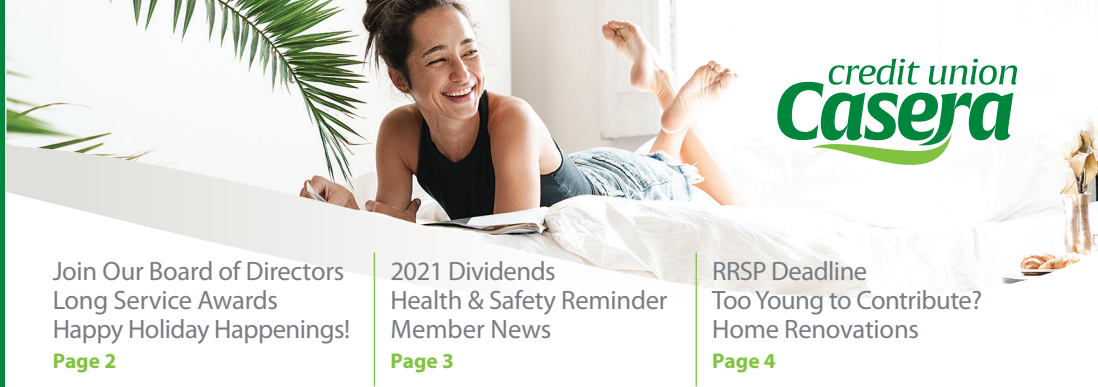


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Casera Credit Union
January 2022



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Annual General Meeting Update

Casera's Annual General Meeting will be held in person or virtually on Tuesday, April 19, 2022. Watch for updates via www.caseracu.ca, email messages, or social media.

We are looking for members with significant business experience to join Casera's Board of Directors. Casera works hard to recruit new Directors who reflect the credit union's membership because we understand the benefits provided by a diverse Board.

For more information about becoming a Director, see page 2.



Rewarding Our Neighbourhood Heroes



In 2016, Casera established its Community Award program to recognize individuals and community-focused groups that keep our neighbourhoods strong and vibrant. Since then, we've rewarded eight outstanding volunteers with Community Leadership Awards and seven remarkable non-profit organizations with Community Enrichment Awards.

"Every year, we're proud to acknowledge the excellent work achieved by community volunteers and organizations," explains Brent Thomas, Casera's CEO. "The time and effort they put into helping our communities grow and thrive are immense, and we're excited again to see who will receive this year's awards."

Casera Community Award Recipients | 2016-2021

Community Leadership Awards

2016 Carol Fletcher
2016 Bernard Koley
2017 Wilma Sotas
2018 Peter Martin
2018 Daryl Reid
2019 Dave Stewart
2020 Denis Gautron
2021 Gail Purcell

Community Enrichment Awards

2016 Manitoba Mutts Dog Rescue
2016 Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps – 350 Transcona
2018 L'Arche Tova Café
2019 Dakota Collegiate Hamper Time
2020 The Board of Directors of Transcona Jaycees Day Care Centre Inc.
2020 Save Our Seine River Environment Inc.
2021 Transcona Food Bank

We'd like you to help us find 2022's neighbourhood heroes. They're the ones coaching sports teams, working with youths or seniors, or doing any of the other unsung volunteer jobs that make our communities better places. They're the non-profit community groups quietly and continuously providing for and sustaining our neighbourhoods.

Download a nomination form today at www.caseracu.ca. The deadline for nominations is March 15, 2022. Casera will announce the award recipients at the Annual General Meeting on April 19, 2022.



RRSP Reminder

Tuesday, March 1, 2022, is the deadline to make or top up your RRSP contributions for the 2021 tax year.

For more information about RRSPs, see page 4.



CEO's Desktop

COVID-19 remains a significant public health issue in Canada, but widespread acceptance of vaccines (over 84 percent of Manitobans have had a second dose) has boosted confidence in shopping and socializing.

This growing consumer optimism is reflected in how Canadians shopped for the holidays this year. The Retail Council of Canada's Holiday Shopping Survey for 2021 showed that 80 percent of Canadian consumers planned to buy gifts for others, and 76 percent of them were spending the same or more as 2020.

The Deloitte Consumer Industry Centre maintains a running Global State of the Consumer Tracker that measures consumer priorities and preferences. This up-to-the-month consumer data collection shows that 51 percent of Canadians, as of October 2021, are optimistic that their financial situation will improve within three years.

Deloitte's tracker also shows that more people around the world are becoming comfortable returning to in-store shopping. While this might mean a slight drop in online purchases, internet shopping is here to stay. A global study by bazaarvoice.com forecasts that online sales will increase 17 percent year-over-year. This renewed faith in retail at the local level and online is welcome news for consumers and business owners.

Best Regards,
Brent Thomas
Chief Executive Officer

HELP CASERA GROW & PROSPER

Join Casera's Board of Directors

Casera Credit Union is seeking members with significant business experience to join its Board of Directors. Candidates should have a passion for credit union values, as well as demonstrated competencies in some of the following:

- audit and compliance
- Board and Chief Executive Officer performance
- credit union operations
- financial literacy
- governance and ethics
- leadership
- regulatory environment
- risk management oversight
- strategic planning

Casera embraces the benefits provided by a diverse Board and works hard to recruit new Directors who reflect the credit union's membership.

If you've been a member of Casera for at least a year and wish to explore this opportunity, please visit www.caseracu.ca > **About Casera** > scroll down and click on Become a Director to download a Nomination Package.

The application deadline is Friday, March 4, 2022.

Thank You & Congratulations Staff Long Service Award Recipients



Jennifer Hiebert
5 years



Teresa Smith
5 years



Jayme Marien
15 years

Want to Know More About Scams?

The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre is one of the best resources for information on past, current, and emerging scams. An agency of the Government of Canada, the Centre collects information on fraud and identity theft.

The agency's website — www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca — has an A to Z index with over 75 scams listed. You can also find information on what to do if you think you're the victim of a scam.



Happy Holiday Happenings!

Our staff are happy to be back putting together hampers supporting the Christmas Cheer Board. While the pandemic interrupted our participation last year, we were able to come together as a team to provide a donation to the organization, which was matched by Casera. This year, we're all pleased to have the opportunity again to deliver hampers and holiday cheer to some neighbourhood families.



Member News

Notice

December 31 is our fiscal year-end. If your statement is not correct, please communicate in writing to our auditors: BDO Canada LLP 201 Portage Ave. 26th Floor, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 3K6

Caution

Your designation of beneficiary by means of a designation form will not be revoked or changed automatically by any future marriage or divorce. Should you wish to change your beneficiary in the event of a future marriage or divorce, you will have to do so by means of a new designation.

Casera 2022 Holidays

- January 3.....in lieu of New Year's Day
- February 21.....Louis Riel Day
- April 15.....Good Friday
- May 23.....Victoria Day
- July 1.....Canada Day
- July 30.....Casera Holiday
- August 1.....Terry Fox Day
- September 5.....Labour Day
- September 30.....National Truth & Reconciliation Day
- October 10.....Thanksgiving Day
- November 11.....Remembrance Day
- December 26.....Boxing Day
- December 27...in lieu of Christmas Day

2021 Dividends Approved

Common Shares

- Casera's Board of Directors has approved a 1.25% share dividend to members holding Common Shares of Casera Credit Union on record for the 12 months ending December 31, 2021.
- Cash dividends will be credited to members' accounts by January 28, 2022. The credit will be made to members' chequing/savings accounts for non-registered funds and credited to registered Surplus Share accounts for registered funds.

Preference Shares

- Casera's Board of Directors has approved a 2.75% share dividend to members holding Preference Shares of Casera Credit Union on record for the 12 months ending December 31, 2021.
- Cash dividends will be credited to members' accounts by January 28, 2022. The credit will be made to members' chequing/savings accounts for non-registered funds and credited to registered Surplus Share accounts for registered funds.

Since 1994, Casera Credit Union has returned over \$4.2 million in dividends to its members.

Health & Safety Reminder COVID-19 Protocols Still in Place

In each of our branches, you'll find a broad range of measures to keep staff and members safe:

- 1 Staff are required to always wear face masks, except those who work in an office. As soon as staff members move away from their offices or have a visitor in their office, they must wear masks.
- 2 Members are required to wear face masks inside Casera's branches.
- 3 Members are required to adhere to physical distancing of 6-feet when in our branches. Physical distancing floor decals and stickers are in place in each branch.
- 4 A maximum of 10 members are allowed inside a branch at one time. The number of members in our ATM vestibules at one time continues to be 2.
- 5 Our members are encouraged to adhere to provincial health and safety protocols. They must self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming to our branches.
- 6 Hand-sanitizing stations are set up at branch entrances. Members are strongly encouraged to apply sanitizer upon entry and to do so again on the way out.
- 7 Plastic shields remain at all our member service wickets, reception counters, and financial service desks. All workstations are disinfected regularly.



Learn How to Manage Debt & Save Money

The Credit Counselling Society offers FREE money management, personal budgeting and credit education courses, workshops, and online webinars.



Visit mymoneycoach.ca



RRSP Deadline

The RRSP contribution deadline for the 2021 tax year is March 1, 2022, meaning there are just a few short months left to contribute for 2021.

Annual RRSP contributions enable you to reduce the tax you pay on your current employment income. As well as being tax-deductible, yearly contributions to an RRSP will grow tax-free. This increase keeps you ahead of inflation and maintains valuable purchasing power for your retirement years. All RRSPs share the same basic features of tax deductibility and tax deferral. However, depending on the type of investor you are, RRSPs vary in flexibility and control of investments, risk, and return.

Call your neighbourhood Casera branch today to discuss your RRSP options.

Am I Too Young to Contribute to an RRSP?

If you've just entered the workforce, retirement may seem a long way off. So far off that, you may be wondering if you need to bother contributing to a Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) yet.

The short answer is it's never too soon.

If you are 18 years of age or older, you can contribute to an RRSP and the earlier you start, the better. One advantage of an RRSP is that your contributions entitle you to a tax deduction. In addition to that, they generate investment income that isn't taxable until it's withdrawn (usually at a lower rate because retirement income is generally lower). The interest earned on your contributions also compounds, meaning the sooner you contribute, the longer they'll have to compound and grow.

It's a good idea to contribute as soon as you possibly can. Even in smaller amounts!

You can contribute annually up to 18 percent of your income (less the pension adjustment), up to a maximum of \$27,830.

When contributing to an RRSP, you can choose from many different investment options, including investment funds, guaranteed interest funds, stocks, bonds, and more. These options mean you can choose how to invest the money in your RRSP account.

Contact your neighbourhood branch today if you've never contributed before and are interested in learning more about RRSPs and other investment options.

Home Renovations Might be Closer Than You Think

Renovating your home has many benefits. A newly renovated space can increase your property's value and bring improvements and happiness for those living in the house. If you're thinking about renovating, there are multiple financing options to consider — and they don't all rely on drawing from your savings.

For larger projects

More extensive projects mean larger budgets, and you may want to consider borrowing the funds. Casera offers a variety of options that meet your specific needs, from lines of credit to loans, to home equity lines of credit, or mortgage refinancing. For example, if you have accrued equity in your home, you can make that value work for you through a home equity line of credit. This product is similar to a loan or line of credit but with a better interest rate. Note, these products are secured by your home equity and may be subject to extra set-up costs, including legal fees.

For smaller projects

If you're planning a smaller project and require quick access to funds, you might consider drawing from your savings or using a credit card. You'll want to be mindful of higher interest rates on credit cards and your ability to make payments or replenish your savings.

If you are interested in finding a way to bring your home renovation goals to life, reach out to one of our lending specialists. They'll be happy to work with you to find the solution that best meets your needs.

