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## First Credit Union Providing Over \$10,000 in Scholarships to Local Students this Year

Powell River, BC, March 24, 2014: High school graduation ceremonies are quickly approaching, and that means First Credit Union is preparing to award over \$10,000 in scholarships to local students.

Sandra McDowell, VP communications & culture at First Credit Union, explains how the amount of scholarships awarded each year increases in direct proportion to the amount that the credit union grows: "When I started with the credit union 16 years ago, we were giving away \$3,000 a year. Because the credit union assets have grown significantly, the amount we give away on behalf of the membership has grown considerably as well. Just another way that banking with a credit union positively impacts our communities."

One element of the many scholarships that First Credit Union offers is the Young Leaders program, embarking on its eleventh consecutive year this May. It offers four local students the opportunity to learn leadership experience in event coordination, public relations, communication, professionalism, and more. The four successful applicants will participate in First Credit Union's summer events, and will each receive a \$1,500 scholarship at the end of the program in August.

"I started the program 11 years ago with the hope that each student would receive valuable work experience in a professional environment," says McDowell. "After seeing over 60 students complete the program and start their working careers, I'm excited to offer the program to our local students again."

In addition to the Young Leaders program, First Credit Union will also be offering an additional 6 scholarships at the cap and gown ceremony in June. "Because the number of participants in the Young Leaders program is limited," McDowell says, "we're so happy to offer scholarships to many other students embarking on post-secondary education in the fall."

Helping local students in every way possible is important to First Credit Union, as it aligns with organization's purpose: to strengthen the well-being of their member-clients and make meaningful community impact. For more information on how to apply for the Young Leaders Program and the scholarships that First Credit Union offers, please contact [sandra.mcdowell@firstcu.ca](mailto:sandra.mcdowell@firstcu.ca). Applications for the Young Leaders program will be received until Saturday, April 5, 2014.

First Credit Union is the longest-running credit union in BC, originating as Powell River Credit Union in 1939. With over \$200 million in credit union assets, \$100 million in wealth management assets, five credit union branches, five insurance branches, 8,500 plus members, 30,000 plus

insurance clients, and over 140 employees, First Credit Union proudly serves six vibrant coastal communities.

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