

ENFHS SEMI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

Statement of Purpose: ENFHS Semi-Annual Newsletter is the outreach publication of Entre Nous Femmes Housing Society. Its purpose is to further ENFHS's goal (ENDS) of ensuring that economically disadvantaged families in the greatest number possible within the Greater Vancouver Regional District have the opportunity for their lives to be enhanced by secure, safe, affordable, and appropriate homes to an extent that justifies the use of all available resources.

ENF'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year the Board of Directors of ENF has decided to expand the invitees to the Annual General Meeting to include past members.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 15, 2006, in the Common Room at Alma Blackwell.

The Agenda will include the showing of the long version of the ENF documentary film produced this year and which was first shown at the World Urban Forum in June.

(Members will be interested in learning that the ENF website now includes the shorter 13:05 minute version of the film.)

The AGM will also include a discussion with ENF members on the Strategic Plan that was released earlier this year.

Directors returning for the second year of their two year term are:

April English, Regina Michalis & Eva Wadolna

Directors who have finished

their two year term but are planning on standing again are:

Shannon Hallett & Shawn Preuss

New members standing for nomination are:

Lise Alain , Wendy Moore & Dan McFaull

The Society looks forward to an exciting AGM and then onward to another successful year!



Inside this Fall/Winter 2006 issue:

ENF at World Urban Forum & Grassroots Women's International Academy 2

Notices of Events That Effect Women in Our Community 2

Affordable, Safe Housing Makes a Difference 3

The Federal Government's New 'Expenditure Management System' 3

Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down 3

THE NEW PROVINCIAL HOUSING STRATEGY

The new provincial housing strategy, titled Housing Matters BC, is a multi-year plan released by Minister Rich Coleman on Tuesday, October 3, 2006.

Here are the basic details:

- ◆ \$40 million annually for a new rental assistance program;
- ◆ \$10.7 million a year for 35 years to build and subsidize 450 units of supportive housing;
- ◆ \$13 million a year for 35 years for 550 new assisted living units

for seniors;

- ◆ \$2.6 million over three years for a homeless, outreach program, helping homeless access housing & welfare;
- ◆ Transferring management of 2,600 housing units to Aboriginal Housing Management Association.

The BC Non Profit Housing Association (BCNPHA) has promised to 'monitor the effectiveness of this program to see whether taxpayers' dollars are being well spent and meeting real housing needs in commu-

nities, promises Alice Sundberg, the Executive Director of BCNPHA.

Only the future will tell how this new provincial housing strategy will meet the needs of the individuals in our communities in the greatest need.

If you have concerns or queries about this new strategy of the provincial government, then get involved by writing to Minister Coleman at: **Ministry of Forests & Range & Minister Responsible for Housing, P.O. Box 9049, Stn Prov Govt, Victoria BC V8W 9E1 or e-mail him: for.minister@gov.bc.ca**

ENFHS is a registered charity & gladly accepts donations to help offset operational costs. If you would like to donate, please forward a cheque to ENF's head office. A charity tax receipt will be issued. Thank you.

ENF AT WORLD URBAN FORUM & GRASSROOTS WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

For one week last June, over 10,000 Canadian and international delegates gathered at the Vancouver Convention and Trade Centre for the third biennial World Urban Forum (WUF), a UN Habitat initiative.

ENF's board has been involved in The Women and World Urban Forum Local Organizing Committee, co-founded by Marnie Tamaki of GROOTS Canada (and former ENF board member) and Ellen Woodsworth (former City Councilor), since June 2005. ENF Housing Society representatives actively participated and presented at both the WUF and the pre-conference Grassroots Women's International Academy (GWIA).

One of the ENF-sponsored attendees was long-time Jessica Place resident, Wendy Moore, who stayed at UBC for the week of the pre-conference, GWIA. Wendy was thrilled to 'meet women from so many different countries'.

'It was like one big happy family', she says, 'and a real eye-opener...these women from Pakistan and third world countries having the courage to stand up to their governments...how all the grassroots women would get together to get things rolling.'

GWIA attendees then made their voices heard at WUF at networking events focused on such issues as securing tenure, economic empowerment and collaborative problem solving, at the daily women's caucus and during the WUF Closing Plenary address (www.huariou.org for more info).

As mentioned earlier in this issue, a short documentary film 'Beyond These Walls' featuring the history ('herstory'!) of ENF and focusing on tenants stories, was screened at both the GWIA and WUF conferences.

Tours of a number of ENF buildings were organized, one tour held during each conference. ENF Executive Director Tracy

McCullough commented on the positive feedback from international delegates who took the tour. ENF was also featured among several international displays at the GWIA and Huairou Commission's 'Our Practices' exhibit at VCEC during WUF.

My own experience of those two weeks in June (on WWUF and GWIA steering committee and special events) was of a whirlwind of amazing ideas and women. I also engaged over twenty diverse local women entertainers and groups for a series of cultural events showcasing aboriginal and multicultural performance, including the Women's Reception for WUF at the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel. I believe that we successfully introduced ENF to the world last June! —submitted by Shannon Hallett,

Enf Director

NOTICES OF EVENTS THAT EFFECT WOMEN IN OUR COMMUNITY

Soroptimist International of Vancouver is offering its annual Women's Opportunity Award to assist women in upgrading their skills, training & education. Deadline for application December 15, 2006. Please contact (604) 222-2027 for more information.

The BC Women's Economic Institute provides an opportunity for community leaders to come together with their peers and experts to learn new skills and tools to strengthen their organization's toolkit for supporting women to develop their economic potential. The WEI Conference this year is entitled 'Starting with Women's Lives: Changing Today's Economy'. It is being held December 1-5, 2006, at the YWCA in Vancouver.

The goals of the institute are:

To increase the capacity and effectiveness of organizations in their economic development work with women;

To provide an opportunity for networking, sharing and learning among practitioners and stakeholders with a focus on skills development;

To provide an opportunity to address issues affecting rural regions of BC;

To increase the profile of women's economic development options as viable solutions for addressing the needs of BC women;

To provide information in an empowering, inspiring and positive framework.

Type of Participants:

Leaders of BC-based women's organizations, community development organizations with a focus on programs for women, self-employment, asset development and/or employment training, CED practitioners, civil servants, academics.

Questions? Contact Naomi Iiyoshi, Women's Economic Institute, 101 East Cordova Street, Vancouver, B.C.

V6A 1K7 or e-mail: vscully@atira.bc.ca or fax: (604) 688-1799

If you have a women's event, conference or group you would like to have highlighted in upcoming issues of ENF's newsletter, please contact Tracy McCullough at (604) 451-4412 or e-mail: enf@telus.net



ENF's first building, Alma Blackwell at 1656 Adanac Street, Vancouver, B.C.

AFFORDABLE, SAFE HOUSING MAKES A DIFFERENCE

When I was the property manager for Antkiw Court, two tenants who served on the Tenant Selection Committee and I met with a single mother and her three sons at a Vancouver Transition house. The mother was very shy and was reluctant to speak with us as her English was very poor. With the help of an interpreter and the safe house staff we explained who we were and that ENF had a three bedroom home available for her and her family to move into.

We couldn't help but notice the scars on her arms and face...the result of an abusive husband who was by then serving time for her attempted murder! She would need multiple surgeries for these injuries.

She moved into Antkiw Court shortly thereafter but had virtually nothing to

furnish her home with...no furniture, few linens, no dishes, pots, pans, etc...the things we all take for granted. She was not receiving any type of government help so I garnered the support of a local anti-poverty group and together we were able to find her clothing, furniture, kitchenware and even a used computer which she needed to help her learn English.

The other tenants at Antkiw Court were very supportive and many offered her help, particularly with childcare. The three young sons proved to be a 'handful' as they had been taught by their father to be disrespectful of women. They treated their mother very subserviently, which the neighbours definitely took note of!

These kindly Antkiw Court neighbours

patiently helped re-educate these boys and eventually they learned to be tolerant and kind, not only to their mother but to others around them.

All three boys made many friends within the community and did very well in school once their behaviour changed.

This woman and her sons were eventually able to move back into their family home which the ex-husband had 'sold' from under them for \$6.00 to his sister when he knew he was going to prison. Fortunately, Canadian justice prevailed and the house was returned to the ex-wife.

Before she moved back into her house she expressed her thankfulness to me for the help ENF gave her in her time of need.

—submitted by Roxanne Abbott-Brown, ENF Property Manager

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S NEW 'EXPENDITURE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM'

"The new Expenditure Management System will make responsible spending the norm for how Canada's New Government does business. It will require that all new and existing programs go through a systematic and rigorous examination. This will ensure that this Government only approves funds that are actually needed to achieve measurable results in a way that is effective and provides value for money on behalf of Canadians." This quote is from the federal government website and can be found at www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/media/nr-cp/2006/0925_e.asp

Here are some of the areas where reductions have been made:

From Canadian Heritage, \$9,744 has been cut to eliminate support to the Canadian Volunteerism Initiative. Another \$5,000 has been cut from the Status of Women Canada Administrative Savings program.

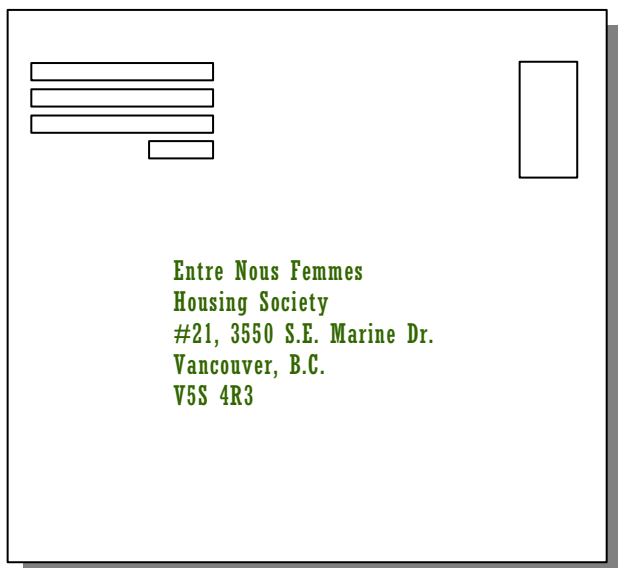
From **Foreign Affairs & International Trade**, \$10,200 has been cut to eliminate the Youth International Internship Program.

From **Human Resources & Skills Development** \$13,800 has been cut to low priority grants and contributions related to Social Development Partnership Programs. Another \$17,700 has been cut from HRSD to the Improved Targeting of Adult Learning & Literacy Skills Program.

For more information on all the cuts made to various areas, please see the website noted at the beginning of this article. If you object to any of the cuts you see, then make your voice heard and contact your Member of Parliament.

THUMBS UP: There is now a BC Provincial Housing Strategy called "Housing Matters BC" ...

THUMBS DOWN: Why doesn't the provincial government understand there is an urgent need to **build** more affordable **FAMILY** housing?



Telephone: (604) 451-4412

Fax: (604) 451-4415

E-mail: enf@telus.net

Website: www.enfhs.org

ENF's Buildings

Alma Blackwell, 1656 Adanac St., Vancouver

Antkiw Court, 1534 E. 4th, Vancouver

Beatrice Terrace, 1877 E. Georgia St., Vancouver

Constance Court, 2518 E. Hastings St., Vancouver

Evelyn Estates, 9155-136 A St., Surrey

Jessica Place, 9883-140 St., Surrey

Margaret Heights, 1800 Rufus Drive, North Vancouver

Natalia Terrace, 3550 S.E. Marine Dr., Vancouver

To receive an application form, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the head office or download a copy from our website at enfhs.org

2005/06 ENF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

APRIL ENGLISH

SHANNON HALLETT

REGINA MICHAELIS

SHAWN PREUSS

EVA WADOLNA

If you are interested in becoming a member of ENF please submit a letter of interest to:

ENFHS, #21, 3550 S.E. Marine Drive, Vancouver, B.C. V5S 4R3 or

e-mail: enf@telus.net or fax: (604) 451-4415

Newsletter Editor: Tracy McCullough, Executive Director

