

Social Development Operations of CMHC, organized in 1970-71 provides the focus for a continuing response to the social needs of the elderly and other occupants of low-income housing. Social Development Officers at the Regional level work closely with community groups, tenant associations and non-profit organizations concerned with low-rental and public housing in an effort to improve the social environment and amenities of federally-financed housing developments.

A broad range of educational material covering every aspect of housing the elderly, from pamphlets and brochures to panel exhibits, film strips and coloured slides, is available on request from CMHC.

Trained professional people are available as speakers at service clubs, etc. about the housing requirements of the elderly.<sup>(1)</sup>

#### Recommendation 40

That, on the initiative of CMHC, periodic conferences be held on a national and regional basis, made up of people from the variety of public and voluntary bodies concerned with old people's housing but also including architects, developers and builders, for the purpose of sharing experience, of discussing common problems and encouraging new and imaginative developments.

#### ACTION TAKEN

CMHC regularly provides both funds and personnel for conferences and workshops that have relevance to housing programs for the elderly.

A conference in 1968 organized by the Canadian Welfare Council and financed largely by a grant under the National Housing Act examined the housing situation of all Canadians. Further studies by the Council (now the Canadian Council on Social Development) are also being funded by CMHC.

In 1972 CMHC funded a study undertaken by the Extension Department of the University of British Columbia. This was an action-oriented study which will stimulate discussion between the groups identified in Recommendation No. 40 plus consumers, educators, health and recreation people.

In 1973 a study of CMHC housing for the elderly, built up to the end of 1970, was completed by the Canadian Council on Social Development. It is entitled "Beyond Shelter".<sup>(2)</sup> This study was funded by CMHC, published and distributed by the Canadian Council on Social Development.

The 48 recommendations formulated from the findings covered a variety of topics. The principal objective is that as wide a variety and range of choice of housing as pos-

sible should be available to senior citizens. Furthermore, it is recommended that responsibility for housing the elderly be affirmed at the provincial level. Several recommendations also noted particular design suggestions such as a suitable balance of accommodation for both married and single persons.

Sponsors of housing developments have a responsibility for more than simply providing shelter. Recommendations outline the responsibility of sponsors in terms of developing a health program, providing social services, or contacting existing social service agencies, and for developing a recreation program using both their own facilities and those of the community. The need to provide contact with other community groups and organizations was emphasized in several recommendations, as well as the need to obtain resident participation in all aspects of the residential environment.

The remainder of the recommendations dealt with management policies, staff members, finances and the need for further study on the desirability of different types of residential environments for the elderly.

A proposal is being formulated to have CMHC fund a series of regional meetings for the purpose of discussing the findings of the study. The meetings would bring together sponsors, managers, tenants of senior citizen housing as well as those who deliver services beyond the shelter component.<sup>(3)</sup>

#### Recommendation 41

That CMHC develop plans and specifications for a wide variety of housing arrangements for old people and that the latter include low-cost one-bedroom houses suitable for couples and for two single people living together.

#### ACTION TAKEN

Professional architects within CMHC have developed plans and specifications for a variety of housing units for the elderly, including bachelor and one-bedroom apartment units, hostel accommodation, back-to-back row housing, motel-type units and relocateable semi-detached units.

In 1972, CMHC published its second edition of *Housing the Elderly*.<sup>(4)</sup> This is an advisory document dealing with desirable standards of housing designed specifically for elderly people who are sufficiently healthy and mobile to live independently in self-contained dwelling units. It is not a mandatory set of rules, but rather suggestions. The Corporation has built one-bedroom houses—mainly in small communities on the Prairies where land is less of a cost factor than in urban areas.

The decision, as to permitting two single people to rent a unit in a low-cost housing project, belongs to provincial

(1) Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Information Division. Letter dated November 2, 1973.

(2) Canadian Council on Social Development, *Beyond Shelter*, Ottawa, 1973, 479 pages.

(3) Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Information Division. Letter dated November 2, 1973.

(4) Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, *Housing the Elderly*, Ottawa 1972, 38 pages.