



*The North West Company 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.*

## **For Immediate Release**

### **The North West Company – Hurricane Maria update**

**Winnipeg, Canada, September 22, 2017** – The North West Company ("North West") provided an update today on its operations within the Hurricane Maria - impacted regions of the Caribbean.

"Our stores sustained minimal additional damage from Hurricane Maria, but the affected islands now face substantial challenges," commented North West's President & CEO Edward Kennedy. "It is critical that emergency and reconstruction aid is delivered to the region without unnecessary delays or onerous conditions. We are working closely with officials to ensure we can best play our role as an essential service provider and community supporter. Our associates continue to act with exemplary dedication and courage amidst what has now been over two weeks of complete upheaval to their lives and those of their neighbours. I am very proud of their actions."

North West operated 12 stores in the Caribbean region directly affected by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Stores were closed temporarily and are now reopened in St. Croix and in our primary locations on the BVI. In St. Maarten, a major repair will begin shortly and is expected to take approximately 6 months to fully complete with the possibility of an earlier, partial opening. In St. Thomas, a complete rebuild is required and is expected to take approximately 18 months to complete. The timelines for these projects will depend on many factors including the state of public infrastructure on both islands. North West expects that its insurance coverage will be adequate to cover losses, including business interruptions.

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#### **About The North West Company**

The North West Company Inc., through its subsidiaries, 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 employs approximately 8,200 associates, the majority within the communities that it serves. It operates 241 stores under the trading names Northern, NorthMart, Giant Tiger, Alaska Commercial Company, Cost-U-Less and RiteWay Food Markets and has annualized sales of approximately CDN \$2.0 billion.

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