



THE NORTH WEST COMPANY PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Giant Tiger Store to ROAR into Grande Prairie, Alberta

Winnipeg, January 25, 2006: The North West Company (NWC) today officially announced plans to open its newest Giant Tiger store in Grande Prairie, Alberta. This will be NWC's second store in Alberta following the successful opening of an Edmonton store in 2003. The 20,000 square foot Grande Prairie store is set to open in April of 2006 at 11030 – 100 Street (Centre 100 Plaza).

"We are very pleased to be opening a Giant Tiger store in a dynamic, growing community like Grande Prairie. Through our gift store and raw fur outlet, we've been part of the Grande Prairie retail scene for over 40 years. We're confident that Grande Prairie shoppers will be attracted to Giant Tiger's selection of food, fashion merchandise, low prices and everyday products and we are committed to being the best at all of these attributes," said Edward Kennedy, President and CEO of The North West Company. "Shoppers will now find the same great savings and convenience that we've been able to offer Giant Tiger customers at our Edmonton location."

"We are all very excited about our new location in Grande Prairie," says Jeff York, President of Ottawa-based Giant Tiger Stores Limited. "Customers in and around Grande Prairie will find us to be an affordable and convenient destination for fashion clothing, groceries and everyday basic needs. Giant Tiger, your all-Canadian family discount store, will be a clean, neat, bright, friendly, and fun place to shop. We have everyday low prices and great values on current fashions and footwear for the entire family. We also carry groceries, frozen food and dairy products along with great home decorating items, health and beauty needs and cleaning items," says York.

Giant Tiger has a buying office in Montreal, Canada's fashion capital. Clothes to keep you dressed in style will arrive at the store every day of the year. At Giant Tiger, each store has control over the merchandise that is purchased to best suit the needs of its community. "You'll find that the identical quality and fashion items offered by the major chain stores are sold at Giant Tiger at remarkably lower prices," says York.

The North West Company and Giant Tiger have a 30-year Master Franchise Agreement which grants NWC the exclusive right to open and operate 72 Giant Tiger stores in western Canada.

Giant Tiger, Canada's leading junior discount store chain, was established in 1961 in Ottawa and has grown to 159 locations in Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and New Brunswick. Giant Tiger Stores Limited is a privately held company.

The North West Company Inc. is a leading retailer of food and everyday products and services to rural communities and urban neighborhoods across Canada and Alaska. NWC operates 192 stores under a number of trading names, including Northern, NorthMart, Giant Tiger and AC Value Center, and provides catalogue shopping services through its *Selections* catalogue in northern Canada.

The units of the North West Company Fund trade on the TSX Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol "NWF.UN".

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