



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

The North West Company Opens New Northern Store in Wasagamack, MB

New location provides increased accessibility, new programs, and extended hours

WINNIPEG, MB, June 20, 2023 – The North West Company celebrated the opening of their newest Northern store in Wasagamack, MB on June 19, 2023.

The new Northern store, leased from the Wasagamack First Nation, is located in the heart of the community and offers increased accessibility, and extended shopping hours.

“We are incredibly proud of our relationship with the community of Wasagamack. I am grateful for the invitation to the community and for the support of Chief Walter Harper and his Council. The investment made by the First Nation and long-term agreement with North West is a positive step toward economic reconciliation and ensures reliable and safe access for our customers to the Northern store,” said North West’s Mike Beaulieu, Vice President, Canadian Store Operations.

The new 14,000 sq. ft. building provides increased space and services, including expanded refrigeration for produce and chilled foods, a fresh meat shop, a new Tim Hortons and a hot deli offering. In addition to the store, an attached warehouse and four new employee residences are included in the development.

“Today we make history with the grand opening of our new Northern store. It is my pleasure to witness the excitement in the community and to be able to walk and drive to the new store location. For many years we’ve struggled to access the store on the island and in times of rough waters, extreme weather, and freeze-up, placing the lives of our community members at risk,” said Wasagamack First Nation Chief Walter Harper. “Our community of 2,300 is one of the many remote and isolated communities that continues to grow. On behalf of our Wasagamack Anishinin Nation, I wish to thank the current and past chief and council and to everyone who made this development possible.”

The grand opening was celebrated at 11:00 AM with blessings by Father Doss of the Church of St. Marguerite d’Youville and elder Tommy Harper, and ribbon cutting with participation from Anishininew Okimawin Grand Chief Scott Harper, AFN Manitoba Regional Chief Cindy Woodhouse and Wasagamack First Nation Chief Walter Harper and Council. A \$1000 donation was provided to the Wasagamack First Nation School lunch program, along with special gifts to the Chief and Council and community elders. The community was welcomed to the new store with cake, coffee, giveaways, and a prize raffle.

About The North West Company

The North West Company is a retailer primarily serving rural communities in Canada and Alaska, as well as islands in the South Pacific and Caribbean. We are committed to helping our customers live well 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 close to 3,000 employees and an annual payroll exceeding \$65 million.

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