

Gary Gillam Award Nomination Guide & Selection Criteria

The Award Program

The Gary Gillam Award, jointly sponsored by Alterna Savings and Central 1, recognizes and honours individuals within the Ontario and British Columbia credit union movement who demonstrate exemplary achievements in:

- promoting social responsibility and/or sustainability in credit unions; and/or
- promoting credit unions as a socially responsible investment alternative

Up to two awards may be presented each year; one to a credit union employee and/or one to a credit union volunteer.

Alterna Savings and Central 1 will contribute a total of \$2,500 to be donated on behalf of the recipient(s) to a charity, organization or project of their choice. The recipient(s) will also be presented with a plaque and have their name added to a permanent plaque displayed at Central 1.

Nominations

Nominations are limited to those who have taken credit unions *beyond traditional philanthropy and good corporate citizenship*. Achievements may relate to:

- Credit union projects, programs, services or policies addressing one particularly pressing social, environmental, sustainability and/or economic problem in a local community where other agencies or financial institutions have not been willing or able to help; or
- Using a credit union to promote community self-help projects or to work with under-served individuals or groups; or
- A focus on the use of credit unions for providing sustainability/socially responsible investments, banking programs, products and services to members and communities.

All nominees must be a credit union member **and** a current or past director, volunteer, manager or employee.

When completing the nomination package, please describe how your nominee met, or meets, one or more of the above mentioned criteria. Please provide as much detailed information as you can.

Deadline for Nominations

Nominations must be received by **March 8, 2010** at the below mailing address. The Award Committee will review all nominations and select the annual recipient(s) with a presentation to the winner on April 30, 2010.

Questions and nominations should be directed to:

Gary Gillam Award for Social Responsibility c/o Alterna Savings
Marketing, Communications & Corporate Social Responsibility Department
165 Attwell Dr. Toronto, ON M9W 5Y5

Gary H. Gillam
1954 – 1993



This Award was established to honour the memory and work of Gary H. Gillam. Gary was the Director, Legal, Governmental Affairs and Administration, at Credit Union Central of Ontario (now Central 1) from 1982 to 1988.

In 1988, he became CEO of Unicoll Credit Union (now Alterna Savings), where he worked until illness forced his resignation in 1993.

Gary Gillam was one of the leading advocates for social responsibility in the credit union system long before it became popular within organizations. He vigorously promoted the concept of social investment, calling on credit unions and their centrals to use social as well as financial criteria for their investment portfolios. He supported the development of community loan funds to provide assistance to socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. At CUCO and his own credit union, he initiated social audits to measure the social performance of the organization, as a complementary process to the financial audit.

The Gary Gillam Award came into existence in 1996 and is awarded annually.



Gary Gillam Award 2009 Award Recipients

Recipient: **Steve Mantis**
Category: Credit Union Volunteer
Affiliated with: Bay Credit Union

Steve was recognized for his work in championing corporate social responsibility at Bay Credit Union over the past six years. Steve stepped down from the board to create and chair a Social Responsibility Committee that meets on a monthly basis. The Committee works closely with local community groups and, at every other meeting, invites guests from the community to participate. Steve always asks them, "How can the Credit Union, as a community minded and local financial institution, best help you?" The guest responses have provided numerous opportunities for the Credit Union to undertake, and be involved in, initiatives that are truly community-driven.

Having suffered a serious workplace injury in 1978, Steve has also worked tirelessly on occupational health and safety issues. Noting that many injured workers suffer from feelings of isolation and helplessness, Steve worked with the Thunder Bay Economic Justice Committee, local trade unions, and Bay Credit Union to develop a "Speakers School" which provides training in public speaking. Through this twelve-week course participants gain a new sense of accomplishment and many graduates say the program is "life-altering" for them.

Recipient: **Doug Robinson, President & CEO**
Category: Credit Union Employee
Organization: Northern Lights Credit Union

When the opportunity to partner with the Wasaya Group to provide financial services in remote communities came up, Doug showed vision and leadership by jumping on board. This venture involved working with the Wasaya Group of companies including Wasaya's Wee-Chee-Way-Win Incorporated, a not-for-profit established to develop programs to improve the lives of people in its 10 communities. Without real financial services in the community, it was difficult, if not impossible, for that community to function as a well-rounded economic entity and for its citizens to achieve financial independence.

The goal was to establish a pilot project branch in Bearskin Lake, 425 kilometres north of Sioux Lookout, Doug saw this as a natural extension of his credit union's commitment to community economic development. If successful, the long term intention is to use this partnership as a pilot for roll-out to another 10 communities.

Visit alterna.ca for a complete list of past award recipients.

**Gary Gillam Award
Nomination Questionnaire**

Date: _____

Nominee Information

Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Nominator Information

Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

- 1. (a)** How has the nominee made a difference in taking their credit union, or the cooperative sector generally, beyond traditional philanthropy and good corporate citizenship to demonstrate exemplary social responsibility and/or sustainability on behalf of credit unions?

If more space is required, please attach a separate sheet referring to this item number.

- (b)** Describe how the nominee has been exemplary in promoting sustainability or social/environmental responsibility in credit unions.

If more space is required, please attach a separate sheet referring to this item number.

(c) Describe how the nominee has been exemplary in involving your credit union, or the cooperative sector generally, in community projects or programs that further community economic development or social development, where gaps exist.

If more space is required, please attach a separate sheet referring to this item number.

(d) Describe how the nominee has been exemplary in promoting or developing sustainability/socially responsible banking or investment opportunities through credit unions.

If more space is required, please attach a separate sheet referring to this item number.

2. Additional Comments

If more space is required, please attach a separate sheet referring to this item number.

Please submit nominations by March 8, 2010 to:

Gary Gillam Award for Social Responsibility c/o Alterna Savings
Marketing, Communications & Corporate Social Responsibility Department
165 Attwell Dr. Toronto, ON M9W 5Y5