



Communications Report Jan - March 2026

We respectfully acknowledge the Mi'kmaq people of Abegweit in Mi'kma'ki. We acknowledge that Mi'kma'ki is the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people, who, in 1725, first signed the Treaties of Peace and Friendship with the British Crown.

Co-op Information

Our Board

Our founding Board of Directors is made up of Island volunteers who are helping guide the co-op through its early days.

They bring a mix of experience, passion, and commitment to building a thriving community:

- Angela Simpson, President
- Elizabeth Kelly, Vice-President
- Mathieu Arsenault, Secretary and Treasurer

The board is responsible for making decisions that protect affordability, stability, and the long-term future of Island Unity.



Strategic Plan

Mission:

To create opportunities for individuals to thrive in a co-operative community by fostering a foundation of safe, secure, supported, and stable collectively owned assets.

Vision:

We aim to be recognized as a community solution, ensuring housing is not an economic barrier by fostering long-term, scalable success through strategic partnerships, engagement, and collaboration

Core Values:

- Education
- Innovation
- Transparency



Planning

From the Board

The Board of Island Unity Land Co-operative is pleased to share this quarterly update with members, partners, and the broader community.

This quarter was an important step forward for Island Unity. We moved from planning into action under the Community Housing Expansion Pilot (CHEP). Progress was made in governance, partnerships, and preparing for housing acquisitions. This work helps build a strong foundation for stable community-led housing.

Audit & Annual General Meeting

Because Island Unity is new and operates within a limited partnership, the audit process takes extra coordination. This helps ensure strong oversight and financial accountability from the start. .

The auditor was formally approved, all required documents were completed,, and audit work has begun in coordination with property management.





Strengthening Board Capacity and Protection

This quarter, the board approved an increase to Directors' and Officers' Liability Insurance, raising coverage from \$1 million to \$5 million. This added protection supports volunteer directors and ensures the board can continue its work responsibly as Island Unity's role as a housing provider grows.

Sector Support

Staying connected with the co-operative housing sector is an important part of good governance.

This quarter:

- All three directors are registered to attend the CHF Canada Annual General Meeting, taking place June 11–13 in Fredericton.
- Island Unity will co-host a tradeshow table with other Atlantic co-ops
- Island Unity will be highlighted nationally at the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association (CAEH) conference, sharing its partnership model with the Province of Prince Edward Island.
- The co-op agreed to share its experience with an emerging land co-operative in Saskatchewan.

These connections support learning, strong governance, and the sharing of best practices that help protect and grow affordable housing locally.

Resident Engagement

Capacity funding

Island Unity signed a capacity agreement to support the next stage of planning and housing acquisition activity.

Under the agreement:

- Monthly check-ins are held
- Quarterly financial and progress reports are completed
- The Board has formal responsibility for oversight and accountability

The Annual Plan was updated and approved to align directly with these requirements and is now the main tool to track progress and report to funders and members.



Marketing and Communication

New Sign

The new Island Unity sign at the Pope Road property has been installed.

The sign improves visibility, strengthens Island Unity's presence in the community, and reflects the co-op's transition into an active housing provider. This work was completed by a local supplier and supports a professional, welcoming presence at the site.



Sustainability, Growth and Development

Strategic growth

Not every opportunity result in additional co-op homes. This quarter demonstrated strong, values-based, decision-making.

Island Unity carefully explored a large, multi-property acquisition with sector partners. After review, the board made the decision not to proceed.

This choice was made to protect long-term sustainability, asset health, and affordability.

This process strengthened partnerships, clarified growth limits, and reinforced Island Unity's commitment to responsible, community-led housing.

Potential Acquisition

Island Unity continued to work on a housing acquisition this quarter as part of its participation in the Community Housing Expansion Pilot (CHEP). The board is pursuing a 12-unit acquisition.

Key steps completed so far include:

- Board approval to proceed
- Secured provincial support
- Signed agreement with the seller

To complete the purchase, the following steps remain:

- Final due diligence
- Signing the necessary agreements to allow the project to move forward

The project has entered the closing phase and marks an important milestone in expanding at-cost, community-led housing. Updates will continue as the work moves ahead.





Rental Assistance

Many members across the country rely on rental assistance to help pay their housing charges. Two programs, Federal Community Housing Initiative (FCHI) and the Canada Community Housing Initiative (CCHI), are set to end in March 2028. If they are not renewed, some members may face higher housing costs.

CHF Canada is asking the federal government to renew this funding through the You Hold the Key: Protect Affordable Homes. Renew Rental Assistance Now,

How you can help:

- Send a letter to your MP (template linked here)
- Join CHF Canada's virtual rally on May 5, 2026 at 7:00 pm
- Stay informed
- Spread the word to friends and family, and have them sign up too.

Why this matters:

Rental assistance helps people stay in their homes. Renewing these programs protects affordable housing for co-ops across the country.

