



THE NORTH WEST COMPANY PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Giant Tiger Store to ROAR into Yorkton, Saskatchewan

Winnipeg, December 7, 2005: The North West Company (NWC) today officially announced plans to open its newest Giant Tiger store in Yorkton, Saskatchewan. This will be NWC's fifth store in Saskatchewan following the successful opening of a Regina store in 2003, stores in Moose Jaw and Saskatoon in 2004, and a store in Prince Albert in October 2005. The 18,150 square foot Yorkton store is set to open in February of 2006 in the Crossroads Shopping Centre.

"The City of Yorkton is an important regional centre and we are very pleased to move forward with opening an all-Canadian family discount store to serve the local area. We're confident that Yorkton shoppers will be attracted to our selection of food, fashion merchandise, low prices and everyday products and we are committed to being the best in all of these attributes," said Edward Kennedy, President and CEO of The North West Company. "Our store will provide the same great savings and convenience that we've been able to offer Giant Tiger customers at our other Saskatchewan locations in Regina, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw and Prince Albert."

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