



Northern Birch Credit Union Reflects on a Year of Growth and Community at 2025 AGM

Northern Birch Credit Union welcomed a healthy turnout of 106 members and 19 guests, along with staff, to its Annual General Meeting, where the organization reflected on a strong year of performance, community impact, and continued growth.

Board Chair, Laila Jaunkalns, opened the meeting by recognizing the unique strength of the credit union model, emphasizing that Northern Birch is built on relationships, shared purpose, and member ownership.

President and CEO Anita Saar highlighted 2025 as a record-breaking year for Northern Birch. The credit union reached \$207 million in assets, with solid growth across both commercial and residential lending portfolios. Notably, the organization achieved zero loan delinquencies under 90 days and no write-offs, reflecting both responsible lending practices and the resilience of its membership.

Financial performance remained strong, with nearly \$700,000 in net income and a solid capital base supporting future growth. Member deposits increased, while continued investment in technology and services is helping to modernize the banking experience.

Throughout the evening, speakers emphasized the importance of balancing innovation with the personalized service that defines Northern Birch. Enhancements such as increased *Interac* e-Transfer limits, new lending products, and upcoming digital banking improvements are all part of the credit union's commitment to meeting evolving member needs.

Members were reminded of the robust deposit protection offered by Northern Birch, providing an added level of security and peace of mind that sets credit unions apart from many traditional financial institutions.

Looking ahead, members were given a preview of the highly anticipated new flagship branch at KESKUS in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood, expected to open later this year. The new location represents a significant investment in accessibility, growth, and community presence.

Northern Birch reaffirmed its commitment to community support, contributing over \$125,000 to local initiatives in 2025, including scholarships, cultural programs, and community events.

Anita Saar highlighted the continued success of member referrals as a powerful driver of growth for the credit union, noting that word-of-mouth remains one of the most effective ways to welcome new members and share the Northern Birch difference. She was pleased to announce member Alissa Puhm North as the winner of the 2025 Member Referral Prize of \$500. She then announced the launch of the new 2026 Member Referral Campaign, offering members a chance to be entered into a draw for \$500 when they refer new members before December 31, 2026.

The meeting included recognition of individuals who have made meaningful contributions to the credit union and its communities, including welcoming new team members and recognizing a promotion. A moment of silence was held in memory of members and former board members who passed away over the past year.

Members celebrated community achievements, including the presentation of the inaugural *Northern Birch & Wildeboer Dellelce LLP Continued Education Scholarship* by credit union partner Paul De Francesca. This new scholarship was awarded to member Emīls Matīss, who is currently a PhD student in neuroscience at Queen's University.

Also invited to be recognized were the 10 recipients and family members of the 2025 *Northern Birch Community Roots Scholarship* program, awarded to undergraduate students who demonstrate commitment to their communities. Please visit the credit union website to read about all our scholarship recipients.

Director elections were conducted, with four board members re-elected by acclamation (Matti Jalakas, Laila Jaunkalns, Mihkel Liik and Liis Palmer), and MNP LLP was appointed as the credit union's auditor for the coming year.

In closing, leadership encouraged members to continue supporting the credit union through engagement and referrals, reinforcing the cooperative's long-standing principle that growth is driven by its members. Members were then invited to stay for a reception, which gave everyone the opportunity to mingle and connect.

As Northern Birch enters another year, the message was clear: the credit union remains strong, forward-thinking and deeply committed to the financial well-being of its members and the communities it serves. We are stronger together.

Please visit the [Northern Birch website](#) to read the 2025 Annual Report or pick up a copy at your local Northern Birch branch.

www.northernbirchcu.com/annual-general-meeting