



*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 Neighbourhood - Spryfield, NS	3
Chameleon Neighbourhood - Sackville, NS	22
Central Dartmouth Neighbourhood - Central Dartmouth, NS	19
Gimmie Shelter Neighbourhood - Sydney, NS	9
Lake City Neighbourhood - Dartmouth, NS	4
New Armdale Westside Neighbourhood - Spryfield, NS	26
Topshee Neighbourhood - Antigonish, NS	10
Spanish Bay Neighbourhood - 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 September 2025, there were four vacant units within our 158-unit co-op. The four units are undergoing major repairs and maintenance.

### New members

We're excited to announce the first residents of the Heritage Hall Development have joined membership. Welcome Anthony and Aisha. We look forward to seeing them at the next General Membership Meeting.

## Planning

### Annual Plan

On August 1, Compass NS began work on its 2025–2026 Annual Planning tasks.

To learn more, log in to the Membership Portal on Compass NS's website to view the Annual Plan.

With the 2024-2025 fiscal year now complete, the Board is preparing for the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM).

At this meeting, members will:

- Review the annual financial report
- Elect directors
- Appoint an auditor
- Receive updates from the Board

### CHF Canada Risk Management Program

We are excited to share that Compass NS has been approved to participate in CHF Canada's Risk Management Program!

#### **What does this mean?**

By joining the program, Compass NS will receive a discount on commercial insurance simply by completing a few proactive steps:

- Complete the Risk Management Self-Assessment
- Attend an education session to learn how risk management helps keep the co-op safe and sound
- Plan unit inspections to identify potential risks that could lead to damage or costly claims
- Develop an Annual Risk Management Plan

These actions are part of our ongoing commitment to protecting our co-op and ensuring a safe, well-managed community for everyone!





## 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 Co-operative Homes 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.

### Education Opportunities

On Saturday, October 25, 2025, CHF Canada held its Atlantic Summit in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. This full-day event brought together co-operative members from across the region for engaging workshops, a keynote address, and valuable networking opportunities.



The banner features the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada logo at the top right. Below it, the text "ATLANTIC SUMMIT 2025" is prominently displayed in white on a blue background. Underneath, a calendar icon is shown next to the tagline "Together We Thrive: Building Connections and Sustaining Conversations". The event details "Saturday, October 25th, 2025" and "Best Western Dartmouth | 15 Spectacle Lake Drive., Dartmouth, NS | 902-463-2000" are listed. At the bottom, a collage of four photos shows participants engaged in various activities: a group discussion, a woman speaking, a round table meeting, and a group photo.

The Board is pleased to share that all seven directors attended, representing Compass NS and connecting with peers from across the Atlantic provinces.

For more details about the event, visit CHF Canada's website linked [here](#).

### Board events

In addition to the Summit, the Board met in person for a dedicated planning session. With the grand opening of Unity North scheduled during the same week, this gathering offered a timely opportunity to reflect on Compass NS's progress, review strategic priorities, and continue building strong governance practices.



### Grand Opening Celebration

The Grand Opening Event for Unity North Neighbourhood was held on **Friday, October 24**, we are excited to mark this milestone with members, funders, and community supporters. The event celebrates the collective efforts that brought Unity North Neighbourhood to life through member-led decisions, financial investment from our development reserve, and the dedication of volunteers and staff.

The committee planned a meaningful event that recognized:

- The contributions of members across all Compass NS neighbourhoods
- The support of funders and partners
- The growth of Compass NS as a co-operative rooted in affordability, inclusion, and community-led development
- The new residents of Unity North and their journey into co-operative living

Special thanks to the Grand Opening Committee, **Brianne, Caroline, Crystal, Jaclyn, Joy, Linda, Mark, Robyn, Sarah, and Sha'la**—for their thoughtful planning and commitment.

### Community Space Bookings – Unity North Neighbourhood

Work is underway to implement an online booking system for community room reservations. The Board has provided the necessary information to the website designer and is collaborating with property management to integrate the new functionality.

### Training & Development

The Board is exploring accessibility training options and has connected with an organization offering a free 30-day trial of online modules.

This will help determine whether a tailored workshop or broader training initiative would be a good fit for Compass NS.

### Art & Social Committee

The Art & Social Committee at Unity North Neighbourhood has officially been approved by the Board. Originally envisioned as an art-focused group, the committee has expanded to include broader social and community-building activities. A Terms of Reference was developed to outline the committee's purpose, scope, and operating principles.

Following the approval of the Terms of Reference, a survey was circulated to all Unity North Neighbourhood Members to gather input and encourage participation. Members were invited to join the committee or become Friends of the Committee which are supporters who may not attend meetings but contribute to activities and events.

This member-led initiative is a meaningful step toward fostering creativity, connection, and inclusion across the neighbourhood through collaborative projects and community events.

The Terms of Reference is available on the Membership Portal.



### DEI & Strategic Planning Initiatives

To support the 2025–2026 Annual Plan, Chanel Grenaway and Associates Inc. will lead a process focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion, while also guiding strategic planning efforts. This integrated approach will help shape Compass NS's priorities and ensure alignment with our values.

The consultant will begin with key informant interviews with Board and staff members in early October. These conversations will inform two facilitated learning sessions, scheduled for early 2026 for all members to attend. This session will explore shared language around equity, review frameworks, and identify pathways for action. A proposal is currently being developed to outline the full scope and timeline of the strategic planning process.

This work builds on Compass NS's commitment to inclusive governance and long-term planning, and will support the development of a refreshed strategic direction for the co-op.



### Spring Cleanup

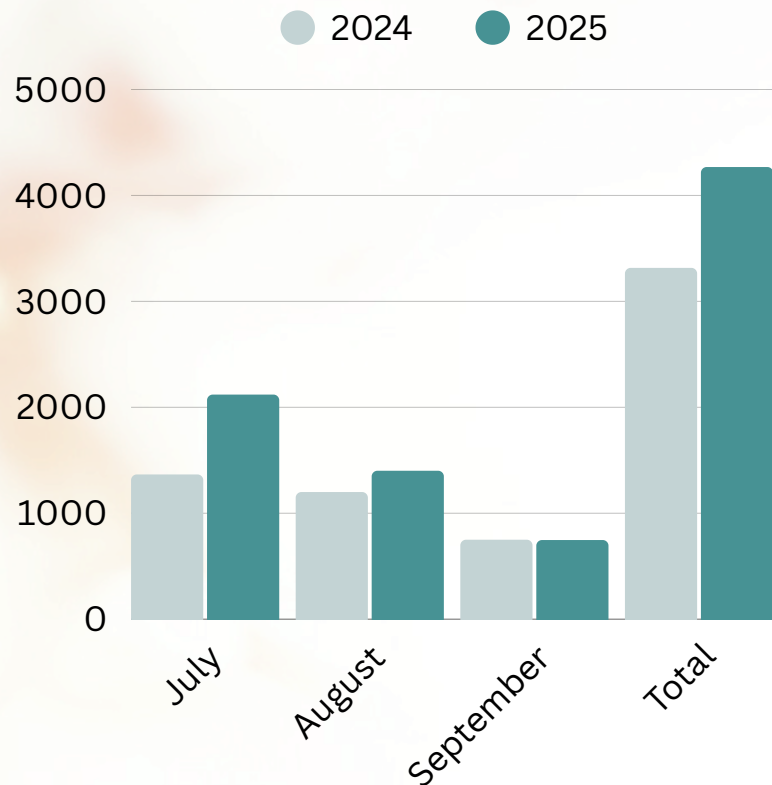
Invitations and reminders were sent to all members and residents for a community cleanup initiative. While no formal cleanups took place, the Board recognized two individuals who have consistently contributed to keeping their co-op neighbourhoods clean. Each received a small gift card as a thank you.

## Marketing and Communication

### Website

This quarter, website traffic increased compared to the same period last year.

The three most visited pages were Apply, Future Neighbourhoods, and Neighbourhoods—indicating strong interest from individuals exploring membership opportunities. This suggests that a significant portion of site traffic is coming from people eager to join and engage with the community.



***Traffic increase: 22%***



## Sustainability, Growth and Development

### Tri County

Compass NS, in partnership with CHF Canada and New Commons Development, is advancing two co-operative housing projects in rural Nova Scotia: Heritage Hall in Shelburne and the Barton School redevelopment in Digby.

Together, these projects will deliver 13 new co-op homes five units in Shelburne and eight in Digby.

### **Heritage Hall - Shelburne**

The conversion of the former community hall is now complete, and the first residents have moved in. There are still a few deficiencies to work out.

### **Barton School – Digby**

Construction at the Barton School site is nearing completion, with move-ins tentatively planned for November 1.

A new well was drilled to replace the existing water easement, yielding excellent water flow. A water treatment system is being installed to ensure safe drinking water.

### **Next Steps**

Upcoming steps include:

- Finalizing the land transfer for Heritage Hall parking
- Completing water system installation and testing at Barton School
- Occupancy

These developments reflect Compass NS's commitment to expanding co-operative housing in rural communities through member-driven planning and strong partnerships.

### **Current Developments**

Heritage Hall,  
Shelburne, NS - 5

Barton School,  
Digby NS - 8



*Heritage Hall (above) and  
Barton School (below)*

