

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PenFinancial Credit Union Launches 0% Interest Emergency Response Loan to Support Niagara Residents Impacted by Flooding

August 10, 2026 - NIAGARA, ON – As communities across Niagara continue to recover from the recent flooding events, PenFinancial Credit Union is introducing an Emergency Response Loan designed to provide timely financial assistance to residents facing unexpected hardship.

We recognize that many individuals and families are dealing with significant challenges, including property damage, displacement, uninsured losses, delays in financial compensation, and the uncertainty that follows a natural disaster. Everyone at the credit union extends our support and concern to those affected as recovery efforts continue across the region.

To help ease immediate financial pressures, PenFinancial is making available an **Emergency Response Loan of up to \$30,000, with 0% interest for the first 12 months**. Following the initial relief period, the loan may be converted to a special discounted fixed rate of **5.00% for up to an additional four years**, if required.

The loan has been designed to provide flexibility during a difficult and uncertain time. Borrowers may repay the loan at any time without penalty, allowing them to access support now while maintaining the flexibility to repay the loan upon receiving insurance proceeds, government assistance, or other recovery funding.

"Our hearts go out to everyone affected by these flooding events," said Shari Sekel, CEO of PenFinancial Credit Union. "We know many families are facing difficult days ahead, and while we can't undo the damage that has been done, we can do our part to help. As a community-based credit union, supporting people through challenging times is part of who we are. This program was created with one goal in mind: providing meaningful financial relief when it is needed most."

Applications will be received until **August 21, 2026**, and are subject to standard lending qualification criteria and eligibility requirements related to flood-related loss or hardship.

Residents wanting to learn more about the Emergency Response Loan can contact PenFinancial's Contact Centre at **905-685-7737**, or can book an appointment online at **PenFinancial.com**.

About PenFinancial Credit Union

PenFinancial Credit Union is a member-owned financial institution that has been dedicated to **improving lives and strengthening communities** across Niagara and Haldimand for over 60 years. Serving nearly 19,000 individual members and businesses, we offer full-service digital and in-branch banking backed by honest advice and local expertise. PenFinancial is a Living Wage employer guided by co-operative values, our deep Truly Local

Commitment, and a pledge to reinvest a portion of profits to support programs and initiatives that make a meaningful difference in our community. As a values-driven alternative to traditional banks, PenFinancial is built to put people — not profits — first. Learn more at penfinancial.com.

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