



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The North West Company announces the closure of stores in Hearst, and Hornepayne, Ontario.

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, October 27th, 2008 – The North West Company (NWC) announced today that they will close their Northern banner stores in Hearst and Hornepayne, Ontario on January 16, 2009, for economic reasons.

“After many years in these communities we make this decision reluctantly and with much regret,” states John Bouchard, General Manager NWC, “It has been a pleasure being part of these communities and we thank our customers for their loyal support”

The North West Company will continue to manage and grow its 127 Northern stores currently operating throughout Northern Canada, including 24 in Ontario.

- 30 -

The North West Company is a leading retailer of food and everyday products and services to rural communities and urban neighborhoods in Canada, Alaska, the South Pacific and the Caribbean.

For more information, please contact:

John Bouchard
General Manager, Eastern Region
The North West Company.
Tel: (204) 934-1660
Email: jbouchard@northwest.ca