

Board of Director Biographies

Ken Bolton

Ken first joined the Board of Directors in March 2006. He is a resident of Burlington. Ken has been with The CUMIS Group Limited since 1983 and is currently Vice-President Finance. He has participated on one committee during his first year on the Board. He is a past board member at CUNA of Ontario Credit Union.

"I can contribute my current financial knowledge, my understanding of governance processes, my understanding of Credit Unions, and my BIG picture/strategic focus.

Alan Bratton

Alan was first elected to the Board of Directors in 1985. He is a resident of St. Catharines. Alan has represented workers at General Motors and throughout the province in Contract Negotiations and WCB Appeals since 1982. He has participated on a number of the Board committees. He has been a member of the Executive Board of CAW Local 199 for 21 years; Founding Member of Autoworkers Village as well as Former Vice Chair of the Ontario Honours and Medal Awards Commission.

"I will address the concerns and expectation of our Members who are and must remain the cornerstone of our credit union."

Katherine (Kathy) Burtnik

Kathy was first elected to the Board of Directors in December 2007. She is a resident of St. Catharines. Kathy is the Secretary / Treasurer for her family owned business - Burtnik Printing Inc. She has had 5 successive terms as elected trustee, Niagara Catholic District School Board, and is a Member of various charitable organizations.

"As a 20+ year retail Member of the credit union and a very satisfied corporate Member, I want to use my experiences to assist in the future of FirstOntario Credit Union. The organization offers much to the communities they serve and with changing financial times, it is important to hold to the founding principles of the credit union: Membership, both corporate and individual."

Ron Fleet

Ron was first elected to the Board of Directors in 1992. He is a resident of Fisherville. Ron is retired from Stelco. Ron has participated on a number of the Board committees and also held the position of Corporate Secretary during this timeframe.

"Ron is a true believer in the democratic member/owner fundamentals on which our credit union is based."

Sandra Gribben

Sandra was first elected to the Board of Directors in December 2006. She is a resident of Niagara Falls. Sandra has been a Registered Nurse at the Hotel Dieu/NHS Hospital for the past 35 years. She was a member of the Board of Directors of the Ontario Nurses Association for 7 years.

"I believe in the Credit Union system and want to see it continue to be a strong, viable alternative to the Banks by providing personal, affordable, family oriented services on a continuing basis."

Board of Director Biographies

Irene Lowell

Irene was first elected to the Board of Directors in December 2007. She is a resident of St. Catharines. Irene has been employed at General Motors for 25 years, currently the Chairperson of the Women's Committee of C.A.W. Local 199. She is also active in the community through volunteer work with the Niagara Regional Sexual Assault Centre, Women's Place or North Niagara and the YWCA.

"I would personally like to see our credit union stay as the people's credit union. We can leave the high costs of banking to the large corporate banks. We can maintain integrity to our Members by being and respecting the wishes of said Membership."

Lucy Morton

Elected to the Board of Directors in 2008, Lucy is a life long resident of Hamilton and Member of FirstOntario Credit Union. Lucy has worked as a community nurse for the Victorian Order of Nurses Hamilton Branch for the past 26 years. Lucy is the Chair of the Community Health Care Professionals and is also currently the 2nd Vice President for the Hamilton District Labour Council. Lucy is also a member at large with the Social Services Committee.

"I am willing to work hard, and try everything in my ability to achieve the goals that are best suited for the Credit Union."

Ron Ness

Ron was first elected to the Board of Directors in December 2003. He is a resident of Burlington. Ron is a retired High School teacher and counselor with the Halton District School Board. He is currently working part-time as a computer trainer and consultant. With FirstOntario, Ron has served on the Audit Committee each year since 2003 and was a member of the Governance Committee in 2005. Ron has served on the Boards of the Hamilton-Wentworth Community Network, the Burlington Public Library and the Ontario Teachers Federation. For six of his nine years on the Library Board, he served as its Chair.

Otto Penner

Otto was recently re-elected to the Board of Directors after taking a year off. Previously, Otto served on the board since 1981. A resident of St. Catharines, Otto works as an Area Manager for General Motors. Otto has a keen interest in financial matters and strongly believes in the co-operative philosophy of people helping people. Since his first term of office, Otto has also attended many training classes and seminars to gain additional knowledge and understanding to make informed, intelligent decisions for our Credit Union and to stay abreast of the every changing landscape within the financial world.

"As a Director with experience, I believe I have gained the knowledge of leadership to face the challenges of the ever-changing financial industry."

Board of Director Biographies

Catherine Rogers

Catherine was first elected to the Board of Directors in 1995. She is a resident of St. Catharines. Catherine is currently employed with General Motors of Canada (23 years). She has participated on a majority of the Board's committees including past Chair of the Finance Committee. From 1985 to 2004 she proudly served as an elected member of Local 199 Canadian Autoworkers Union. Her community involvement includes having held two terms of office as a Trustee on the Board of Governors of Brock University.

"The roots of our Credit Union run deep in the area of community and social commitment, of which she takes great pride. Being involved and actively working with various charitable boards both in the area of community awareness and fund raising has allowed her to form an insight and sensitivity to the needs of our Members and our communities."

Sandy Shaw

Sandy was first elected to the Board of Directors in December 2006. She is a resident of Hamilton. Sandy is Senior Planner, Acting Executive Director - Social Planning & Research Council of Hamilton. She has been a Director on the boards with Settlement and Integration Services Organization; Hamilton Training and Advisory Board; and Community Information Services.

"I would like to use my experience working with new Canadians and the diverse community to ensure FirstOntario is well placed to respond and benefit from these new opportunities."

Carey Smith

Carey was first elected to the Board of Directors in December 2007. He is a resident of Oakville. Carey retired in 2003 after 26 years with the Halton Regional Police Service, retiring at the rank of Detective Sergeant. He is the Director of Investigations for the Ontario Motor Vehicle Industry Council (OMVIC), which is the provincial regulator for the car dealer industry in Ontario.

"I wish to have a role in ensuring that the credit union is competitive and viable without losing the 'Members First' personal service and accessibility that distinguishes FirstOntario from the other financial institutions. I can bring to the Board the perspective of someone with a law enforcement, crime prevention and consumer protection background."