

Lis van Berkel of Halifax, Nova Scotia, was an early member of the Halifax Women's Housing Cooperative. She has volunteered at CKDU in Halifax, and has also filed pieces for WINGS: Women's International News Gathering Service. Frieda Werden is the co-founder of WINGS and its current series producer.

The WINGS series was established in 1986; since 2002, it's been produced and distributed out of Vancouver BC. It is carried on many community radio stations around the world, especially in Canada, the US, and Australia. The Halifax Women's Housing Cooperative program is one of our favourite shows. It exemplifies the WINGS values of showcasing the voices of women involved in feminist activity, speaking for themselves, and of suggesting ways forward for the feminist and progressive communities. It has humour, too. The producer has chosen a very personal style that is open about her involvement with the subject, but she doesn't try to cover up problems - the tone is very realistic. She interviews women from different eras of the coop. The program covers the early history of the Halifax Women's Housing Cooperative, how it was founded, what obstacles it met, how women learned to work together, how it has changed. It expresses the hope that another era of building cooperative housing can happen in Canada. It is especially appropriate to listen to it this year, as 2012 is the International Year of Cooperatives.