

(how does OCH help? continued)

### Insurance

OCH provides all funded TAs with general liability insurance that protects the Association for legal liability to others for injury, death or damage to property that might arise out of the normal operations of the Association.

### Guidelines

OCH provides all TAs with a charter and a standard constitution. The charter outlines the commitment both OCH and the TA has towards helping the community. The constitution defines the general procedures all TAs must follow to help ensure the TA serves the community fairly and democratically.

### Resources

OCH provides staff assistance to get TAs up and running. Your Tenant and Community Worker (TCW) can help you organize a first meeting of interested tenants and can continue to assist the Association on an ongoing basis.

A Tenant Association Handbook is available from your District Office or TCW to help you start a new TA. It is also available online in the INFO Items/Tenant Documents section of the OCH website at: [www.och.ca](http://www.och.ca)



### How can I improve my TA?

Your TCW can provide information about training opportunities and community resources that are available to assist in the development and improvement of your Association.

An important way you can improve your TA is by **getting involved**. After all, this is a tenant-run organization. It's the dedication and drive of the tenant community that make TAs an effective organization.



# Your Tenant Association

- *What is a TA?*
- *Why join a TA?*
- *How can I improve my TA?*



### OCH PHONE NUMBERS

Central District.....	613-564-1235
East District.....	613-789-4305
South District.....	613-249-0458
West District-Caldwell.....	613-729-3136
West District-Ramsey.....	613-738-2287

There are about 60 Tenant Associations (TA) in Ottawa Community Housing. TAs are there to benefit **you**, the tenant. So what exactly is a Tenant Association?



## What is a TA?

In the most basic sense, a Tenant Association is a tenant-run organization that works in the interest of the tenant community. Tenants in your building or community are elected by their fellow tenants to run the TA.



## Why join a TA?

Tenant Associations can be fun and productive organizations! TAs can take on various roles within the community. They can:

### Act as a social organization

TAs can provide a fun way to build ties within the community by organizing parties, BBQs and events that appeal to all tenants

### Give tenants a greater voice

When an organized group representing all the tenants brings forward a concern, it's likely to have a strong impact. Communities that have TAs also have opportunities to be well informed and to participate in decisions that affect tenants. TA executives are regularly invited to participate in meetings and consultations with OCH staff .

### Address community problems

A Tenant Association can bring forward community concerns and work with OCH and other community organizations to develop solutions.



## How does OCH help?

### Funding

TAs are eligible for annual funding from OCH. The amount of money the TA can get is determined by the number of bedrooms in the community.

This money from OCH can go towards:

- Administrative expenses (telephone, printing, computer supplies, meeting expenses, etc.).
- Programming expenses (BBQ's, dances, children's parties, festivals, etc.).
- Training expenses (workshops, conferences, books, etc.).
- Transportation and babysitting costs for when a TA member has to leave home on TA business

TAs need to fill out the *OCH TA Funding Application Form* and follow certain guidelines to receive OCH funding. You can request the application form from your District Office or you can get a copy online in the Info Items/Tenant Documents section of the OCH website at: [www.och.ca](http://www.och.ca).