

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.

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Northern Portage La Loche Food Store Destroyed by Fire Northern plans to renovate nearby General Merchandise Store to offer grocery items

Winnipeg, MB, April 25, 2018 – The North West Company announced today that its Northern Food Store in Portage La Loche, SK was completely destroyed by fire yesterday evening. The 5,500 square foot store offered a full assortment of everyday essential grocery items. There were no injuries as a result of the fire, the cause of which is unknown.

"We would like to thank the first responders for their efforts in controlling the fire and are grateful that all of our employees and customers are safe." said Michael Beaulieu, Vice-President, Sales & Operations at The North West Company.

"Northern also operates a 13,800 square foot general merchandise store and pharmacy in the community on a nearby property. We plan to modify this location in the coming days to accommodate a large assortment of the grocery items previously offered at the food store. We have served the community for many years and we will continue to provide our customers with the everyday essential grocery and services they deserve." added Beaulieu.

## **About The North West Company**

North West is a retailer serving rural communities and urban neighbourhoods in Canada, Alaska, the South Pacific and Caribbean. We are committed to helping our customers live better by bringing them the best products and services together with a tradition of community support. North West's Northern and NorthMart stores are the largest local private employer of indigenous people in Canada, with over 3,000 employees and an annual payroll exceeding \$65 million.

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