



WINDSOR FAMILY CREDIT UNION

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For Immediate Release

WFCU CHAIR NAMED CUES® DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

WINDSOR, ON – The Credit Union Executives Society has named Martin D. Gillis, Chair, Windsor Family Credit Union (WFCU), as the 2012 CUES Director of the Year. He will be honored during an awards celebration at CUES' Directors Conference, December 9-12, in Palm Desert, California. Mr. Gillis is the first Canadian Credit Union Director to receive this internationally acclaimed award.

Mr. Gillis has over 36 years of experience in the credit union industry. Among his many contributions to WFCU, Mr. Gillis was instrumental in governing the credit union while its assets grew from \$40 million in 1986, to \$1.4 billion in Managed Assets and \$2.1 billion in Member Service Totals in August 2012. A longtime proponent of board governance, effective team work, board education and policy development, Mr. Gillis has held the position of Board Chair for the last 21 years. Mr. Gillis is a strong supporter of leading edge human resources practices and is continually encouraging the board and senior management to strive to be the best.

The CUES Director of the Year award recognizes a board member for excellence in credit union volunteerism based on their achievements at the credit union; contributions to other credit unions, credit union organizations and the community; and professional development and education.

Mr. Gillis is a lifetime member of the Ontario Credit Union Charitable Foundation, a member of the Ontario Credit Union Directors Forum Board. He is a past Director of Credit Union Central of Ontario's (Central 1) Board of Directors and was honoured with a long-time service award at the 2009 Directors Forum. An avid community supporter Mr. Gillis served on the Board of Riverside Minor Hockey for eleven years, including six years as President.

A strong believer in education Mr. Gillis has completed the necessary courses through the CUES Directors Leadership Institute and is one of a few Canadians to receive the designation of Certified Credit Union Director. He has participated in various initiatives through the Canadian Cooperative Association including the Cooperative Leadership Program. He obtained an education in Credit Union Advanced Leadership at the London Business School and Harvard University.

In a day and age when governance is at the forefront, Mr. Gillis recognizes and accepts the commitments necessary to perform the job at the level expected by the staff and members of the credit union. He understands the relationship between a strategic and policy driven Board of Directors and operational focused management. Mr. Gillis readily acknowledges and commends success as well as accepts and performs critical analysis on areas in need of improvement. He believes in the philosophy that credit unions are here to serve their members. It is his ability to think strategically and to implement change without eliminating important values and philosophies that has allowed him to serve for so many years on the Board of Directors of Windsor Family Credit Union.

“The credit union’s history is one of vision, planning and determination,” said Gillis. “In 1985 the credit union system in the Windsor area encompassed over 70 credit unions. Windsor Family Credit Union was created through the merger of four of these credit unions. The resulting board had a vision – they wanted to create a financial institution that would provide great financial products and services at competitive rates to benefit the people who live and work in Windsor and Essex County. I am proud to serve as part of that board, a board that values the co-operative philosophy.”

Mr. Gillis is a tremendous asset to WFCU and to the overall credit union system. His worldly knowledge of the system is tremendous and is supported by his thirst for learning. His credit union and cooperative experience brings a thorough understanding of the credit union system of yesterday and the credit union system of today. His passion for the lead role the system should play in the world of financial services drives his open mind and ability to think outside the box to strategically design the WFCU and the credit union system of tomorrow.

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About Credit Union Executives Society (CUES)

The Credit Union Executives Society is a Madison, Wisconsin-based, independent, not-for-profit, international membership association for credit union executives. CUES' mission is to educate and develop credit union CEOs, directors and future leaders. For more information visit www.cues.org.

About Windsor Family Credit Union (WFCU) Financials as of August, 2012

WFCU has long been recognized as one of the leading, progressive financial organizations in the City of Windsor and Essex County. Serving Windsor and surrounding communities for over 70 years, WFCU began in 1941 with assets of less than \$10,000 and now has \$1.4 billion in Managed Assets and Member Service Totals of \$2.1 billion. WFCU is the seventh largest in Ontario operating six (6) retail locations and serving 31,000 members including 28,000 Personal members in 15,200 households, 1,500 Businesses and 1,300 Organizations. WFCU membership is open to anyone who lives and/or works in Ontario.

The credit union having roots in the community is dedicated to offering the products and services that will enable members to conveniently handle all their financial business with WFCU. WFCU's Financial, Investment, Insurance and Trust product and service offerings are tailored to each member segment. Accessing the credit union and conducting everyday financial transactions is a priority for WFCU, providing a number of access channels to members including its above noted retail locations, live and automated telephone banking, online and mobile banking, MasterCard® credit card and merchant services, secure pre-authorized debit and credit services and 24 hour account access using a WFCU Member Card at ATMs and retailers.

Over the last 20 years WFCU has enhanced the financial strength of the credit union. Regulatory Capital remains strong at \$69.9 million and represents 7.62% of total assets and 13.12% of risk weighted assets. These ratios are substantially above regulatory standards of 4% and 8% respectively. The Deposit Insurance Corporation of Ontario (DICO) is the provincial

deposit insurer equivalent to the federal Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation. WFCU's financial and operational strength is a result of planned initiatives developed in order to ensure that it strives to be the best.

WFCU is a loyal and active member of Central 1, the credit union's banker, trade association, and a financial cooperative. Central 1's role is to serve as central financial facility, liquidity manager, payments processor and trade association for the provincial credit union systems of British Columbia and Ontario. It provides leadership, advocacy, technology, and a range of support services in fulfilment of these key functions. Central 1 holds \$14 billion in assets.

Committed to the communities it serves, WFCU is proud to display the Imagine Caring Company logo and is one of only 100 companies in Canada to do so. Every year hundreds of local community organizations experience first-hand the benefits of several elements of WFCU's overall Community Investment Program, such as The Community 1 Free Chequing Account, Community Rooms, Scholarships, Donations, Sponsorships, Multi-Year Capital Giving and the Community Donations Fund.

WFCU stresses the importance of quality by maintaining an internal 5 Star Quality Program. Ranked in the Top 25 Small and Medium employers in Canada, WFCU values its staff and their on-going contributions. Reflective of offering a progressive work environment and culture supported by a strong focus on its employees and goals, WFCU has been repeatedly recognized as a Best Small and Medium Sized Employer and received multi-year ranking as one of the Best Workplaces in Canada.

WFCU's solid attributes of financial strength; innovation; local ownership; quality products and service; community mindedness; and strong human resource management, have resulted in the on-going success of the organization. WFCU is proud to serve the Windsor and Essex County community and to be a leading financial services provider. Aug -12