



*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	37
Heatherway	40
High Meadow Park	20
Jenny's Spring	33
Lower Cove	6
Neighbourhood	28
North End Family	37
South City	36
Wright Street	57
<b>Total Units</b>	<b>294</b>

#### Vacancies

At the end of March 2025, there were five (5) vacant units within the co-operative. One is a subsidized unit, the other four (4) are market housing charges.

#### Membership

Wishing a warm welcome to seven (7) new members to the USJ co-op community. Welcome Batulo, Brandon, Dana, Marlee, Rhoda, Robin, and Siraji.



## Planning

### Annual Planning

The Board continues to work on the 2024/25 annual plan that covers July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

Starting July 1, 2025, the board has set ambitious goals to align with USJ's new strategic plan. These goals are designed to enhance our organization's effectiveness, ensure future stability, educate our members, and support growth. Here are the key objectives:

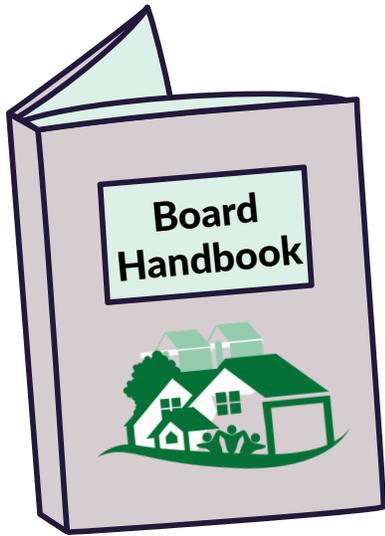
- **Improve Organizational Efficiency:** We aim to update two existing policies and create three new processes or resources. These changes will streamline operations and improve overall effectiveness.
- **Ensure Future Stability:** By completing detailed reports, we will identify future maintenance needs. This proactive approach will help us plan for and address potential issues before they arise.
- **Educate Members:** We will conduct a comprehensive member survey to understand their needs and preferences. Based on the survey results, we will develop a roadmap for member training, ensuring our members are well-informed and equipped with the necessary skills.
- **Support Growth:** Our goal is to develop a robust Growth Strategy. As part of this strategy, we will identify one new opportunity for development or acquisition, positioning our organization for future expansion and success.

### Board

The Board welcomes Lynn Wood, who has been appointed to the Board until the next Annual General Meeting in October.

#### Unified Saint John Housing Co-operative: 2024-2025 Board of Directors

Board Members	Community	Position
Lynn LaPierre	City Centre	Secretary
Sarah Johnston	Heatherway	Director
Laura Sproul	Highmeadow Park	Treasurer
Kimberly Fawkes	Jenny's Spring	Director
Lisa Morris	Lower Cove	Director
Karla Rodriguez	Neighbourhood	Director
Guy Wilcox	North End Family	Vice President
Emmanuelle Proud-Thomson	South City	President
Lynn Wood	Wright Street	Director



### Board Handbook

A new Board Handbook was created in support of USJ's 2024-2025 Annual Plan's goal to increase education & training and perform Board self-evaluation.

The Board Handbook provides the information needed for the Board to understand their role and to use as a reference. It outlines the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Directors and highlights additional information that all Board Members should be aware of.

The handbook is available on the Board Portal of the website and will be updated as new resources and information become available.

### Harassment & Discrimination

The Board has approved a new Harassment & Discrimination Policy which was presented to the Members at the General Membership Meeting on April 8th, for review and approval.

USJ is deeply committed to upholding human rights and the prevention of violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, or discrimination. The draft policy clearly outlines unacceptable behaviors, establishes a process for reporting complaints, and creates a safe and respectful environment by demonstrating that the Co-op takes these issues seriously, thus protecting members, guests and contractors from potential harm; it also helps to comply with legal requirements and minimize the risk of lawsuits related to discrimination or harassment.



## **Member Engagement**

### Member Meeting

The semi-annual Member Meeting was held at the Nick Nicolle Center on April 8th. Membership approved the 2025-2026 Budget and the Harassment & Discrimination Policy. Members also received an update on the annual plan.



Member Gift

In January, the Board sent a New Year card along with a Peace by Chocolate bar to all the USJ Members. This was a small gesture of appreciation for being a valued part of our co-op community.

Thank you to all Members for your continued support!

Education Opportunities

The CHF Canada Annual General Meeting will be held in Toronto, June 11-14, 2025. Six (6) Board Members will be attending, talking part in workshops and networking opportunities and representing USJ at the conference tradeshow. Emmanuelle Proud Thomson will also be attending as CHF Canada Regional Director representing New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

The New Brunswick Non-Profit Housing Association's Conference is scheduled for May 29-31, 2025, in Fredericton, and five (5) Board Members will be attending this event as well.



Meet the Candidate Session

CHF Canada and Housing Alternatives hosted a Federal Election Campaign Event on April 8, at the Nick Nicolle Community Centre following the USJ Member Meeting.

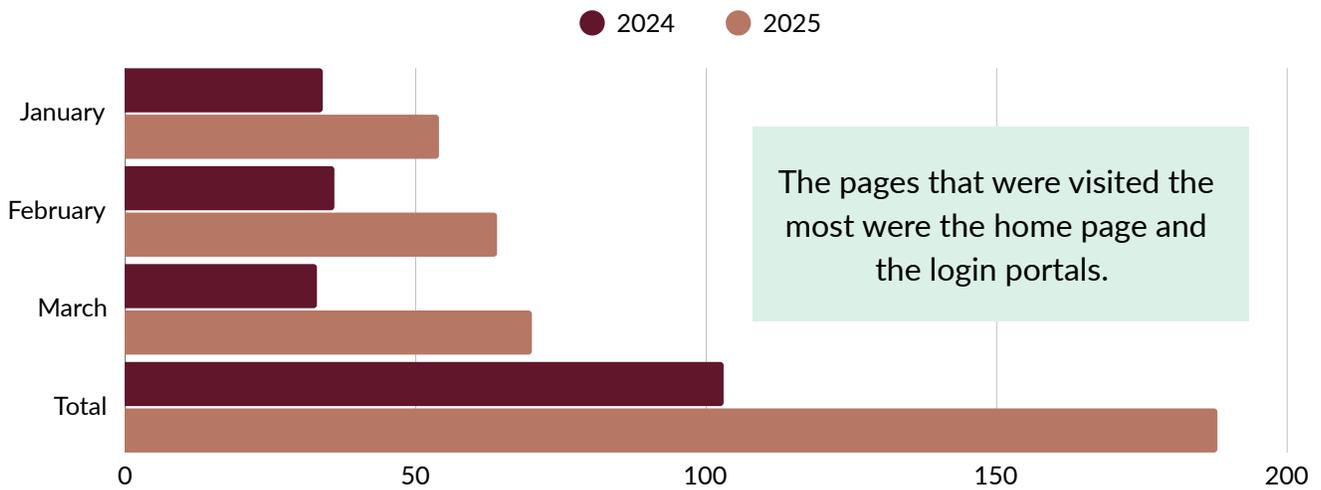
It was an inspiring evening as we rallied support of co-op housing and built momentum for the upcoming federal election! This event was an opportunity to bring together co-op members, housing advocates, and the broader community to discuss how we can build co-op housing and build a better future.



## Marketing and Communication

### Website

The USJ website [unifiedsaintjohnhousing.coop](http://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 Housing Alternatives at [office@housingalternatives.ca](mailto:office@housingalternatives.ca)



### Mission:

Our **mission** is to create sustainable affordable housing solutions that ensure safety, respect, and community engagement for all residents.

### Vision:

Our **vision** is to provide affordable quality housing by ensuring sustainability and development.

### Values:

Our Core Values are **Community Safety and Security, Inclusiveness, Member Involvement**

### Strategic Priorities:

**Growth:** Building and sustaining more units

**Training & Education:** Strengthening member knowledge

**Operations:** Maintaining future viability

**Administration:** Enhancing organizational effectiveness

# COMMUNITY BOARD

JANUARY - MARCH 2025

## Member Knowledge & Training.

Over the coming year, we will be highlighting sections of the Member Handbook to increase awareness about co-op housing and USJ. Our co-op is a community-oriented, non-profit organization that is member-owned and member-occupied, consisting of 294 homes located in various areas (communities) in the city of Saint John.



As a member of USJ Housing Co-op, you are:

- A voting member who contributes to the governance of the co-op
- Part of a community where neighbours look out for one another.
- Living in housing, which will stay affordable because it is run on a non-profit basis and is never resold.
- Linked to other forms of co-operative enterprises active in banking, retail, farming, insurance, daycare, health services and more, and
- A member of a worldwide movement

As a member of USJ, you have the right to:

- Vote on the annual budget, which sets the monthly housing charges and affects the quality of your housing – for example, how much the co-op will spend on property upkeep.
- Elect a board of directors made up of people who live in your co-op.
- Run for the board of directors yourself.
- Receive audited financial statements that show how the co-op spent your money.
- Live there for as long as you like, if you keep to the by-laws and policies agreed on by the co-op membership

To learn more about what it means to be a Member of USJ, and see the full Member Handbook, check out the [member portal](#) of the website.

## Did you know?

Saint John holds the title of being Canada's first incorporated city, receiving its royal charter in 1785 and the Saint John City Market, established in 1876 is the oldest continuously operating farmers' market in North America, offering local specialties, artisan crafts, and ready-to-eat meals.

### Membership Meeting

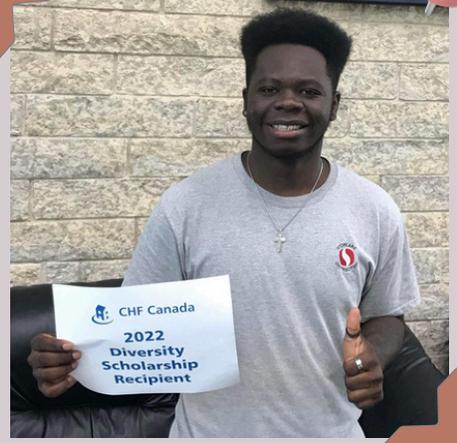
The General Membership Meeting was held on April 8, 2025, at the Nick Nicolle Community Centre. Members approved the 2025-2026 Operating Budget and a new Harassment & Discrimination Policy. Members also learned what the Board will be focusing on through the annual and strategic plans.

### Member Information

With the summer months approaching, a reminder to members due to insurance restrictions, the installation and use of pools, trampolines, and firepits are not allowed on USJ property.

Members are also reminded to that smoking, subletting of units, and noise after 11 pm (quiet time 11 pm – 7 pm) is not permitted at USJ. These restrictions are outlined in the occupancy agreement.

To review the occupancy agreement and policies used at USJ, check out the [member portal](#) of the website.



### 2025 Diversity Scholarship

The 2025 application period is now open for the CHF Canada Diversity scholarships.

Scholarships will be awarded to recipients entering post-secondary education or to full-time students currently pursuing a degree. The goal of the Diversity Scholarship program is to financially support emerging leaders of the co-op housing movement in their pursuit of post-secondary education.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

