

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
Total Units	292

Vacancies

At the end of June 2024, there were five (5) vacant units within the co-operative.

Membership

The Board welcomes new Members, Asher, Caitlyn, Fartun, Kamar, Rachel, Rose, Rukaya, and Samar to the co-operative.

CHF Canada

The Board would like to congratulate Emmanuelle Proud-Thomson, USJ President. Member Co-operatives elected Emmanuelle to serve on the Board of CHF Canada representing New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.



The CHF Canada Board has 16 seats in total, with nine regional representatives, one Indigenous Communities representative, and six directors at-large. These positions are elected by the membership. [You can learn more about the CHF Canada Board here.](#)

CHF Canada AGM

More than 500 co-op members and supporters attended CHF Canada's 2024 Annual Meeting in Winnipeg to learn, network and make important decisions in support of the meeting theme 'Building Communities Together' and our shared vision of Co-op Housing for All.

Four Board Members (Emmanuelle, Guy, Laura and Lynn) attended the CHF Canada Annual General Meeting June 6-8, 2024, and completed shifts at Tradeshow Booth that USJ shared with The Range Housing Co-operative and Compass Nova Scotia Co-operative Homes. USJ gave away logoed keychain bottle openers and brochures to fellow housing co-op members and supporters.



Planning

Annual Planning

The Board approved the 2024/25 Annual Plan which includes:

1. Increasing Membership Engagement by 10%.
2. Increasing visibility in the greater community by completing one community initiative.
3. Increasing education & training and perform Board Self-evaluation.

The full Plan is available for review on the Member login section of the website in the Membership Handbook and Membership login section.

Policy & Procedures

At the member meeting in April, the Members voted to rescind the Allotment of Units and Waiting List Policy and the Spending Policy in the Occupancy Policy, passed by the General Membership on January 27, 2016, and replace them with a new Unit Allocation Policy and a new Spending Policy.

All policies and processes can be found on the members portal on the website:

<https://unifiedsaintjohnhousing.coop/members-login/>

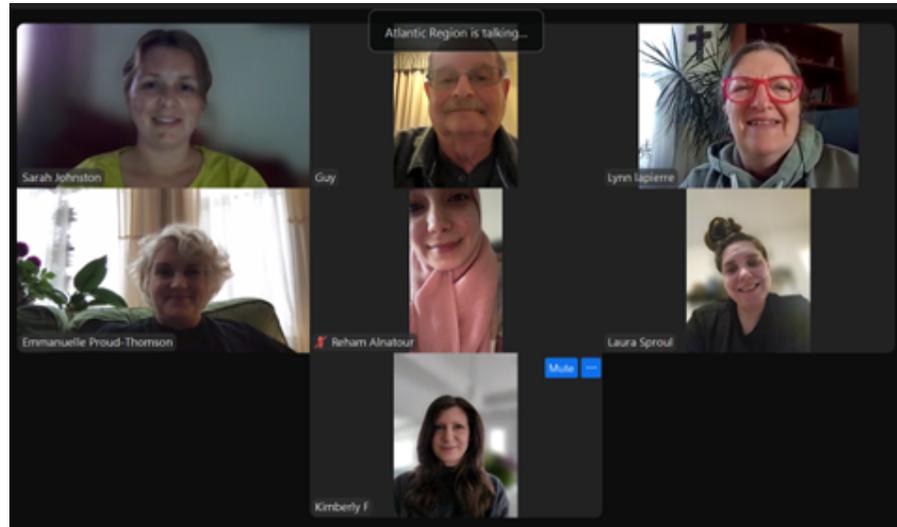


Board

The Board is pleased to welcome Rahem Alnatour, from the Wright Street Community to the Board.

The Board currently has two vacant Board of Director positions. The Communities that the Board is looking to engage Members to fill the vacancies are Lower Cove Community and Neighbourhood Community. If you are interested, please contact the office at office@housingalternatives.ca

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



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. Sessions are underway, with virtual sessions scheduled for September 3 and October 3, 2024.

The Co-op will be developing a Strategic Plan which includes a vision, mission and core values and may receive a new Co-op logo. Members will have the opportunity to contribute their thoughts about what USJ is, and what they want for the future, and help determine what are the strategic initiatives and direction resulting in a formal 3-year strategic plan.



Community Housing Transformation Centre
Centre de transformation du logement communautaire

Member Handbook

A new member handbook has been created for USJ Members. The purpose of the Member Handbook is to provide general information about Unified Saint John, housing co-ops and links to resources important to Members.

It can be found on the member login section of the website.



Marketing and Communication

Website

The USJ website unifiedsaintjohnhousing.coop has a password protected area to access information and resources for Board Members and General Members. If you are unsure of the login credentials, please contact Catherine at catherine.belliveau@housingalternatives.ca

The pages that were visited the most were the home page and the Member Login. 169 people logged into the portal.

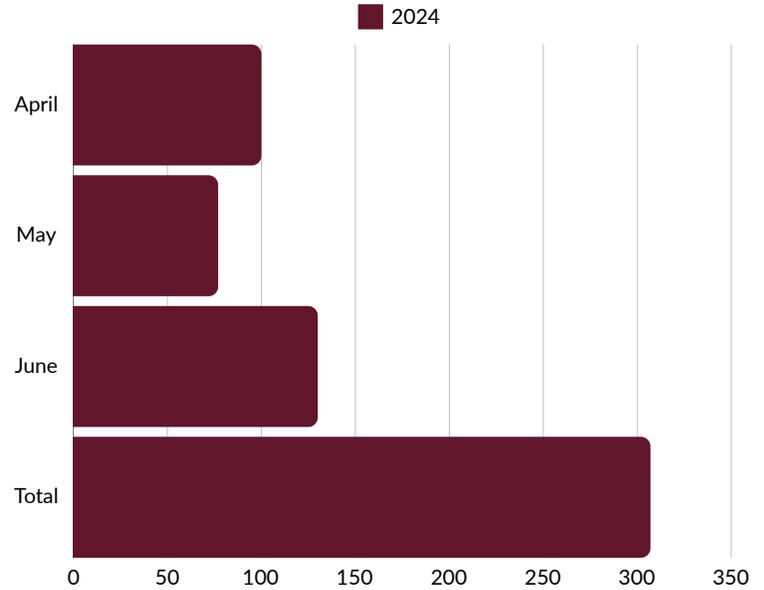
New Development Program Launch

In June 2024, the Federal Government announced \$1.5 billion in funding for the Co-op Housing Development Program to expand co-op rental housing. This is the largest investment supporting the co-op housing sector in the last 30 years. The program is estimated to support the development of thousands of affordable rental co-operative housing units by 2028. This program will access forgivable loans along with low-interest repayable loans to build rental co-operative housing, supporting a new generation of non-profit co-operative housing.

The Co-op Housing Development Program was co-designed with the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada and the co-operative housing sector.

The application portal opens
July 15, 2024.

[Click here for more information.](#)



COMMUNITY BOARD

APRIL - JUNE 2024

Strategic Plan

USJ is currently undergoing a Strategic Planning Project. A strategic plan is a roadmap to get an organization focused on where they want to go and where they will be in 3-5 years.

This is a member-led exercise that can define our vision for the future and identify our mission, values, initiatives and goals and new co-op logo.

Members can take part by joining the virtual sessions and providing feedback through online surveys.

Members have a chance to win a \$200 or a \$100 grocery card. Each time a member attends a session they will receive a ballot (Board Members are ineligible). The draw will take place during the final session on October 1, 2024.

Communications

If you have not already provided your email and cell phone number to Housing Alternatives, please send them to office@housingalternatives.ca. Housing Alternatives sends out text alerts to Members if there is vital information that needs to be shared quickly (i.e. major storm). If you no longer want to receive the text alerts, please reply with "stop".

What's Up Saint John (Event)

Looking for fun things to do in Saint John, activities, seminars, classes, charity events, sports games, kid's events, free events, paid events; if it's an event happening in Saint John, it's listed in this Facebook Group! You'll never be able to say there's nothing to do in Saint John again!

[Click here to find out more.](#)

General Membership Meeting

At the General Member Meeting on April 24, 2024, those members in attendance approved the 2024-2025 operating budget and presented policies.

Stay Up to Date

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

Members of Unified Saint John 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 co-op housing news, CHF Canada services and benefits, upcoming events and more.

