

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2017 Gary Gillam Award nominations now being accepted

TORONTO, February 7, 2017 – 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 24, 2017**. The award committee will review all nominations and select the annual recipient(s). The presentation to the winner will be held on April 28, 2017 in Vancouver.

The 2017 Nomination Guide & Selection Criteria package can be found at:

<https://www.alterna.ca/AboutUs/Community/CommunityInvestments/SponsorshipsAndCorporatePrograms/GaryGillamAward/>

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 assist 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 \$15.7 billion in assets. We provide wholesale financial products, trust services, payment processing solutions and direct banking services to almost 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 70 Ontario member credit unions. Our members represent a consumer-oriented, full-service retail financial system that collectively serves 3.3 million members and holds more than \$112 billion in assets. For more information, visit www.central1.com.

About Alterna Savings

About Alterna Savings For more than 100 years, Alterna Savings and Credit Union Limited has been charting new directions to help Ontarians achieve their financial dreams and build strong, vibrant communities. The first full-service, member-owned co-operative financial institution outside Quebec, Alterna Savings shares our expertise with more than 143,000 members. Holding over \$4.8 billion in assets under administration, we offer a full suite of financial services online, by phone, by mobile and through a network of 35 branches across Ontario, including our partners Peterborough Community Savings, and Nexus Community Savings, both divisions of Alterna Savings and Credit Union Ltd. Alterna Bank offers innovative, online financial services to all Canadians. Alterna Savings members also have access to the 2nd largest surcharge free ATM network in Canada with THE EXCHANGE® Network. For more information please visit www.alterna.ca.

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