

## **FirstOntario Credit Union nears \$2 million in support for local student nutrition programs**

*Commitment to supporting young students reaffirmed with new \$250,000 donation*

**Hamilton, ON, October 21, 2021** –Today, to mark and celebrate International Credit Union Day, FirstOntario Credit Union has reinforced its commitment to student nutrition programs and the critical role they play in learning. FirstOntario’s new pledge of \$250,000 to key community partners will help ensure students can continue to count on these essentials.

“Supporting student nutrition programs is a priority and a long standing commitment for our credit union,” said Lloyd Smith, CEO at FirstOntario. “It’s important to us as a credit union to strengthen our community and reinvest our profits where it makes a difference, especially when it comes to children. Our relationship with our community partners makes a huge impact on our communities and demonstrates the positive effects of working together.”

Since 2014, FirstOntario has invested close to \$2 million into student nutrition programs and is happy to work with dedicated partners that include: Brant Food for Thought, Halton Food for Thought, Haldimand-Norfolk REACH (Child Nutrition Network), Hamilton Bulldogs Foundation, Hamilton Tastebuds, Niagara Nutrition Partners and Southwestern Public Health.

Access to healthy snacks helps fuel young students with enough energy and nutrition for a full day of learning whether they are in the classroom or in a remote location. These agencies make sure food is purchased, prepared and delivered safely even in the case of class disruptions. During the pandemic, between April and June, over 22,000 students were supported through programs such as farm to school produce deliveries, grocery gift cards and food boxes as they transitioned between in-school and virtual learning.

FirstOntario Blue Wave employee volunteers who typically play a big role and help at schools are ready to return when volunteers are permitted back to assist.

### **About FirstOntario Credit Union**

FirstOntario is a full service cooperative financial institution, serving Members for more than 80 years throughout the Golden Horseshoe, Niagara Region and Southwestern regions of Ontario. With \$5.7 billion in assets under management, FirstOntario is one of Canada’s largest credit unions. Everyone is welcome to be part of FirstOntario for financial services including daily transactions, mortgages, lines of credit, loans and investments. FirstOntario profits are invested into the communities we serve through support for entrepreneurs, competitive rates and charitable pursuits including our award winning student nutrition program. Learn more about us today at [FirstOntario.com](http://FirstOntario.com).

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