

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FirstOntario Credit Union contributes \$35,000 to support Niagara flood recovery

Hamilton, ON, September 29, 2026 – FirstOntario Credit Union is providing an additional \$25,000 in support of flood recovery efforts across Niagara, bringing its total contribution to \$35,000 following the devastating flooding that impacted communities throughout the region this summer.

The funding will be shared between Community Care of St. Catharines and Thorold and Community Care of West Niagara to support their ongoing efforts to help residents recover and rebuild in the months ahead.

This latest contribution builds on the \$10,000 donation FirstOntario made through the Day of Giving Niagara radio campaign, which helped address immediate needs in the aftermath of the flooding, including access to food, essential supplies, and emergency assistance.

While the initial response phase has concluded, many affected residents continue to face significant challenges as they repair homes, replace belongings, and navigate the long road to recovery.

Community Care organizations throughout Niagara have been at the forefront of relief efforts since the flooding occurred, coordinating food, household necessities, financial assistance, and other recovery supports for residents impacted by the disaster.

Lloyd Smith, Chief Executive Officer, FirstOntario Credit Union: "In times of crisis, Niagara communities come together to support one another, and we're proud to be part of that effort," said Lloyd Smith, Chief Executive Officer, FirstOntario Credit Union. "The immediate emergency needs may have passed, but for many families the recovery journey is just beginning. Through our partnership with Community Care organizations across Niagara, we're helping ensure support remains available as residents rebuild their homes, restore stability, and move forward with confidence."

Betty-Lou Souter, Chief Executive Officer Community Care, St. Catharines & Thorold: "Having the ability to assist those who lost so much in the recent flooding was extremely rewarding and was made possible by this incredible donation. The gratitude of the recipients upon receipt of the cleaning supplies, dehumidifiers, food hampers and personal products was heartwarming. Community Care St. Catharines & Thorold is grateful for having the ability to generate hope for a brighter tomorrow."

Lynda O'Donnell, Director of Community Engagement, Community Care of West Niagara: "When our neighbours experience a disaster such as their home being flooded, being able to access cleaning products, food and personal items can be a welcomed relief and a reminder that they belong to a community that is behind them in this time of crisis. Thank you for your generous donation to CCWN to help with local relief efforts."

About FirstOntario Credit Union

FirstOntario is a full service cooperative financial institution, serving members for more than 85 years throughout the Golden Horseshoe, Niagara Region and Southwestern regions of Ontario. With \$8.2

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 at FirstOntario.com.

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