

## **Guido Chezzi Receives 2012 Gary Gillam Award**

TORONTO, April 23, 2012 – Guido Chezzi of Coniston, Ont., has been named the winner of the Gary Gillam Award for his work as a credit union volunteer.

The Gillam award, jointly sponsored by Alterna Savings and Central 1, recognizes individuals within the Ontario and British Columbia credit union movement who demonstrate exemplary achievements in promoting social responsibility sustainability in credit unions and promoting credit unions as a socially responsible investment alternative.

Chezzi received the award Friday, April 20 during a credit union conference. He has been involved with the credit union system for more than 50 years and was a founding member of Coniston Community Credit Union, now part of Northern Credit Union.

Chezzi was a credit union director for many years and currently serves on the board of the Ontario Credit Union Charitable Foundation.

He also volunteered in Africa and for 10 years was on the international program committee of the Canadian Co-operative Association and has been a facilitator at the Ontario Co-operative Association's Co-operative Young Leaders Camp.

Chezzi divided the \$2,500 prize money between the Co-operative Development Foundat, the Ontario Credit Union Charitable Foundation and the SickKids Foundation.

### **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 more than \$15 billion in assets, Central 1 Credit Union is the central liquidity management facility and trade association for its 158 member credit unions in B.C. and Ontario. From offices in Vancouver, B.C. and Mississauga, Ont., more than 550 employees provide a wide range of services, including liquidity management, payments settlement, online financial services and trade association functions.

## **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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