

## Communications Report October – December 2022



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**

Current Neighbourhoods	Units
Capeland Spryfield, NS	3
Cham <mark>eleon</mark> Sackville, NS	22
<mark>Cent</mark> ral Dartmouth Dartmouth, NS	19
Gimmie Shelter Sydney, NS	9
Lake City <mark>Da</mark> rtmouth, NS	4
<mark>New</mark> Armdale Westside Spry <mark>field</mark> , NS	26
Topshee Antigonish, NS	10
Span <mark>ish B</mark> ay Sydney, <mark>N</mark> S	18

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

#### <u>Vacancies</u>

Of the current 111 Compass NS units, there are five vacant units and one vacant property. One unit is being used for Members in the Spanish Bay Neighborhood while they are getting kitchen and bathroom renovations, one unit is awaiting CHIRP funding and the remaining three require extensive repairs. The repairs should be completed by the end of February.

## Governance

#### **Board of Directors**

Compass NS held their Annual General Meeting on November 16, 2022. Mikala Borden was elected as a non-resident Board Member. Tina Hiscock was appointed to a one-year term as non-resident Board Member.

CHF Canada when nominating the two nonresident Board Members considered diversity and skillset gaps within the current Board.

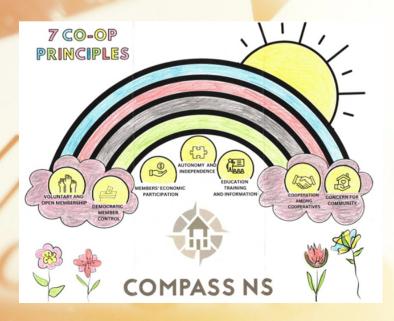
## 2022/2023 Board of Directors

Keith MacDonald, President Angela Simpson, Vice-President Mikala Border, Secretary Kim Walker, Treasurer Karen Brodeur, Director at large Tina Hiscock, Director at large Mark Priori, Director at large

## **Member Engagement**

#### <u>Co-op Week</u>

Packages were sent in October to all Members, which included 2 artwork note cards, an updated Membership portal card, a 7 co-op principles coloring page, CHF Canada's 2022 Fall Education Event flyer and coloring pencils. Members were encouraged to enter 2 contests: a coloring contest and a "spot the houses" contest. They were also encouraged to visit the Membership portal and review the Membership Handbook, the CHF Canada video, "Your co-op. Your community. Your home", a new membership FAQ, and the Compass NS video.



#### <u>Holiday Gift</u>

All Members and Tenants received a holiday gift that included a Compass NS logoed hat, artwork magnetic mini calendar and a holiday card from the Board of Directors. Compass NS's partners and major contractors were also sent a holiday card that included the artwork magnetic mini calendar.



#### Membership Engagement Project

In October 2022, the Board passed a motion to determine ways in which they can eliminate barriers for Members to access meetings and to provide Members with the tools and resources they require to stay informed and engaged.

Access surveys were mailed and emailed to all Compass NS Members. The surveys are currently being analyzed and a strategy will be presented to the Board in February 2023. Funding to support this work was obtained through the Community Housing Transformation Center Community Based Tenant Initiative Fund.

## **Education & Training**

The Board was pleased to provide the opportunity for all interested Members to attend the CHF Canada 2022 Fall Education Event on November 5, 2022. Three (3) Board Members, two (2) contract staff and seven (7) Members attended the event.

Keith MacDonald, Compass NS President, represented Compass NS on a panel at the event. The panel topic was Co-ops' Role in the Housing Crisis. Keith provided a presentation on Compass NS' growth agenda and answered questions.

Compass NS hosted a trade booth and had some small giveaways for every attendee.



The opportunity to host the Compass NS booth and invite all Compass NS members would not be possible without the support from the Community Housing Transformation Center. https://centre.support/

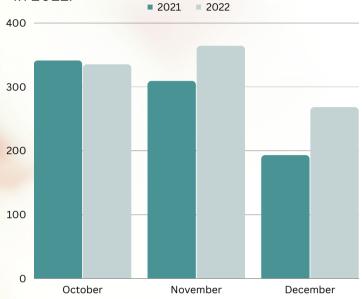


Community Housing Transformation Centre Centre de transformation du logement communautaire

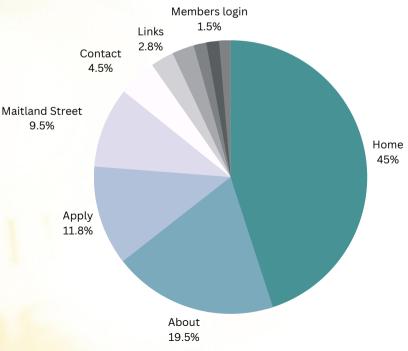
## **Media and Communications**

#### <u>Website</u>

Compass NS had a 15% overall increase this quarter in website visits over the same quarter in 2021.



Interest in general information about the coop, Maitland Street and how to apply are some of the highest traffic areas; with members interested in board bios, links and information on co-op week.



## Sustainability, Growth & Development

#### **Current Developments**

Heritage Hall, Shelburne, NS - 5 units Barton School, Digby NS - 8 units Maitland Street, Halifax, NS - 57 units

#### <u>Tri-County</u>

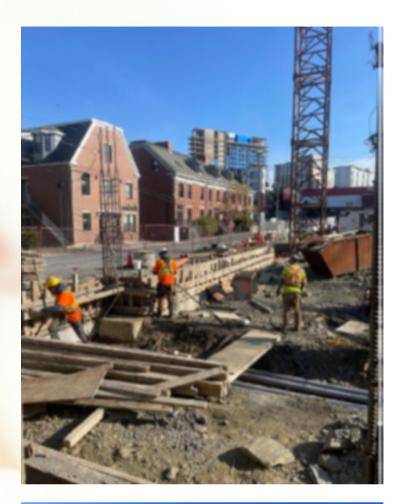
Support should be confirmed in the upcoming months from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) as the project has moved from the provincial level to the federal level.

#### Maitland Street

Construction continues at the Maitland Street development site. Excavation was completed on site and forming and concrete pouring for Building 1 is ongoing. Building 2 foundation walls were formed and poured and the retaining wall shoring work and contaminated soil removal were completed.

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

Core values: sustainability, inclusion and collaboration





#### Capital Repair Projects

## Community Housing Infrastructure Repair Program (CHIRP)

As part of the sustainability and growth strategy, 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.

#### Spanish Bay Neighbourhood

The 1st phase (exterior repairs – roof, siding and decks) is complete.

The 2nd phase (bathrooms, kitchens and flooring) has started with flooring and will also include plugs, switches and programmable thermostats.

The 3rd phase (electrical upgrades and heat pumps) is being tendered.

#### Topshee Neighbourhood

The 1st phase (exterior repairs – roof, siding and decks) is 90% complete. The 2nd phase (electrical work and panel upgrades) is approximately 75% complete.

Central Dartmouth Neighbourhood The 1st phase (roofs, siding and exterior lighting) is complete. The 2nd phase (masonry concrete and foundation work) is almost completed.

As part of the amalgamation agreements, Gimmie Shelter and New Armdale Westside Neighborhoods will be receiving a combined total of \$3.6 million for capital repairs. These projects are scheduled to start next year.

The Community Housing Management Network (The Network) is providing financial oversight of the project management being completed by IRC.



### Community Partnership

New Commons Development were notified of a one-time \$5,000.00 commitment from Compass NS to support the creation of a national rental housing preservation fund. They have made progress since the initial proposal and will submit progress reports to the board.



# COMPASS NS

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