

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2016 Gary Gillam Award nominations now being accepted

TORONTO, February 8, 2016 – 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 **Friday, March 25, 2016**. The award committee will review all nominations and select the annual recipient(s). The presentation to the winner will be held on April 29, 2016 in Toronto.

The 2016 Nomination Guide & Selection Criteria package can be found at:
<https://www.alterna.ca/GaryGillam>

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

With offices in Vancouver, Mississauga and Toronto, Central 1 holds on balance sheet approximately \$14.6 billion in assets. We provide wholesale financial products, trust services, payment processing solutions and direct banking services to more than 300 credit unions and institutional clients from coast to coast.

In addition, Central 1 is the primary liquidity manager, payments provider and trade association for our 42 member credit unions in B.C. and 77 Ontario member credit unions. Our members represent a consumer-oriented, full-service retail financial system that collectively serves 3.2 million members and holds more than \$104.7 billion in assets. For more information, visit www.central1.com.

About Alterna Savings

As Canada's first co-operative financial institution outside of Quebec, Alterna Savings and Credit Union Limited has operated as a full-service, member-owned credit union for over 100 years. Alterna Savings is committed to helping our more than 100,000 members achieve their financial dreams, while at the same time supporting vibrant, local communities. Alterna Savings offers a full suite of financial services online, by phone, by mobile and through a network of 24 branches. Alterna members also have access to THE EXCHANGE® Network, with thousands of surcharge-free ATMs across Canada and 500,000 ATMs in the United States.

For more information please visit www.alterna.ca

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