

HOUSING



In co-op housing, renters are co-owners of their buildings. Resident-members ensure the management of their buildings and of the co-op itself.

There are many different models of co-operative housing, however in Canada the majority fit into one of two categories—non-profit housing co-operatives and equity housing co-ops.

There are 2,208 non-profit or common propriety housing co-ops in Canada. In this model, renters are co-owners of their buildings. Resident-members govern the management of their buildings and the co-op itself. These housing co-ops provide thousands of units of affordable housing in communities throughout Canada.

In equity housing co-ops, the share invested by members is usually equivalent to the market value of their housing unit. Equity co-ops can be structured on the basis shared equity, limited equity or a market equity. Real estate management co-ops also exist.

“HOUSING CO-OPS, AS A GROUP, ARE ONE OF THE BIGGEST RESIDENTIAL HOUSING OWNERS IN CANADA AND ONE OF CANADA’S BIGGEST EMPLOYERS IN THE REAL ESTATE SECTOR

The power of housing co-ops

The first student housing co-op was founded in 1913, at the University of Guelph in Guelph, Ontario, while the first family-oriented housing co-op opened its doors in 1966 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Both are still operating today.

Thanks to various federal and provincial programs, 2,339 housing co-ops have been built since the early 1960s. Today, the concept continues to develop, thanks to new models, such as equity co-ops and co-op housing for seniors.

Housing co-ops, as a group, are one of the biggest residential housing owners in Canada and one of Canada’s biggest employers in the real estate sector. In fact, when you compare the housing co-op sector to any of the largest private residential real estate companies, the co-ops are larger by number of units, number of employees and assets. However, the public housing sector-owned by crown corporations or municipalities—is the largest non-private housing network.

IN NUMBERS¹

2,318
HOUSING CO-OPS

\$5.43 billion
IN ASSETS

134,000
MEMBERS

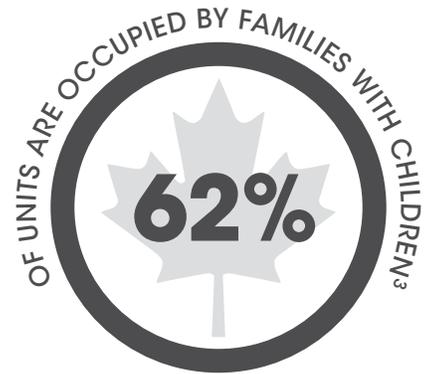
OVER
\$1 billion
IN REVENUES

Our member in this sector

The **Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada** is the nation-wide umbrella organization for co-op housing and Canada's link with co-op housing around the world. As spelled out in its mission and values, the organization exists to unite, represent and serve the co-op housing community across Canada.

The **Agency for Co-operative Housing** ensure that public funds committed for co-operative housing programs are used as intended and are properly accounted for and safeguard the public's investment in co-operative housing.

Within the limits imposed by the terms of its agreement with CMHC, the Agency administers federal co-operative housing programs in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Prince Edward Island, and the operating agreements of co-ops coming under CMHC's urban-native programs.



¹ Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, 2012

² Tango RJ consultant, 2012

³ Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada, 2014