

# Corporate Backgrounder

## Meridian Credit Union Who We Are

Meridian is one of Canada's largest credit unions, delivering a full range of financial services to individuals and businesses in Ontario. We serve 220,000 Members and 10,500 businesses through 44 branches, eight commercial business centres and two corporate offices.

Anyone can join Meridian.

With more than 1,000 employees, Meridian is among the top rated in customer service in North America for either banks or credit unions. Every week, we ask our Members how we're doing and we act on what they tell us.

What sets us apart is our focus on neighbourhood banking. Branch managers make decisions on loans, mortgages, lines of credit and sponsorships, not head office. Our Members' money is reinvested in our Members' communities, creating jobs and building businesses where our Members live.

We also offer value and unique benefits to our Members. For example:

- We will contact our Members if they have written a cheque by mistake with insufficient funds or if they have inadvertently paid a bill twice.
- We offer no-fee access to North America's largest ATM network with almost 250,000 machines across the US and Canada.
- We offer the best rates on GICs – typically .15 basis points higher than the posted rates of the big five banks. Our financial services advisors do not receive a commission and are not tied to any one investment product, ensuring our Members receive unbiased advice.

Meridian's roots stretch back to the 1940s when farmers, local business people and employees founded our legacy credit unions to obtain the financial services they needed.

Meridian has continued to be guided by the cooperative principles on which it was founded. It is owned by its Members, who have the right to vote for the Board of Directors and have a say in the credit union's policies and direction.

Through the Good Neighbour Program, Meridian's corporate social responsibility program, we help build strong, vibrant, inclusive communities. As part of our commitment to corporate social responsibility, Meridian is also an employer of choice and has been selected by Maclean's Magazine in 2009 and again in 2010 as one of Canada's Top 100 employers.

For more information on Meridian Credit Union contact:

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where real people build lives