



# 2010 Board Study Tour and Conferences Opportunities

**Item 3**  
February 11, 2010

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Chief Executive Officer  
**Date:** January 31, 2010

**Report:** TCHC:2010-01

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## **PURPOSE:**

To provide the Board with a proposed study tour and information on conference opportunities for 2010.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that the Board of Directors:

- (1) approve a study tour to Sweden for three Board members and two staff to attend;
- (2) submit their interest to attend the study tour to the Corporate Secretary for review and approval by the Chair;
- (3) submit their interest to attend one of the conferences in Appendix 1, to the Corporate Secretary for review and approval by the Chair;
- (4) direct the Chair to assign study tour and conference spots to directors based on interest, previous conference attendance, availability and budget;
- (5) approve a budget of \$40,000 for the study tour and conference attendance and a per diem of USD \$65 per day for international conferences, CDN \$55 per day for Canadian conferences per Director in addition to conference registration, travel and accommodation where required; and
- (6) who attend a study tour or a conference provide a report back to the Board about what they learned and the implications and opportunities for Toronto Community Housing.

## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

### Study Tour of Sweden

The purpose of the tour would be for the Board and staff to study urban sustainable housing development practices between the two countries.

A five-day tour of major cities in Sweden including Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmo where examples of best practice and urban sustainable projects are carried out.

Based on our Community Management Plan objectives and increasing demand for a more sustainable redevelopment and retrofit framework for doing our business, the “SymbioCity” model that the Swedish government adopted for urban renewal would be appropriate and timely for our study, debate and consideration given the climate similarity, albeit a different geopolitical context between the countries.

### Proposed learning exchange and key tour themes

1. Government and Housing business framework in Sweden
  - Overview of Sweden including industrial structure and political and taxation system
  - Relationship and responsibilities of various levels of Swedish government
  - Sustainability and Environmental policies and strategy
  - SymbioCity – a holistic approach to sustainable urban development
2. Site Tour – Hammarby Sjostad
  - An award winning and redeveloped brownfield site that houses 10,000 apartments in central Stockholm (similar to Regent Park Revitalization)
  - The Hammarby model – holistic sustainable planning
  - Role of community energy system, waste water treatment and biogas
  - Underground waste collection system – centralized vacuum design no garbage truck pick-up at each building
  - Demo visitor center and guided walk about in the development and visit to one of the apartments
3. City of Gothenburg – 2<sup>nd</sup> largest cities in Sweden and a major seaport on the west coast
  - City renewal, retrofit and revitalization
  - Presentation by the CEO of Framtiden AB, City of Gothenburg Housing Corporation (<http://www.framtiden.se>)
  - Visit to Gardsten, a housing development built in the late sixties that has been redeveloped and up-graded, including installation of Wind-mills.

Demonstration of the social economic value of deep retrofit and upgrade that turn an undesirable living accommodation to one of the most desirable. (An excellent example of tenant engagement, revenue generation, renewable energy applications, use of green space, job creation, social enterprise.)

- Poseidon Housing – a deep retrofit housing that turns a building built from the 70's into a Passive House standard (no heating and cooling equipment required) – a good example for TCHC to do a demo Passive House in Toronto.
  - Eriksberg – former shipyard housing development that become an attractive and bustling development, combining housing with light industry, academia, offices and retail. ( An excellent success story that worth sharing and imitation in Toronto )
  - Passive houses in Lindholmen- passive houses are the latest development in energy efficiency. “Humnhset” is Sweden’s largest passive apartment building and part of the re-development of the former shipyards. (A good example of demonstrating how a Passive House built without incurring construction premium. Each of the new passive apartment units is equipped with Open Access Ultra high speed broadband internet connection that tenant can have full choice of program they want at low price – something that TCHC is in the process of building a Business Case to pilot in next phases of Regent and other bigger redevelopment sites.)
  - Visit to Low Energy Housing, a new development of single prefabricated homes developed by Derome AB in Varberg.
  - Working session with Framtiden AB Housing Corporation staff on a wide range of topics on : property management (operations), asset investment and planning, tenant engagement, social enterprise, job creation, regeneration of old stock, revenue generation, etc. (topics to be decided by both companies).
4. Vasteras – MalarNet City : Broadband network or Smart Community Network city with extensive fibre optics infrastructure that links up the City to provide a telecommunication network for citizen to do business, entertainment, social networking, small business enterprise, government services, well being services, public library service, all through the well linked network in the Housing and apartments (A good example for TCHC to learn how to make community housing better linked.)
5. City of Malmo – Visit to SYSAV (Southern Scania Waste Management Company). Malmo is a city where less than 5% of the waste collected ends up in

landfill. SYSAV plays an important role in supplying the city with electricity and energy.

- Discussion on Swedish waste management philosophy at the municipal level
- Recycling efforts to minimize waste and how it is managed in society , how they recover electronic waste
- Insight into the role of district or community energy in Malmo
- Brief guided tour of the SYSAV's Energy from Waste Plant and landfill site

Highlight tour – visit the famous high-rise “Turning Torso” building overlooking Malmo and the sea to Denmark with lots of wind farm turbines

## **Study Tour Dates**

Last year as part of the 2010 Board calendar, staff proposed holding the dates: May 4 – 7; July 26 – 30; and October 4 - 8 for possible study tour times. Confirmation of these dates will allow staff to start planning tours.

## **Conferences**

In addition to the study tour, there are learning opportunities at housing, sustainability, economic development, mental health and other conferences. A table is attached giving dates, locations, themes and websites for a number of relevant conferences. In previous years Board members have requested attendance at conferences through the Chair.

## **Budget**

The budget proposed includes a 5% increase from the 2009 budget.

## **Reporting Back**

The purpose of participating in study tours and conferences is to learn from other experiences and practices and to bring that learning back so that it might influence what we do here. Several members of the Board have asked that it become a standard practice for Board members to report back to the Board on what they have learned through conferences and visits.

## **IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS:**

The cost of the tour based on the programme and three board members to attend will be no more than \$18,000. In addition to the direct transportation and accommodation costs of the Board members who participate there would be associated costs for at least two staff.

There are potential conflicts for staff and Board members' attention with operational demands and significant events for Toronto Community Housing. These were considered in the recommendations, and will be detailed and assessed during planning.

There is always the risk of public perception for attendance at international activities. In the past few years, the Board has not participated in any formalized study tours. Board members and staff have always returned with beneficial information to support the Community Management Plan goals. A maximum of three Board members and two staff for international trips is suggested.

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A/Chief Executive Officer

**Attachment:** 1: Schedule of Conferences, themes and web sites.

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**2010 Conferences**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>PROGRAMME</b>	<b>NOTES and Web Site</b>
February 23, 2010	Chartered Institute of Housing, Worklessness	London	Worklessness	<a href="http://www.cih.org/events/seminars/tacklingworklessness10/">http://www.cih.org/events/seminars/tacklingworklessness10/</a> could work with study tour
March 16-18, 2010	Chartered Institute of Housing, Scotland	Glasgow	Concepts such as 'balancing communities', 'best use of housing stock' and 'sensitive lettings'	<a href="http://www.cihscotland-conference.org/">http://www.cihscotland-conference.org/</a>
March 22-26, 2010	World Urban Forum 5: The Right to the City-Bridging the Urban Divide	Rio de Janeiro	The theme is the "Right to the City" with discussions on equal access to shelter, cultural diversity, governance and participation, etc.	<a href="http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=584">http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=584</a>
March 23-25, 2010	National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations	Washington, DC	One day is a symposium for practitioners. The other includes topics on green communities, transit-oriented development, etc.	<a href="http://www.naceda.org/">http://www.naceda.org/</a>
Mar 24 – 26, 2010	GLOBE 2010	Vancouver, BC	Environmental conference	<a href="http://www.globe2010.com">www.globe2010.com</a>
March 25, 2010	Cohesion Counts Conference Building and measuring community cohesion	The Bridgewater Hall, Manchester	1 day would work with study tour	<a href="http://www.cih.org/events/conferences/CohesionCounts10/">http://www.cih.org/events/conferences/CohesionCounts10/</a>
April 12 & 13, 2010	The 2010 Urban Symposium	Hamilton	Sponsored by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario	<a href="http://www.amo.on.ca/Content/NavigationMenu/Events/LargeUrbanSymposium/2010/default.htm">http://www.amo.on.ca/Content/NavigationMenu/Events/LargeUrbanSymposium/2010/default.htm</a>

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April 19-21, 2010	Government Customer Support Conference and Expo	Alexandria, VA	Technology focused – call centres, service portals, etc.	<a href="http://www.hthts.com/gcs.htm">http://www.hthts.com/gcs.htm</a>
April 21-23, 2010	Institute for Housing Management (IHM) Annual Conference	Kingston, ON	Green theme	<a href="http://ihm-canada.com/CONFERENCE/2010overview.asp">http://ihm-canada.com/CONFERENCE/2010overview.asp</a>
April 26-28, 2010	Pacific Northwest Regional Council (PNRC) Annual Conference,	Salem, OR	National Association of Housing Renewal Officials - Regional Conference	<a href="http://www.pnrcnahro.org/">http://www.pnrcnahro.org/</a>
April 26-28, 2010	Michigan Conference on Affordable Housing	Lansing Michigan		<a href="http://www.housingconference.org/">http://www.housingconference.org/</a> 2010 Tracks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ending Homelessness</li> <li>• Homeownership</li> <li>• Creating and Preserving Multifamily Housing</li> <li>• Healthy, Vibrant, Sustainable Communities</li> <li>• Organizational Development</li> </ul>
April 26-27, 2010	Peel Energy Matters	Mississauga, ON	Public sector energy management conference	<a href="http://www.peelregion.ca/finance/corp-energy/energy-matters2010/">http://www.peelregion.ca/finance/corp-energy/energy-matters2010/</a>
April 29-30, 2010	Innovations in Aging: Transforming the Future	Richmond Hill		<a href="http://www.ontario.cmha.ca/events.asp?fn=view&amp;id=3291">http://www.ontario.cmha.ca/events.asp?fn=view&amp;id=3291</a>

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May 6-7, 2010	Eura Workshop – Oslo 2010 Governance and Change On The Urban Fringe	Oslo, Norway	socio-spatial and sociocultural developments on the fringes of cities. Emergence of polycentric metropolitan areas, and the formation of edge cities and nodes	<a href="http://www.fcm.ca/english/View.asp?mp=788&amp;x=1203">http://www.fcm.ca/english/View.asp?mp=788&amp;x=1203</a>
May 30 to June 1, 2010	National Summit on a People-Centred Economy	Ottawa	Gathering of leaders and representatives of the community economic development, cooperative and social economy sectors to build a common agenda and mobilize action for a secure, sustainable economy that puts people and the planet first	
June 2-4, 2010	North American Housing and HIV/AIDS Research Summit	Toronto	The theme is Evidence into Action.  Toronto Community Housing has been asked to be a sponsor	<a href="http://www.hivhousingsummit.org/">http://www.hivhousingsummit.org/</a>
June 2-5, 2010	CHRA Annual Conference	Quebec City		Canadian Housing Renewal Association <a href="http://www.chra-achru.ca">http://www.chra-achru.ca</a>

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June 7-10, 2010	Pathways to Resilience II: The Social Ecology of Resilience	Halifax, Nova Scotia	Exploring how children, youth, their families and communities from different cultures and contexts overcome adversity and thrive.	<a href="http://www.ontario.cmha.ca/events.asp?fn=view&amp;id=3259">http://www.ontario.cmha.ca/events.asp?fn=view&amp;id=3259</a>
June 19-22, 2011	Southeastern Regional Council (SERC) Annual Conference (NAHRO)	Miami, FL	National Association of Housing Renewal Officials – Regional Conference	<a href="http://www.serc-nahro.org/">http://www.serc-nahro.org/</a>
August 15-18, 2010	AMO Conference	Windsor, ON	Association of Municipalities of Ontario	<a href="http://www.amo.on.ca/Content/NavigationMenu/Events/AMOAnnualConference/2010/default.htm">http://www.amo.on.ca/Content/NavigationMenu/Events/AMOAnnualConference/2010/default.htm</a>
October 21-23, 2010	2010 Canadian Mental Health Assoc. Conference - Thriving in 2010	London, Ontario	Broad-based participation discussing mental health in Canada	<a href="http://www.ontario.cmha.ca/events.asp?fn=view&amp;id=3360">http://www.ontario.cmha.ca/events.asp?fn=view&amp;id=3360</a>
October 31- November 2, 2010	NAHRO, National	Grand Sierra Hotel and Casino in Reno, NV	40 workshops	National Association of Housing Renewal Officials <a href="http://www.nahro.org/regions/calendar.cfm#mar">http://www.nahro.org/regions/calendar.cfm#mar</a>
November 6-8, 2011	Southeastern Regional Council (SERC) Annual Workshop, (NAHRO)	Point Clear, AL	National Association of Housing Renewal Officials – Regional Conference	<a href="http://www.serc-nahro.org/">http://www.serc-nahro.org/</a>

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November 17-19, 2010	Connected Communities: Thriving Youth	Houston, Texas	Organized by Search Institute whose mission is “to create a world where all young people are valued and thrive”	<a href="http://www.searchconference.org/">http://www.searchconference.org/</a>
November 30, December 1 & 2, 2010	CitiesAlive! 8 <sup>th</sup> Annual Green Roof and Wall Conference	Vancouver, BC	raise awareness of the many benefits of green roofs and green walls, share new research findings, provide information on the latest designs, implementation techniques and products, and broaden networks.	<a href="http://www.greenroofs.org/">http://www.greenroofs.org/</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• integrated and cross disciplinary design practices;</li> <li>• integrative research that links multiple benefits with completed data;</li> <li>• completed projects that deliver multiple benefits; and,</li> <li>• integrative policies, standards and economic evaluation tools which capture a more accurate picture of the benefits of green roofs and walls</li> </ul>