



## THE NORTH WEST COMPANY PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **New Giant Tiger Store to ROAR into Calgary, Alberta**

**Winnipeg, January 26, 2006:** The North West Company (NWC) today officially announced plans to open its newest Giant Tiger store in Calgary, Alberta. This will be NWC's third store in Alberta following the successful opening of an Edmonton store in 2003 and the upcoming opening of a Grande Prairie store in April 2006. The 18,000 square foot Calgary store is set to open in June of 2006 at 4710 – 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, S.E.

"We're looking forward to bringing the Giant Tiger shopping experience to southern Albertan shoppers and being part of an exceptionally strong retail market like Calgary's," said Edward Kennedy, President and CEO of Winnipeg-based NWC. "We've had a terrific response from customers since we opened our first Alberta Giant Tiger store in Edmonton two years ago. We're confident that our fashions and everyday product mix will be unique to the Calgary market and will save time and money for our customers."

"We are all very excited about our new location in Calgary," says Jeff York, President of Ottawa-based Giant Tiger Stores Limited. "Customers in and around Calgary 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".

- 30 -

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