

My Neighbour Really Bugs Me - What Can I Do About It?

From time to time in the co-op, members may become frustrated. Perhaps it is because we all live so close together, or that we all have different personalities, interests and goals, but whatever the reason... sometimes, things (or certain people) in the co-op can really bug you!

What should I do about a neighbour who really bothers me?

Communication is the answer to everything. If something your neighbour is doing bothers you, go and talk to them about it (barking dog, loud music, messy yard, badly behaved child, etc.). You should approach them in an open, honest way. Explain to them what the problem is and ask if there is a way to co-operatively fix it. Together try to come up with a reasonable solution that suits everyone.... afterall, your neighbour is still going to be your neighbour tomorrow!

What if that doesn't work?

If you have talked to your neighbour and a solution has not been found, you can check your Member Handbook for possible breaches of co-op policy. If your neighbour's behaviour seems to be in breach of a co-op policy or by-law, you can fill out a **Complaint Form** (available in the office). The form is then passed on to the Board who will discuss it at their next meeting. They will respond to you after that, in writing.

What if I don't like the answer I get from the Board?

If you don't like the Board's written answer, you can ask to meet with them to discuss the matter further. If, after meeting with the Board to discuss your complaint, you still feel unsatisfied, you can appeal the Board's decision to the general members. You can do this in one of two ways :

- (1) writing to the Board and requesting that your topic be added to a GMM agenda - or
- (2) by requisition.

What is 'by requisition' ?

Organizational By-Law 1, Article 6.01 - Meeting by Requisition says.... ***five percent (5%) of the members of the co-op may requisition the Directors to call a general meeting of the members for any purpose that is connected with the affairs of the co-operative...***

This means that any four (4) members (assuming that there are 90 members at the time), can put in a written request to the Board asking them to call a special meeting to deal with your specific issue. The Board may NOT decide to ignore such a request, they MUST call the meeting. See your Member Handbook for more details.

What if the GMM is held and I still don't like the answer I get?

If you still haven't found satisfaction by this point, perhaps co-operative living is something you might want to reconsider.... not everyone is suited to the co-op lifestyle. You do have a couple more options at this point though... you can contact the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada (1-800-465-2752), or The Agency for Co-operative Housing (1-416-598-4464) They will be able to give you advice and guide you on to other possible steps.

We hope this outlines the process for getting along in a co-op setting and how to proceed if you are not able to resolve a situation on your own.