



Update

This and that.....

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Welcome to warm sunny days! The CAIC board has had a busy winter (*see Project Updates*) and is now looking forward to the summer break.

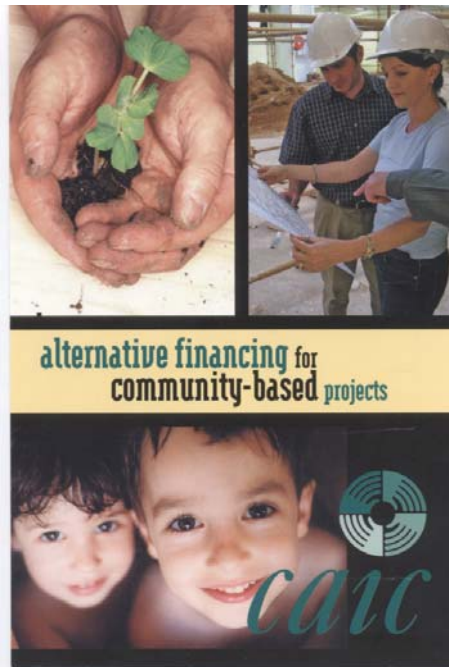
Postcard 2005 ~ You will find enclosed a post card promoting CAIC's services.

As a member of CAIC you belong to a cooperative of church-based charities with over 20 years of experience investing in projects that have a positive social value or promote alternative economic structures. Why not share this information with others by passing along a copy of our newly designed postcard. Please contact our office for additional copies or drop us a line via email (caic@caic.ca) if you know of an organization that could benefit from CAIC's services. We would be happy to send copies on your behalf.

ATRI 2005 ~ I am happy to announce that Beth Coates & I have been invited to present a workshop— "**CAIC: An**

11:45 a.m. We are looking forward to the opportunity of explaining the CAIC model of investing, sharing our successes and answering questions on how CAIC has consistently provided alternative financing for the social justice community while ensuring security and a return on investment for our members. We are looking forward to connecting with CAIC members and to encouraging other religious communities to consider the possibility of investing in CAIC.

Let's get this show on the road! ~ In addition to the ATRI conference, we are planning on presenting a workshop to Community Developers in Edmonton and to the Social Justice Network in Calgary, AB. Look for more details in our September issue!



Alternative Investing Opportunity" at this year's ATRI (*Association of Treasurers of Religious Institutes*) Conference taking place in Edmonton, AB. Our workshop takes place on Sunday, October 2 from 10:30 a.m. to

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Our Projects ~ Western, Central, Eastern Regions

New Loans—

Mater Dei, Toronto, ON ~ Many of you may recall that CAIC agreed to provide a loan to Mater Dei in May 2004. Essentially the CAIC board pre-approved a mortgage (\$300,000 to \$350,000) to this organization that provides shelter to women recovering from “any form of addiction and other mental health and emotional problems”. Mater Dei was unable to secure a suitable property until April 2005. I am happy to report that they have purchased a property located in Etobicoke, ON and that they will take possession in September 2005. Funds will be advanced at time of closing. It is important to note that due to the amount of time that had passed since the board first considered this loan request, additional financial data and an update on activities of the organization was requested and reviewed before the board agreed to re-activate this loan.

St. Clare Multifaith Housing Society (25 Leonard Ave.), Toronto, ON ~ This innovative transitional housing project has been a CAIC borrower for the past five years. They approached CAIC in February 2005 for additional funds to enable them to add 26 pre-fabricated housing units (creating two additional stories) on their existing build-

ing at 25 Leonard Ave. The board once again was very impressed by the innovative concept of adding pre-fabricated units as opposed to building. Costs & construction time are being kept down as a result of this approach. The board approved the additional loan of \$300,000. Security is a second mortgage on 25 Leonard Ave.

Ottawa Community Loan Fund, Ottawa, ON ~ By supporting Community Loan Funds, CAIC is able to contribute to grass root community economic development. The Ottawa Community Loan Fund has been operating for the past five years and provides loans to entrepreneurs, groups and individuals who wish to achieve a greater level of self-sufficiency through self-employment or business expansion. CAIC provided a \$25,000 loan in April 2005 and is willing to provide an additional \$25,000 once certain benchmarks are reached.

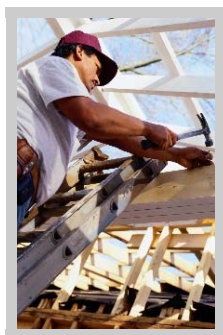
Fonds Communautaire d’Emprunt de la Mauricie, Trois Rivieres, PQ ~ is a small community loan fund that like the OCLF was established in 2000. When looking at requests from loan funds CAIC considers the ongoing stability and the potential for loss to investors. In Quebec the provincial government supports loan funds and ensures their

ongoing existence with long-term funding thereby helping to allay these concerns. CAIC agreed to provide a \$10,000 loan and funds should be advanced shortly.

The Working Centre ~ Kitchener, ON CAIC was asked to provide a (\$210,000) mortgage to enable this group to purchase a permanent home for their St. John’s Kitchen project. Funds were advanced in March 2005. (*The Working Centre is featured on Page 3.*)

Loan Renewals—

Saint John Community Loan Fund ~ CAIC generally provides three year loan terms to community loan funds. The Saint John Community Loan Fund first came to CAIC in 2002 and their loan came up for renewal in April 2005. Not only does this community loan fund provide small, low interest loans to help individuals get started or further develop their own business, it is now providing security deposit loans. This unique program allows individuals and their families access to affordable housing by providing a loan for the 1st month & security deposit. Saint John Community Loan Fund also provides “Back to Work” loans and Business Plan training. I am happy to report that CAIC renewed this loan and also provided an additional \$5000 as per their request.



WE'RE ON
THE WEB!
www.caic.ca

CALL US TOLL-FREE AT 1-866-241-CAIC (2242)

CAIC: A Flexible & Excellent Lender

By Joe Mancini, Executive Director, The Working Centre

The Working Centre, located in Kitchener, Ontario is a volunteer inspired venture that seeks to give individuals and groups access to tools and opportunities to become involved in the building of community projects. Our work combines direct assistance through a job search resource centre and initiatives that offer ways to contribute substantially. Each day, people who are looking for work or are rarely offered paid work, assist others in concrete ways that builds skills, creates friendships, and offers support and service to the community.

The Working Centre has developed a unique philosophy that we call community tools - projects that combine work experience, skill building, use of recycled materials, and opportunities to positively contribute to the community.

Community Tool projects at The Working Centre include a community bike shop for recycling and fixing old bikes, all the tools for producing handmade paper, a local bartering system that supports trading and ingenuity, three community gardens, a CSA whole food box, a community bake oven, GROW Herbal - a herbal garden and products, sewing machines and material used for making clothes, household accessories and crafts, a training lab for computer recycling, and a cooperatively run store front for selling handcrafted goods.

St. John's Kitchen has

evolved into a community tool project where regular patrons— over 120 each week— prepare, serve and clean up for 350 meals each day. St. John's Kitchen is a community kitchen where people from the downtown take surplus food and prepare and serve a daily communal meal.

Over the past two years, The Working Centre has undertaken the development of new supports to encourage the growth of this model. These include a furniture and house wares recycling centre and job café - a project that will seek to provide casual labour for people who are not able to participate in the regular labour force and provide practical supports through laundry, lockers and showers.

By September 2004, the plans for an integrated community resource centre had fully developed and includes:

- ◆ St. John's Kitchen will be located at 97 Victoria, on the second floor, continuing to offer a daily breakfast, lunch, a market program and medical clinic space.

- ◆ Worth a Second Look Furniture and House wares operated cooperatively by Society of St. Vincent de Paul and The Working Centre and other community partners, will collect, refurbish and resell used furniture. Settlement packages of furniture and house wares will be offered to individuals and

families with limited resources.

- ◆ The Job Café will provide the labour to sort, fix, and clean donated used furniture along with other labour projects. Showers, lockers and laundry facilities will be integrated into this project.

The main social benefit of this project is the creation of an integrated community resource centre dedicated to providing access to tools – through a community kitchen, a furniture recycling shop, and through a showers, lockers and laundry project. This resource centre will provide work opportunities, both paid and volunteer, that will allow hundreds of individuals who are normally excluded from the labour market to fully participate in this community service project.

We are grateful to the Canadian Alternative Investment Cooperative for supporting this innovative project by providing a flexible mortgage with excellent terms to purchase a 15,000 square foot 1890-era factory warehouse a block away from the present site of St. John's Kitchen. With a secured mortgage and half of our capital budget raised we are now thinking about ways to quickly retire the mortgage.

To find out more information about The Working Centre and its innovative projects check out their website at:

www.theworkingcentre.org



Nurturing a green thumb in the herbal garden community project.



A volunteer is hard at work at St. John's Kitchen.



They're cooking up good food in St. John's Kitchen.



Sewing machines are made available for making clothes & household accessories.