



*This communication report is being sent from the City of Saint John/Menagesk 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

As of the end of June 2025, there was only one vacant unit in our 294-unit co-operative, this unit is available at the market housing charge.

### Membership

We welcomed seven (7) new members into the co-op community. Welcome Arinola, Brenda, Francis, Kevin, Khaled, Mohamed and Najwa,



# Planning

## Annual Planning

We wrapped up our 2024/25 Annual Plan, which focused on member engagement, visibility, education, and governance. Starting July 1, we launched our new plan with bold goals:

- Streamlining operations with updated policies
  - Ensuring stability through proactive maintenance
  - Empowering members with surveys and training
  - Exploring new development opportunities
- Together, we're building a stronger, more sustainable future.*



## Board

We adopted a new Emergency Meeting Process to ensure quick, transparent decision-making when urgent issues arise.

We also approved a refreshed infographic that clearly communicates who we are as a co-operative community, what we do, and why it matters—this graphic will be used for outreach and engagement with members, partners and the broader community.



Unified Saint John Housing Co-op

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### The Co-op Difference

- DEMOCRATIC**  
Owned and controlled by the members who live there.  

- NON PROFIT**  
Monthly charges are designed to cover expenses.  

- INCLUSIVE**  
Co-ops welcome everyone who is ready to accept the terms of membership.  

- SECURE**  
A place to put down roots. No one can sell your home out from under you.  


Embracing the 6th co-operative principle:

## Co-operation among Co-operatives

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Unified Saint John Housing Co-operative (USJ) was formed in January 2016. By 2019, through the merger of nine small housing co-ops, we had grown to provide safe, affordable housing in Saint John, New Brunswick.

With 294 homes and a commitment to democratic, non-profit, and inclusive principles, USJ fosters community and mutual support.

Our co-operative spirit strengthens our community by sharing resources and supporting each other to achieve common goals.

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

**Our Vision:** to provide affordable quality housing by ensuring sustainability and development.

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

For more information, visit our website:  
<https://unifiedsaintjohnhousing.coop/>

## CHF Canada Annual General Meeting

Six directors attended the national conference in Toronto (June 11-14), gaining insights, networking, and showcasing USJ at the tradeshow. The event offered a platform for professional development through workshops, meaningful networking with peers from across the country, and increased visibility for USJ at the conference tradeshow. This engagement not only strengthened our connections within the co-operative housing sector but also brought back fresh insights and ideas to support our ongoing work and strategic goals.



**2025 ANNUAL MEETING**  
Building homes, changing lives



## NBNPHA Conference

Three directors took part in the provincial conference in Fredericton (May 29–31). Émmanuelle Proud-Thomson spoke on a panel about leveraging reserves for housing impact. The event provided valuable opportunities for learning, networking, and representing USJ within the broader non-profit housing community.



## Growth & Development

In January, the Board strategically decided to acquire two vacant properties on Elliott Row that were listed for sale. Seeing the potential in these sites, the Board agreed that acquiring them fits perfectly with USJ's long-term vision for community development.

The purchase of the properties was finalized in May. These sites will be held for future development, reinforcing our commitment to thoughtful growth and broadening our impact in our neighbourhoods.

## Member Engagement

### Exterior Door Painting

As part of ongoing conversations around community engagement, the board is exploring creative ways to strengthen the sense of unity and shared identity across our co-operative communities. One idea currently under discussion is a simple yet symbolic gesture: having all buildings feature the same colour exterior doors.

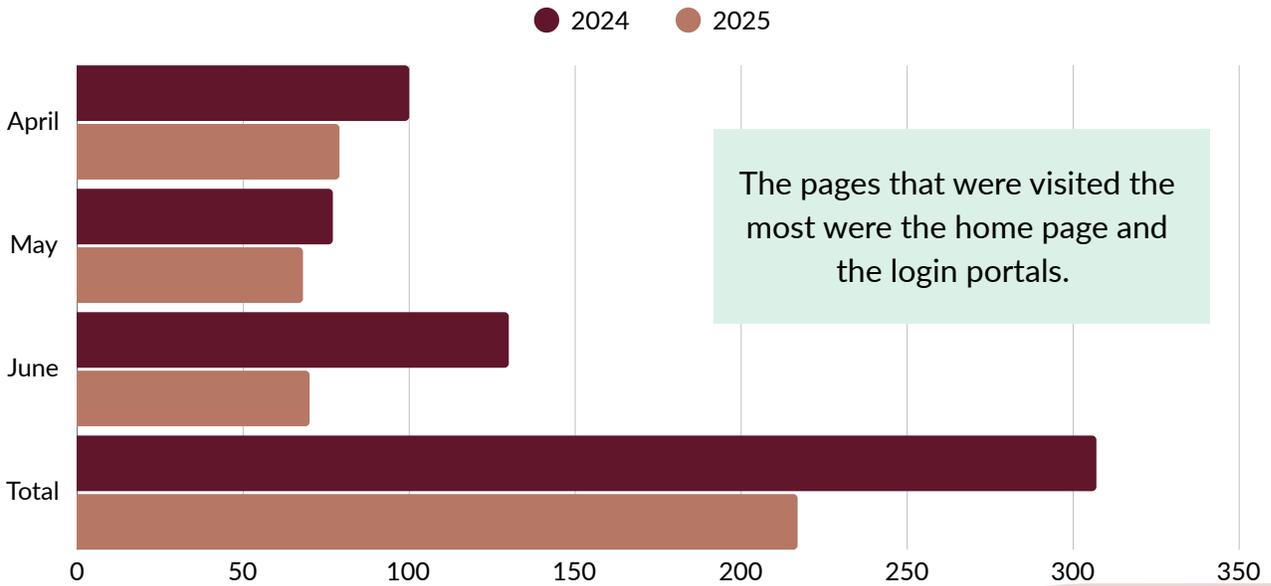
This initiative isn't just about aesthetics—it's about creating a visual thread that connects us all, reinforcing the idea that while each community is unique, we are all part of something bigger. Stay tuned as the board continues to explore this and other ideas that bring our values to life in visible, meaningful ways.



## Marketing and Communication

### Website

Our website, [unifiedsaintjohnhousing.coop](http://unifiedsaintjohnhousing.coop), includes a password-protected area for members. If you need login help, 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

APRIL - JUNE 2025

## Member Knowledge & Training

We'll be highlighting sections of the recently approved Member Handbook throughout the year to build awareness and understanding of co-op living at USJ.



Member Members are essential to the success of our co-op. While the board leads governance, its effectiveness depends on the support and decisions of the members who elect them. Good governance is a shared responsibility—built on ethical leadership, sound practices, and active member engagement.

How can Unified Saint John members support good governance?

You can help your board succeed by:

- Reviewing and following the co-op's By-laws and rules ([found here](#))
- Attending members' meetings
- Paying your housing charges on time
- Being open to new ideas and change
- Showing respect to fellow members, the board, and the property management team

USJ holds two general membership meetings each year:

- AGM in October (Board elections, financials)
- Budget Meeting in April (Annual budget approval)

To review the full handbook and other membership resources, check out the [member portal](#) of the website.

## Board Nominations

*Are you passionate about your community? Ready to make a difference?*

Four Board positions are opening this October. We're calling on members from Jenny Springs, Neighbourhood, North End Family, and Wright Street to consider running.

If you're 19+, in good standing, and ready to lead—this is your moment. We especially encourage nominations from under-represented groups and emerging leaders, as we value diverse perspectives and experiences. A formal call is coming soon!



## Saint John Pride 2025

As part of our ongoing commitment to community engagement and inclusion, we're thrilled to sponsor Saint John Pride 2025 and proudly participate in the Pride Parade!

These vibrant events reflect our core values of diversity, equity, and belonging, while giving us the chance to connect with the broader community and celebrate the spirit of Saint John.

### **Want to walk with us in the parade?**

We'd love to have you join the USJ crew as we march with pride, joy, and unity. It's a fantastic way to show your support, meet fellow members, and represent our amazing co-op!

Let us know now if you're interested in walking with us - email [info@unifiedsaintjohnhousing.coop](mailto:info@unifiedsaintjohnhousing.coop)



### 2025 Diversity Scholarship

The application period for the CHF Canada Diversity Scholarship officially closed on May 31st. We are encouraged by the interest shown and remain firmly committed to fostering diversity and inclusion within the co-operative housing community



## **True or False: Housing Co-ops in Atlantic Canada**

1. **True or False:** The first recorded consumer co-operative in Atlantic Canada was organized in Stellarton, Nova Scotia, in 1864.
2. **True or False:** Housing co-operatives in Atlantic Canada only started to develop after the year 2000.
3. **True or False:** USJ is one of the top 10 largest co-ops in Canada.

3. True  
2. False  
1. True