National Association of Housing Co-operatives

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Getting Governance Wrong!
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Agenda

- Introductions
- What is Governance?
- Common Governance mistakes
- What does your Governance Commitment mean?
- Conclusion – Looking ahead at Governance
Good Governance Charter

1. We uphold the international co-operative principles.

2. We act with honesty and in good faith, placing the interests of the Co-operative before all others.

3. We exercise care, skill and diligence in carrying out our duties.

4. We act fairly, making decisions without bias or favouritism.

5. We foster democracy within our co-operative.

6. We act transparently, in a spirit of openness and accountability to the membership.

7. We ensure that our co-operative fulfils its legal duties.

8. We provide for sound, accountable management of our co-operative.

9. We have a strategic focus, always looking ahead to our co-operative’s future.

10. We plan for leadership succession and renewal.

Source: A Good Governance Charter for Housing Co-operatives – CHF Canada
Governance Gone Wrong

1. Confusion about the role and mission of the co-operative.

2. Lack of clarity around the purpose of governance, and the board’s role.

3. Risk of entrenching power among a select group.

4. Emerging conflicts between the principles of profitability and social objectives.

5. Weak oversight and control mechanisms.

6. Lack of clear rules on how to adapt to changes in the market.

7. Understanding that Co-operatives are private sector enterprises.

Source: Enlightened co-operative governance by Ernst & Young