

FirstOntario Credit Union Reaffirms their Commitment to Central 1 as Digital Banking Partner of Choice

Central 1's Forge Digital Banking Platform offers Canadians a seamless digital user experience designed to keep financial institutions on the cusp of innovative trends

VANCOUVER, BC, September 9, 2020 – Central 1 is pleased to announce that FirstOntario Credit Union has officially entered a new multi-year commitment on the Forge Digital Banking Platform, further establishing Forge as the digital solution of choice for financial institutions across Canada.

FirstOntario Credit Union has partnered with Central 1 as a Forge Retail Banking champion since 2018, to provide important insights and user feedback designed to further enhance the digital innovation delivered by the Forge Digital Banking Platform.

“FirstOntario Credit Union’s ongoing commitment to Forge means that their members have access to the elevated digital banking experiences they crave and expect,” said Mark Blucher, President and CEO of Central 1. “In a fast and ever-changing industry, continuously improved digital banking offerings are vital to the success of credit unions and other financial institutions in Canada.”

The Forge Digital Banking Platform provides credit unions and financial institutions the ability to control and customize their brand expression through their own public website, mobile banking app, and online banking capabilities, all with a user experience that is unparalleled in Canada today. Melding award-winning technical architecture with customized, state-of-the-art banking, the Forge Digital Banking Platform is designed to meet the diverse digital needs of Canadian financial institutions, enabling them to remain at the forefront of evolving digital banking expectations.

As one of the early champions of Forge, FirstOntario Credit Union saw an excellent opportunity to build value in expanding and enhancing the digital banking experience for their members. “We chose Forge because we saw the value and benefits in the technology being implemented currently and the roadmap of initiatives that are being planned,” said Lloyd Smith, CEO of FirstOntario Credit Union. “As a champion, we want to help shape the platform so we can offer our Members an exceptional experience through our digital channels.”

With FirstOntario Credit Union committing to the Forge Digital Banking Platform, over 170 financial institutions in Canada have now selected Forge, showcasing the importance of digital transformation to meet the needs of Canadians from coast to coast. As this collaborative momentum continues to build, and the need to adapt and provide digital solutions is crystal clear, Canadians can expect to be provided with the innovative user experience they are looking for.



About Central 1

Central 1 is a preferred partner for financial, digital banking and payment products and services – fueling the success of businesses across Canada. With \$21.3 billion in assets, we leverage our scale, strength and expertise to power progress for more than 250 credit unions and other financial institutions, enhancing the financial well-being of more than 5 million customers from coast to coast. For more information, visit www.central1.com.

About FirstOntario Credit Union

FirstOntario is a full service cooperative financial institution, serving Members for 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.

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