Media Release

FirstOntario invests $270,000 in student nutrition programs across local communities

Ongoing support helps combat food insecurity and ensure students are ready to learn

Hamilton, ON, November 9, 2026 - FirstOntario Credit Union is investing $270,000 in student nutrition programs across the communities it serves, helping local agencies provide healthy food to students throughout the 2026-27 school year.

Since 2014, FirstOntario has invested more than $3.1 million in student nutrition programs and worked with dedicated partners including Brant Food for Thought, Halton Food for Thought, Haldimand-Norfolk REACH (Child Nutrition Network), Hamilton Tastebuds, Niagara Nutrition Partners and Ontario Student Nutrition Program - Southwest Region.

Student nutrition programs continue to face growing pressure as food costs rise and demand increases. For many children and youth, access to healthy food at school can make an important difference in their ability to focus, participate and learn. Last year, more than 123,000 students in more than 1,200 schools across 15 communities directly benefited from FirstOntario's support.

FirstOntario employees also support student nutrition programs through the Blue Wave employee volunteer program, helping in school programs and with the delivery of local produce.

"Access to nutritious food gives students a stronger start to the school day and helps create the conditions they need to learn and succeed," said Joanne Battaglia, Chief Marketing & Emerging Brands Officer, FirstOntario Credit Union. "Our student nutrition partners understand the needs in their communities and turn our investment into meaningful support for children and families. We are proud to strengthen that work and encourage other organizations to help these programs meet the growing demand."

About FirstOntario Credit Union
FirstOntario is a full service cooperative financial institution, serving members for 87 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 about us today at FirstOntario.com.

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