

## NEWS RELEASE

### 2015 GARY GILLAM AWARD NOMINATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

TORONTO, March 3, 2015 – The Gary Gillam Award, jointly sponsored by Alterna Savings and Central 1 Credit Union, 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 **April 3, 2015**. The Award Committee will review all nominations and select the annual recipient(s). The presentation to the winner will be held on April 24, 2015.

The 2015 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 3.1 million members and holds \$97 billion in assets and is owned primarily by its member credit unions, 43 in B.C. and 84 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**

As Canada's first co-operative financial institution outside Quebec, Alterna Savings and Credit Union Limited is a full-service, member-owned credit union. Alterna Savings serves over 100,000 members throughout the province of Ontario. From trustworthy financial advice to local investment and community-level support, Alterna Savings offers a fresh alternative to the 'Big Banks'. Learn about the Alterna Savings difference at [www.alterna.ca](http://www.alterna.ca), follow us on Twitter @alternasavings and like us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/AlternaSavings](https://www.facebook.com/AlternaSavings).

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