

*For Immediate Release*

## **FirstOntario Credit Union Receives Outstanding Workplace Award from YWCA Women of Distinction**

*It is the 40<sup>th</sup> year of the YWCA Gala celebrating women and the first year for the Outstanding Workplace award*

**Hamilton/Niagara ON, March 14, 2016** – FirstOntario Credit Union is Hamilton’s 2016 YWCA Women of Distinction Award winner for Outstanding Workplace.

FirstOntario is the inaugural recipient of the Outstanding Workplace Award celebrating the credit unions promotion of women at all levels of the financial institution.

“FirstOntario, starting with our President and CEO Kelly McGiffin, believes in promoting a positive work/life balance that also supports volunteerism through service to the community,” said Mary De Sousa, Executive Vice President Marketing. “That was evident from the letters written by staff in support of FirstOntario being given this award.”

This is the first year for the Outstanding Workplace category. It recognizes a local business that supports and responds to the diverse needs of its employees while supporting and encouraging them as they balance the demands of a career, family and community.

“FirstOntario’s goal is to be the first choice for financial services for our Members,” De Sousa said. “That starts by ensuring FirstOntario is the first choice for the careers of our team. This award is further proof of that.”

The awards gala comes just days after International Women’s Day, continuing to celebrate the achievements of women in our communities. FirstOntario Credit Union was also recognized as a Hamilton/Niagara Top Employer for 2015. It is the second time the credit union has received this top honour.

### **About FirstOntario Credit Union**

In business since 1939, FirstOntario Credit Union has more than 105,000 members and \$4 billion in funds. 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 30 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 its 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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