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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**MAREELA ESHAQ OF ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA SCHOOL WINS  
“VIRTUAL” REGIONAL SPELLING BEE SPONSORED BY WFCU CREDIT UNION**

**WINDSOR, ON** — Mareela Eshaq of St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Elementary School is the champion of the Windsor-Essex County regional spelling bee sponsored by WFCU Credit Union. The runner up was Zain Malek from Académie Ste-Cecile International School.

Due to the pandemic and COVID-19 restrictions, the WFCU Scripps Regional Spelling Bee was administered through the online testing platform provided by the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Spellers agreed to an integrity pledge before they could begin the test. Fourteen spellers took the first test and after a tie between two spellers and another final round online test, Mareela was declared the winner with the top score of 35 out of 50. To prepare, spellers studied ‘Words of the Champions’, the 4,000-word study resource provided by the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

“Providing youth in our community with opportunities to develop their skills and build their self-confidence across a variety of platforms has always been a top priority for WFCU Credit Union,” stated Eddie Francis, President and CEO, WFCU Credit Union. “Although this year we couldn’t have our competition in person, we appreciate the teachers who participated and allowed their classes to experience this ‘virtual’ Spelling Bee. We know this year has been challenging but you gave your students the chance to challenge and develop their literacy and language arts skills in a fun and engaging way.”

Mareela now advances to compete in the 2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee which will also be a virtual experience and will be broadcast on ESPN channels. Mareela also wins these prizes:

- **\$200 WFCU Credit Union Educational Scholarship** to be invested and used towards post-secondary education.
- **The Britannica Online Premium** is a one-year subscription for the premier online resource from Encyclopedia Britannica.
- **The Merriam-Webster Unabridged Online** is a one-year subscription for the official word source for all levels of competition for the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

“Each and every one of the students that competed in the Spelling Bee is to be applauded,” said Marty Gillis, Chair, WFCU Board of Directors. “We are proud to be part of the Scripps National Spelling Bee, an initiative that reaches millions of students across the world. The Spelling Bee not only helps students improve their spelling, but also allows students to gain experience in public speaking and performing under pressure.”

This is the third year WFCU Credit Union has sponsored the regional Spelling Bee event.

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**About WFCU Credit Union:**

WFCU Credit Union has been recognized as a leading, progressive financial institution headquartered in Windsor and Essex County since 1940. Proudly serving Ontario residents, community organizations, small businesses, commercial entities and public institutions for over 80 years, WFCU Credit Union is the seventh largest credit union in Ontario, and twentieth largest credit union in Canada, operating nine retail locations and one digital entity, Omnia Direct. Through these service channels, in combination with online and mobile banking, telephone banking and ATM services, WFCU Credit Union has become the financial institution of choice for 58,022 members across Ontario including 53,879 personal members in 19,809 households, 2,846 businesses and 1,297 organizations. Currently, WFCU Credit Union has \$6.15 billion in Managed Assets and Member Service Totals of \$8.3 billion. WFCU Credit Union membership is open to anyone who lives and/or works in Ontario. For more information on WFCU Credit Union please visit [wfcu.ca](http://wfcu.ca).

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**About the Scripps National Spelling Bee:**

The Scripps National Spelling Bee is the nation's largest and longest-running educational program. Visit [spellingbee.com](http://spellingbee.com) for more information about the Scripps National Spelling Bee, which is administered on a not-for-profit basis by The E.W. Scripps Company.

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