

FirstOntario Credit Union Earns 2025 Great Place To Work® Certification™

Hamilton, ON, November 27, 2025 – FirstOntario Credit Union is proud to be Certified by Great Place To Work. *The prestigious award is based entirely on what current employees say about their experience working at FirstOntario.*

Great Place To Work is the global authority on workplace culture, employee experience, and the leadership behaviours proven to deliver market-leading revenue, employee retention and increased innovation.

"I'm delighted we've achieved the Great Place To Work certification because it's our employees who ultimately decide if we are worthy of the designation," said Lloyd Smith, CEO, FirstOntario Credit Union. "We owe our continued success to our team of dedicated employees, and I thank them for the exceptional service they deliver to our members."

Sarah Lewis-Kulin, Vice President of Global Recognition at Great Place To Work said this certification is the sole official recognition earned through the real-time feedback of employees regarding their company culture.

"Great Place To Work certification is a highly coveted achievement that requires consistent and intentional dedication to the overall employee experience," said Lewis-Kulin. "By successfully earning this recognition, it's evident FirstOntario stands out as one of the top companies to work for, providing a great workplace environment for its employees."

According to **Great Place To Work research**, job seekers are 4.5 times more likely to find a great boss at a certified great workplace. Additionally, employees at certified workplaces are 93% more likely to look forward to coming to work, and are twice as likely to be paid fairly, earn a fair share of the company's profits and have a fair chance at promotion.

About FirstOntario Credit Union

FirstOntario is a full service cooperative financial institution, serving members for 86 years throughout the Golden Horseshoe, Niagara Region and Southwestern regions of Ontario. With \$7.6 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.

About Great Place to Work Certification™

Great Place To Work® Certification™ is the most definitive "employer-of-choice" recognition that companies aspire to achieve. It is the only recognition based entirely on what employees report about their workplace experience – specifically, how consistently they experience a high-trust workplace. Great Place to Work Certification is recognized worldwide by employees and employers alike and is the global benchmark for identifying and recognizing outstanding employee experience. Every year, more than 10,000 companies across 60 countries apply to get Great Place To Work-Certified.

Media contact:

Tony Iavarone

AVP, Communications and Public Relations

FirstOntario Credit Union

Tony.Iavarone@FirstOntario.com