

Cambridge New Hope Housing Co-operative Inc.

Policy No. 10

CONFLICT RESOLUTION POLICY

Approved by the Board of Directors
on April 29, 2015

CONFLICT RESOLUTION POLICY

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to:

- Facilitate effective communication and conflict resolution between members and the Co-op.
- Streamline the process for dealing with member complaints.
- Establish clear roles for the Board in dealing with member conflicts.

2. Priority of this Policy

This Policy takes priority over and or amends all previous Board policies, resolutions or decisions that deal with member complaints.

3. Amendment of this Policy

This Policy may be amended by Board resolution.

4. Member Complaint Procedure

In the normal course of operations, conflict will arise between the Co-op and its members and/or between various members. Should conflict occur:

1. Members should attempt to talk with each other and resolve problems together. If this does not bring about the desired result, members can take a more definite action by following the complaint procedure.
2. If a Member has a complaint, the matter will be brought to the Board, in writing by means of a Complaint Form, *attached as Schedule A*. The Co-op will seek to maintain confidentiality with respect to the complaint.
3. A Member can obtain a copy of the Complaint Form from the Co-op office. It should be addressed, in confidence, to the Co-op and delivered to the Co-op office. Co-op Staff will bring the complaint to the next Board Meeting. The Board will then notify the member in writing on how the Board decides to deal with the complaint.
4. If the matter has not been resolved, the Member can write to the Board of Directors to request to speak at the next Board Meeting about the complaint.

5. Where the Co-op receives excessive correspondence from a Member, the Board of Directors may request that the complaint be limited and refocused by the Member. The Board may also limit the times and days on which contact will be.
6. If a complaint is about the same matter that has already been considered with only a minor difference and has exhausted the complaints process, the Board will advise that the matter is closed.
7. If a Member has made unreasonable complaints in the past, the Co-op will not assume that the Member's next complaint is unreasonable as each case will be considered on its merits. All relevant correspondence will be evaluated to consider the circumstances, including
 - a. Whether there is a likelihood that complaints are being made to intentionally cause harassment, redirect resources or to interrupt the proper workings of the Co-op
 - b. Whether the Member has made persistent or unreasonable demands
 - c. Whether the Member has been abusive or threatening to staff or has produced excessive correspondence; or
 - d. Where the complaint is considered to hinder day-to-day operational management of our services
8. Where it is clear that a Member will not accept the Board's decision on a matter, and that Member continues to contact the Board, the Board may notify the Member that no further complaints will be accepted concerning the matter, and that correspondence will be registered but not acknowledged or responded to unless the Member provides significant new information relating to the complaint or raises new issues of complaint which, in the Board's opinion, warrant fresh action.

Approved by the Board of Directors of Cambridge New Hope Housing Co-operative at a meeting properly held on April 29, 2015.

Secretary

c/s

Schedule A

BOARD AGENDA REQUEST

Before completing this form, please ensure that you have addressed the request/concern with the following individual(s) as appropriate. Indicate this for the Board by checking the boxes below.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbour(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Police / Legal Counsel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City bylaw officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Humane Society |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Co-op Emergency Maintenance Rep | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | |

Is this request/concern currently before the courts? Yes No

If yes, the board cannot address or discuss the issue, we suggest you seek legal counsel.

Date: _____

Name(s): _____ Unit #: _____

Unit phone # _____ - _____ - _____ Work / Cell #: _____ - _____ - _____

Email address: _____

In order for the Board to address a complaint, it **must be a direct Cambridge New Hope Co-op bylaw infraction**. As such please indicate below which bylaw(s) this request is related to.

Bylaw # _____ Bylaw Article # _____ Article Subsection _____ Schedule _____

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Bylaw # _____ Bylaw Article # _____ Article Subsection _____ Schedule _____

Please describe the request/concern below along with the desired action to be taken by the Board.
If the request/concern is complaint based, please be aware that unless it would pose a safety risk, the Board of Directors may, at its discretion, provide a copy of this request to the person(s) named below.

Request/Concern:

Desired action:

Member Signature(s)...

Name – please print

Name – please print

For office use...

Date received: _____

Date of Board Meeting: _____