



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### 2017 Directors Forum's focuses on building healthier credit unions

**Guelph, ON, September 21, 2017.** On September 29 and 30, over 120 individuals representing Ontario credit unions and caisses populaires will gather in downtown Toronto, to discuss issues that are both current and relevant to their unique roles as Board Directors.

*"Once again, we have put together a tremendous program for delegates, based in part on feedback we received from last years' participants, and a scan of what issues directors should be addressing and bringing back to their organizations,"* notes Tim Foster, Chair of the Directors' Forum Executive Committee which organizes the annual event.

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Forum will tackle a variety of topics moderated and presented by a variety of experts from both within and outside of the system, including but not limited to: Board Succession Strategies, Case Studies in IT Governance, What Role Credit Unions can Play in Small-Medium Enterprise Succession, and an overview of Central 1 Credit Union's new Payment and Innovation Strategy – the keynote address, which will be presented by Central's Board Chair, Rick Hoevenaars.

While the Forum continues to support the development of Board Chairs by hosting a meeting designed specifically to address their unique roles and concerns, this year will include a brand new session – one geared at young Directors' under forty. *"Their growth and involvement, as well as the future engagement of young directors in the system is a key area that we need to be talking about, and will hopefully become an integral component of the annual event for years to come,"* adds Foster.

The full day-and-a-half conference will open on September 28 with a welcome reception followed by a special Dinner Banquet complete with live musical entertainment, award presentation and a live auction, hosted by the Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada (CDF) in partnership with the Ontario Co-operative Association. All proceeds raised from the Banquet will go towards supporting the CDF's work to alleviate poverty and create more sustainable communities through the development of co-operative businesses across the globe.

*"For 33 years the Directors' Forum has been creating unique opportunities for directors to learn about system trends and challenges, participate in discussion forums, share best practices, and network with other leaders from across the province"* says Foster. *"Thanks to the work and dedication of our Executive Committee and staff, as well as our sponsors and participants, we can hopefully continue to make this important event happen for another 33 years!"*

## **ABOUT THE DIRECTORS' FORUM**

The Directors' Forum is the only annual conference organized *for* credit union directors, *by* credit union directors. The current Executive Committee is made up of six system board members: Tim Foster, Northern Credit Union (Chair); Kathy Stewart, Frontline Financial Credit Union (Treasurer); Tanya Gracie, Your Credit Union; Stephen McDermott, Comtech Fire Credit Union; Dave Sitaram, Oshawa Community Credit Union; and Pauline Wainwright, PACE Credit Union.

More information on the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Directors' Forum, including the program and speaker biographies, is available at [www.ontario.coop/directors](http://www.ontario.coop/directors).

The 2017 conference has been made possible through the overwhelming generosity and support of the following sponsors:

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