



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

NEWS RELEASE - For Immediate Release

The North West Company (NWC) and former NWC Chairman Ian Sutherland establishes \$100,000 bursary-scholarship fund offered through the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation (NAAF).

Winnipeg, January 13, 2009: The North West Company has made a \$50,000 funding commitment to the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation that has been matched by Ian Sutherland, former NWC Chairman. This commitment was first announced on June 11, 2008, during the company's Annual and Special Meeting of Unitholders.

"The North West Company actively participates in the communities we serve and the establishment of this scholarship is a further demonstration of our ongoing support." states Edward Kennedy, President and CEO "Education offers the wealth of potential to Aboriginal students and we make this funding commitment with great anticipation to celebrate in their (scholarship recipients) success."

The funding commitment was announced on the occasion of Ian Sutherland's retirement as Chairman of the Board of Directors for The North West Company, a position he held for 11 years. "The North West Company is providing these funds to the NAAF to establish a scholarship in the name of Ian Sutherland and The North West Company, to be awarded to Aboriginal students pursuing further education in retail or finance." Kennedy continues, "Ian's contribution to the company's (NWC) success has been immeasurable and this scholarship is a fitting tribute."

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"I greatly appreciate this form of recognition because it's an investment in the value of education," added Ian Sutherland. "I was immediately prepared to match North West's contribution to make this award even more meaningful." Sutherland continues "I am also proud of our association with the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation and we are delighted to work with the NAAF to enable Aboriginal youth to achieve brighter futures."

Edward Kennedy, President and CEO of The North West Company and Roberta Jamieson, President and CEO of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation will deliver a joint announcement at The Winnipeg Convention Centre, Hall B - January 14, 2009 at 12 p.m. C.S.T.

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. North West operates 222 stores under the trading names Northern, NorthMart, Giant Tiger, AC Value Center, and Cost-U-Less

The units of the Fund trade on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol "NWF.UN".

