



Alaska Commercial Company marks 150th anniversary with year-long celebration

Anchorage, January 23, 2017 – The Alaska Commercial Company (ACC), along with employees from around the state, are officially marking the company’s 150th Anniversary with a year-long celebration, commencing on January 24, 2017 with a special evening gala honoring the heritage and future of Alaska Commercial Company.

The gala event will celebrate the contributions of Alaska Commercial Company and welcomes honored guests from the Office of the Governor Bill Walker, Iditarod Musher Martin Buser and features special guest performances by Pamyua and the Alaska Native Heritage Center Performers.

Celebrations within communities served by the Alaska Commercial Company will be held throughout the year through themed in-store events, sales and a special 150th Anniversary giveaway contest. Launching this summer, the 150th Anniversary contest will offer over \$450,000 in instant, collect to win, and online prizes and discounts.

“Our customers’ support is the reason for our success. We thank them for their continued patronage and to demonstrate our gratitude we will be hosting events and activities throughout the year for them to enjoy,” said Walter Pickett, Vice President, Alaska Commercial Company.

Founded in 1867 by San Francisco merchants Lewis Gerstle and Louis Sloss, Alaska Commercial Company has a rich history in the state and played an integral part in Alaska’s heritage, providing groceries and general merchandise to trappers, explores and gold seekers.

Throughout the early 1900s, Alaska Commercial Company served as post office, community hall, courtroom, marriage parlor, funeral home, and a safe haven for travelers. It also served as a bank, extending credit to trappers, miners, and fishermen.

In 1992, the company was purchased by The North West Company (NWC). The acquisition by NWC made the combined companies the largest North American rural retailers and one of the largest employers in the State of Alaska. An employer of choice, Alaska Commercial Company provides jobs to over 950 people.

“Today, we continue to play an important role in local community life. As the largest retailer in rural Alaska, with 33 combination food, general merchandise and Quickstop stores, we are providing essential products and services which connect even the most remote villages. We take pride in our expertise and adaptability to meet the individual needs of each community we serve.” added Pickett.

Alaska Commercial Company is dedicated to the communities served in Alaska and invests significant capital in the communities and purchases over \$11 million in local goods and services

annually. Additionally, Alaska Commercial Company play an active role in the community by supporting local events, causes and charities that have a direct effect on youth and elders, healthy living and education, and the environment of Alaska.

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About Alaska Commercial Company

Alaska Commercial Company – a division of The North West Company – is the largest retailer in rural Alaska, with 33 combination food, general merchandise and Quickstop locations and more than 950 employees with an annual payroll exceeding \$23 million. It has invested \$54 million of capital in the retail operations that serve these communities and purchases over \$11 million in local goods and services annually.

About The North West Company

The North West Company Inc. 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 229 stores under the trading names Northern, NorthMart, Giant Tiger, Alaska Commercial Company and Cost-U-Less and has annualized sales of approximately CDN\$1.8 billion.

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Northern

North **MART**

**GIANT
TIGER** 



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