



**COMPASS NS**

[compassnshomes.coop](http://compassnshomes.coop)

Communications Report  
April - June 2025



*This communication 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.*

## Co-op Information

Current Neighbourhoods	Units
Capeland Neighborhood - Spryfield, NS	3
Chameleon Neighborhood - Sackville, NS	22
Central Dartmouth Neighborhood - Central Dartmouth, NS	19
Gimmie Shelter Neighborhood - Sydney, NS	9
Lake City Neighborhood - Dartmouth, NS	4
New Armdale Westside Neighborhood - Spryfield, NS	26
Topshee Neighborhood - Antigonish, NS	10
Spanish Bay Neighborhood - Sydney, NS	18
Unity North Neighbourhood, North End Halifax, NS	57

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



## Co-op Information

### Vacancies

As of June 2025, there were four vacant units within our 158-unit co-op.

The four units are undergoing major repairs and maintenance.



### Annual Plan

#### Wrapping Up 2024/25

As the 2024/25 fiscal year draws to a close, the Board is finalizing its annual plan, which concludes on July 31, 2025. Over the past year, the Compass NS has concentrated on five strategic priorities:

#### 2024-2025 priorities:

1. strengthening community connections
2. enhancing governance capacity
3. improving organizational efficiency
4. exploring sustainable growth opportunities
5. promoting equity and inclusion.



We are enthusiastic about maintaining momentum and continuing collaborative efforts to achieve these objectives.

Looking ahead, the 2025/26 annual plan—beginning August 1, 2025—builds on this foundation and aligns with the Board’s long-term vision. The plan outlines three primary goals:

#### 2025-2026 priorities:

1. increasing community presence through the completion of one project and the hosting of two community events
2. deepening member engagement via strategic planning, feedback initiatives, a new program launch and a comprehensive Bylaw review;
3. fostering growth and celebration by identifying a new growth opportunity and recognizing completed development projects.

## Planning

### Membership Re-Instatement Policy

The policy has been updated to ensure a fair and transparent process for former Members seeking re-instatement. This revised policy is now available for review on the Member Login portal

### General Membership Survey Feedback

Based on your feedback from the General Membership Meeting survey, several steps have been introduced to improve communication and engagement across the co-op:

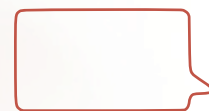
Currently in progress are:

- updates to the Members-only section of the website, aimed at improving access to important documents and timely updates
- Exploring the addition of Q&A sessions following General Meetings to encourage open dialogue.

In addition to these ongoing efforts, two key actions have already been completed:

- the implementation of a clearer communication process to ensure consistent and transparent updates
- the development distribution of a sample “Terms of Reference” to support the creation of Member-led committees.

These steps reflect a commitment to continuous improvement and responsiveness to member input.



## Member Engagement

### Stay Up to Date

Members are encouraged to check their portal on the website to learn more about your membership and stay up to date with co-op activities.



Members of Compass Nova Scotia Homes Co-operative can also access CHF Canada's library of co-op resources and sign up to receive CHF Canada's eNews to stay up to date on upcoming events, CHF Canada services and benefits, co-op housing news, and more.



## CHF Canada Annual General Meeting & Conference

Five Directors and three Members represented Compass NS at the national conference in Toronto, held June 11–14. The event offered a platform for professional development through workshops, meaningful networking with peers from across the country, and increased visibility for our co-op at the conference tradeshow.

Our participation not only strengthened our connections within the co-operative housing sector but also brought back fresh insights and ideas to support our ongoing work and strategic goals.





### Unity North Common Rooms

Thank you to the Members of the Unity North Neighbourhood who shared their feedback on the use of the common rooms in the buildings. Your input is valued and has helped guide our next steps.

We're currently reviewing ways to improve the booking process. As result of the survey:

- Bulletin boards will be installed in both buildings
- We're also exploring options for Member involvement in selecting and purchasing additional furniture to enhance the space

### Member-led Art Display

Members in the Unity North Neighbourhood are developing a collaborative art display project. The goal is to celebrate Member creativity while fostering a sense of community and shared ownership in how artwork is showcased.

### Governance Training

Our rescheduled governance workshop is set for October 6, 2025. An invitation has been circulated to all Members – this is a great opportunity to learn about co-op governance and your role as a Member.

### Grand Opening Celebration

Mark your calendars! Our Unity North Neighbourhood Grand Opening Event is set for **Friday, October 24, 2025**. A planning committee is forming with opportunities for Members from all neighbourhoods to get involved!



If you are interested in joining, please contact Karen Romain (from The Network) at [kromain@thenetwork.coop](mailto:kromain@thenetwork.coop)

### Meeting Minutes

In response to a Member request, the Board has begun posting approved Board Meeting minutes from February 2025 onward on the Membership portal. This step will enhance transparency and ensure that Members have timely access to important governance updates and decisions.

### Communication Process

To help streamline communication and ensure your questions and needs are directed to the right place, we've developed a Communication Process resource. Click [here](#) to review.



### Community Clean-up

An invitation has been sent out to all Members and tenants to join a co-op-wide clean-up event focused on removing litter and sprucing up our community. This is a great opportunity to connect with neighbours while making a visible difference in our community.

If you're interested in leading a clean-up in your area, please reach out— you set the date and location and we'll provide supplies like gloves, hats, garbage bags, and reacher tools to help you get started.

### Example Terms of Reference

We're pleased to share that an Example Terms of Reference (TOR) has been created to support Members who are interested in forming or joining committees. This new resource is now available on the Member Login and is designed to help guide Member-led initiatives that strengthen community engagement and align with our co-op's values.

The Example TOR outlines:

- The purpose of committees
- How committees are structured and governed
- Membership guidelines
- Meeting protocols
- Inclusive participation

We hope this tool will make it easier for Members to get involved, and help shape the future of our co-op. If you're interested in starting a committee, we encourage you to review the TOR and reach out with your ideas!





### CHF Canada Diversity Scholarship

We're proud to recognize Sam Krawec as the recipient of the 2025 CHF Canada Diversity Scholarship!

Sam is a Member of our Unity North Neighbourhood and has quickly embraced co-op living, drawn to its strong sense of community and purpose.

Sam is a passionate advocate for Indigenous rights, LGBTQ+ inclusion, and social justice. Their leadership shines through volunteer work with Hospice Halifax and the Mobile Outreach Street Health (MOSH) program, where they support people experiencing homelessness with care and dignity.

Sam is now pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Dalhousie University, aiming to serve marginalized communities through healthcare. A talented musician, they also bring people together through community jam sessions.



The CHF Canada Diversity Scholarship celebrates young co-op members who champion diversity and inclusion. We're excited to support Sam's journey and can't wait to see what they do next!

### Sharing our story nationally

Angela and Mark represented Compass NS at the CHF Canada AGM, speaking on a panel about our journey through amalgamation. Their insights helped shine a national spotlight on our co-op's growth and resilience.

Rooftops Canada  
Abri International



### Sector Support

We're pleased to announce that we have completed a three-year donation commitment to Rooftops Canada – Abri International to support the organization.

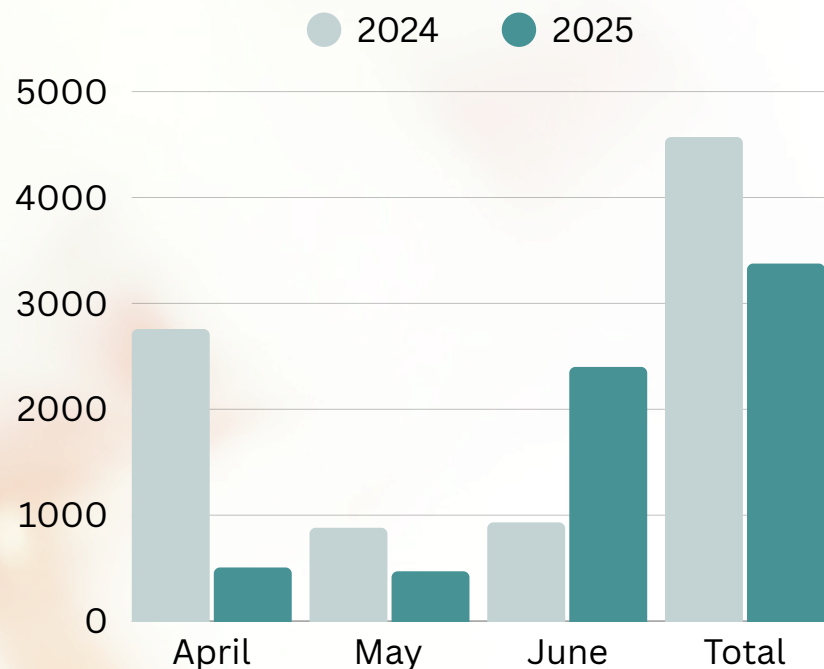
This partnership is rooted in shared values and a commitment to affordable housing and sustainable communities. By supporting Rooftops Canada, Compass NS extends its impact globally, helping communities in need and fostering mutual learning. This collaboration highlights Compass NS's dedication to co-operative principles and global solidarity.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

## Marketing and Communication

### Website

This quarter, website traffic experienced a decline compared to the same period last year. The early opening of the Unity North Neighbourhood Application in April 2024 caused a large influx of visitors, which was not replicated this year. However, traffic picked up again in June 2025 with the opening of the Heritage Hall and Barton School Development applications.



***Traffic decrease: 3.5%***

The top three pages that visited were Apply, and About.

## Sustainability, Growth and Development

### Tri County

Work is underway at both Barton School and Heritage Hall Development sites in Digby and Shelburne, with a construction timeline set for late summer to early fall 2025.



*Barton School, left, and Heritage Hall, right.*

We're working with local partners to welcome the first residents into our new developments. Applications for Digby and Shelburne are now open online!

<https://compassnshomes.coop/apply/>



## Unity North Neighbourhood

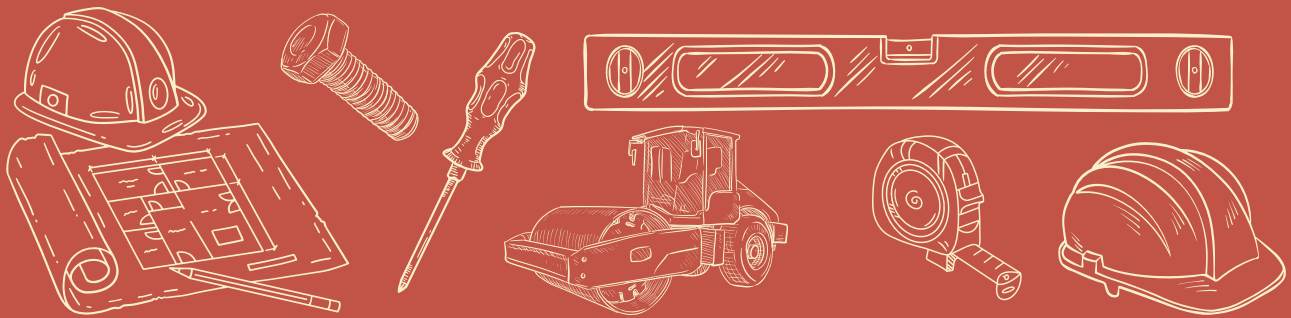
The development is complete, except for a few remaining deficiencies.



### **Current Developments**

Heritage Hall,  
Shelburne, NS - 5

Barton School,  
Digby NS - 8



### Affordable Housing Announcement

Compass NS was invited to participate in an affordable housing announcement in Digby.

Our Treasurer, Kim, represented Compass NS alongside other housing supporters and the Minister of Growth and Development

. Click [here](#) to learn more.