

*This communication report is being sent from the City of Saint John/Menaquesk which is situated in the traditional territory of the Wolastoqiyik/Maliseet. The Wolastoqiyik/Maliseet along with their indigenous neighbours, the Mi'Kmaq/Mi'kmaq and Passamaquoddy/Peskotomuhkati signed Peace and Friendship Treaties with the British Crown in the 1700s that protected their rights to lands and resources.*



**Co-op Information**

Community	# Units
City Centre	36
Heatherway	4
High Meadow Park	20
Jenny's Spring	33
Lower Cove	6
Neighbourhood	28
North End Family	36
South City	36
Wright Street	57
<b>Total Units</b>	<b>292</b>

Vacancies

At the end of March 2024, there were six (6) vacant units within the co-operative.

Membership

The Board welcomes new members, James, Lamis, Tina, Zakaria to the co-operative.

Long-time Member and former USJ Director, Lyn King passed away unexpectedly in January. A strong co-operative advocate, Lyn was a driving force of the 2015 USJ Merger, she will be missed.



## Planning

### Strategic and Annual Planning

The Board approved the 2024/25 Annual Plan at the February 2024 Board Meeting. The Plan is available for review on the Board Member login section of the website and will be shared with the Members in the Membership Handbook and Membership login once complete.

### Board

The Board currently has three vacant Board of Director positions. The Communities that the Board is looking to engage Members to fill the vacancies are Wright Street Community, Lower Cove Community and Neighbourhood Community.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a Board Member, please contact the office at [office@housingalternatives.ca](mailto:office@housingalternatives.ca)

[Click here to learn more about the USJ Board of Directors.](#)

### Policy & Procedures

The Board approved a welcome process to orientate and welcome new Members to the co-op. The process includes sending informational correspondence and providing a welcome package.

The Board has approved an updated Spending Policy. The main updates to note on the Spending Policy from the approved policy are:

- spending thresholds,
- contract quote requirements, and
- addition of a credit card process.

The Board also approved a Unit Allocation Policy that will replace the Allotment of Units and Waiting List Policy.

The Unit Allocation Policy and the Spending Policy will be presented to the Members at the next General Membership Meeting for review and approval.



## Member Engagement

### Community Housing Transformation Tenant Initiative funding

USJ was successful in obtaining a funding grant from the Community Housing Transformation Centre (CHTC) to complete a Strategic Plan which includes consultation and feedback with the General Membership. This process will be completed in 2024. Please watch for details on how to get involved!



Community Housing Transformation Centre  
Centre de transformation du logement communautaire

### Advocating together: Expedite the launch of the co-operative housing development program

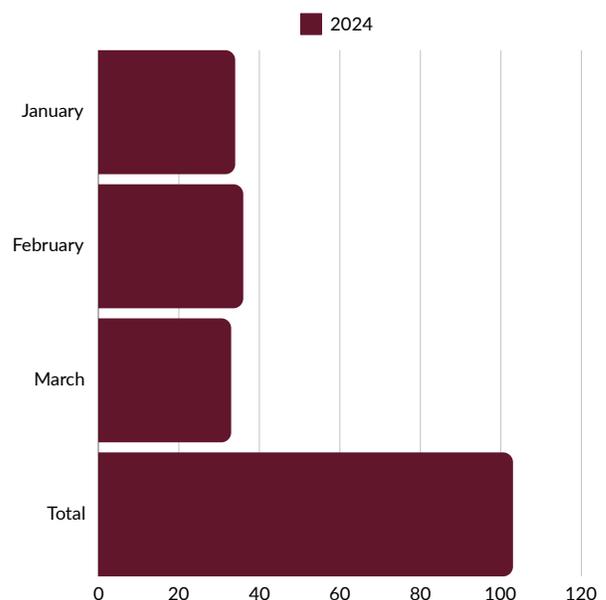
In April 2022, the Federal government announced the Co-operative Housing Development Program – the first federal investment in co-op housing in 30 years. The co-op housing sector welcomed new investment after years of advocacy and have put forward expert advice during the co-design process.

Unified Saint John supported CHF Canada’s ask for housing co-ops to support the Advocating together: Expedite the launch of the co-op housing development program Campaign by passing and submitting a motion to support the campaign and submit letters to the Minister of Housing and MP’s. Click [here](#) to learn more about how you can show your support.

## Marketing and Communication

### Website

The USJ website [unifiedsaintjohnhousing.coop](https://unifiedsaintjohnhousing.coop) has a password protected area to access information and resources for Board Members. The Members section of the website is currently under construction. Once complete, the Members will have a password protected area to access important Membership information.



# COMMUNITY BOARD

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2024

## Communications

Housing Alternatives would like to gather emails and phone numbers. If you have not already provided your email, please send it to [office@housingalternatives.ca](mailto:office@housingalternatives.ca). Housing Alternatives also can send out text alerts to Members if there is important information that needs to be shared quickly (i.e. major storm). If you would like to be included on the text alert, please send your cell phone number as well. If you are on the list and want to be removed, please reply with stop.

## CHF Canada Diversity Scholarship

Applications are now open for the 2024 Diversity Scholarships. Any Member (or child of a Member) who is a new or returning university or college student and who are actively involved in making positive contributions to their community, may be eligible for a scholarship from CHF Canada.

Learn more about eligibility and the application process [here](#). Applications close **April 30, 2024**.

Did you know?  
Saint John is the only city that is located on the Bay of Fundy.  
Click [here](#) to learn more about our city.



## Personal content and liability insurance

All co-op Members must have insurance for their personal contents. This insurance is to protect yourself and the contents of your home from the unexpected. Since USJ are Members of CHF Canada all co-op Members are eligible for MemberGuard at a better rate. MemberGuard provides liability insurance and covers the full replacement value of everything you own.

Call Co-operators today to find out more and get a free, no-obligation quote, at 1-888-312-1118.

## General Membership Meeting

A General Member Meeting will be held on **April 24, 2024**. The meeting will be held to approve the operating budget and updated policies.

Members are encouraged to attend and will be entered into a draw to WIN a grocery store gift card!

## Canada Revenue Agency Information

To find out if you are eligible or to find a free tax clinic near you, go to [canada.ca/taxes-help](https://canada.ca/taxes-help) or call 1-855-516-4405.

