



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 Caribbean update

Winnipeg, Canada, September 13, 2017 – The North West Company ("North West") provided an update today on its operations within the Hurricane Irma - impacted regions of the Caribbean.

"Our entire North West family shares deep concern and care for those affected by Hurricane Irma," commented North West's President & CEO Edward Kennedy. "North West teams are working with urgency to provide assistance through these initial days of trauma and upheaval. As communications and security stabilizes we are getting a clearer picture of where we can act, whether through donations or by getting stores back into operation, quickly and safely. I am very proud of the dedication and determination being shown by our people as they pull together to support each other and to serve our customers and communities."

Within the most affected territories and countries: St. Thomas, the BVI and St. Maarten, the Company has made contact with almost all its associates and can confirm that they are safe.

Processes are being put in place to ensure that all associates are paid, working closely with local banks. Water and other essential supplies are also being provided.

North West's subsidiary will be donating tarps and other emergency relief supplies to the general population within the BVI, working in coordination with the BVI government and relief agencies. North West has also set up an online Caribbean donation portal through the Red Cross and is matching all financial contributions from its associates worldwide.

In the BVI, North West has re-opened its main store and expects to have five of its nine stores, representing 80% of its total BVI selling space, open within the next two days. These stores are operating with on-site power generation and full staff complements. Product re-supply is also underway.

In St. Thomas and St. Maarten, the Company continues to face access, communications and security challenges that are preventing a full assessment of the extensive damage to its two Cost-U-Less stores on these islands.

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About The North West Company

The North West Company Inc., through its subsidiaries, 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 employs approximately 8,200 associates, the majority within the communities that it serves. It operates 241 stores under the trading names Northern, NorthMart, Giant Tiger, Alaska Commercial Company, Cost-U-Less and RiteWay Food Markets and has annualized sales of approximately CDN \$2.0 billion.

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