

*For Immediate Release*

## **FirstOntario Credit Union Honoured for Student Nutrition Program**

*Ontario Credit Union Foundation recognizes FirstOntario's ongoing commitment to its communities*

**Toronto, ON, May 2, 2016** – FirstOntario Credit Union has won the Ontario Credit Union Foundation's (OCUF) Outstanding Corporate Achievement Award for 2016, in part for its Student Nutrition Program, helping students start their school days off right.

The award was given to FirstOntario during the OCUF's Annual General Meeting (AGM), held in conjunction with the Central 1 Credit Union AGM, held in Toronto this past weekend.

"Building stronger communities is at the heart of what FirstOntario stands for," said Mary De Sousa, Executive Vice President Marketing, FirstOntario Credit Union.

"We believe in the community we all share and our goal is to enable positive change that makes everyone's life and the lives of those around them better. By helping to improve the cultural richness and economic vibrancy of our communities, we make the place we all call home an enriched and more dynamic place to live."

The Student Nutrition Program, in addition to a cash contribution, is powered by FirstOntario's Blue Wave employee volunteer team who work across several regions to deliver healthy breakfast and snacks ensuring students get a nutritious meal to fuel a full day of learning.

"FirstOntario's commitment to the community they serve is really impressive," said Dan Coldwell, OCUF Chair. "It's not just the dollars invested but it's the well thought out strategy that makes their Student Nutrition Program have such a significant impact."

FirstOntario has invested \$500,000 into the Student Nutrition Program, supporting more than 80,000 students by providing access to healthy food and snacks over the past three years. That number will continue to grow with the credit union's most recent donation of \$250,000 for a combination of \$750,000 in total.

This year marks the first time two credit unions won the award. Toronto and Ottawa-based Alterna Savings joined FirstOntario as this year's recipients.

This recognition follows March's Outstanding Workplace Award presented to FirstOntario at the Hamilton YWCA's Women of Distinction gala. FirstOntario also earned the Hamilton-Niagara Top Employer Award for 2016, which is the second time the credit union has achieved the honour.

To learn more about the OCUF Community Achievement Award go to <https://ocuf.org/2016/04/29/2016-corporate-awards/>.

**About FirstOntario Credit Union**

In business since 1939, FirstOntario Credit Union has 107,000 Members and \$3.9 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 31 locations, serving 14 communities across the Hamilton, Halton, Niagara, Haldimand/Norfolk, Brant, Norwich, and Oxford regions as well as free access at 2,400 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 the 1Awards, which assists small businesses with plans for expansion through in-kind and cash sponsorship. For more information please visit: [www.FirstOntario.com](http://www.FirstOntario.com).

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