

# Directors' Forum

For Directors, By Directors

## RECAP OF THE 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Directors' Forum AGM took place the morning of Friday, September 29, 2017. Tim Foster shared his Chair's Report, giving the 120 delegates in the room a glimpse into what they could expect over the next day and a half. He thanked all the organizations who sponsored this year's Forum, and recognized both the Executive Committee and the DF staff for their hard work and commitment to the DF mission.

The election was the highlight of the AGM, with two vacant seats on the Executive and four nominations received. The directors voted and Kathy Stewart of Frontline Financial Credit Union, who put her name up for re-election, and Anthony Piscitelli of Your Neighbourhood Credit Union, were elected. Kathy has served as the DF's Treasurer since joining the Committee in 2014. Anthony brings his nine years of board experience and a fresh, young Director's perspective to the Executive.

We also bid farewell to long-time Executive Director, Dave Sitaram, who gave his time and expertise to the Committee for an astounding fourteen years!

The DF then held an In Memoriam for the system directors who have passed on since last year's business meeting - a practice that was greatly appreciated by the delegation and will continue to be part of the AGM moving forward.

Finally, the Long-Term Service Awards were held, and twelve directors of Ontario credit unions and caisses populaires were recognized for their dedication to their boards.

## RECAP OF THE 2017 CONFERENCE

The results are in and the feedback received on the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Directors' Forum "Healthy Credit Unions, Thriving Communities" conference was very positive overall, with attendees finding great value for the cost of registration, and in all tools and information they could take back to their organizations.

On September 29 and 30, over 120 board directors representing over a third of Ontario's credit unions and caisses populaires, gathered in downtown Toronto to discuss issues of currency and relevance to the system, and their unique roles as Board Directors. The annual Forum, which is organized by an Executive Committee of six volunteer credit union directors, tackles a variety of topics moderated and presented by experts from both within and outside of the system.

This year's conference included plenary sessions on board succession strategies, the role credit unions can play in Small-Medium Enterprise succession, an overview of Central 1 Credit Union's new Payment and Innovation Strategy, and an interactive discussion on IT Governance, for which delegates received a half continuing education credit from Cusource, the education arm of the Canadian Credit Union Association. The trends and implications of Director DNA Assessments was also discussed, and the Executive held an Open Forum, where delegates were asked to share the value they receive from the annual Forum, as well as offer suggestions on the future direction of the conference.

While the Forum continues to support the development of Board Chairs by hosting a special breakout session designed specifically to address their unique roles and concerns, this year's event launched a similar session geared at young system directors' under forty. The Directors' Forum recognizes that the future engagement and growth of young directors in the system is a key area that needs to be addressed, and will begin to integrate plans to support them in future Forums, through the provision of bursaries possibly even a mentorship-type of program during the conference.

Over half of the delegates also generously supported the CDF by purchasing raffle tickets throughout the conference, as well as by attending the Banquet Dinner and Fundraiser, which took place the evening before the Forum.

The Executive Committee extends its sincerest gratitude to the [sixteen organizations](#) who sponsored this year's Forum, and to all the credit unions, caisses populaires and stakeholder organizations across the province who supported the conference through registration fees and by sending their board directors. Through all their generosity, we can continue to provide system directors with the knowledge and support they need, to help strengthen their organizations and the system as a whole.