

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 have their lives enhanced by secure, safe, affordable, and appropriate homes to an extent that justifies the use of all available resources.

ENF Celebrates Its 20th Anniversary in 2005 By Introducing a Brand New Logo!

Entre Nous Femmes Housing Society was incorporated on February 25, 1985, marking a milestone in the provision of affordable housing in the Lower Mainland.

Three strong, community-minded women came together to explore the issues surrounding single parenting and to view housing through the woman's perspective.

For 20 years the primary intent of ENFHS has been, and will continue to be, to provide safe, affordable housing to a cross-section of families, primarily female led single parent families, within an environment of equal opportunity and empowerment. In doing so, the Society maintains supportive and respect-

ful relations with all tenants and staff.

Along the way, unique partnerships have led to several "firsts" in the area of non-profit housing development:

The first non-profit housing society to include tenant participation on the Board of Directors;

The first provincial non-profit housing development to incorporate an on-site daycare;

The first non-profit housing society to develop housing in partnership with a commercial enterprise, over commercial space.

The Society is very proud of its accomplishments and in this 20th year decided to celebrate its history by commissioning

a logo.

A call went out to local art and graphic design students to come up with a logo that reflects what ENF is all about.

Lisa Kuz, a graphic designer, conceptualized and designed the Society's new logo. Visit Lisa's website at www.lisa.now.nu to see more of Lisa's innovative style. Thank you, Lisa!

We believe our new logo represents not just a key to a new house and home, but a key to a new life; a key that will open doors to new opportunities for our tenants now that they have a safe and affordable home to live in.

We believe our new logo presents a fresh face which truly reflects ENF!



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ENF Launches Its First Semi-Annual Newsletter

One of the many outreach programs ENF looked at during the 2004/05 Board year was the creation of a semi-annual newsletter.

One of the jobs of the Society's Board is to reach out to its 'ownership', in other words, those individuals in the Lower Mainland who sup-

port non-profit housing, and let them know what's happening in the industry and in particular, what's happening with ENF.

We look forward in future to contributions by Board or Society members; 'owners' and/or tenants of ENF.

Anyone who would like to

comment on this inaugural issue is welcome to do so at: enf@telus.net.

The Society will continue to look for new ways to reach out to the community in general in bringing the all important issue of low income housing to the forefront!

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.

Investing in Housing Means Investing in Stronger Communities

We all need a home. Imagine if you paid more than half of your income for shelter. Imagine if you had to choose between buying groceries and paying the rent. For far too many Canadians, those are realities. But there are practical, affordable solutions.

Since 2000, the federal government's Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) has helped local communities meet the most urgent and pressing needs of those who lack housing. The program shows how the federal government can directly help local communities solve local problems.

In 2001, the provincial and territorial governments signed an agreement pledging to match the federal government's \$680-million funding commitment for social housing. So far, just 10,000 of the 40,000 intended units have been built because of jurisdictional conflicts or lack of provincial funding. A better way is needed to turn federal dollars into people's homes.

Meeting local housing needs cannot be done from Ottawa. But Ottawa must help provinces, municipalities and community groups build inclusive, healthy and vibrant communities by building affordable housing.

Recent experience makes clear that only dedicated funding earmarked exclusively for social housing will lead to its development. Here's what's needed:

A federal housing strategy that will commit the federal government to the goal of becoming a partner in the development of 25,000 social housing units annually;

A federal commitment to housing that earmarks funds to be used for housing and no other purpose.

You can help by writing your MP and voicing your concerns on this issue.

Worldwide Urban Statistics

1. Urban populations are expected to grow at a rate of 1.8% per year, as compared with rural areas, which will grow by 0.1%.
2. The United Nations estimates that by 2007, 1 in 3 urban dwellers will live in poverty.
3. 2007 marks the year that the world's population will become 50% rural and 50% urban.
4. Slums are home to an estimated 920 million urban dwellers worldwide. 1/3 of the world's urban population is in need of improved housing.
5. Approximately 1 million people are moving to the cities of the world each week, competing with others for jobs, public services & housing.
6. Some 35 million new housing units are needed annually—95,000 units daily— to meet the urban housing needs alone.

This Environmental Scanning Report provides a global overview of demographic, economic and societal trends & explores the conditions & developments around the world.

What ENF's Tenants Have to Say...

Tenants who are moving out of an ENF building are always asked to complete a Move-out Survey. Here is what some of them have to say:

"I got to think about more than getting rent every month. I felt safe when I was very vulnerable, knowing I wouldn't lose my home..."

"It (living in an ENF building) helped me and my family to have a normal life. Thank you!"

"We like that everyone gets along and looks out for one another. The opportunity of living here was given to us during a time we needed it most, especially financially. We are moving because we purchased a home!"



Antkiw Court

World Urban Forum-Vancouver, June 2006

Entre Nous Femmes Housing Society is proud to be part of the World Urban Forum to be held in Vancouver next year.

UN-HABITAT established the World Urban Forum to examine one of the most pressing issues facing the world today: rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies and policies. It is a biennial gathering that provides for effective participation of non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, urban professionals, academics, governments, local authorities and national and international associations of local governments. The World Urban Forum gives all

these actors a common platform in the conceptual and preparatory phases as well as in the formal discussions. It is not a conventional UN meeting—it is non-legislative, inclusive and does away with the formal rules of procedures that usually govern UN meetings.

The third session of the World Urban Forum (WUFIII) will be held in Vancouver from June 19-23, 2006. Vancouver was the venue of the historic first United Nations conference on Human Settlements (Habitat I), held in 1976. The main theme of this session is *Our Future: Sustainable Cities—Turning Ideas into Action*.

Thumbs Up: \$1.6 B committed by the Federal Government for social housing...

Thumbs Down: There is still no plan in place to spend the \$1.6 B!

ENF To Unveil Its New Business Plan In Early 2006

In 2004, the Board of Directors of ENFHS resolved to develop a Business Plan for the direction ENF will take in the upcoming years.

Shane Ramsey of BCHMC was more than willing to listen to the Board's reasoning for pursuing this initiative and provided funding for this project.

An extensive search was then launched by the Board to find just the right consultant to write such a plan.

Once chosen, the Board asked the consultant to focus on three key areas: strategic, operational and financial.

The Board is currently reviewing the final draft of the Business Plan and looks forward to releasing it to its members in early 2006.

It was a challenging task and the Board is very pleased with the outcome—a comprehensive tool to move forward!



Beatrice Terrace

ENFHS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 23, 2005, at 4953 Prince Albert Street, Vancouver, B.C.



Jessica Place playground



Providing safe & affordable housing in the Lower Mainland for the past 20 years!

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.



2005 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

