



# FAQ

## Land Co-operatives

### What is a land co-operative?

It is a member-governed organization that acquires and owns land — and in some cases, the buildings on that land — over the long term for the use of partnering housing co-ops.

It works in partnership with local housing co-ops, taking responsibility for the land and/or the land and buildings, while the housing co-op's focus is on member engagement and supporting community life.

### Why use the land co-op model?

A land co-op is a tool for growing and strengthening the co-op housing sector. It brings together assets, expertise, and advocacy to:

- Purchase and protect land permanently for current and future housing co-ops
- Maintain and improve buildings and sites
- Manage assets, finances, and long-term planning across multiple projects
- Support redevelopment, acquisition, or new construction that would be difficult for individual housing co-ops to undertake alone

## What are the benefits of a land co-op?

This model offers several important benefits that make it easier to build long-term capacity. Land co-ops enable existing co-ops to grow and support the development of new housing co-ops over time. The benefits include:

- Flexibility to adapt to changes in government policies and funding programs
- Greater scale and resilience through shared resources and networks
- Defined roles where housing co-ops focus on community life and member engagement, while the land co-op takes care of the land and/or the land and buildings.

## What is the role and responsibility of the partner housing co-op(s)?

As an independent co-op, the housing co-op focuses on residents and community life. Its responsibilities include:

- Operating the housing on the land co-op's land and/or in its building(s)
- Managing day-to-day housing and community life
- Establishing membership criteria, engages and educates members
- Electing its own board and appointing a delegate to the land co-op

Together, this partnership allows housing co-ops to focus on building strong member communities, while the land co-op ensures the land, assets, and long-term planning are secure.

## What is the role and responsibility of the land co-op?

Land co-ops are responsible for the land and/or land and buildings, and the main responsibilities include:

- Owning and maintaining the land and/or buildings
- Planning, managing and financing major capital repairs and upgrades related to the land and/or buildings
- Entering into multi-year operating agreements with housing co-ops
- Providing governance and management support to partner housing co-ops

## Where can I find out more?

This resource complements a [CHF Canada video on land co-ops](#). More information on land co-ops can be found by visiting [CHF Canada's website](#).

The website also contains an [intake form](#) for you to complete if you are looking for information or advice from CHF Canada's Development Team.

Visit [chfcanada.coop/build](https://chfcanada.coop/build) or contact [growth@chfcanada.coop](mailto:growth@chfcanada.coop).