



# CANADIAN COHOUSING NETWORK

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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. 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.)*

## **5. 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.)*

## **6. Resident management.**

After move-in.



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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please provide written information in the form below letting us know how your community meets these characteristics. If your community includes all of these characteristics, we welcome you to join as a member!

**1. Participatory Process.**

**2. Neighborhood Design.**

**3. Private homes supplemented by common facilities.**

**4. Non-hierarchical structure and decision-making.**

**5. The community is not a primary income source for residents.**



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**Group Memberships:** \$50 first year for forming groups  
After the first year the fee is \$20 per year for each committed household (however the group defines a committed household)  
\$20 per year for each unit in a completed community.

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

**Friends of Cohousing:** donations welcome!

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

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

Company name (corporate/professional membership): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

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

Please check the box that applies:

- New group first year of membership \$50
- Number of committed households (forming communities): \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20 = \_\_\_\_\_
- Number of homes in the community (completed communities): \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20 = \_\_\_\_\_
- Corporate/Professional membership \$250/year

Please send your cheque to:  
The Canadian Cohousing Network  
#27 – 20543 – 96<sup>th</sup> Ave.,  
Langley, BC V1M 3W3



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## 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.
- 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. Cohousing Consultant (if you are working with a professional)
4. Location (address if you have a site, if not a description of the location that you're looking for)
5. Picture (jpg format)
6. Number of homes (potential) in the community
7. Number of current households (committed members - however you define them)
8. Common house size (potential)
9. Project Description (maximum 65 words)
10. Contact name
11. Email address
12. Phone number
13. Contact mailing address
14. Website address

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