



Muskehki Pharmacy Distributors Awarded Contract for Pharmacy Support Services in 22 Northern Manitoba First Nations

Winnipeg, July 20, 2015 - Muskehki Pharmacy Distributors LP (Muskehki Pharmacy), is pleased to announce it has been awarded a contract by Health Canada to provide Pharmacy Support Services and Medical Supplies to medical professionals and clients in 22 remote nursing stations in First Nations communities in Northern Manitoba. Beginning in August 2015, Muskehki Pharmacy will be the provider of patient medication shipped to these nursing stations through the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program. The period of the contract is from August 2015 to August 2016. Health Canada has the option to extend the contract for an additional two years.

Muskehki Pharmacy is a health partnership owned by Wabung Developments Ltd. (Wabung), the economic development entity of the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, Inc. (MKO), and North West Company Holdings Inc., a subsidiary of Winnipeg-based The North West Company Inc. (North West).

Chief Irvin Sinclair, President of Wabung Developments Ltd. and Muskehki Pharmacy, stated, “The award of this contract to a First Nation majority-owned partnership is an important step to ensure that the 22 First Nation communities to be served by Muskehki Pharmacy will benefit from the continuity of care through access to high-quality pharmacy services. The First Nations served by the business will also receive the benefits of the contract through local employment and through a share of the profits through ownership of the business. Building sustainable ventures with committed partners like North West can help to deliver essential community services and to expand opportunities for First Nations.”

Muskehki Pharmacy will actively pursue employment and training opportunities for First Nation members, as well as look for potential service and procurement opportunities for businesses owned by First Nations, as part of a strategy to ensure sustainable economic capacity and skills development for the First Nations served by Muskehki.

“Our partnership with the MKO First Nations through Wabung to create Muskehki Pharmacy aligns with North West’s health care delivery expertise within remote areas of Canada and to enhancing the overall well-being of the communities we serve,” commented d Edward Kennedy, President and CEO of North West.

About Muskehki Pharmacy

Muskehki Pharmacy Distributors LP is a health partnership owned by Wabung Developments Ltd. and The North West Company. The partnership was formed in 2011 and currently operates a retail pharmacy and a central-fill remote distribution operation located at 910 A Wall Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

About Wabung Developments Ltd.

Wabung Developments Ltd., formerly MKO Economic Development Corporation (2008) Inc., was established in 2008 as the economic development entity of the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, Inc.

About Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, Inc.

Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, Inc. is a non-profit, political advocacy organization that has represented 30 First Nation communities in Manitoba's North since 1981.

About North West

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 Caribbean. North West's Northern and NorthMart stores are the largest local private employer of Inuit and First Nations people in Canada's North, with over 3,100 employees and an annual payroll exceeding \$65 million.

The Health Products & Services division of The North West Company provides essential, innovative healthcare services to remote locations throughout Canada. With a team of healthcare professionals encompassing Amdocs (physician services), 12 Northern and NorthMart Retail Pharmacies and North West Telepharmacy Solutions, the largest telepharmacy service provider in Canada, we offer best in class care models tailored to First Nation and Northern communities.

For more information contact:

Michael Anderson

Research Director, MKO (for Muskehki Pharmacy and Wabung)

P: (204) 794-4312

E: manderson@mkonorth.com

Or

Derek Reimer

Director, Business Development, North West (for Muskehki Pharmacy and North West)

P: 204-934-1469

E: dreimer@northwest.ca

