

## NEWS RELEASE

### 2013 GARY GILLAM AWARD NOMINATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

TORONTO, January 14, 2013 – 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.

Nominations are limited to those who have taken credit unions *beyond traditional philanthropy and good corporate citizenship*. To be eligible, nominees must be a credit union member and a current or past director, volunteer, manager or employee.

Nominations must be received by **March 11, 2013**. The Award Committee will review all nominations and select the annual recipient(s). The presentation to the winner will be held on April 26, 2013.

The 2013 Nomination Guide & Selection Criteria package can be found at [alterna.ca](http://alterna.ca).

#### About Gary Gillam

The Gary Gillam 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, Gary 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 was established in 1996 and is awarded annually.

## **About Central 1**

Central 1 is the central financial facility and trade association for the B.C. and Ontario credit union systems. Central 1 represents a consumer-oriented, full-service retail financial system that serves 2.9 million members and holds \$86.2 billion in assets and is owned primarily by its member credit unions, 44 in B.C. and 101 in Ontario.

With offices in Vancouver, Mississauga, and Toronto, Central 1 provides a wide range of services such as liquidity management, direct banking, and payment service solutions.

## **About Alterna Savings**

Alterna Savings is a full-service, member-focused, and community-based credit union that operates in the National Capital Region and the Greater Toronto Area. Guided by a commitment to support the well-being of members, employees and communities, Alterna offers a broad range of financial products and services to over 100,000 members. Learn about the Alterna Savings difference at [www.alterna.ca](http://www.alterna.ca).

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