



For Immediate Release

Alaska Commercial Company to be honored at the 2017 Jewish Gala

Anchorage, AK, October 31, 2017 – Alaska Commercial Company (ACC) is pleased to announce that the 14th Annual Jewish Cultural Gala hosted by the Jewish Cultural Center will commemorate the 150th Anniversary of ACC; the state's longest continuing enterprise.

“ACC has a rich history in Alaska and has been serving the community for 150 years. ACC plays an integral part in Alaska's rural economy, providing groceries and general merchandise to 33 communities in rural Alaska. Communities are dependent on the stores to meet their everyday grocery and household needs,” said Stacia Green, *Chair*, Jewish Cultural Gala.

“We are proud to join all Alaskans in celebrating ACC's long tradition of business ethics, community building, and charity established by its Jewish founders, promoting and modeling diversity and tolerance for Alaskans to emulate,” said Rabbi Yosef Greenberg, *President*, Alaska Jewish Museum & Cultural Center.

Founded in 1867, ACC played an integral part in Alaska's heritage. Throughout the early 1900s, ACC served as post office, community hall, courtroom, marriage parlor, funeral home, and a safe haven for travelers. It also served as a bank, extending credit to trappers, miners, and fishermen.

Today, ACC continues to play an important role in local community life. As the largest retailer in rural Alaska, ACC provide a combination of food, general merchandise and Quickstop stores. ACC continues to provide the essential products and services which connect even the most remote villages and takes pride in its adaptability to meet the needs of each community it serves.

“Community support has been engrained in our company culture since the beginning. We pride ourselves on serving the community, a core principle the original Jewish founders followed,” added Walter Pickett, Vice President, ACC. “On behalf of the entire ACC team it is an honor to receive this recognition.”

The North West Company's President & CEO, Edward Kennedy and ACC's Vice Chair Rex Wilhelm, and Vice President and General Manager, Walter Pickett will be honored at the Gala on November 11, 2017 at the Dena'ina Convention Center. To purchase tickets, please visit www.alaskajewishgala.org.

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About Alaska Commercial Company

Alaska Commercial Company – a division of The North West Company – is the largest retailer in rural Alaska, with 34 combination food, general merchandise and Quickstop stores, more than 950 employees and an annual payroll exceeding \$23.2 million. It has invested \$54 million of capital in the retail operations that serve these communities and purchases over \$11 million in local goods and services annually.

About The North West Company

The North West Company Inc. is a leading retailer of food and everyday products and services to rural communities and urban neighbourhoods in Canada, Alaska, the South Pacific and the Caribbean. North West operates 243 stores under the trading names Northern, NorthMart, Giant Tiger, Alaska Commercial Company and Cost-U-Less and has annualized sales of approximately CDN\$1.8 billion.

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