COMPASS NS

compassnshomes.coop

Communications Report
July - September 2026



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
Barton School Neighbourhood, Digby, NS	8
Capeland Neighbourhood - Spryfield, NS	3
Chameleon Neighbourhood - Sackville, NS	22
Central Dartmouth Neighbourhood - Central Dartmouth, NS	19
Gimmie Shelter Neighbourhood - Sydney, NS	9
Heritage Hall Neighbourhood, Shelburne, NS	5
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 2026, four of our 181 homes are vacant. These homes are undergoing major repairs.

Annual Planning

The Board has approved Compass Nova Scotia's 2026-2027 Annual Plan, and work is already underway on this year's priorities. The plan focuses on reviewing policies, increasing member engagement, and supporting a strong and sustainable community.

What Is Annual Planning?

Each year, the Board sets key goals and priorities to guide its work. The annual planning process focuses efforts on the most important initiatives and outlines how they will be achieved. The Annual Plan provides a roadmap for the year, helping keep projects on track and aligned with the Board's strategic priorities.



Our Co-op at a Glance

As we move into the fall season, we are pleased to share updates from across Compass NS. This has been a busy and exciting period for our co-op, with community celebrations, member engagement activities, strategic planning work, and improvements to our neighbourhoods. Thank you to everyone who has participated, volunteered, attended events, and helped strengthen our co-op community.

Membership Meeting

The Board is planning the co-op's annual general meeting in November.
At this meeting, members will come together to review the annual financial report, appoint an auditor, receive updates from the Board, and elect candidates to fill two resident member Board vacancies.

The Board is working on a new nomination process. Please watch your emails for further information on how to self nominate or nominate a fellow member.

The AGM is an important opportunity to learn about the co-op's activities, have your voice heard, and participate in decisions that shape the community.

We hope to see you there!





Celebrating Our New Communities

In September, Compass NS hosted the Grand Opening Celebration for Barton School Neighbourhood and Heritage Hall.

Approximately 50 members, partners, elected officials, and community supporters attended the event to celebrate these important additions to our co-op.

The event showcased the power of co-operative housing and highlighted how former community buildings can be transformed into affordable homes. Most importantly, it provided an opportunity to celebrate the residents who now call these communities home.

A special thank you goes out to the members who welcomed guests, shared their stories, and helped make the day a success. The co-operative spirit was on full display, and the feedback received from attendees was overwhelmingly positive. The event also attracted media attention, helping raise awareness about co-operative housing and Compass NS across Nova Scotia.

Following a request from residents, the Board approved funding for a permanent community sign at Barton School Neighbourhood. The sign will help visitors find the community more easily while increasing awareness of Compass NS within the local area. Construction is now underway, and we look forward to seeing the finished result.



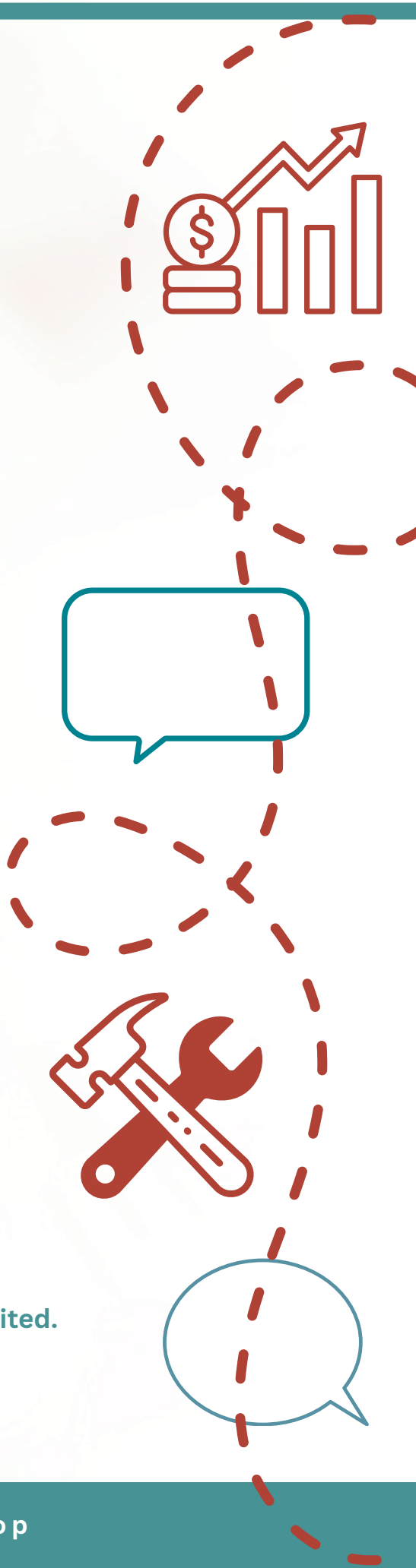
Strategic planning process

The Strategic Planning Committee continues to guide the development of Compass NS's first strategic plan. Earlier this year, members completed a survey and shared valuable feedback about the future of the co-op. The survey provided important insights into member priorities, community strengths, opportunities for growth, and areas where Compass NS can better support members and neighbourhoods.

The next phase of the process will focus on member and resident focus groups. These virtual sessions will be facilitated by an independent consultant and are designed to give participants an opportunity to share their experiences, ideas, and hopes for the future of Compass NS. Discussions will explore our shared vision, values, priorities, and goals while helping identify the actions needed to build a strong, inclusive, and resilient co-op for years to come.

To ensure everyone has an opportunity to participate, several focus group sessions will be offered between October 13 and October 17, with each session limited to 12 participants. Feedback gathered through these discussions will help shape the draft strategic plan that will be presented to members for further review and input.

Co-operative housing is built by its members, and this planning process is an important opportunity for members to help guide the future direction of Compass NS. Thank you to everyone who has participated so far and to those who have registered for upcoming sessions. Your voice is helping shape the future of our co-op.



Interested in participating?
Registration is required and spaces are limited.
Members can register at:
TinyURL.com/CompassPlanning
Click here to learn more

Community Building

Members at both Unity North and Barton School Neighbourhoods came together over the summer to host community events. These gatherings provided opportunities for neighbours to connect, build relationships, and enjoy time together.

Thank you to all members who helped organize and participate in these events. Strong communities are built through member involvement, and it was wonderful to see neighbours coming together.

If you are interested in hosting an event at your neighbourhood please contact kromain@pavilion.coop.









Planning

Learning Opportunity

In September, three Compass NS members attended an all-day education event hosted by Lorentchia Housing Co-op in Antigonish.

The event brought together members from several co-ops for learning, networking, and discussion about co-operative housing. Participants reported positive feedback and appreciated the opportunity to connect with fellow co-operators.





Compass NS will also be represented at CHF Canada's Atlantic Summit this October in Moncton. Five Board members will attend on behalf of the co-op. The event brings together co-op members from across Atlantic Canada to share ideas, learn new skills, and strengthen connections within the co-operative movement.



Unity North Security Updates

Based on feedback received from members, the Board approved upgrades to the Unity North intercom system. The enhancements will improve building access and security while responding to concerns raised by residents.

Accessibility Updates

The Board recently approved accessibility renovations at a member's home to support their return from hospital. The project includes modifications to create a main-level bedroom and the installation of a wheelchair-accessible ramp, helping ensure the home meets the member's evolving needs. These improvements reflect Compass NS's commitment to supporting members and helping members remain in their homes whenever possible.

Member Engagement

Special Resolution Meeting

In July, Compass NS held a Special Resolution Meeting to consider the sale of the vacant property located at 7 Park Street in the Gimmie Shelter Neighbourhood.

The property has been vacant for several years and would require significant investment to redevelop. The Board recommended the sale so that any proceeds could be reinvested into improvements and repairs within the former Gimmie Shelter community.

We are pleased to report that all members in attendance voted in favour of the Special Resolution, providing unanimous support for the sale of the property and the Board's plan to reinvest the proceeds into existing housing assets.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this important governance decision and helped support the long-term sustainability of our co-op.



Supporting Rooftops Canada

Compass NS continues to support Rooftops Canada and its work with housing co-operatives and community organizations around the world. This quarter, Rooftops Canada recognized Compass NS and our contribution to international co-operative housing efforts through a feature on its website and social media channels. Click here to read more.

Through our partnership with Rooftops Canada, Compass NS has also had opportunities to participate in learning exchanges with housing leaders from other countries, share our experiences, and learn from innovative approaches to community housing around the world.

We are proud to support organizations that strengthen affordable housing, community development, and co-operative solutions both at home and internationally.

Community-Led Housing Leadership

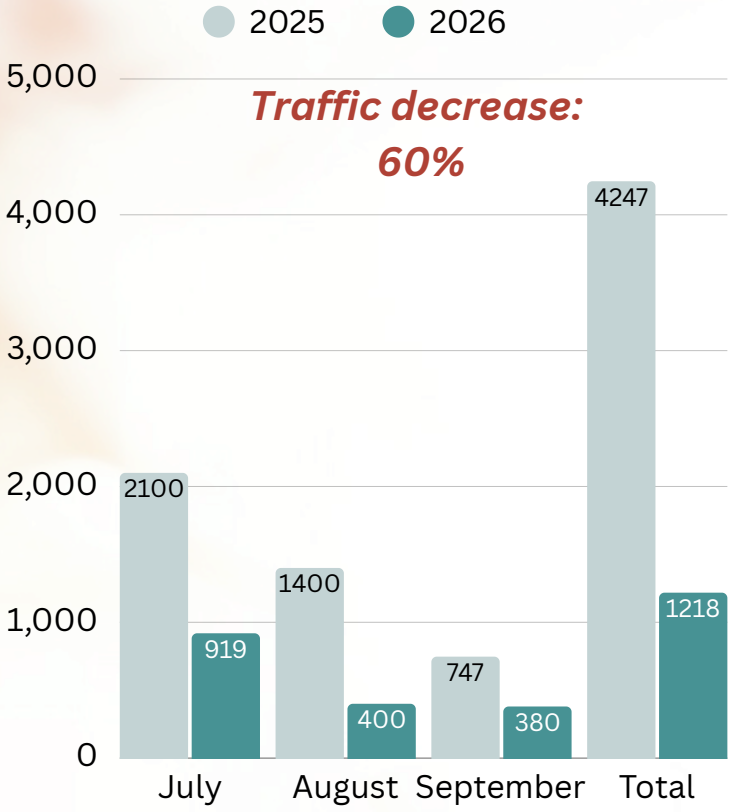
Compass NS was proud to see Board Member Curtis Whiley share his expertise on a national stage this quarter. Through his work as Founder and CEO of the Upper Hammonds Plains Community Land Trust, Curtis participated in a national housing webinar focused on community-led housing solutions and creating affordable housing opportunities for Black communities. Curtis's leadership reflects the important role Compass NS members play in advancing affordable housing solutions across Nova Scotia and Canada. Click here to learn more.

Marketing and Communication

Website

Website traffic was lower than it was during the same period last year, which was expected. Last July saw unusually high traffic because Heritage Hall and Barton School were actively leasing homes, bringing many new visitors to the website.

Despite the overall decrease, the most frequently visited pages continue to be Apply, About, and Neighbourhoods. This shows continued interest in Compass NS and how to join our community.



Thank you members

Thank you to all members who continue to build welcoming, supportive communities across Compass NS. Whether you attended an event, volunteered your time, participated in strategic planning, shared feedback, or simply connected with your neighbours, your involvement helps make our co-op stronger.

We look forward to continuing these conversations and working together to build the future of Compass NS.