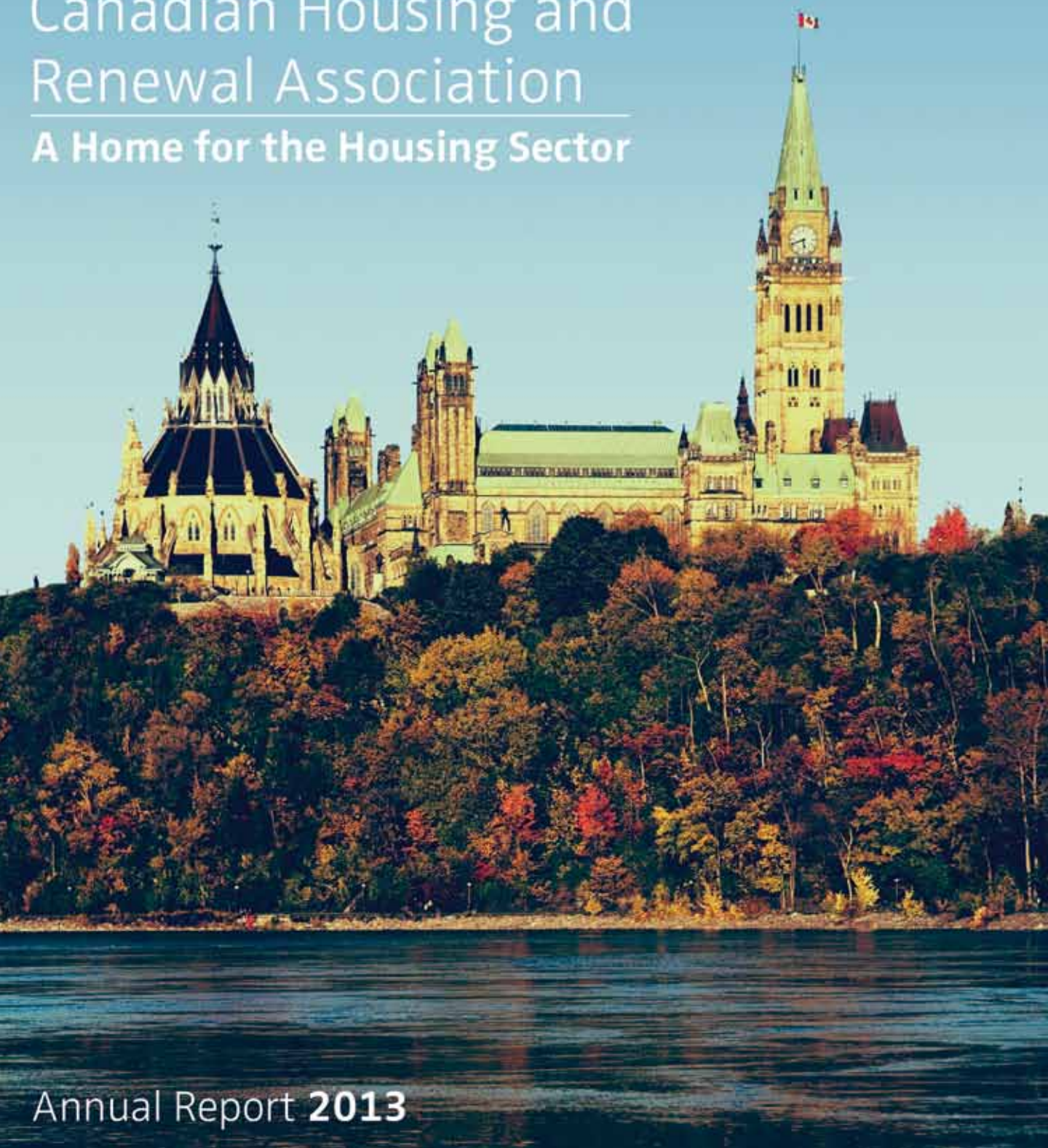




CHRA ACHRU

Canadian Housing and Renewal Association

A Home for the Housing Sector



Annual Report **2013**

CHRA provides a Home for the Housing Sector

281 members strong

Aboriginal Housing Management Association • Aboriginal Housing Society • Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO) • Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia • Ahmadiyya Abode of Peace Inc. • AIDS Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador • Alex Paterson • Ameresco Canada Inc. • Andrew Harvey • Aqanttanam Housing Society • Association des groupes de ressources techniques du Québec • Association of Neighbourhood Houses of British Columbia • Atira Women's Resource Society • Attainable Homes Calgary Corporation • BC Housing • BC Housing Management Commission • Berry Architecture & Assoc. Ltd. • Blue Door Shelters • Boyle Street Community Services • Boys and Girls Clubs of Calgary • Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation • Brentwood Family Housing Society • British Columbia Non-Profit Housing Association • Broadway Youth Resource Centre (Pacific Community Resources Society) • Brockville Non-Profit Housing • Bruce House • BUILD Inc. • Calgary Action Committee on Housing and Homelessness • Calgary Homeless Foundation • Calgary John Howard Society • Cambridge Non-Profit Housing Corporation • Cameron Gray • Canadian Home Builders Association • Canadian Mental Health Association (Ottawa) • Canadian Mental Health Association (Red Deer) • Canadian Mental Health Association (Sudbury) • Canmore Community Housing Corporation • Capital Region Housing • Capital Regional District • Caroline Larocque • Catherine Boucher • Central City Foundation • Centre for Addiction & Mental Health • Centretown Citizens Ottawa Corporation • Charlie Hill • CHC/Saskatoon Tribal Council • Choices For Youth • Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Centre • Cité d'Âge d'Or Inc. • City of Calgary • City of Cornwall • City of Edmonton • City of Grande Prairie • City of Hamilton • City of Kamloops • City of Lethbridge • City of London • City of Medicine Hat • City of Moose Jaw • City of Ottawa • City of Peterborough • City of Red Deer • City of Regina • City of Saskatoon • City of Spruce Grove • City of St. John's • City of Toronto • City of Vancouver Housing Centre • City of Winnipeg • CitySpaces Consulting Ltd. • Clarence Wedge • Co-operative Housing Association of Eastern Ontario • Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada • Cochrane Family and Community Support Services • Communitas Group Ltd. • Community Action Group on Homelessness • Corporation d'habitation Jeanne-Mance • Corporation Waskahegen • Covenant House Toronto • CRC Self Help Inc. • Darwin Construction Ltd. • Demtroys Technologies • DMS Property Management Ltd. • Downtown Winnipeg BIZ • Downtown Yonge B.I.A. • Durham Region Non-Profit Housing Corporation • Ecuhome Corporation • EHRLO Community Services Inc. • Entre Nous Femmes Housing Society • Eva's Initiatives • Fédération des OSBL d'habitation de Montréal • Fédération régionale des OBNL d'habitation de Québec-Chaudière-Appalaches • Fédération Régionale des OSBL d'habitation de la Montérégie • Fife House Foundation • Focus Consulting Inc. • Fonds québécois d'habitation communautaire • Fred Victor Centre • Fredericton Non-Profit Housing Corporation Inc. • Frontenac Community Mental Health Services • Furniture Bank • Gail Harmer • Gale Hagblom • Ganesh Community Development Co-Operative Inc. • GBL-Architect • Genworth Canada • German-Canadian Housing of Newmarket Inc. • Gignul Non-Profit Housing Corporation • Gloucester Housing Corporation • Good Shepherd Non-Profit Homes • Government of Alberta • Government of Ontario • Government of Yukon • Greater Moncton Homelessness Steering Committee • Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness • Greg Bounds • Greg Steves • Greg Suttor • Groupe de ressources techniques - Bâtir son quartier • Groupe habitat conseil inc. • Habitat for Humanity Canada • Harry Lash Library • Heart River Housing • Helen Handrigan • Home Ownership Alternatives • Homes First Society • Homeward Trust Edmonton • Horizon Housing Society • Houselink Community Homes • Housing and Community Development • Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee • Housing Services Corporation • Innovative Housing Consultants Inc. • Iris Kirby House Inc.

Table of contents

1-2

2013 Year-end Message

3-6

CHRA At-a-Glance

7

Leadership Activities

8

Advocacy

9

Policy & Research

10-13

Programs

14-15

Financials



A year-end message from the president and executive director of CHRA

Dear Members, Colleagues, Friends;

CHRA moved forward with confidence and strength in 2013; confident that our organization is operating effectively and strategically, and strongly positioned in our leadership roles as federal advocate and convener for the affordable housing sector.

We are the home for the housing sector. Our base extends from coast to coast to coast with every province and territory holding CHRA membership. Like no other group, CHRA is a diverse membership that represents all areas of the affordable housing sector – from non-profit housing providers to municipalities and provincial/territorial governments to businesses, commissions and associations, organizations providing affordable homeownership, and non-profit organizations supporting homeless and vulnerable populations.

CHRA defines success in terms of delivering a slate of relevant activities that generate value for our members. In 2013, we did just that. Our first-ever *CHRA Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day on Parliament Hill* was a proud moment, as 70 CHRA members, armed with key messages and workshop preparation, met with 22 MPs and Senators to engage in hands-on federal advocacy to the benefit of all who participated. Feedback was terrific, and MPs were truly appreciative of the knowledge they had gained. A definite thumbs-up for CHRA to plan a second advocacy day in 2014.

We know that advocacy wins don't come without laying the groundwork. With the goal of getting affordable housing and homelessness not only on the radar of federal departments but to advance it as a 2015 election issue, several building blocks were put in place in 2013. Through speeches, budget submissions and open letters to federal housing ministers we kept the focus on our three messages of: sustaining the social housing stock after operating agreements end, responding to the affordability challenges of the private rental housing market and improving delivery of the Investment in Affordable Housing program and the Homelessness Partnering Strategy. We launched our *More Rental Housing for More Affordable Housing* policy statement in May, ultimately proposing changes to the tax code to encourage rental developments and urging a public/private/non-profit conversation with the federal government on the issue. We took our messages on the road, seeing old friends and making new ones, meeting with stakeholders, developing partnerships and reaching out to provincial and municipal colleagues.

Our Board of Directors is backing a campaign focused on ensuring low-income households do not risk increased rents or eviction as federal funding expires with the end of operating agreements. A policy options paper combined with take-action communications is being developed for 2014, to unite the sector and to further support CHRA as your national voice.

A leadership role is only possible, of course, if member interests are first understood and then acted upon. CHRA worked particularly hard in 2013 to gather, listen and reflect the many views of our members, aiming to connect and sustain the housing profession through knowledge exchange and best practices. In April and with pride, CHRA organized and hosted the inaugural CHRA Non-Reserve Aboriginal Housing Advisory Caucus. The purpose of the Caucus is to advise the Board on emerging issues and strategies related to Aboriginal housing as well as serving as a networking, information and resource sharing forum. The well attended meeting allowed a conversation to take place that was more inclusive and diverse, combining information sharing with unfettered dialogue. Clear outcomes resulted – to further build the Aboriginal Caucus network and to prepare a blueprint for improving aboriginal housing conditions in Canada. CHRA is planning for the first formal meeting of the Caucus at Congress 2014.

Also in Spring, CHRA facilitated a second meeting of the Community Advisory Boards and Community Entities or 'CABs', where almost 90 people gathered to contribute, share, learn and deliberate on the future of homelessness programs in Canada, particularly how to optimally utilize 'housing first' funds allocated through the renewed Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS). Supported with partnership funding from HPS and others, CHRA produced a forward-looking report that captured the CABs' short list of conditions for success and recommendations for change, in preparation for community plans they must deliver in 2014. With the group asking to maintain the network's momentum, CHRA is planning for a third annual meeting.

The annual national CHRA Congress held in Ottawa was a great success. The Ottawa meeting not only set record attendance by providing delegates with three exceptional days of learning, networking and inspiration, but Congress increasingly serves as a magnet for all members to come together for the type of fruitful discussion that results from the open, welcoming atmosphere associated with our annual event.

Our webinar series was also well received with six webinars being held. Topics included youth homelessness, partnering with BIAs, expiring social housing agreements, affordable rental housing, homeownership in mid-size communities and affordable housing for aboriginal communities.

Our progress in 2013 was achieved with the support of many. We wish to acknowledge CHRA's Board of Directors and the dedicated staff at the national office for their leadership and hard work. Most of all, we wish to thank you – our members – for your tremendous support and advice as we move forward together.

Our growing confidence stems from an optimism felt throughout our staff and board, fuelled by solid membership growth, increased staffing capacity, new partners and sources of funding and overall financial stability. We are so rewarded by the work we do, to help Canadian families and individuals whose lives are immensely improved by securing safe, decent and affordable housing.



Phil Brown
President



Jody Ciuffo
Executive Director

Excerpts from Speeches to Provincial Associations

" Strategic building blocks are in development for a campaign to influence decision-makers. Ministers, MPs and federal departments will hear from us. We will put affordable housing and homelessness not just on the radar but on the agenda."

" CHRA believes the federal government has a critical role in supporting your efforts. Our ask is that federal investment in social housing – a national asset - be preserved, even as operating agreements end."

" CHRA will consult and engage with you, our members and stakeholders, over the coming months as we craft tangible, plain language policy options that will spell out a critical role for federal investment in sustaining social housing."

" Education is needed. There are misconceptions on the Hill about the implications of funding losses. Some think they've already solved the affordable housing issues with their 2013 budget commitments – a help for sure, but not the main event."

Who we are

The Canadian Housing and Renewal Association (CHRA) is the national voice for the full range of affordable housing and homelessness issues and solutions across Canada. We have over 275 members who collectively house and shelter hundreds of thousands of Canadians, and provide housing support to many more.

CHRA provides a home for the housing sector and for all who believe that every Canadian should have a decent, adequate and affordable place to call home.

No matter what part of the Canadian housing spectrum you are involved with, we believe that the need for a national organization to advocate for improved federal funding, policies and programs, has never been more acute. CHRA is that national organization.

CHRA brings the sector together with face-to-face events, webinars, interest-based caucuses and a board of directors that is reflective of our diverse membership. Our annual, national Congress is a one-of-a-kind event where the housing sector gathers to share information, network and learn about best practices from experts - and from each other.

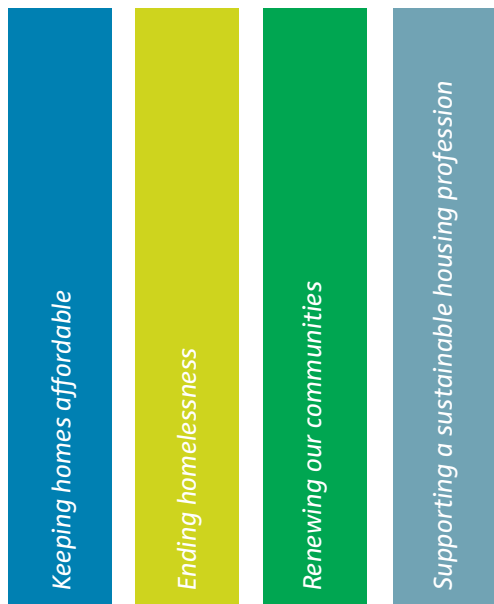
Our mission

To ensure that every Canadian has appropriate, secure, decent and affordable housing.



Our four pillars

We centre everything we do around four strategic pillars:



We support these pillars by:

Advocating for improved federal funding, housing policies and programs

Developing policy and research on affordable housing and homelessness

Informing our members of new opportunities, best practices and innovations

Connecting the affordable housing sector through webinars, networks, our annual Congress and more

Our board of directors

The CHRA Board of Directors is made up of 15 volunteers who are leaders from the housing and homelessness sector and are elected by CHRA members for three-year terms. The Board is comprised of four at-large directors, ten regional representatives and one aboriginal communities representative. As well as in-person and teleconference board meetings held throughout the year, CHRA Board members participate on committees including awards, finance, resolutions and the five-person **executive committee**.



PRESIDENT

Phil Brown

Director at Large



PRESIDENT ELECT

Brigitte Witkowski

Regional Director, Ontario

Executive Director, Mainstay Housing



VICE PRESIDENT

Danielle Juteau

Director at Large

Directrice générale, Corporation d'habitation Jeanne-Mance



SECRETARY

Karen Hemmingson

Regional Director, British Columbia

Research Director, BC Housing



TREASURER

François Vermette

Regional Director, Québec

Vice President, Société d'habitation Chambrelle



William K. Buckland

Regional Director, Nova Scotia & PEI

Administrator, Seton Foundation



Robert Byers

Director, Aboriginal Communities

Chief Executive Officer, Namerind Housing Corporation



David Eddy

Director at Large

Chief Executive Officer, Vancouver Native Housing Society



Brian Gilligan

Director at Large

Executive Director of Community Development, Ottawa Community Housing



Gary Glauser

Regional Director, New Brunswick

Executive Director, New Brunswick Non-profit Housing Association



Patsy Kuksuk

Regional Director, Northern Territories

Vice President, Nunavut Housing Corporation



Ronald Lamb

Regional Director, Saskatchewan

Executive Board Member, Saskatoon Housing Authority



Bryan Lutes

Regional Director, Alberta

President, Wood Buffalo Housing & Development Corporation



Sheldon Pollett

Regional Director, Newfoundland & Labrador

Executive Director, Choices for Youth



Linda Ring

Regional Director, Manitoba

SAM Management

Note: Tina Larouche, Executive Director of Aqanttanam Housing Society served as Director, Aboriginal Communities from January to September of 2013. Robert Byers was appointed as her replacement in October.

Our membership



Membership by category

- 88 Affordable housing providers, owners & managers
- 18 Associations & networks
- 43 Individual members
- 21 Business partners
- 27 Municipalities
- 71 Non-profit groups
- 13 Provincial/territorial departments

CHRA members are diverse and include housing providers, municipalities, businesses, all 13 provincial and territorial housing departments, service and support agencies, individuals, students and other housing-related associations and networks.



Membership by the numbers

In 2013:

- 38 new members
- \$31,756 increase in membership revenue
- 93% member retention rate

Since 2010

- 56% membership growth

Membership thoughts

"Belonging to CHRA is important to Saskatoon because it is the only Canadian organization that allows us to participate in a nation-wide dialogue on affordable housing and homelessness issues. Through CHRA networking opportunities, we are able to explore and share solutions with our peers and other levels of government."

Alan Wallace

Director, Planning and Development Division
City of Saskatoon, SK

2013 member resolutions

In response to resolutions passed at the 2013 CHRA Annual General Meeting in Ottawa, we undertook the following actions:

Resolution: That CHRA encourage the development and resubmission of legislation towards a national housing strategy.

Submitted by: VincentPaul Family Homes Corporation

Action: Despite CHRA and others formally calling on Parliamentarians to support Bill C-400, which called for a national housing strategy, it was defeated in February 2013. In response to its defeat, CHRA provided analysis and commentary, expressing disappointment, to several media outlets, many of which reported on the Bill's defeat. CHRA representatives continue to be in close contact with Members of Parliament from all parties to encourage legislative action supportive of affordable housing. The most recent of such actions is a motion from Marjolaine Boutin-Sweet, NDP MP and critic for housing, which was tabled in the House of Commons and calls for funding for social housing in response to expiring operating agreements.



Resolution: That CHRA declare its opposition to funding social programs, and particularly housing programs, through Social Impact Bonds if the focus is put on the profitability of interventions rather than offering a real program of assistance to the most vulnerable.

Submitted by: Réseau québécois des OSBL d'habitation

Action: CHRA has carefully followed the discussion around social finance, including social impact bonds, which has been led by the federal government. To date, social impact bonds have not replaced any federal funding envelope for social programs, including housing programs. CHRA will continue to closely monitor this issue.

Resolution: That CHRA, in partnership with housing stakeholders across Canada, lead a coordinated media strategy to raise awareness of housing need and the value of housing in Canada.

Submitted by: Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada

Action: Activities focused on raising awareness of housing need through earned media is planned as part of the CHRA Protect Social Housing campaign, which will be officially launched in 2014, although work began in 2013. Wherever possible, these will be undertaken in partnership with other housing stakeholders to maximize their impact. CHRA has supported the ongoing awareness-raising efforts led by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada and will continue to work closely with both groups.



Our staff

Building on our successful growth and turnaround, CHRA was able to increase the capacity and depth of its staff complement in 2013, adding a Director of Communications role in August, for a total of six employees.

Jody Ciufo, Executive Director

Dallas Alderson, Director, Policy & Programs

Pat Underwood, Director, Communications

Vicky Coulombe-Joyce, Coordinator, Communications & Member Services

Kristen Holinsky, Program Officer

Kelsey Brown, Administrative Assistant

Spreading CHRA's message in 2013

We presented at:

- The New Brunswick Non-Profit Housing Association Annual Conference, May 9-11, Moncton. Presentation by Phil Brown.
- The Mayor's Housing Summit, May 13-14, Regina. Presentation by Dallas Alderson.
- The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials National Conference, October 24 – 26, Cleveland. Presentation by Phil Brown.
- The British Columbia Non-Profit Housing Association Annual Conference, November 18-20, Vancouver. Presentation by Jody Ciufu.
- Nova Scotia Housing and Homelessness Network Conference, November 21-22. Presentation by Phil Brown.
- The Manitoba Non-Profit Housing Association Annual Conference, November 21-22, Winnipeg. Presentation by Jody Ciufu.



We participated on:

- The Mobilizing Local Capacity to End Youth Homelessness Program Steering Committee
- The National Housing Research Committee
- The Canadian Homelessness Research Network/ Canadian Homelessness Observatory Working Group
- The Homelessness Partnering Strategy's Housing First Working Group
- Mental Health Commission of Canada's Think Tank on Housing First



We participated at:

- The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials Legislative Conference, March 15-17, Washington, D.C.
- The Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada Annual Conference, June 6-8, Calgary
- Réseau habitat et francophonie, June 19, Gatineau
- Housing and HIV/AIDS Research Summit, September 25-27, Montréal
- 7^e Rendez-vous de l'habitation de Société d'habitation du Québec, "Investir dans l'habitation: agir sur la société", October 7, Québec City
- The Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association Annual Conference, October 17-19, Toronto
- Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness Conference, October 28-30, Ottawa

We organized:

- CHRA Advocacy Day on Housing and Homelessness, April 30, Ottawa
- Inaugural Meeting of the CHRA Non-Reserve Aboriginal Housing Caucus, May 1, Ottawa
- CHRA Congress 2013, April 30 – May 3, Ottawa
- Second annual meeting of Community Advisory Boards/Community Entities Learning Network, May 3-4, Ottawa

Advocacy

Inaugural CHRA Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day on Parliament Hill

CHRA's Inaugural Advocacy Day on Housing and Homelessness took place on April 30, 2013. Over 70 representatives from CHRA member organizations met in small groups with 22 Members of Parliament and Senators throughout the day. They included 8 Conservatives, 10 New Democrats and 4 Liberals. Meeting group participants provided three messages focused on the need to sustain the social housing stock after operating agreements end, affordability challenges of the private rental housing stock and parameters around the Investment in Affordable Housing and the Homelessness Partnering Strategy. CHRA's second Advocacy Day on Housing and Homelessness is planned for October 2014.



CHRA makes a splash on National Housing Day

In 2013, National Housing Day took place on November 22. CHRA developed and released a dynamic infographic which outlined new housing affordability numbers, demonstrating that wage increases have not kept pace with housing cost increases over the same period. It also illustrated that housing affordability has decreased considerably in the current period and outlined the federal actions needed to improve this situation. The infographic was posted and circulated by many stakeholders and governments and received a high degree of activity on social media.



C-400 for a National Housing Strategy defeated, CHRA responds

On February 27, Bill C-400, An Act to ensure secure, adequate, accessible and affordable housing for Canadians was defeated in the House of Commons. CHRA had urged Members of Parliament to support it through an open letter from CHRA President Phil Brown. In response to its defeat, CHRA provided attributed analysis and commentary to several media outlets. The story was reported by the CBC, Canadian Press and several regional newspapers.

CHRA's pre-budget submission outlines needed federal actions

In the lead-up to the 2014 federal budget, we submitted a brief to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance which outlined three recommendations and their associated costs and impacts. The submission recommended funding to sustain the social housing stock after operating agreements end, incentives to encourage more rental housing to ameliorate affordability and that the Investment in Affordable Housing framework and the Homelessness Partnering Strategy be made permanent and outcomes-focused.

CHRA's campaign "Protect Social Housing" gets underway in 2013

In late 2013, the CHRA Board of Directors approved the "Protect Social Housing" campaign, whose focus is to ensure low-income households do not risk increased rents or eviction as federal funding expires with the end of operating agreements. While the majority of campaign activities – including the launch of a policy paper, a campaign website and provider-level case studies – will take place in 2014, much of the groundwork was laid over the course of 2013.



More Rental Housing for More Affordable Housing: A CHRA Policy Statement

CHRA officially launched its *More Rental Housing for More Affordable Housing* policy statement on May 2 at Congress 2013. The policy was largely shaped by CHRA's Task Group on Private Rental Housing, led by CHRA Board Member Bryan Lutes. Task Group members worked together, identifying the rationale for why more rental housing is needed. They pinpointed the barriers that impeded its development and proposed solutions. They brought their report to the CHRA Board of Directors, who endorsed it. In turn, the report served as the basis of the policy statement, which ultimately proposes a suite of federal tax measures as a way to encourage rental developments. Above all, the statement recommends as a first step a conversation with the federal government on this issue, with all the right stakeholders – public, private and non-profit – at the table.

New CHRA papers

With generous funding from BC Housing, we were able to convert five Congress sessions into case studies and summaries for widespread use. They are available on the CHRA website www.chra-achru.ca.

The new resource titles are:

- *Affordable Housing Challenges & Innovations in the North*
- *Community-led Neighbourhood Revitalization in Social Housing*
- *The End of Operating Agreements for Aboriginal Housing Providers*
- *Social Finance Case Study*
- *Fostering Inclusion for Newcomers to Ottawa*



BC Housing



Networks

CHRA's unique role in connecting the affordable housing and homelessness sector is growing in importance. The creation and nurturing of interest-based networks made considerable progress in 2013.

The Aboriginal Caucus

This year saw the formation of the CHRA Non-Reserve Aboriginal Housing Advisory Caucus ("the Caucus"). The Caucus is chaired by CHRA's Aboriginal Communities Representative and Caucus members must also be CHRA members or representatives of organizations that are CHRA members.

The Caucus has been formed with a mission to advise the CHRA Board of Directors, through the provision of aboriginal perspectives, advice on emerging issues, networking and resource sharing, and assisting CHRA in developing new leadership for the association and the sector.

Chaired by Tina Larouche, the Aboriginal Communities representative, the inaugural meeting during Congress was well attended, with over 60 delegates representing 34 organizations. The meeting sought input from Caucus members on its future direction and areas of focus. Two key priorities emerged: building the network and preparing a blueprint that will ultimately lead to systemic improvement in aboriginal housing conditions in Canada. These two priorities and the Caucus initiative itself were subsequently supported, endorsed by the CHRA Board of Directors and now form part of CHRA's 2013-2014 plan where an Aboriginal Caucus workshop is scheduled during Congress.

The Community Advisory Boards and Community Entities ("CABs")

Almost 90 people representing Community Advisory Boards and Community Entities from across Canada gathered in Ottawa on May 3rd and 4th to share best and promising practices, learn from one another and deliberate on the future of homelessness programs in Canada, with a particular emphasis on the optimal use of funds allocated to 'housing first' within the renewed Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS).

This was the second meeting of the National Network of Community Advisory Boards and Community Entities or "CABs" which was formed by CHRA so that the 61 communities designated to receive federal funding under the renewed HPS could collaborate and share program ideas in an open and inclusive forum.

A landmark forward-looking report resulted, identifying four recommendations and three conditions for success that will set the stage for better community plans, deliverable in 2014. CABs recommend that a flexible approach to implementing Housing First is required for community plans, along with better clarity in defining what constitutes Housing First, an increased emphasis on the prevention of homelessness and ensuring adequate funding is in place given Housing First is focused on populations with complex needs. To be successful with Housing First, the report identifies the need for sufficient affordable housing, multi-level government collaboration and, within the federal government, more inter-agency collaboration. There is commitment to sustaining the CABs/CEs network, through an annual meeting and connectivity between meetings. The CHRA Board is supportive of a third annual meeting, based on securing sponsorship.

CHRA thanks the supporting organizations for making the 2013 meeting possible – Homelessness Partnering Strategy, the CADRE Research Chair on behalf of the Mental Health Commission of Canada's At Home/Chez Soi Project, the Catherine Donnelly Foundation, and the Canadian Homelessness Research Network.

CHRA webinars

CHRA offered six educational webinars on a range of housing and homelessness topics. Participants learn from and engage with housing experts who generously share their work and best practices for everyone's benefit.

February 20

With Common Purpose: Working with Business Improvement Areas/Zones for Housing

March 7

It's Everybody's Business: Engaging the Private Sector in Solutions to Youth Homelessness

October 9

Understanding your Expiring Social Housing Operating Agreement

November 6

More Rental Housing for More Affordable Housing

November 27

Affordable Homeownership in Mid-Size Communities

December 10

Affordable Housing Solutions for Aboriginal Communities

2013 National Congress – Ottawa

An Outstanding Success!

- Our 45th Annual National Congress, in Ottawa, was a memorable event for all who participated.
- 460 delegates, 21 sponsors, 18 exhibitors and over 75 speakers!



National Chief Atleo Delivers Message of Collaboration, Optimism
Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo delivered an unforgettable keynote address, reflecting on the importance of safe, secure housing to families and communities in both his own home community of the Ahousaht First Nation and beyond. He shared his belief that, in working together, we can ensure all Canadians – no matter where they live – have an affordable, safe place to call home.



Dual Delegate Dinners
Delegates could choose between two popular Ottawa restaurants as their CHRA Dinner destination; the Métropolitain Brasserie and the Mill Street Brew Pub. A good time was widely reported!



Pre-Congress Trains Delegates for Advocacy Success
Communication experts provided delegates with valuable skills such as messaging, utilizing data, social media and collaborating with unusual partners, as part of "Telling the Housing Story – Advocate, Partner and Communicate!" Delegates then headed to Parliament Hill to put these skills into action in meetings with MPs and Senators.

Thank you to the Ottawa Host Committee

Catherine Boucher, *Chair*

Lorraine Bentley, *Options Bytown Non-Profit Housing Corporation*

Vivian Chih, *Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation*

John Dickie, *Eastern Ontario Landlord Organization*

Scott Harcourt, *Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing*

Val Hinsperger, *Nepean Housing*

Lisa Ker, *Salus Ottawa*

Chris Laundry, *Housing Services Corporation*

Shawn Lowes, *Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing*

Marc Maracle, *Gignul Non-Profit Housing Corporation*

Ishbel Solvason-Wiebe, *The Social Housing Registry*

Ray Sullivan, *Centretown Citizens Ottawa Corporation*

Shelley Vanbuskirk, *City of Ottawa*

Cliff Youdale, *Ottawa Community Housing*

2013 National Congress – Ottawa

- 38% of delegates from the western four provinces and the north, 55% from Ontario and Quebec and 7% from the eastern four provinces
- 60 delegates at inaugural Aboriginal Caucus meeting and almost 90 at Community Advisory Boards and Community Entities meeting



Walk, run or ride! Mobile Tours had something for everyone, with several sold out.

Ottawa affordable housing projects provided on-site learning and experience for 174 delegates on Day 1 and 149 on Day 3.



New Emerging Professionals Research Colloquium a Hit
CHRA expanded our program for Emerging Professionals – housing/homelessness professionals under 30 years of age and students – by having selected EPs present their housing-related research to a national audience. Three thematic areas were: Perceptions and Responses to Homelessness; Building Place, Strengthening Communities; and Connecting Housing and Health.



HRSDC Minister Attends
The Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, Diane Finley, addressed delegates at the CMHC Awards Luncheon and presented Len Simms, CEO and Chairman of the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation, with the CMHC Award for his outstanding contribution to affordable housing.

CHRA is indebted to our many sponsors whose support made Congress 2013 possible. Thank you to our title and major sponsors:



CHRA awards

Robert Hale Jr. Memorial Award. *Established as a memorial to Robert Hale Jr. to encourage emulation of the outstanding contribution he made to housing improvement in Canada.*

Shayne Ramsay, Chief Executive Officer, BC Housing



As Chief Executive Officer of BC Housing, Shayne pioneered a strategy to preserve and upgrade the existing BC housing stock for the most vulnerable. Through the unprecedented purchase and rehabilitation of 24 Single Room Occupancy hotels (SROs), fragile housing stock for people at risk of homelessness has been saved. Allocating the management of the SROs to non-profit housing providers has ensured a community-based, responsive approach. Shayne has shown an innovative, daring style, instrumental to increasing the accessibility of safe, adequate and affordable housing for British Columbians.

International Award. *Established to highlight the involvement of CHRA and its members at the international level.*

Nicholas Volk, Chair, AT HOME in East York Non-Profit Housing



For over 25 years, Nick Volk has shown remarkable dedication to providing affordable housing and a commitment to social justice in Canada and around the world. Through his career, Nick has worked successfully in affordable housing construction, advocacy and revitalization. With a long pedigree of Canadian experiences and a willingness to share his knowledge through professional exchanges, Nick has contributed significantly to the international understanding of affordable housing issues.

Graham Emslie Award. *Established to honour Graham Emslie, a former CHRA president, this award celebrates those who have made an outstanding contribution to housing and community development.*

Karen Stone, Former Executive Director, British Columbia Non-Profit Housing Association



In light of expiring operating agreements, Karen advocated for a community development approach to capital planning, marking a shift away from more traditional models of supports. Driven by a desire to ensure that non-profit housing providers have the skills and capacity they need to deliver quality affordable housing well into the future, Karen's initiative enshrined accountability and transparency into the planning process so that buildings are in good repair when operating agreements expire.



CMHC Award. *Presented annually to recognize an individual's outstanding contribution to affordable housing.*

Len Simms, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman, Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation



As head of the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation (NLHC) since 2005, Len has led the charge in the provision of accessible, affordable, suitable housing for those in need in Newfoundland, Labrador and beyond. Len

has a unique ability to connect with the community and match funding supports to community projects. Numerous funding successes achieved on Len's watch paved the way for the modernization of 70% of the social housing portfolio, up from 30% in 2007. Len's deep, personal commitment to his community, province and country have been a true inspiration to all in this sector.

The bottom line

For 2013, the second year of solid financial performance and a balanced budget is testament to the strength of CHRA's strategy and direction in serving the needs of a diverse membership, forging mutually beneficial partnerships and providing relevant programs for those in the affordable housing and homelessness sector.

A record-setting attendance of over 460 delegates at our Ottawa Congress helped to boost congress revenues by almost \$47,000 in 2013 versus 2012, without increasing registration fees. While associated expenses also increased to accommodate so many delegates, the Congress still brought in net revenues of \$230,253 in 2013 compared to a net of \$196,324 in 2012, an improvement of 17% that points to a positive growth in our flagship event.

CHRA reached out to new and existing partner organizations and government departments to help convene the housing sector, during our national Congress, our CABs meeting, our Advocacy Day and more. External funding also helped CHRA develop programming, participate in relevant meetings

across the country and produce new research and policy pieces. The sector responded positively, indicating commitment to the organizational goals, and boosting partner funding by 13%.

Membership growth accounted for another bump in revenue, up 5%. As of year-end, we serve 281 members. A strong membership retention rate of 93% reflects the solid value that CHRA members acknowledge when annual dues are paid.

The improved, stabilized position of CHRA finances paved the way for hiring a Director of Communications in the latter half of 2013, boosting capacity for marketing and communication activities to further promote the work of CHRA. A total of six full-time staff now provide a core group able to manage the growing complexity of the policy, program and advocacy work the association undertakes.

The Statement of Financial Position has been included in this year's report, to share this positive snapshot of the association's balance sheet. The CHRA Board was able to re-establish internally restricted reserves of \$10,000, marking the continued financial turnaround since CMHC funding was withdrawn.



Statement of Operations

Year ended December 31, 2013

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Revenue		
Membership	\$ 336,141	\$ 319,538
Annual congress	416,809	369,887
Partnership funding	106,884	94,796
Investment	3,883	1,705
Miscellaneous	1,486	1,971
	<u>\$ 865,203</u>	<u>\$ 787,897</u>
Expenses		
Salaries, benefits and contracted services	\$ 482,904	\$ 366,996
Office and overhead	116,602	135,373
Democratic functioning	18,142	11,147
Annual congress *	186,556	173,563
Communications	19,962	18,361
Membership development	36,862	46,285
Amortization	3,373	4,919
	<u>\$ 864,401</u>	<u>\$ 756,644</u>
Net revenue	<u>\$ 802</u>	<u>\$ 31,253</u>

*These are direct costs only. Salaries, administration and overhead costs are not allocated to this item.

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2013

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 193,550	\$ 75,652
Short-term investments	50,000	-
Accounts receivable	233,484	25,389
Prepaid expenses	26,823	15,113
	<u>\$ 503,857</u>	<u>\$ 116,154</u>
Tangible Capital Assets	<u>5,854</u>	<u>6,629</u>
	<u>\$ 509,711</u>	<u>\$ 122,783</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities		
Bank deficit	\$ -	\$1,725
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	55,694	24,612
Deferred membership fees and revenues	398,967	42,198
	<u>\$ 454,661</u>	<u>\$ 68,535</u>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	\$ 39,196	\$ 47,619
Invested in tangible capital assets	5,854	6,629
Internally restricted:		
Stabilization reserve	10,000	-
	<u>\$ 55,050</u>	<u>\$ 54,248</u>
	<u>\$ 509,711</u>	<u>\$ 122,783</u>

Complete financial statements are available upon written request to the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association.

• Jackson Brown Associates Inc. • Jijian Voronka • John Howard Society of Southeastern NB Inc. • Joyce Potter • Judy Forrest • Karen Cooper • Katie Plaizier • Kawartha Participation Projects • Kehilla Residential Programme • La Maison du Père • Larry S. Bourne • Leduc Foundation • Lu'ma Native Housing Society • M'akola Group of Societies • Mainstay Housing • Mamele'awt Qweesome Housing Society • Manitoba Housing • Manitoba Non-Profit Housing Association • Margaret Forbes • Mark Guslits Consulting • Maroine Bendaoud • Mary McKenzie-James • Mental Health Commission of Canada • Métis Urban Housing Association of Saskatchewan • Métis Capital Housing Corporation • Montfort Renaissance • Moose Jaw Housing Authority • Moose Jaw Non-Profit Housing Corporation • Multifaith Housing Initiative • Myriam St-Denis • Namerind Housing Corporation • Nanaimo Affordable Housing Society • Nanaimo Region John Howard Society • National Capital Region YMCA-YWCA • Native People of Thunder Bay Development Corporation • Neale Staniszkis Doll Adams Architects • Nepean Housing Corporation • New Brunswick Non-Profit Housing Association • New Dawn Enterprises • New Journey Housing • New Urban • New Vista Society • Newfoundland & Labrador Housing & Homelessness Network • Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation • Nick Falvo • Nicole Wilson • Noreen Khimani • Northern Spruce Housing Corporation • Northgate Information Solutions • Northwest Territories Housing Corporation • Nova Scotia Department of Community Services • Nunavut Housing Corporation • Ontario Aboriginal Housing Support Services Corporation • Ontario HIV Treatment Network • Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association • Options Bytown Non-Profit Housing Corporation • Options For Homes • Ottawa Community Housing Corporation • Ottawa Community Loan Fund • Ottawa Salus Corporation • P.A. Community Housing Society Inc. • P.A.M. Gardens Non-Profit Inc. • PAL Vancouver • Pam Ralston • Parry Sound Housing Corporation • Paul Dowling & Associates • Peel Living • Phil Brown • Phoenix Residential Society • PHS Community Services Society • Prentice, Yates & Clark • Prince Charles Place • Prince Edward Island Department of Community Service & Seniors & Labour • Prince George Métis Housing Society • Province of New Brunswick Family & Community Services • Raising the Roof • Rayside Architectes • Red Door Housing Society • Regina Downtown Business Improvement District • Region of Peel • Region of Waterloo • Regional Municipality of Halton, Social and Community Services Dept • Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo • Regroupement des offices d'habitation du Québec • Rehabitat Inc. • Réseau québécois des OSBL d'habitation • Resource Assistance for Youth • Right to Housing • River Bank Development Corporation • Robert Cohen • Ron Fougere Associates Ltd. • Rooftops Canada • S.A.M. (Management) Inc. • Salvation Army-Peel Residential Services • Saskatchewan Housing Corporation • Saskatoon Housing Authority • Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership • Sean Major • Seton Foundation • SHS Consulting • Sidedoor Youth Centre • Silver Sage Housing Corporation • Sisters of Mercy Newfoundland • Social and Enterprise Development Innovations (SEDI) • Social Housing Registry of Ottawa • Société d'habitation Chambrelle • Société d'habitation du Québec • Sound Advice Consulting Co-Operative • St. Clare's Multifaith Housing Society • St. John's Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness • St. John's Status of Women Council • Stella Burry Community Services • Stephen Brown • Streetohome Foundation • Streets Alive Family Support Association • Surita Parashar • Terra Housing Consultants • The Agency for Co-operative Housing • The District Municipality of Muskoka • The Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver • The Old Brewery Mission • The Ottawa Mission • The Salvation Army - Sherbourne • Tim Welch Consulting • Timothy Andrew Norman • Toronto Community Housing Corporation • Toronto Entertainment District BIA • VanCity Enterprises • Vancouver Coastal Health • Vancouver Native Housing Society • Victoria Cool Aid Society • Victoria Park Community Homes • Viessmann Manufacturing Company Inc. • Villa Héritage Inc. • Ville de Montréal • Vincent Paul Family Homes • Wellesley Institute • Winnipeg Housing & Rehabilitation Corporation • Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation • Woodgreen Community Housing Inc • Yellowknife Homelessness Coalition • York Developments Inc. • York Region • York University • Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa • YWCA Canada • YWCA Peterborough Victoria & Haliburton • Zheng Sun

Contact us

Canadian Housing and Renewal Association
75 Albert Street, Suite 902
Ottawa, ON, K1P 5E7

Phone: 613 594 3007
Fax: 613 594 9596

✉ Email: info@chra-achru.ca
🐦 Twitter: @chrastaff

www.chra-achru.ca
www.chracongress.ca