

# 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 Launches Its New Website in February

Entre Nous Femmes Housing Society proudly launched its new website in February 2006 at [www.enfhs.org](http://www.enfhs.org).

The website was developed by Robert Kwei of Robert Kwei.com Multimedia Development. Thanks, Robert, for your great work. Robert can be reached at (604) 771-4840 or [contact@robertkwei.com](mailto:contact@robertkwei.com) for anyone interested in his services.

The website offers practical

information on how to apply for housing with ENF, along with a very useful FAQ section. An application form can be downloaded for those wanting to apply for housing.

Browsers will also find interesting information on the history of ENF and its formation and why we have a French name!

The life stories of the inspirational women for whom the buildings were named are also

found on the website.

The website is registered with various search engines, however, as with all new websites it takes time to 'crawl' up to the top of the lists so the more people that view the website, the faster ENF's name will appear at the top of the search engines...so please visit us often!



## ENF To Participate in World Urban Forum In June 2006 With the Release of Documentary Film 'Beyond These Walls'

In the last issue of the ENF Newsletter, the Society announced that it would be participating in the World Urban Forum to be held in June 2006 here in Vancouver.

Members of the ENF Board of Directors have been busy ever since working with the Women's Organizing Committee, contributing to what is hoped will be a most impressive global event.

The Society wanted to participate in a special way and was able to obtain funding to

produce a documentary film about the Society entitled 'Beyond These Walls'.

The Society would like to thank the generosity of Western Economic Diversification, BC Housing and CMHC for their financial contributions to this project.

The film will debut at the World Urban Forum in June and the Board hopes to make copies available to anyone who would like to view it at a modest cost.

The Society will also be hosting groups from around the world during tours to some of ENF's buildings, both during the Forum and the week prior to it at the Groots Academy week.

For more information on this exciting event, please visit the WUF3 website at:

[www.wuf3-fum3.ca/en/home.shtml](http://www.wuf3-fum3.ca/en/home.shtml)

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**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 Unveils Strategic Plan 'Beyond These Walls' to Members

The Board of ENF released the Society's Strategic Plan (formerly referred to as the Business Plan) to its members on April 27, 2006.

Since 2001, the focus of the Society has been on stability in Board operations, consistency in its agenda and work, adherence to the Policy Governance Model for governance and increasingly active participation in the non-profit housing sector locally and nationally. The Society is now positioned to look to the future, and is ready and able to move into a more "development" phase.

It is the Board's intention to position ENF to be part of housing solutions by planning to

do the following:

- ◆ Explore opportunities for increasing the number of units offered by the Society;
- ◆ Pursue innovative funding sources for new developments & to improve the quality of existing properties;
- ◆ Support positive tenant rotation when it is a result of better housing opportunities;
- ◆ Build strategic partnerships & community connections; and
- ◆ Increase public awareness of the

Society through branding & marketing.

The Board would like to take this opportunity to thank BC Housing and in particular the vision of Shayne Ramsey in providing the funding for this project.

It is our commitment to continue to meet the needs of those in need of affordable housing and provide a comprehensive approach within our organization and our housing communities and whenever possible taking it beyond these walls.

— Board of Directors

## Creating a Canadian National Housing Policy — A Door to Open

1,700,000 Canadian households live in homes they can't afford or that are standard—200,000 Canadians are homeless.

All Canadians deserve the chance and opportunity to have a decent and affordable place to live—a door to open.

Now is the time for a strong and effective National Housing Policy—a Policy welcoming Canadians home that encompasses the following:

- ◆ Implements sustainable national solutions
- ◆ Provides national resources / funding

- ◆ Re-invests in our national housing legacy
- ◆ Invests in new & innovative opportunities
- ◆ Directly meets aboriginal needs
- ◆ Engages Partners
- ◆ Complements other community economic & social benefits

—by Sean Goetz-Gadon, Director of Partnerships, Affordable Housing Office, City of Toronto for the CHRA 2006 Congress

## ENF Highlights

ENF was again able to send two representatives of the Society this year to the CHRA Congress held in Ottawa in April 2006. One board member and the Executive Director attended and brought back much information to share with the board!

ENF is sponsoring three registrations for the Groots Academy, which happens the week prior to WUF3 in June 2006. Congratulations to Wendy Moore, an ENF tenant from Jessica Place who is being sponsored to attend.

## What ENF's Tenants Have to Say...

A new tenant moved into Constance Court in December/05 and this is a portion of the letter she wrote to the Society one month later:

"...Talking to head people at various agencies in Vancouver, I was informed that Entre Nous Femmes has an excellent reputation, and is held in high regard as a non-profit agency...Entre Nous Femmes has top marks for their business and professional skills and expertise in running non-profit housing...The safety and well-being of the tenants is of prime importance here...Great care has been taken to ensure that the tenants feel secure and content living here... The people at the agencies I talked to were right about Entre Nous Femmes. They are a superb example of how all non-profits should be run."



CONSTANCE COURT

## SUSTAINABILITY MOVEMENT IS ACCELERATING

All roads for sustainability professionals and supporters lead to the World Urban Forum 3 this June in Vancouver. It is expected that more than 7,000 individuals will participate in WUF3 and hundreds more in other associated events. Vancouver is seen as developing a leadership position in the sustainability movement and we hope this gets strengthened through many initiatives taking place now and after the Forum.

The broad concept of sustainability implies that we take care of the environment, economy, communities and culture and manage those from the perspective of a value system treating every human and living being with respect and seeing their inter-connectedness as well as acting daily on that concept.

The issues related to sustainability are of importance to all concerned with affordable housing: safe energy supply, the availability of healthy food, vigorous communities and general protection of the resources for future

generations.

This new sustainability approach is holistic, treating buildings and environment as a whole—a healthy building sustains healthy occupants while contributing to a healthy environment as well as enhancing the community's well being.

The first initiative that will have a direct impact on housing is the opening on March 25th this year of the Sustainable Building Centre on Granville Island. The Centre will assist individuals engaged in single house renovations; developers building new complexes as well as those in charge of maintenance of existing projects in making the projects more sustainable.

The other initiative will increase our awareness of sustainability through a search for already sustainable places—the Design Centre for Sustainability at UBC is soliciting community input in order to create a Green Guide

/Map and a web of Greater Vancouver indicating green buildings, sustainable community designs, socially responsible businesses and community initiatives as well as other tangible examples of urban sustainability.

Our search for manifestations of sustainability in urban environment in the long run could help significantly in the actual creation of a region that is not only considered the most livable but also could become an example of being truly sustainable.

—article by Eva Wadolna, ENF Board Member

For more information please go to:

[www.sustainablebuildingcentre.com](http://www.sustainablebuildingcentre.com)

[www.wuf3.ubc.ca/projects/greenguide.html](http://www.wuf3.ubc.ca/projects/greenguide.html)

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S \$1.6 B HOUSING CONTRIBUTION — WHAT'S HAPPENING? WELL, NOW IT'S \$1.4 B...

On May 2, 2006, CHRA advised the affordable housing industry that the federal budget delivered \$1.4 Billion for housing, reduced somewhat from the original \$1.6 B originally announced as part of Bill C 48 last year.

Over the next three years, the promised one time funding is expected to assist in the development of 20-30,000 units of affordable housing. While the budget only represents a fraction of what is actually needed, it signals an important recognition of the need to invest in housing in order to build city infrastructure and inclusive communities with a place for everyone.

Funding is conditional upon a surplus being in place when the government closes its books in September, however. Provinces, as the delivery agents, will be able to draw from the trusts for the next 3 years and will not be required to cost share.

able Housing Trust for the provinces to draw upon over the next 3 years based on their population;

- ◆ A further \$300 M will be available to provinces through an Off Reserve Aboriginal Housing Trust based on the provinces' share of the off reserve Aboriginal population;
- ◆ \$300 M will be placed in the Northern Housing Trust for the territories reflecting the great need and high cost of construction in the north.

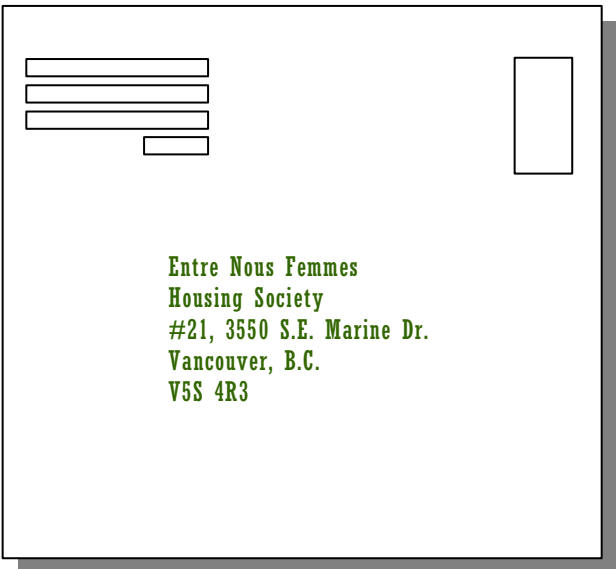
CHRA also advised that the \$500 M EnerGuide for Low Income Households program will not proceed. This program would have provided important benefits in the face of rising energy costs by retrofitting up to 130,000 housing units.

—article from CHRA news release

**THUMBS UP: Conservatives making good on the \$1200 Childcare Allowance...**

**THUMBS DOWN: Low income earners now have to pay .5% more income tax!**

- ◆ \$800 M will be put into an Afford-



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**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**

