



COMPASS NS

compassnshomes.coop

We sustain,
build and grow
inclusive
housing
co-operative
communities.

Compass Nova Scotia Co-operative Homes Ltd.

What is Compass Nova Scotia Co-operative Homes Ltd. (Compass NS)?

The purpose of Compass NS is to offer safe, secure and affordable housing to members of the co-operative. Compass NS provides an opportunity for existing housing co-operatives to join a larger co-operative and benefit from the economies of scale offered by a larger coop with a comprehensive asset management program. In addition, Compass NS is an avenue for expansion and new development.

What does the organizational structure of Compass NS look like?

The governance structure of Compass NS includes resident members, and non-resident members, who bring specific skills and expertise to the co-operative. The current board consists of 7 directors, 4 non-resident and 3 resident directors.

What does the operational structure of Compass NS look like?

The operational structure of Compass NS includes professional property management, governance management, development consultants and additional resources as required.

Our vision is to be the housing of choice for Nova Scotians who want strong governance and credible management in a thriving co-op community.

What rights do the members of Compass NS have?

Members of Compass NS:

- Participate democratically and each member has a vote;
- Elect and are eligible to run for the board of directors, who in turn help to define Compass NS priorities;
- Approve annual budgets, including housing charges and expenses;
- Approve annual financial statements and the appointment of an auditor;
- Are able to take part in education and training;
- Share common goals and a sense of identity and pride from working together;
- Are part of a smaller co-operative neighbourhood

Why would I want to be a member?

Housing co-operatives are controlled by the members who live in them, and being a member gives you the right to have a say in your housing.

Is Compass NS new?

Compass NS, was incorporated in 2016 to assist co-operatives in need of support and to grow the co-op sector. In late 2019, Compass NS gained its first set of assets.



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How many housing units does Compass NS have?

Compass NS has a total of 111 units in 8 different neighborhoods located in Antigonish, Dartmouth, Lower Sackville, Sydney and Spryfield. Compass NS is currently in the process of growing through development and has three development projects underway. The neighborhoods currently under development are in Digby, Halifax and Shelburne.

How are units filled?

Compass NS unit allocation policy prioritizes applicants who self-identify as being part of one or more of the categories listed below to ensure that the co-operative maintains housing for the most vulnerable population of at least 50% of the units.

Women and children fleeing violence, single parents, seniors, young adults, Indigenous people, people with disabilities, people dealing with mental health and addiction issues, veterans, LGBTQ2+, racialized groups, recent immigrants and people experiencing homelessness.

Applications are accepted via mail, email or by filling out an online fillable form.

Where can I find out more?

Additional information can be found on the **Compass Nova Scotia Co-operative Homes Ltd.** website and the **Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada** website.

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