



# The Quarterly

## OCH Tenant Newsletter



### Coming Up

All tenants are invited to attend

#### OCH Board Meetings

January 9, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.  
39 Auriga Drive

February 13, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.  
39 Auriga Drive

March 20, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.  
39 Auriga Drive

#### All Districts' Based Committee Meetings

East DBC – March 18, 2014  
Noon – 2:00 p.m.  
255 Donald Street

South DBC – March 20, 2014  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Lexington  
507 Riverdale Avenue

West DBC – March 25, 2014  
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Foster Farm Community Centre  
1065 Ramsey Crescent

Central DBC – March 27, 2014  
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Brooke Towers  
125 McLeod Street

#### OCH Office Hours

Monday to Friday

##### OCH Tenant Service Centre offices

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Closed from noon - 1:00 p.m.

##### Head Office - 39 Auriga Drive

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

#### Holiday Hours

OCH offices will be closed

Monday, February 17, 2014



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#### Dear Friends,

After six years as Chief Executive Officer of OCH, I will be leaving at the end of December to take on a new position as President and CEO of VON Canada. From the very beginning it has been an absolute pleasure to lead this organization but my greatest pleasure was to meet so many of you!

When I reflect on the past six years, I am truly inspired by the people I have encountered and by the great strides forward that we have made together. I have been warmly welcomed on my many visits to your communities and, over and over again, I have been impressed with the dedication, caring and high level of commitment shown by our extraordinary tenant volunteers, many of whom I have met at our annual Tenant Forum. I want to take this opportunity to commend you for all that you have done and will keep on doing to make your communities great places to live.

I have been equally moved in my encounters with the young people who call our communities home. These young people are filled with hope and plans for their future and I believe that they are well on their way to achieving their dreams. I am very pleased that OCH hosts the Youth Futures Program – it's something near and dear to my heart.

Over the past five years, every effort has been made to better our housing portfolio with the limited funds available. We have added new housing and have worked to make sure that limited capital funds are used as effectively as possible. I have always strongly believed in the importance of safe, affordable housing. I regard it as a basic building block in securing a successful future and in freeing oneself from the stress and hardship of being homeless or having to accept housing that is unaffordable.

As I pass the baton of leadership on, I do so with emotion and excitement for OCH's continued growth. Thank you for all the support you have given me and have a very Happy New Year!



#### Message from Councillor Wilkinson, Chair of the OCH Board of Directors

It is difficult for me and for all of the members of the Board to say goodbye to Jo-Anne. Under her leadership and direction OCH expanded its housing stock, developed new ways of financing ongoing repairs and adopted many new initiatives that have had a significant and positive impact on how services are delivered to you. In addition, she has

overseen the development of an OCH charitable foundation and volunteer program that has laid a strong base for many developments that will have a positive impact on OCH residents and communities for years to come. We all deeply appreciated her extensive professional knowledge and experience, her commitment to OCH's mission, her generous nature and her dedication to improving the lives of OCH tenants.

We wish her the very best in her new journey as President and CEO of VON Canada.

Over the next few months Laurene Wagner, currently Executive Director of Tenant Services, will step in as Interim CEO as we search for a successor to fill Jo-Anne's shoes.

We will keep you posted of any new developments and I wish you all good health and happiness for 2014.

#### Best Wishes from the Tenant Advisory Group (TAG)



Congratulations Jo-Anne on your new position (We can't help feeling that VON Canada are fortunate indeed!). It has been a privilege to work with you and to witness up close your passion and dedication for making our housing and our communities great places to live.

As CEO you have actively cultivated and supported all types of tenant participation, including setting aside an annual budget for community-proposed projects, appointing tenants to Board Committees, supporting the Tenant Advisory Group, and expanding the community development team.

We see you at all our community meetings and celebrations and we know that you are always responsive to any concerns that are brought forward. You hold a special place in our hearts and will be greatly missed!

On behalf of TAG I wish you all the best in your new career!

Carole Ladouceur, Chair of the Tenant Advisory Group

#### Want Help to Quit Smoking?

Call the Ottawa Public Health Information Line at 613-580-6744 or the Smokers' Helpline at 877-513-5333