

For immediate release

FirstOntario Credit Union recognized for stepping up to be an advocate for supporting local communities

The credit union was chosen to receive the 2019 Co-operative Spirit Award

Guelph ON, October 15, 2019 – FirstOntario’s Blue Wave volunteer program continues to make waves as its dedicated employee volunteers create a ripple effect of impact in the communities they serve. The credit union’s commitment has been recognized by the *Ontario Co-operative Association* as a *2019 Co-operative Spirit Award* winner.

This employee-led program continues to grow in volunteers and in the number of hours of support given to various organizations and charities across the regions where FirstOntario operates. Now in its ninth year, the Blue Wave program exemplifies FirstOntario’s mission of being a cooperative financial institution that believes in doing the right things for the right reasons.

“Our Blue Wave volunteers are a valued resource that people in our neighbourhoods count on,” said Lloyd Smith, CEO, FirstOntario Credit Union. “As a credit union, we are guided by our co-operative principles, with one being concern for our community. Our employees genuinely care about making a difference and helping others.”

Close to 300 employees play an important role in many different events and initiatives. Since 2014, FirstOntario has invested more than \$1.25 million into student nutrition programs that provide healthy breakfasts and snacks to elementary school students. More than 70 Blue Wave volunteers have given over 2,800 hours to 32 different programs by helping to prep, package, deliver and serve. Since Blue Wave began, volunteer time has added up to more than 10,000 hours!

For more information, please contact:

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[About FirstOntario Credit Union](#)

FirstOntario is a full service cooperative financial institution, serving Members for 80 years throughout the Golden Horseshoe, Niagara Region and Southwestern regions of Ontario. With \$5.4 billion in assets under management, FirstOntario is one of Canada’s largest credit unions. 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.