

Community Land Trust Overview

A CMHC publication on Community Land Trusts noted the following principles in its review of CLTs:

- CLTs are **locally based, private non-profit organizations** that acquire and hold land for the benefit of a community, whether a neighbourhood, a city or even a region. They do so with the specific purpose of making this land available perpetually for affordable housing, usually with the idea that the housing will target low- and moderate-income residents.
- CLTs acquire land with the **intention of retaining the title in perpetuity**, and thereby removing the land from the speculative market. This approach is based on the notion that land is not a commodity, but a fundamental resource in which the community, as well as the users, have interests. CLTs see themselves as performing a stewardship role over the land on behalf of the community.
- CLTs are **democratically controlled** by their own membership. Membership is generally open to all residents of the community. It typically includes leaseholders of CLT land, those interested in leasing, other residents of the community, as well as representatives from various interested community groups, such as local business and non-profit housing organizations.
- An **elected board of directors oversees the activities of the organization**. This board is elected by the membership, and is normally structured to balance the representation from the various interest groups.

For more detail see:

<https://www.cmhc-chl.gc.ca/en/inpr/afhoce/afhoce/afhostcast/afhoid/fite/colatr/index.cfm>