



Unified Saint John Housing Co-op

Communications Report
April - June 2026

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'kmaw 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
Total Units	294

This quarter, we focused on planning, learning, and keeping members informed. We are working to keep our co-op strong, safe, and affordable.

We continue to follow our Strategic Plan and Growth Strategy. This helps us make good choices now and for the future.

Membership

We are happy to welcome new members to our co-op community:

Barbara, Briana, Margaret, Mohamed, Tsigereda, Tim, and Zubida

Welcome! We are glad you are here and hope you feel at home.

Membership meetings

The General Membership Meeting was held on April 7. Members heard updates, reviewed important information, and voted on co-op business.

At this meeting, members:

- Approved the 2026–2027 budget
- Approved the new Pet Policy
- Reviewed member survey results
- Learned more about the history of USJ

General Membership Meetings are an important part of co-op life. They help members stay informed about daily work, future plans, and new ideas. These meetings also give members a voice in decisions that affect the co-op. Most votes are done by a simple show of hands.

Thank you to everyone who attended. We hope to see more members at the next meeting.

Community Events

Saint John Pride Parade – July 25, 2026

We're proud to participate in Pride and invite all members to join us in showing their support for inclusion, diversity, and community.

On July 25, USJ will come together to celebrate Pride as we take part in the 24th Annual Saint John Pride Parade. Participants are asked to arrive between 12:15 and 12:30 p.m., with the parade beginning at 1:00 p.m. sharp from the Diamond Jubilee Cruise Terminal parking lot. Following the parade, the celebration will continue with live entertainment, the Pride Vendor Market, and plenty of opportunities to connect, celebrate, and show your Pride.

Culturefest – August 1–2, 2026

The 8th International Culturefest is coming to Saint John on August 1–2 at Water Street, Uptown. Enjoy cultural performances, international food, community exhibits, and fun for the whole family.

While you're there, be sure to stop by the USJ booth, we're excited to be part of this incredible celebration and look forward to connecting with members, meeting new faces, and sharing in the spirit of community and cultural diversity. We can't wait to see you there!

Vacancies

At the end of June, there were three vacant units in the 294-unit co-op.

- Two units will be filled by July 1
- One unit is still being fixed and checked before someone moves in

The co-op makes sure each home is safe and ready before new members move in.



Staying Connected

We now have laptops set up for Board meetings. Monthly meeting will take place on Microsoft Teams, making it easier to join.



Planning

Annual Planning

The 2025–2026 Annual Plan is updated each month. This lets us track progress on priorities. Planning for 2026–2027 will happen after a growth session in July. This will help us:

- Set goals
- Plan spending
- Stay on track with our long-term plans

The new plan will be shared on the member portal when it is ready.

Member Engagement

Policies and rules

The new Pet Policy has been approved and is now in place. You can find it on the [member portal](#) and in your handbook. This helps members understand the rules and expectations.

If you have any questions, please reach out to our property manager at Housing Alternatives. 506-632-9393 or email office@housingalternatives.ca.

Community living

Summer Reminders

Please help keep our community safe and respectful.

The following are not allowed on co-op property:

- Pools
- Trampolines
- Firepits

Also, please remember:

- No smoking in units or on property
- No subletting (you can not rent out rooms in your home or rent your entire home to someone else)
- Quiet hours are 11:00 PM to 7:00 AM

Thank you for helping make our community a safe and peaceful place to live.



Member Resources

We have some new and updated materials for members:

- USJ brochures (English and French)
- A guide called "What is a Co-op?"
- Welcome packages for new members

These resources help members learn about the co-op and how it works. A volunteer will send the welcome package to each new member.

Learning and networking

We are learning and connecting with others in the housing sector:

- Six people attended the CHF Canada AGM and Conference in Fredericton (June)
- Three people attended the NBNPHA Conference in Saint John (May)

We will share what we learned to help improve the co-op.



Keeping your Home Safe

USJ has joined CHF Canada's Risk Management Program. This program helps us spot problems early and reduce safety risks before they become serious or costly.

Water damage is one of the most common insurance claims. It can happen from burst or frozen pipes, leaking water tanks, broken appliances, or sewer backups. When we deal with problems early, members can help avoid costly damage and protect their belongings.

You can help by:

- Do not leave dishwashers or washing machines running when no one is home.
- Check appliance hoses often for cracks, leaks, or worn spots.
- Do not overload appliances. This can cause problems and water damage.
- Clean appliance filters and drains often to help prevent backups.
- Only flush toilet paper down the toilet—never wipes, hygiene products, cat litter, or diapers.
- Dispose of grease and cooking oil in the garbage, not down the drain.
- Know where the shut-off valves are for your toilet and sinks.
- Check under sinks and around toilets for damp spots or slow leaks.
- Report leaks, water stains, mold, or damp areas right away.
- Move valuables and electronics away from leaks if it is safe.
- Stay away from water near plugs or appliances and ask for help right away.

Work Order Follow Up

If you have submitted a work order and have not heard from anyone, please contact Housing Alternatives to follow-up.

During business hours, you can:

- Call 506-632-9393
- Email office@housingalternatives.ca

Try to have the work order number that you received when you called in the repair. This number helps staff find your request quickly and give you the right information. Having your work order number ready will make the process faster and easier.



Marketing and Communication

Website

Our website, unifiedsaintjohnhousing.coop, includes a password-protected area for members.

Our website includes a password-protected member portal with:

- Policies and approved budgets
- Meeting materials
- Educational resources
- Meeting & community announcements

If you need login help, contact Housing Alternatives at office@housingalternatives.ca.



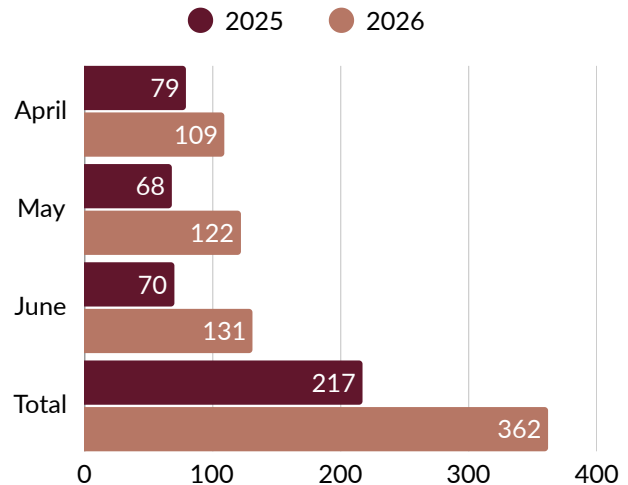
You Hold the Key Campaign

We are supporting a national campaign to protect rental assistance.

Members are encouraged to:

- Send a letter to their Member of Parliament
- Share this message with others

This helps keep housing affordable for co-ops across Canada. Click [here](#) to learn more



CHF Canada Annual Meeting

Our co-op was featured by CHF Canada in a “virtual co-op tour” at the 2026 Annual Meeting in Fredericton this June. The video showed The Range and New Brunswick Collaborative Housing Co-operative. It shared our community and showed how co-op housing works in real life. You can watch the co-op tour video [here](#).

USJ also took part in a shared tradeshow booth with six other Atlantic co-ops. This was a great chance to connect, work together, and show the strength of co-ops in our region.



Growth

55 Victoria Street – Youth Housing Project

Work is moving ahead on the Victoria Street Youth Housing Project. This project will add 14 new housing units focused on housing young people in our community. More updates will be shared as the work continues.



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