



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.

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

North West Company Fund Announces First Quarter Earnings and a Quarterly Distribution

Winnipeg, June 10, 2010 (TSX:NWF.UN): North West Company Fund (the “Fund” or “North West”) today reported its unaudited financial results for the first quarter ended April 30, 2010 and announced that the Trustees have approved a quarterly distribution of \$0.34 per unit to unitholders of record on June 30, 2010, distributable by July 15, 2010.

Financial Highlights

First quarter consolidated net earnings were \$17.3 million, an increase of 6.9% over last year and diluted earnings per unit for the quarter improved to \$0.36 compared to \$0.33 last year. Sales decreased 1.6% to \$340.1 million compared to the first quarter last year, but were up 5.6% excluding the foreign exchange impact and were up 4.4%¹ on a same store basis. Strong food and general merchandise sales growth in our Canadian Operations was more than offset by the negative impact of foreign exchange on the conversion of U.S. denominated sales in our International Operations.

Trading profit² or earnings before interest, income taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) increased 2.3% to \$28.2 million compared to \$27.5 million in the first quarter last year. Trading profit gains in Canada more than offset a decrease in trading profit in our International Operations and the negative impact of the foreign exchange conversion. Excluding the foreign exchange impact, trading profit increased 7.8% compared to last year.

“Our northern Canada and Alaska businesses recovered sharply as consumers replaced durable goods after several quarters of weak spending,” commented President and CEO, Edward Kennedy. “Giant Tiger results were also solid as we benefited from improved seasonal programs. The soft area for us continued to be tourism-dependent markets in the Caribbean and Pacific,” Mr. Kennedy said.

The Fund’s first quarter report to unitholders, management’s discussion and analysis and unaudited interim consolidated financial statements can be found in the investor section of the Fund’s website at www.northwest.ca.

2010 Annual General and Special Meeting and First Quarter Conference Call

The Fund is hosting its 2010 Annual General and Special Meeting today. To access the meeting via webcast, log onto <http://www.gowebcasting.com/1705>.

¹ Excluding the foreign exchange impact

² See Non-GAAP Measures Section of Management’s Discussion & Analysis



Unitholders viewing the webcast will not be permitted to vote through the webcast, but will be permitted to ask questions of management.

The Fund is also hosting a conference call for its first quarter results on June 10, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. (Central Time). To access the call, please dial 416-695-7806 / 888-789-9572 with a pass code of 2213547. The conference call will be archived and can be accessed by dialing 416-695-5800 or 800-408-3053 with a pass code of 4247228 on or before June 17, 2010.

Notice to Readers

Certain forward-looking statements are made in this news release, within the meaning of applicable securities laws. These statements reflect the North West's current expectations and are based on information currently available to management. The words "may", "will", "should", "believe", "expect", "plan", "anticipate", "intend", "estimate", "predict", "potential", "continue", or the negative of these terms, identify forward-looking matters. These statements speak only as of the date of this press release. The actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements.

Reliance should not be placed on forward-looking statements because they involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors, which may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of North West to differ materially from anticipated future results, performance or achievement expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those set forth in the forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, fluctuations in interest rates and currency values, legislative and regulatory developments, legal developments, the occurrence of weather-related and other natural catastrophes, changes in tax laws, and those risks and uncertainties detailed in the section entitled "Risk Factors" in the Fund's Management's Discussion and Analysis and Annual Information Form. The preceding list is not an exhaustive list of possible factors. These and other factors should be considered carefully and readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. The Fund undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, other than as required by applicable law.

Company Profile

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. North West operates 228 stores under the trading names Northern, NorthMart, Giant Tiger, AC Value Center and Cost-U-Less and has annualized sales of approximately CDN\$1.5 billion.

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

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