





# Together We Grow

Guide to Understanding the Proposed Merger of Alterna Savings and Tandia





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## Your Vote "For" Builds the Future of our Credit Unions

The financial landscape is constantly evolving—driven by technology, shifting member expectations, and regulatory change. Across Canada, credit unions are embracing mergers as a strategic way to remain agile, innovative, and focused on delivering greater member value.

The proposed merger between **Alterna Savings and Credit Union Limited (Alterna Savings)** and **Tandia Financial Credit Union Limited (Tandia)** reflects this vision: building a stronger, more resilient organization designed to serve the changing needs of our members and communities.

## **Two Strong Credit Unions, One Shared Purpose**

Following our announcements at each Annual General Meeting, the Boards of Directors at both Alterna and Tandia are proposing to come together—uniting two organizations with deep roots in education, public service, and community care.

This partnership brings together our shared strengths to deliver:

- Greater member value and more competitive offerings
- Broader branch access and an expanded service network
- A stronger foundation for future growth and innovation

#### More Branches, More Access, More Opportunity

We've heard from many members who have relocated for work or housing and want more branch locations in other communities. By joining together, we can deliver exactly that.

Members will benefit from access to over **45 branches** across Ontario, including dedicated wealth and estate strategy locations in the Greater Hamilton Area, GTA, Halton, Ottawa, Eastern, Central, and Northwestern Ontario.

And coming soon—harmonized rates and special member offers designed to reward your loyalty and continued support.

#### **Now Is the Time to Act**

This merger represents a pivotal opportunity to strengthen our collective future. Acting now means:

- Enhancing your member experience
- Expanding career paths for employees (every one of whom will have a place in the combined organization)
- Increasing our investment in local causes and communities

Opportunities like this are rare—and the time to move forward is now. Together, we can ensure our credit unions remain strong and member-focused for generations to come.

## Your Voice Matters—Vote "FOR" the Merger

The success of this merger depends on you, our valued members. Your vote will determine the path forward for your credit union.

We strongly encourage you to vote "FOR" the merger—to build a stronger, more sustainable future for all members, employees, and communities we serve.

#### How to Vote and Learn More

Please take time to review this **Guide to Understanding the Proposed Merger**, then visit **TogetherWeWillGrow.ca** to learn more. When available, you'll also find your credit union's **Supplemental Information Package**, which outlines where, when, and how to cast your vote.

If you have questions, we're here to help:

- Alterna Savings: Call 1-877-560-0100 #7 or email togetherwegrow@alterna.ca
- Tandia: Call 1-800-598-2891 #3 or email togetherwegrow@tandia.com

Or visit any of our branches for assistance.

Together we will grow—creating new opportunities for our members, communities, and employees to thrive and succeed.

Sincerely,



Bianca Garofalo
Chair of the Board
Alterna Savings and Credit Union Limited



Bruce Neville
Chair of the Board
Tandia Financial Credit Union Limited





## How to use this Guide

This is your moment to make a difference. The future of your credit union is in your hands, and your vote is essential to the success of this merger.

After reading this Guide, you will:

- Discover how the Proposed Merger is expected to benefit members, employees, communities, and the credit union system in Ontario; and
- Have the necessary information to make an informed decision regarding your vote on the Proposed Merger.

#### A word on our terminology: merger and partnership

Throughout this guide, we use the term "merger" because it best reflects the spirit of this partnership: two strong credit unions coming together as one for the benefit of our members. While the official term for this agreement is an "asset purchase"—meaning Alterna Savings will acquire Tandia's assets and assume its responsibilities to its members—we feel "merger" better captures the collaborative nature of our new organization.

For clarity in our communications, we will refer to our two organizations as "Alterna Savings" and "Tandia." After the merger is complete, the Tandia business will be carried on by Alterna Savings and referred to as "Tandia Financial, A Division of Alterna Savings and Credit Union Limited" for a period of time.

## Learn more at TogetherWeWillGrow.ca

**TogetherWeWillGrow.ca** is a website dedicated to providing information for members about the proposed merger. Here you'll find everything you need to know about the member vote and so much more.

This site is your go-to for staying engaged and informed in this exciting move forward for our credit unions. Bookmark it and visit often as it will be regularly updated as we move ahead.

# Together we Grow: Building a Brighter Tomorrow Benefits of the Proposed Merger

## **Together We Grow for Our Members**

This proposed merger is all about growing for you. It's about enhancing the member experience and delivering the products, services, and advice our members need to reach their goals. By combining the strengths of Alterna Savings and Tandia, we'll create greater value for members, employees, and communities, and build a more resilient, innovative credit union for the future.

#### **Enhanced Branch Network Across Ontario**

You deserve banking that fits your life. Over time, this merger will provide members of both credit unions with greater access through a combined network of over 45 branches across the Greater Hamilton Area, Greater Toronto Area, Halton Region, Ottawa Region, Eastern Ontario, Central Ontario, and Northwestern Ontario. Together, we'll serve you—wherever life takes you to live, work, or play in our great province. Fully integrating onto a single, unified, banking system which will allow our members to bank at all our locations will take time. We will keep you informed as we progress towards this important goal.

## **Together for Educators and Public Servants**

When Tandia and Alterna Savings come together, they unite two credit unions with deep roots in serving education professionals and public servants. Tandia's focus on educators complements Alterna Savings' legacy as the Civil Servants credit union. Both member groups value long-term, trustworthy financial partners who understand their unique needs and careers. This merger brings together shared values and a commitment to consistent, reliable service—creating a seamless fit for members who dedicate their lives to public service.

#### **Broader Financial Solutions with More to Come**

With greater scale, we'll continue investing in innovative offerings and our team of financial experts, ensuring you receive competitive pricing alongside the personalized advice you deserve to achieve your financial goals. As a merged credit union, we'll be able to offer an ever-expanding range of financial products and services supported by our dedicated team of specialists. Whether you need everyday banking solutions, personalized mortgage guidance from our specialists, wealth building strategies from our professional advisors, or expert support for your small business, we're here to help.



## **Driving Innovation for Enhanced Services**

Innovation is key to delivering exceptional service and keeping pace with the evolving world of banking and technological developments. This merger allows us to pool our resources and accelerate investment in technology and service enhancements. Members will benefit from ongoing improvements that make digital banking simpler, faster, more convenient, and more responsive to their needs.

## **Greater Financial Strength & Lending Power**

Together, we will build a stronger, more financially resilient credit union. This enhanced financial foundation brings members greater peace of mind, knowing their credit union is well-positioned to serve them steadfastly through changing economic conditions. With over \$13B in assets under administration we'll have the strength to offer increased lending options—helping members pursue homeownership and grow their businesses.

#### When We Grow, You Benefit

Increased profitability resulting from the merger of Alterna Savings and Tandia would directly benefit members by enabling greater reinvestment into the credit union. This could mean more competitive rates on loans and deposits, enhanced digital tools and services, expanded branch access, and stronger community support programs. As a co-operative, every dollar earned is reinvested with members in mind—so a stronger financial foundation means more value, more innovation, and more impact for the people we serve.

## **Together We Grow for Our Employees**

#### **Familiar Faces, Stronger Future**

You'll still see the same friendly, familiar faces at your local branch—because our employees aren't going anywhere. In fact, they'll benefit from even more opportunities and support through the merger. So, while we grow together, the people you know and trust will continue to be right here, ready to serve you with the same great care.

#### **More Career Growth & Flexibility**

As our organizations grow together, so do the opportunities for our employees. By joining together, we will create more pathways for career development and learning, empowering our team members with new skills and experiences. It also means greater workplace flexibility, with more locations across Ontario to work from.

## **An Enriched Employee Experience**

With increased resources to invest in tools, systems, and workplace enhancements, employees can look forward to a more seamless, supportive work environment—one that helps them do their best work and stay connected to a meaningful career.

#### **A Powerful Culture**

Together, we'll build a strong, values-driven culture that draws on the best of both organizations. Our teams will benefit from working alongside like-minded professionals who share a deep commitment to credit unions, outstanding member service, and supporting the communities we serve.



## **Together We Grow for Our Communities**

#### **A Stronger Impact**

This merger strengthens our ability to make a positive impact in the communities we serve. By combining resources, we can increase funding and volunteer support for community projects and events. Our broader reach also means greater support for local small businesses—helping drive economic growth and resilience in our communities.

At the heart of it all is a shared commitment from both Tandia and Alterna Savings to foster a collaborative, community-first culture—one that encourages partnerships, shared goals, and lasting positive change in the places we proudly call home.

## **Navigating the Challenges Ahead**

As we move forward with this merger, we want to be transparent about potential challenges and how they could affect you. While we're confident in the long-term benefits, merging two credit unions involves risks that we take seriously.

**Closing conditions:** The completion of the merger is subject to a number of conditions, some of which are outside of Alterna's control, including approval from the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario (FSRA), the members and shareholders of Alterna Savings and Tandia and pursuant to the Competition Act (Canada).

**Benefits do not materialize:** We believe that this merger will benefit members, shareholders, and employees. However, there is a risk that some or all the expected synergies and benefits may fail to materialize or may not occur within the anticipated time periods.

**Unknown issues:** Despite thorough due diligence by external accounting, legal, and environmental experts, there's always a possibility that we are unaware of certain financial or legal issues. Such unforeseen liabilities could impact the combined credit union's financial performance.

**Resources:** Although we have structured our teams so that dedicated staff continue overseeing member services, the merger will require time and resources from management that may affect day-to-day operations during this process.

**Integration complexity:** Merging two credit unions is an inherently complex process, and there are risks that we may not accomplish the integration smoothly or within our projected timelines and costs. To navigate the transition, we have assembled a dedicated integration team with experienced leaders from both credit unions.

**Economic uncertainty:** The success of this merger is not immune to broader economic forces beyond our control. Significant changes in interest rates, economic downturns, or increased regulatory costs could affect our ability to deliver the projected benefits or could impact our combined financial performance. While this merger is designed to make us more resilient, it doesn't insulate us from economic challenges.

Despite these risks, both boards and leadership believe the potential long-term benefits to our members justify moving forward. We are committed to managing these challenges transparently and keeping you informed throughout the process.

## **Our Credit Unions at a Glance\***

	alterna savings	tandia financial credit union	Merged Credit Unions (anticipated)
Founded	1908	1940	-
Assets Under Administration (approximate)	\$11.8 Billion	\$1.8 Billion	\$13.6 Billion
Total Members (approximate)	204,030	26,234	230,264
Number of Branches	39	8 + 1 Virtual Branch	47 + 1 Virtual Branch
Geographic Footprint	Greater Toronto Area, Ottawa Region, Eastern Ontario, Central Ontario, Northwestern Ontario	Brant-Haldimand- Norfolk, Greater Hamilton Region and Halton Region	Greater Hamilton Area, Greater Toronto Area, Halton Region, Ottawa Region, Eastern Ontario, Central Ontario, and Northwestern Ontario
Total Employees (approximate)	694	130	824

<sup>\*</sup>Data as of June 30, 2025. Both credit unions are a result of several amalgamations over their history. ¹Consolidated Alterna information.



## **Branch Locations**

## **Enhanced Access & Convenience for You**

As our two credit unions come together, members will eventually benefit from a larger, integrated network that provides greater convenience and improved branch access across Ontario.

In time, our members will collectively have access to over 45 branches, along with dedicated wealth and estate strategy locations, spanning the Greater Hamilton Area, Greater Toronto Area, Halton Region, Ottawa Region, Eastern Ontario, Central Ontario, and Northwestern Ontario.

Both Tandia and Alterna Savings share a deep commitment to building meaningful relationships and providing personalized, expert support tailored to your unique financial journey and help you achieve your financial goals. You can count on receiving the same dedicated service you value, no matter which location you visit.

What's more, both credit unions have been leaders in reimagining the branch experience - introducing innovative layouts, new technologies, and enhanced service models to better meet your needs. As we merge, these forward-thinking enhancements will be shared across our network, bringing you the best of both worlds in comfort, convenience, and care.

## What to Expect After the Merger Date

It's important to know that immediately following the completion of the proposed merger, all existing Tandia and Alterna Savings branches will continue to operate independently as they do today.

You can continue to bank at your usual branch without interruption.

#### **Understanding our integration timeline**

While we're excited to combine our organizations, we need to be clear that a full integration may take a few years. However, before then, there will be gradual changes as we align our services and products. Rest assured; updates will be provided well in advance of changes.

## **During this transition period:**

**Branch access:** Please continue banking at your current branch. In the months to come, we will be looking to enhance servicing capability that will allow our members to bank at select Alterna or Tandia Financial, A Division of Alterna Savings and Credit Union Limited locations before our systems are fully integrated.

**Products and services:** Your existing products and services will stay the same for now. As integration progresses, we'll gradually align offerings and let you know when new options become available.

**New members:** New members joining at a former Tandia branch will be set up with Tandia Financial products and services. Similarly, new members joining at an Alterna Savings branch will be set up with Alterna Savings products and services.

We're committed to making this transition as smooth as possible. We'll provide regular updates to keep you informed about changes that affect your banking. If you have any questions about which services are available to you, please ask our in-branch team or call our contact centre for help.

## **Branch locations**

Alterna Savings

39 Branches

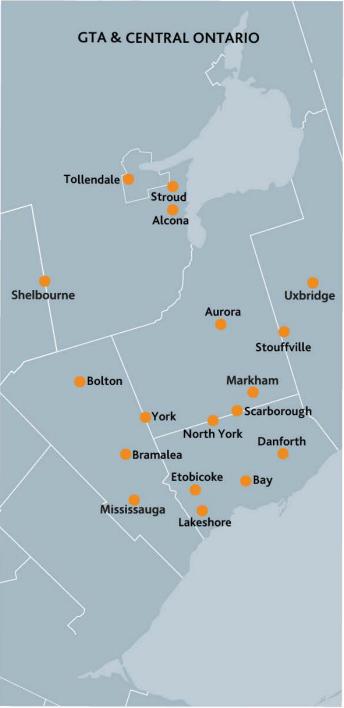
Tandia

8 Branches 1 Virtual Branch











## Together We Grow: A Strategic Merger for a Stronger Future

## **Structure and Method of the Merger**

The merger approach was jointly approved by the Board of Directors (Board) of both credit unions, recognizing after agreement that merging was a strategic path forward in forming a stronger, and more unified credit union.

The newly combined credit union, operating under the name Alterna Savings, will have approximately \$13.6B in assets under administration. In the coming years, members can look forward to expanded services through a combination of enhanced digital capabilities and a larger branch network. This integrated platform will provide members with seamless access to banking services at any Alterna Savings location in addition to a streamlined digital experience.

For the full Agreement, refer to the information and materials, including the Supplemental Information Package, available at **TogetherWeWillGrow.ca**.

## Why Merge Now? Because Together, We're Ready for What's Next

Alterna Savings and Tandia have each established a strong track record of success over the years. However, today's increasingly complex and competitive environment is placing greater pressure on credit unions to both grow and evolve. To continue delivering meaningful value to our members, staff, and our communities, it has become essential that we explore new and collaborative approaches that will strengthen our organization and pave our path for future success.

Alterna Savings and Tandia believe that now is the ideal time to come together, as uniting will enhance our strength and allow us to create a greater impact as a single organization. In today's fast-evolving environment, having the vision, technology, and financial resources to make essential investments is crucial to ensuring that our members, employees, and communities are well supported in the years ahead. To ensure long-term success for generations to come, the Boards of Alterna Savings and Tandia have determined that merging is the best path forward, as it allows both credit unions to grow and to be stronger together.

## What's Driving Us Forward?



## **Economic and Regulatory Drivers**

In recent years, both the Canadian and global economies have undergone significant changes and experienced volatility. Alongside these shifts, regulatory expectations and requirements have become increasingly complex, demanding a more sophisticated approach to compliance. As these regulatory requirements continue to grow, the cost to credit unions continues to rise. While robust oversight in financial services is essential, Canada's historically strong regulatory environment will continue to grow in complexity. Credit unions must be prepared to meet the evolving regulatory requirements that lay ahead.



## **Competitive and Digital Landscape**

The financial services industry is experiencing significant digital transformation globally and domestically, which is reshaping consumer expectations and behaviors. Meeting these evolving needs requires ongoing investment in technologies and specialized skills. By coming together, we gain the advantage of greater scale and additional resources, enabling us, as a larger credit union, to leverage the resources needed to invest in strategic innovation and to be well positioned for long-term success.



## Adapting to the Changing Needs of our Members and Employees

Today's members expect seamless and personalized experiences, delivered anytime, anywhere, and through a delivery channel that is most convenient for them. As both our members and employees continue to relocate and move across Ontario, the proposed merger will enhance service delivery through a larger branch network, while also providing employees with greater flexibility in potential work locations. By uniting Alterna Savings and Tandia, we will be able to share resources, leverage expertise and continue to deliver exceptional member experiences, all while upholding strong governance and sound management practices.

## **Anticipated Timeline for the Merger\***

**Merger Discussions Began** 

**Letter of Intent Executed** 

**FSRA Submission** 

**Vote Information Sessions** 

**Voting Period** 

**Special Meetings of Members and Shareholders** Q4 2025

**Due Diligence** Q4 2023 - Q2 2025

Q1 - January - March

Q2 - April - June

Q3 - July - September

Q4 - October - December



## Together We Grow: Shared Objectives of the Credit Unions

By combining our operations, Alterna Savings and Tandia will bring together current and future members, employees, and communities across Ontario. By doing this, we are ensuring that we are well positioned to serve our members whenever, wherever, and however they need us – both now and into the future.

## **As We Join Together**

We will strive to deliver personalized advice and exceptional service to members through every delivery channel. Consistency, accuracy and reliability will be key whether members conduct their banking in branch, or through the various on-the-go banking options such as mobile and online banking. The combined organization will continue to enhance services over time by investing in technology, and introducing new products designed to make banking more convenient for members, support financial well-being, and strengthen our members' confidence with their finances.

The proposed merger will result in a stronger, larger, and more impactful credit union, with a province-wide branch network, offering greater opportunities for employees, members, and communities. This growth will be achieved while maintaining the local presence and personalized service that remain core values of both Alterna Savings and Tandia.

Together, we will be able to accomplish more while maintaining our local voice and strong community connection. This merger will also allow Alterna Savings and Tandia to build stronger and more resilient communities through increased funding and new partnerships.

As a larger credit union, we will be an active participant in the cooperative system — offering support to like-minded credit unions through continued collaboration, leadership, and strategic partnerships as opportunities arise.

#### **Together We Grow: A Look at Our Financial Strength**

Comprehensive and detailed financial analysis and modelling were completed as part of the due diligence and pre-merger processes. The Merged Credit Union's projected financial results outline a strong foundation for future growth. The financial model was developed on a conservative basis and represents three-year financial projections for the balance sheet, income statement and key ratios of the Merged Credit Union.

Through the proposed merger, a compelling financial business case illustrates the opportunity for greater combined success than either credit union could achieve on their own, on a status quo basis. The Merged Credit Union expects to benefit from economies of scale, more robust asset growth, and improved profitability and cost efficiencies.

## **Key Financial Summary Post Merger**

#### \$ thousands

Balance Sheet (unaudited)	Yr. 1	Yr. 2	Yr. 3
Total Loans	\$ 8,666,292	\$ 8,839,617	\$ 9,016,410
Total Deposits	\$ 7,048,492	\$ 7,189,462	\$ 7,333,252
Total Capital	\$ 507,478	\$ 514,731	\$ 530,301
Total Assets	\$ 9,759,275	\$ 9,951,564	\$ 10,155,871
Total Assets Under Administration	\$ 13,220,102	\$ 13,484,504	\$ 13,754,194

Income Statement (unaudited)	Yr. 1*	Yr. 2	Yr. 3
Financial Margin	\$ 120,381	\$ 156,366	\$ 167,776
Year over Year(YoY) Growth		29.9%	7.3%
Non - Interest Income	\$ 33,800	\$ 39,385	\$ 40,165
YoY Growth		16.5%	2.0%
Non - Interest Expense	\$ 139,147	\$ 165,495	\$ 168,240
YoY Growth	~	18.9%	1.7%
Pre Tax Operating Income	\$ 13,804	\$ 28,595	\$ 38,032
YoY Growth		107.2%	33.0%
Total Capital Ratio	13.68%	13.62%	13.79%
YoY Growth		-0.4%	1.3%

<sup>\*</sup>Year 1 reflects one month of merged operations of Tandia Financial.

For modeling purposes, the projections are based on a three-year horizon noted as Year 1 to Year 3. The date of the Proposed Merger is planned for Q4 2025 but could be a later date.

It is important to note that this financial model is not intended to reflect a full strategic plan, operating plan, tactical plan, or the possibility of potential associated revenue uplift according to the Merged Credit Union's strategy. As part of integration planning, the management and Board of Directors of the Merged Credit Union will develop a more detailed strategic plan, supported by a comprehensive operating plan that reflects the needs of the business.



## **How We'll Grow and Operate Together**

Your familiar branch experience will remain unchanged in the immediate future. Over time we'll implement a thoughtful transition that begins with rebranding Tandia to, 'Tandia Financial, a Division of Alterna Savings and Credit Union Limited.' This initial phase will preserve the Tandia identity while reflecting that we've come together. Our long-term vision is to create a unified banking experience across all channels. We understand the importance of these changes and commit to keeping you informed every step of the way as this gradual transition unfolds.

## **Governance Structure**

#### Governance

One of the guiding principles for the Proposed Merger was to provide greater value for members, increased career growth and development opportunities for employees and ensure the Merged Credit Union can maintain and grow the member and community connections that have led to the success of Tandia and Alterna Savings. The Merged Credit Union's ability to do so starts with governance.

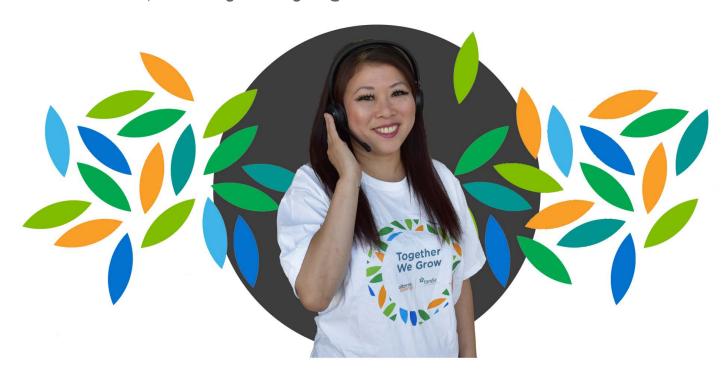
Alterna Savings' aim, which will continue to be the focus of the Merged Credit Union, is to represent the interests of its members, employees, and communities across Ontario with a credit union governance model that maintains community-driven leadership and decision-making. As a democratically governed organization, the Merged Credit Union will continue to hold Board of Director elections annually, welcoming any eligible member of the Merged Credit Union to run for election and encouraging all members to vote for their Board representatives.

#### **Board of Directors**

As of the effective date of the Proposed Merger, the current Board of Directors of Alterna Savings, with representation from the former Board of Directors of Tandia, will form the Board of the Merged Credit Union.

## **Questions?**

We understand you may have questions, and we're here to provide answers. Please connect with us at **TogetherWeWillGrow.ca**, visit any of our branches, call the Alterna Savings Contact Centre at **1-877-560-0100 #7** or email **togetherwegrow@alterna.ca**, the Tandia Member Solutions Centre at **1-800-598-2891 #3**, or email **togetherwegrow@tandia.com**.



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

## Why come together?

This merger is a proactive step we're taking to build an even stronger, more resilient credit union for you, our members. The financial world is constantly changing – with new technologies, evolving member needs, and increased competition. To continue providing you with the best possible services, innovative tools, and the financial security you rely on, joining forces makes sense.

By combining the strengths and resources of Alterna Savings and Tandia, we can invest more effectively in technology, expand our products and services, enhance convenience across Ontario, and ensure we remain a robust, competitive, and deeply committed cooperative for generations to come. It's about positioning ourselves for the future, so we can serve you better.

#### When will the merger take place?

Having received approval from the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario (FSRA), members of both Tandia and Alterna Savings will be invited to vote on the proposed merger. Subject to a FOR vote, the merger is expected to take place as early as the fourth quarter of 2025.

Stay tuned to the **TogetherWeWillGrow.ca** website for all details on how, when, and where to vote, when more information becomes available.

## What are the expected benefits?

We're truly excited about the benefits this merger offers to our members, employees, and communities. Key advantages include:



**Greater Convenience:** Future access to an expanded network of branches across Ontario and the scale to invest in further digital banking services and enhancements.



**Exclusive Offers:** More immediately, we'll be introducing harmonized rates and special offers that we think you'll love—designed to reward your loyalty and support.



**More Choice:** A broader range of competitive products, services, and expert financial advice tailored to your needs.



**Enhanced Innovation:** Increased investment in technology to make your banking experience simpler, faster, and more responsive and convenient to your needs.



**Continued Strength:** A financially stronger, more resilient credit union dedicated to your long-term financial well-being.



**Stronger Community Impact:** An enhanced ability to invest in and support our local communities.



**Opportunities for Our Team:** Greater career development opportunities for the dedicated employees who serve you, and no job loss because of the merger.

## Will I continue to be served by the same employees?

Yes, our dedicated employees are essential to our success and the future of the merged credit union. There is a role for everyone in the combined organization. We highly value the skills, experience, and commitment of our teams at both Alterna Savings and Tandia, and we know we need their passion and expertise to build our future together and continue providing you with excellent service.

#### Will the merged credit union maintain its local feel and member-focus?

Yes, absolutely. Maintaining that strong connection to our members and local communities is incredibly important to both Alterna Savings and Tandia, and it will remain a cornerstone of the merged credit union. Our cooperative structure ensures members remain owners with a voice, and we are committed to governance models that keep local perspectives front and center.

This merger isn't about changing our core identity or losing touch with our roots; it's about strengthening our ability to uphold our cooperative values while ensuring we remain a sustainable, relevant, and deeply community-connected credit union for the long term.

## Are we becoming like a bank?

Rest assured, the heart of who we are as member-focused credit unions remains unchanged.

Unlike banks, which are typically focused on maximizing profits for external shareholders, you, our members, remain our owners and our absolute priority. Our cooperative principles – things like democratic member control, commitment to our communities, and putting people before profit – are foundational to both Alterna Savings and Tandia. These values aren't just history; they are the principles that will continue to guide the merged credit union forward.

#### Will there be any branch closures?

No branch closures are planned because of this proposed merger.

One of the key reasons this partnership is such a great strategic fit is that our branch networks are highly complementary, with very little geographic overlap. This means that instead of creating redundancies, this merger significantly expands the network available to all members, bringing our combined services to many new communities across Ontario.

Our focus is on broadening access and convenience for you, not reducing it. We remain deeply committed to our branch network as vital centres for providing personalized advice and support to our members.

#### What will be the name of the merged credit union?

Following the successful completion of the merger, Alterna Savings and Credit Union Limited. (Alterna Savings) will continue to operate under the name Alterna Savings.

Tandia Financial Credit Union will operate under the name "Tandia Financial, a Division of Alterna Savings and Credit Union Limited." This name reflects both the joining of our organizations and the continuation of the Tandia identity during the initial integration phase.

Our long-term vision is to create a unified banking experience across all channels.

This phased approach allows us to bring our organizations together thoughtfully while ensuring clarity for everyone.

#### Who will lead the merged credit union?

Rob Paterson, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), of Alterna Savings will lead the merged credit union. The Tandia leadership team will largely remain unchanged as we move forward together as a united organization. Maintaining continuity in leadership is important to ensuring a smooth transition, while building on the strong foundation that has already been established. The Tandia leadership team will continue to guide their teams, support members, and help shape the future combined organization.

## Will there be any changes to my accounts, interest rates, or services?

We understand how important this question is. Right now, and for a good deal of time following the merger date, you can expect your day-to-day banking to continue just as it does today. Your existing accounts, products, debit/credit cards, cheque books, and services will remain the same, and you will continue to bank where you do today. Looking ahead, combining our strengths means we'll be reviewing everything to ensure we're offering the very best possible range of products and services to all our members. Our commitment is to provide competitive rates and fair value, just as we always have. Should any changes be planned in the future as we bring our systems together, we are committed to providing you with plenty of advance notice and will make any transition as smooth as possible. Our focus remains on serving you well and being transparent every step of the way.



#### How will our communities benefit from the proposed merger?

Supporting our local communities is fundamental to who we are at both Alterna Savings and Tandia – it's truly part of our cooperative DNA. This deep commitment will absolutely continue and grow stronger.

By coming together, we'll have a greater capacity to give back and make a positive difference where our members and employees live and work. Pooling our resources means we can deepen our community investments and expand our support for local initiatives, partnerships, and causes that matter. We're excited about the enhanced impact we can make together.

#### Will Tandia members be able to bank at any Alterna Savings branch and vice versa?

Immediately after the merger date, you will continue banking at your usual branch just as you always have. There will be no immediate changes to where you access services.

Our goal is to eventually provide a seamless banking experience across all channels, but that will take some time. In the future, a full integration of our banking systems will allow you to access the complete range of services at any branch across Ontario – we'll keep you updated on the timeline as we progress towards that goal.

#### Will cheques, debit cards, automatic transfers, deposits and bill payments work after the merger?

Yes. For the foreseeable future, there will be no difference to how you bank. You will not need to change anything, and your automatic transfers, deposits and bill payments will function as normal. You can also still use the same chaques and debit cards as before.

## Will this effect my mortgage?

No. The merger will not have any impact on your mortgage or other credit products.



#### Will my deposits continue to be insured?

Yes. Eligible deposits in registered accounts have unlimited coverage through the Deposit Insurance Reserve Fund (DIRF) administered by FSRA.

Eligible deposits (not in registered accounts) are insured up to \$250,000 through the DIRF administered by FSRA.

For further information on deposit insurance, please visit the FSRA website at www.fsrao.ca/

#### How do I vote on the merger?

Please take time to review this Guide and visit **TogetherWeWillGrow.ca** to learn more and to access further details on where, when, and how to cast your vote as those become available.



## **Final Notes and Definitions**

Tandia Financial Credit Union ("Tandia") and Alterna Savings and Credit Union Limited ("Alterna", "Alterna Savings") are proposing to merge (referred to in this Guide as the "Proposed Merger").

The Proposed Merger will be structured as an asset transfer in accordance with the Credit Unions and Caisses Populaires Act, 2020 (Ontario) (the "Act"), whereby Alterna Savings will acquire all the assets and assume all the liabilities of Tandia. Following the Proposed Merger, Tandia members will become members of Alterna Savings.

The Tandia brand will continue to be used, and former Tandia members will be served at Tandia branches.

Throughout this Guide, the term "Merged Credit Union" is used to refer to Alterna Savings after the effective date of the Proposed Merger, when it will be carrying on the business of both Alterna Savings and Tandia.

Defined terms used in this Guide, shall be defined in the Purchase and Assumption Agreement (the "Agreement") made available to both Alterna Savings and Tandia.

Tandia and Alterna Savings members and shareholders are each being asked to vote on the Proposed Merger.

Please visit **TogetherWeWillGrow.ca** for more information relating to the Proposed Merger, including the Agreement and the voting process and timeline which can be found in the respective credit union's Supplemental Information Packages once available.

## **Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements**

This document contains certain statements that may be deemed "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of applicable laws. These statements reflect current expectations, estimates, projections, beliefs, and assumptions of the management as of the date of this communication and are not guarantees of future performance.

Forward-looking statements are typically identified by words such as "anticipates," "believes," "estimates," "expects," "intends," "plans," "potential," "projects," "may," "will," "should," "could," "continue," and similar expressions. These statements involve risks and uncertainties, including but not limited to economic conditions, market trends, regulatory changes, competitive pressures, and other factors beyond our control, which could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements.

Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. Alterna Savings and Tandia undertake no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise, except as required by applicable law.







# Together We Grow



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