

For Immediate Release

FirstOntario Credit Union Proud to be Recognized as Business Partner of the Year

FirstOntario receives honour for contribution to Student Nutrition Program

Milton ON, October 5, 2016 – FirstOntario Credit Union was named Business Partner of the Year at Halton Food for Thought's partner recognition event on October 2. The annual event celebrates partners and volunteers who work together to provide nutritious breakfasts and healthy snacks to young students across the Halton Region.

"We are proud of our Student Nutrition Program and the commitment we've made to relieving childhood hunger and supporting young students in our communities," said Mary De Sousa, Executive Vice President, Member Experience and Marketing. "Working with Halton Food for Thought and our local community agencies has proved to be a rewarding partnership that continues to fulfil our credit union's cooperative values and our dedication to building stronger communities."

FirstOntario's investment of \$750,000 to student nutrition programs across several regions in Ontario over the last three years has helped support thousands of students by providing access to healthy food and snacks. More than 80,000 children benefited from the program in the first two years and that number continues to grow.

More than 2000 Halton Food for Thought volunteers, including students and FirstOntario Blue Wave employee volunteers, provide these snacks to elementary and secondary students through 180 Student Nutrition Programs in 110 partner schools. Last year, 3,250,000 healthy meals and snacks were funded and prepared for kids across the Halton region, giving children the nutrients they need to fuel a full day of learning.

This is the second time this year that FirstOntario was recognized for its contribution to the Student Nutrition Program. In April, the credit union was awarded the Outstanding Corporate Achievement Award by the Ontario Credit Union Foundation in April.

About FirstOntario Credit Union

In business since 1939, FirstOntario Credit Union has 110,000 members and more than \$4 billion in Assets under Management. The credit union is the second largest credit union in Ontario providing a full suite of banking products including daily banking, mortgages, lines of credit, loans and investments. FirstOntario has 32 locations, serving 14 communities across the Hamilton, Halton, Niagara, Haldimand/Norfolk, Brant, Norwich, and Oxford regions as well as free access at 3,300 ATMs across Canada. Membership at FirstOntario is open to anyone. FirstOntario is a proud advocate of the communities we serve and supports many important community organizations. FirstOntario also supports entrepreneurship through its 1Awards, which assists small businesses with plans for expansion through in-kind and cash sponsorship. For more information please visit: www.FirstOntario.com.



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