Media Release

For Immediate Release

StellerVista Credit Union Announces Ratification of New Contract – Castlegar and Slocan Valley Staff Return to Work

Castlegar / Slocan Valley, BC: September 24, 2025 – StellerVista Credit Union is pleased to confirm that unionized employees at its Castlegar and Slocan Valley branches, represented by United Steelworkers (USW) Local 1-405, have ratified a new collective agreement. Staff are returning to work today, with branch operations resuming under reduced hours this week and returning to regular hours on Tuesday, September 30.

"This agreement reflects a fair and viable outcome—one that supports our employees while ensuring the long-term strength of our credit union," said Jody Burk, CEO of StellerVista Credit Union. "While we were disappointed that a strike occurred, we respect the collective bargaining process and are pleased it has led to a resolution that balances the needs of employees, members, and the organization. This sets us up to continue building the best rural credit union in British Columbia."

From the start of the dispute, StellerVista's management team worked hard to maintain essential services for members in Castlegar and Slocan Valley, while also ensuring access through online, mobile, and alternative service channels to minimize disruption. The organization now looks forward to a smooth transition as employees return, with a focus on reconnecting fully with members.

"Looking ahead, this agreement provides more than just closure—it provides stability and certainty for the future. On behalf of the Board, I extend heartfelt thanks to our management team for their leadership, to our employees for their dedication, and to our members for their trust and understanding," said Lynnette Wray, Board Chair.

By moving forward collectively, StellerVista employees, members, and leadership share a common goal: delivering the best possible service across every branch and every community. This renewed foundation allows the Credit Union to focus its energy on what matters most—helping members thrive in their financial lives today, while building a trusted, independent credit union that will continue to serve local communities for decades to come.

With this resolution, StellerVista reaffirms its commitment to fairness, respectful dialogue, and local independence—continuing to provide personalized service, competitive financial solutions, and community investment across the Kootenay and Boundary region.

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