

# CANADIAN COHOUSING NETWORK

working together to create healthy sustainable communities

Dear Friends,

Members of the Canadian Cohousing Network are forming groups and established communities that include all of the following characteristics (as delivered by Kathryn McCamant and Charles Durrett at the 3<sup>rd</sup> North American Cohousing Conference in Seattle, September, 1997):

## 1. Participatory Process.

Residents participate in the planning and design of the development of the community so that it directly responds to their needs.

*(Developer initiated/driven projects are in no way a threat to this. In most cases, developer initiation may actually make it easier for more people to participate in the process. On the other hand, a well-designed, pedestrian-oriented community with no resident involvement in the planning might be “cohousing inspired”, but is not a cohousing community.)*

## 2. Neighborhood Design.

The physical design encourages a sense of community as well as maintaining the option for privacy.

*(It is harder to define here exactly what constitutes “encouraging a sense of community,” but rather than saying it must be a pedestrian-oriented design with the cars at the periphery, it is more important that residents are involved in the decision making (see above) and the intent must be to create a “strong sense of community” with design as one of the facilitators. Getting together to afford your private golf club does not do it.)*

## 3. Private homes supplemented by common facilities.

Common facilities are designed for daily use; they are an integral part of the community and typically include a dining area, sitting area, children’s play room, guest room, as well as garden and other amenities. Each household owns a private residence ---complete with kitchen—but also shares extensive common facilities with the larger group.

*(Cohousing is not a shared house. A shared house could be included in a cohousing community but is a different community/housing type.)*

## 4. Resident management.

After move-in.

## 5. Non-hierarchical structure and decision-making.

There are leadership roles, but not leaders. The community is not dependent on any one person, even though there is often a “burning soul” that gets the community off the ground, and another that pulls together the financing, and another that makes sure you, the group, has babysitters for meetings, and another...

*(If your community has a leader that sets policy or establishes standards unilaterally, it is not cohousing.)*

## 6. The community is not a primary income source for residents.

There is no shared community (communal) economy.

*(If the community provides residents with their primary income, this is a significant change to the dynamic between neighbors and defines another level of community beyond the scope of cohousing.)*

If your community includes all of these characteristics, we welcome you to join as a member!

Membership fees are due each year on January 1. Please submit your membership fees along with the enclosed form to the following address:

The Canadian Cohousing Network  
#27 – 20543 – 96<sup>th</sup> Ave., Langley, BC V1M 3W3

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**Group Memberships:** \$20 per year for each committed household for forming groups (however the group defines a committed household) with a \$50 minimum fee

\$20 per year for each unit in a completed community.

**Corporate/Professional:** \$250 per year

**Friends of Cohousing:** donations welcome!

## **Membership Benefits:**

- One of the most valuable collaborative tools is the cohousing.ca website. CCN membership pays for regular advertising and articles in local, national and international papers that direct readers to the website. By grouping together on one website, members can benefit not only from CCN's advertising, but also from every member's outreach and promotion. As more groups use the website and provide advertising that ties into it, the value and exposure will increase.
- Membership includes a paragraph and an image on the cohousing.ca website based on an agreed to format. The information will link to contact information and/or the member's own website (whichever is preferred). The initial set up cost is included in the CCN membership fee.
- A contact person at the CCN responds to general inquiries and provides interested people with information about cohousing and the communities in their local area.
- Information about your group is included at CCN promotional events, presentations and in the Canadian Cohousing Network newsletter.
- National advertising and articles include a toll free number that directs callers to information about the member communities.
- Member groups have the opportunity to contribute articles to the CCN newsletter, which is published twice a year.
- Members can have input into the direction and operation of the CCN at the annual general meeting.

We request that you send the following information about your community to [info@cohousing.ca](mailto:info@cohousing.ca).

1. Phase of development
2. Community name
3. Location (address if you have a site, if not give us a description of the kind of location that you're looking for)
4. Picture (jpg format or mail a photo and we will scan it and send it back to you)
5. Number of homes (potential) in the community
6. Number of current households (committed members - however you define them)
7. Common house size (potential)
8. Project Description (maximum 65 words)
9. Contact name
10. Email address
11. Phone number
12. Contact mailing address
13. Website address\*

\*In order to make the best use of the collaborative nature of the cohousing.ca website and to provide continuity, we request that member's webpages include a CCN home page return button before we link to the member's site. We believe that it is important for people viewing the webpages to easily navigate back to the CCN site so that they can view information about other cohousing groups if they choose.

We invite you to join us. Your membership in CCN helps to build stronger, healthier and more sustainable communities "One Neighbourhood at a Time."

Warmest regards,  
From The Canadian Cohousing Network Board

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## CCN MEMBERSHIP FORM

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Community name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contact name, phone number and email address

Number of homes in the community (completed communities) or: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of committed households (forming communities) \_\_\_\_\_

X \$20 per year (minimum fee \$50)

Total fees: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your cheque to:

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#27 – 20543 – 96<sup>th</sup> Ave.,  
Langley, BC V1M 3W3

Thank-you for your support! Your membership in CCN helps to build stronger, healthier and more sustainable communities “One Neighbourhood at a Time.”