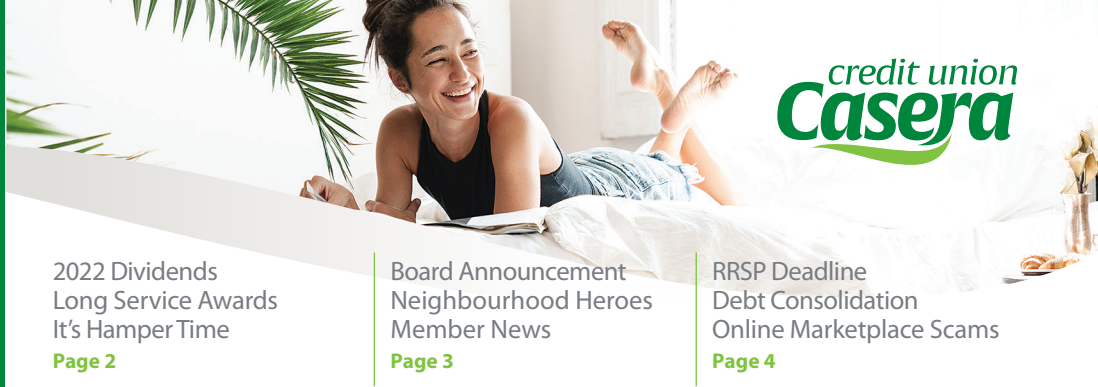


# News

Casera Credit Union  
January 2023



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## Annual General Meeting Update

You're invited to Casera's final Annual General Meeting. The historic event will be held on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at the Club Regent Casino Hotel. Registration starts at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. Please join us.

### Notice of Retirement

The Board of Directors announce that after 24 years as Casera's Chief Executive Officer, Brent Thomas has decided to retire at the end of June 2023. Story on page 3.



## Casera Members Approve Merger

**Casera Credit Union members recently voted to merge with Access Credit Union. The vote results were revealed at a virtual meeting on November 15, 2022.**

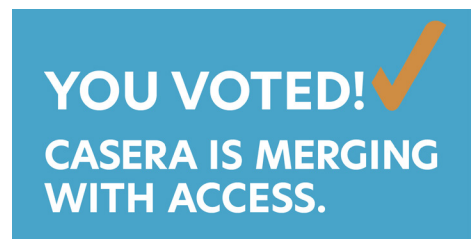
Members voted between November 10 and 15, after Casera's Board had completed its due diligence and recommended the merger. Under government regulations, a majority of two-thirds of votes cast were required to allow the merger to go forward. The results showed that 78.33 percent of voting members favoured the merger — out of 1,080 votes cast, 846 members were in favour, and 234 were opposed.

As a result of the favourable vote, the two credit unions will unite under the Access Credit Union name and brand on July 1, 2023.

"We're pleased that our members accepted the Board's recommendation," says Robert Riddell, Casera's Board Chair. "Throughout the merger process, our goal was to deliver a proposal advantageous to our members, employees, and communities."

Becoming operationally larger will help secure a financially stronger future for the merged credit union. The new entity will continue delivering local, personalized financial services to individuals and businesses.

"We are excited for our future with so much in common. Working together, we will be able to offer more than just products, services, locations, and continued great rates. It is confirmation



of our commitment to continue serving our members and communities with excellence," says Access Credit Union Board Chair Kevin Beresford.

Under the Access banner, the credit union will have more than \$10 billion in assets, over 168,000 members, more than 900 employees, and 56 branch locations. Members will enjoy the convenience of additional branches in urban and rural areas of Manitoba, the knowledge of a combined team of financial specialists, enhanced products and services, top-of-market rates, and innovative technologies that meet evolving member needs.

*Please watch for periodic updates about the merger in your emails, online at [www.caseracu.ca](http://www.caseracu.ca), and on Casera's social media.*



## RRSP Reminder

**Wednesday, March 1, 2023, is the deadline to make or top up your RRSP contributions for the 2022 tax year.**

*For more information about RRSPs, see page 4.*



## CEO's Desktop

When the results of the merger vote were announced at the virtual special meeting of members on November 15, 2022, it was a moment to think back, and an opportunity to look forward. As a 70-year-old financial institution, Casera stood as a reminder that credit unions have a long history of service to Manitobans. The vote, however, also reflected the new reality of credit unions merging to increase resources, improve efficiencies, and strengthen their financial positions.

Twenty-two years ago, there were 65 credit unions in Manitoba; today, there are only 19. During that time, Casera remained financially strong and operationally efficient, but the steady pace of amalgamation meant the prospect of merging with another credit union was increasingly possible.

Because of the ongoing merger trend, we built this possibility into Casera's long-term strategic plan. The playbook was already prepared when formal talks with Access Credit Union began in January 2022. Behind the scenes, our Board's due diligence went smoothly, and the planning to unite the two credit unions was seamless. All that remained was for members to vote.

It's always challenging to make a changeable decision. I commend our members for determining that the Board-recommended merger was the best way to ensure Casera's legacy of service and prosperity.

Best Regards,  
**Brent Thomas**  
Chief Executive Officer

# 2022 Dividends Approved

### Common Shares

- Casera's Board of Directors has approved a 3% share dividend to members holding Common Shares of Casera Credit Union on record for the 12 months ending December 31, 2022.
- Cash dividends will be credited to members' accounts by January 27, 2023. 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 4% share dividend to members holding Preference Shares of Casera Credit Union on record for the 12 months ending December 31, 2022.
- Cash dividends will be credited to members' accounts by January 27, 2023. 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 \$4.4 million in dividends to its members.

## Thank You & Congratulations Staff Long Service Award Recipients



**Nicole Baker**  
5 years



**Michael Cooper**  
5 years



**Heather Koniak**  
10 years



**Krista Gmiterek**  
10 years



**Ashley Guy**  
15 years



**Jennifer Morrison**  
15 years



**Shaylene Hurl**  
15 years



**Donna Waslenko**  
20 years

## It's Hamper Time

Our staff and Board of Directors happily put together hampers in support of the Christmas Cheer Board this holiday season. The hampers were delivered to neighbourhood families.





## Announcement from Casera's Board of Directors

# CEO Brent Thomas Set to Retire

After 24 years as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Casera Credit Union, Brent Thomas has decided to retire at the end of June 2023.

Brent is Casera's longest-serving CEO. He joined the organization in 1999 when it was called Transcona Credit Union. Over his tenure, Brent's inspired leadership helped the credit union achieve strong, year-by-year asset growth, expand into St. Vital, and become a respected innovator in financial literacy.

The Board is indebted to Brent for significantly improving its ability to achieve success by overseeing an operational transformation in a complex and ever-changing financial landscape. Through his foresight and guidance, Casera developed and honed its corporate governance, re-established its standing in the community, and affirmed its commitment to excellence in member service.

Brent has been a vital contributor to Manitoba's credit union system for over 40 years. He has combined integrity and



discipline to create a legacy he can be proud of. On behalf of everyone at Casera Credit Union — directors, employees, and members — thank you, Brent, for your bold leadership, deep wisdom, and dedicated service.



## 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.

### 2023 Holidays

- January 2.....in lieu of New Year's Day
- February 20.....Louis Riel Day
- April 7 .....Good Friday
- May 22 ..... Victoria Day

### US Dollar Accounts

A US dollar (USD) personal chequing account is beneficial if you frequently travel to or spend winters in the United States. Did you know you can buy and sell USD using Casera's new online banking platform or Casera CU Mobile App?



## Help Us Find 2023's Neighbourhood Heroes

**Since 2016, Casera's Community Award program has recognized individuals and community-focused groups that keep our neighbourhoods strong and vibrant.**

Please help us find this year's award recipients — the community volunteers that make our communities better places and the non-profit groups sustaining our neighbourhoods.

Download a nomination form today at [www.caseracu.ca](http://www.caseracu.ca). The deadline for nominations is March 15, 2023.

## It Pays to Refer a Friend or Family Member

Refer someone you know to Casera, and you could win \$100.

Download a Share & Win form today at [www.caseracu.ca](http://www.caseracu.ca)





# RRSP Deadline

The deadline for 2022 tax year RRSP contributions is March 1, 2023. Any contributions after March 1 will have to be claimed against your 2023 income tax return.

Contributing to an RRSP reduces the total amount of your taxable income. Any income you earn in an RRSP is usually tax-free, as long as it remains in the account. All RRSPs share the same basic features of tax deductibility and tax deferral, but they vary in flexibility and control of investments, risk and return.

There are just a few short months left to contribute to your 2022 RRSP, so to learn more, please visit [www.caseracu.ca/en/personal/investing/rrsp](http://www.caseracu.ca/en/personal/investing/rrsp)



## Ease Your Financial Stress with Debt Consolidation

The cost of living is top of mind for many these days. You might feel an unnecessary squeeze on your pocketbook if you're working to pay off multiple debts to different collectors.

The good news is, Casera has debt consolidation vehicles whereby your debts are combined into one easy-to-manage loan. All you need to worry about is making your monthly payment.

*Talk to the team of financial specialists at Casera today about your debt consolidation options.*

## Online Marketplace Scams to Avoid

Buying and selling online comes with risks that can be mitigated if you're careful. Since platforms like eBay, Kijiji, and Facebook Marketplace have become more popular, here's a list of common scams to keep an eye on.

### **A buyer or a seller using a new account.**

Most online sales platforms have feedback systems built into them. Every new user deserves a chance to build feedback and avoid larger transactions or interactions requiring trust with new accounts.

### **Buyers asking you to send an item before they provide payment**

Scammers will promise to send money but cannot do it for several reasons. Once the item is sent, the money never changes hands.

### **Broken items**

Test things as much as possible, and when buying online, carefully read every part of the ad. The risk increases in situations where items are being shipped.

### **Overpayment**


A common scam is for a buyer to overpay you for an item and then ask for the difference back. This seems harmless at first, but down the road, the payment they made may turn out to be fraudulent. If this is the case, you may be out the money you "refunded" them and the money they gave you in the first place.

### **Asking to pay using an uncommon app**

Some scammers will use uncommon apps to make transactions. In Canada, you can use e-Transfer to send money, so a third-party app is unnecessary in many cases.

### **e-Transfer cancellations**

Use auto-deposit on e-Transfers to avoid this scam. In some cases, a person can send a payment to an individual who still uses passwords to deposit. When a password is required, the money sits in limbo until deposited or cancelled. Buyers will give a seller the wrong password and cancel the e-Transfer once they are away from the interaction. With auto-deposit, the money is deposited as soon as the buyer sends it to you.

 **Land Acknowledgement**  
Casera operates in Transcona  
and St. Vital on Treaty One land  
— the home of the Anishinaabe,  
Cree, Oji-Cree, Ojibway, Dakota,  
and Dene peoples, and the heart  
of the Metis Nation.

**credit union**  
**Casera**

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