

For Immediate Release

FirstOntario recognizes International Credit Union Day with \$250,000 donation, marking a \$1 million milestone in support of local student nutrition programs

Interactive celebratory event for students focused on promoting healthy choices, local foods and the importance of community.

Hamilton ON, Oct 19, 2017 – Today, FirstOntario Credit Union with the support of community partners is recognizing International Credit Union Day and a \$1 million milestone in support of local student nutrition programs in Hamilton, Halton, Niagara and throughout southern Ontario.

FirstOntario will present a cheque for \$250,000 to representatives from Haldimand-Norfolk REACH, lead agency for the provincial student nutrition programs in the Hamilton/Niagara regions, at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre in St. Catharines.

“We are thrilled to celebrate International Credit Union Day and the achievements and contributions of credit unions on a global scale. But here at home, we’re proud to stand behind community programs that ensure students get a healthy start to their day,” said James Lefebvre, Senior Vice President, Member Experience and Business Services.

In addition to the monetary support, the student nutrition programs are powered by FirstOntario’s Blue Wave employee volunteer team who work across several regions to deliver healthy breakfast and snacks, making sure students get a nutritious meal to fuel a day of learning. Over the past four years, FirstOntario’s investment of \$1 million into these programs has helped support more than 92,000 students by providing access to healthy food.

“We are very fortunate to be entering the fourth year of our partnership with FirstOntario which includes not just financial support but also volunteer support that is critical to program success and sustainability” Leo Massi, Executive Director, Haldimand-Norfolk REACH.

The celebratory student event will feature interactive activities and demonstrations to highlight the importance and the benefits of healthy eating, local ingredients and taking advantage of everything you can find in your local community.

About FirstOntario Credit Union

FirstOntario has been serving Members in the Golden Horseshoe, including Hamilton, Halton, the Niagara Region and Southwestern regions of Ontario since 1939. FirstOntario is the province’s second largest credit union with 32 locations, more than 115,000 Members and \$5 billion in assets under management. Everyone is welcome to be part of FirstOntario for financial services including daily transactions, mortgages, lines

of credit, loans and investments. FirstOntario profits are invested into the communities we serve through support for entrepreneurs, competitive rates and charitable pursuits including our award winning student nutrition program. Learn more about us today at FirstOntario.com.

FirstOntario Credit Union’s Student Nutrition Program

FirstOntario Credit Union is a strong supporter of student nutrition programs and the importance that healthy food and snacks play in the success of students at school. Our partnership with Hamilton Tastebuds, Halton Food for Thought and other local groups (through REACH) across the communities we support includes both monetary as well as employee volunteer support through our Blue Wave team who help to purchase, prepare and serve breakfast and snacks to students, in schools. This is the fourth year of our partnership, bringing our total support of student nutrition programs to \$1 million to date.

International Credit Union Day

Each year on International Credit Union (ICU) Day[®], people from credit unions worldwide celebrate their cooperative difference, history and achievements while promoting the international credit union movement. The ultimate goal is to raise awareness about the great work that credit unions are doing in their communities around the world and to give members the opportunity to share in celebrating their credit union’s successes. International Credit Union Day has been celebrated on the third Thursday of October since 1948.

Worldwide Credit Unions- 68,800
Members- 235,000,000
Countries- 109

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