

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.

## STATEMENT FROM THE NORTH WEST COMPANY INC. REGARDING THE KENNEDY HOME

**Winnipeg, December 16, 2011 (TSX: NWC)** – Earlier this morning a fire destroyed the home of the President & CEO of The North West Company Inc., Edward Kennedy. The Kennedy family escaped unharmed.

"We are thankful Edward, Stella and their children are all safe" said Sandy Riley, Chairman of the Board. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the family as they deal with this tragic loss. We ask that the public and the media respect their privacy at this time."

Operations at The North West Company are not affected by the incident.

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