

NEWS RELEASE

Supporting housing security now: Sunshine Coast Credit Union, The Co-operators and Sunshine Coast Community Services Society collaborate on new initiative.

Sunshine Coast, B.C. May 28 2018 –In terms of supply and affordability of rental housing, the Sunshine Coast ranks as one of BC’s top ten communities in critical condition according to the [Canadian Rental Housing Index](#)¹. Three community-minded organizations are working together to launch a new service that aims to keep people housed during times of acute financial stress by offering short term interest-free loans and support through advocacy and referral services.

“Housing security affects us all; the importance of which is underlined by the number of individuals and organizations working on delivering solutions within our community today,” said Shelley McDade, CEO of Sunshine Coast Credit Union. “On behalf of more than 16,800 members choosing SCCU as their financial institution, we are pleased to be able to contribute our expertise and resources, alongside our community partners.”

Recognizing the need for a variety of solutions to support housing security on the Sunshine Coast, Sunshine Coast Credit Union, The Co-operators and Sunshine Coast Community Services Society are working together to develop and deliver a service that will support individuals experiencing a temporary financial crisis. Tenants facing the potential for eviction, or the termination of their utilities, will be able to apply for a short term interest free loan. Applicants will be required to qualify based on specific criteria including minimum income verification. Loans will be provided in conjunction with advocacy, financial literacy and referral support tailored to the needs of the individual in crisis.

“Keeping people housed during a time of crisis is just one more important tool in our community’s kit to address housing challenges on the Coast,” commented Sunshine Coast Community Services Society’s Executive Director, Catherine Leach. “We want to recognize Sunshine Coast Credit Union and The Co-operators for their vision, financial contributions, and dedication of resources in making this new service a reality.”

“As a cooperative, we seek to address unmet needs and provide financial security and peace of mind to Canadians,” commented Valerie Georgescu Co-operators advisor in Gibsons. “We are very pleased to be working with local partners and providing funding to support those in our community facing housing challenges.”

A launch date for the new service will be announced soon. To learn more and stay connected, visit www.sunshineccu.com/Housing

¹ [Canadian Rental Housing Index](#)

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About Sunshine Coast Credit Union

With more than \$650 million in assets, Sunshine Coast Credit Union is a full-service co-operative financial institution serving 16,800 members through 3 locations and mobile service. Employing more than 80 people, SCCU is a recipient of CoachingWise, an International Coach Federation designation. Investing in one another to build a healthy community is how we began 75 years ago, a vision that remains true today. Together, we enrich lives & community on the Sunshine Coast. Learn more at www.sunshineccu.com/OurStory

About The Co-operators

The Co-operators Group Limited is a Canadian co-operative with more than \$41 billion in assets under administration. Through its group of companies, it offers home, auto, life, group, travel, commercial and farm insurance, as well as investment products. The Co-operators is well known for its community involvement and its commitment to sustainability. The Co-operators is listed among the Best Employers in Canada by Aon Hewitt and Corporate Knights' Best 50 Corporate Citizens in Canada. For more information, visit www.cooperators.ca

About Sunshine Coast Community Services Society

Sunshine Coast Community Services, the largest non-profit on the Sunshine Coast, has been making our community stronger, safer and more resilient since 1974. Our organization supports over 5000 community members through 35 programs in four main areas: Child Development and Youth Services; Community Action and Engagement; Child and Family Counselling; and Together Against Violence. Learn more at www.sccss.ca

For further information, please contact:

Jodi Fichtner, VP Marketing
Sunshine Coast Credit Union
604.740.7324
Jfichtner@sunshineccu.net