



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 18, 2010

Hamilton, ON – Chairwoman of FirstOntario Board of Directors honoured with Hamilton’s Women of Distinction Award for 2010.

Sandy Shaw is a very busy woman. Besides supporting FirstOntario Credit Union as Chairwoman to the Board of Directors, she is also a dedicated social entrepreneur who has been instrumental in bringing real change to the City of Hamilton. Sandy was recently honoured and awarded the Hamilton Women of Distinction Award for 2010 for her work in Social Development.

“FirstOntario is dedicated to supporting the Hamilton community and to have Sandy Shaw as the Chairwoman of our Board of Directors, helps fuel our community focus and efforts”, said Kelly McGiffin, FirstOntario President and C.E.O. “Sandy’s work to help the Hamilton community is a reflection of her passion to helping people and she is truly deserving of this honour.”

With expertise as a Senior Social Planner and Research Specialist, Sandy Shaw’s experience and drive has proven invaluable to many projects in Hamilton that have made a significant impact. As a senior researcher, Sandy conducted a full study of women and poverty in Hamilton. Her study was published and has been widely recognized. Sandy also has a background in Corporate Social Responsibility. With this, she has a unique ability to facilitate partnerships between business, community groups, local Government and charitable organizations. Her tireless efforts in this area resulted in a community build with KaBOOM playgrounds to create a much needed playground for children living in one of the poorest communities in Hamilton. More recently, Sandy has leant her efforts to helping FirstOntario launch an innovative Micro Loan Program to the Hamilton Community. This new program provides Micro Loans to individuals who have a great idea for a micro-enterprise, but may not be able to access traditional financing. Financial assistance in the form of a Micro Loan from FirstOntario is combined with support programs offered by participating community partners to help these individuals get their self-employment dream off the ground.

“I am truly honoured to receive this award”, said Sandy Shaw, Chairwoman of the FirstOntario Board of Directors. “I hope that being given this award highlights how innovative approaches and unique partnerships can benefit the Hamilton community as a whole.”

In business since 1939, FirstOntario Credit Union serves over 71,000 Members and offers a full suite of banking products including daily banking, mortgages, lines of credit, loans and investments. FirstOntario has over \$2.2 billion in funds under management and currently has 17 branches serving 11 communities within the Hamilton, Halton, Niagara and Haldimand/Norfolk regions. Membership is open to everyone. FirstOntario is a proud advocate of the people and communities we serve and supports many important community organizations such as the Advanced Coronary Treatment (ACT) Foundation, Co-operative Young Leaders (CYL) and Living Rock.

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