, there is a key at the start of the page so that members can click on the section they are looking for. The sections Contact. Bylaws and are: Policies. Membership Meetings, Board of Directors, Property Management & Maintenance, Financials. Planning, Communication. Resources. Growth. Development and Special Projects.

Membership Applications

The membership application has been added to the website. There is the option for applicants to fill out the application online, download a pdf or request that the application be mailed to them.

<u>Donations</u>

A donation approval process was developed and approved and can be seen in the Membership Handbook, Board Member Handbook and under the website Member login.

The Board approved donating \$1,000 per year for the 3 years to Rooftops Canada.



Rooftops Canada works with Canadian and International partners to help thousands of families in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Oceania to secure affordable housing in sustainable communities.

Community Partnerships

the Community Housing As per Transformation Centre's (CHTC) request, a letter of support was sent to the Minister of Housing outlining how the Grant positively impacted Compass NS. The Centre reached out again stating that the letter had made a significant impact and that the Treasury Board is reconsidering the initial decision to end the funding stream. As a fooolow up, letters have been sent to each Neighbourhood's Member of Parliament.

Sustainability, Growth & Development

Maitland Street

Construction continues at the Maitland Street development site. Foundation and ground floor walls and columns are ongoing and over the next few months construction will continue with walls, piers and concrete slabs on each level.

The Maitland Street project will deliver 57 units of housing in two distinct low-rise buildings separated by an accessible pedestrian corridor. The project is situated in North End Halifax, and in close proximity to public transit, services, health care facilities and other amenities.





Capital Repair Projects

Compass NS received CHIRP funding through Municipal Affairs and Housing (Housing NS) to complete renovations at Topshee, Central Dartmouth, Spanish Bay, New Armdale Westside and Gimmie Shelter.

The Spanish Bay, Topshee and Central Dartmouth Neighbourhood projects are approximately 80% complete.

The commitment agreement for the Gimmie Shelter and New Armdale Westside Neighbourhoods between Housing Nova Scotia and Compass NS has been signed.The Neighborhoods will be receiving a combined total of \$3.6 million for capital repairs.

Partnerships

Compass NS partnered with New Commons development and made a one-time financial commitment to support a proposal for a federal rental housing preservation program.

This proposal, if successful will enable organizations to access supports to acquire existing rental units into the non-profit sector.



COMPASS NS

We sustain, build and grow inclusive housing co-operative communities.

compassnscoop.com