

Media Release – Business Development Neyaskweyahk Group of Companies Inc. January 3rd, 2019



The Neyaskweyahk Group of Companies Inc. (NGCI) purchase a vertical farming franchise!

The new franchise is located in Leduc, Alberta and serves NGCI's off reserve business development strategy. With the acquisition of the franchise, NGCI creates three full time employment opportunities, increases net revenue stream and provides capacity development for future opportunities.

The CEO officially paid the franchise fee on January 3rd, 2019. The franchise fee reserves the business for NGCI as they will now seek bank financing for the business. NGCI plans to close the deal by April 1st, 2019.



About the Franchise

Located in Leduc, AB Trusted Freshness Ltd. is an Alberta corporation leading in the development and operation of vertical farming franchises for growing fresh product in Alberta and other national and international markets. The Trusted Freshness business model operates as a series of disbursed Master Franchise 'hubs' that interact with an adjacent network "spokes', which are independently owned and operated.



The hubs grow the fresh produce while receiving process support from the spokes and provide storage and distribution to the end user, like the food service industry. Trusted Freshness will control all aspects of the growing and marketing of the produce.

To assist Trusted Freshness franchisees, the corporation has developed and offers North America's first commercial multi-cultural training centre for hydroponic vertical farming and fresh produce business management. This training facility is located in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada and NGCI is looking forward to training and employing 2 Ermineskin Cree Nation Citizens.

The Trusted Freshness franchise model is a true turn key business operation. In addition to the corporation's inhouse training, franchisees will receive all the support services for running a successful and profitable vertical farming operation access to seeds, proprietary nutrients, Aquatigro™ proprietary LED lights, growing system and management of sales, ting and distribution.



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About NGCI

NGCI manages 9 businesses and currently employs 45 full time and approximately 24 seasonal jobs for the people of Ermineskin Cree Nation and Maskwacis. Established by the Ermineskin Cree Nation, NGCI was incorporated in 2013 in the province of Alberta with to separate business from politics. NGCI bridges open communications with the Tribal Leadership through the Board of Directors. Success is not only measured by net revenues but by Job Creation, Recapturing Economic Leakage, Infrastructure Revitalization, Capacity Development and Business Sustainability. Please read about us and learn more about how we intend to impact our First Nation and our region through business development.

Ermineskin Chief - Craig Makinaw

"We are proud of our people who diligently work adding new businesses to the Group of Companies, Ermineskin Cree Nation and NGCI do business with excellence."

Trusted Freshness CEO & CMO- Jim Schroeder

"The owners, management, and staff of Trusted Freshness Ltd and the Vertical Growers Network Ltd are extremely pleased with the recent purchase of a Trusted Freshness Franchise by The Neyaskweyahk Group of Companies, and the people of the Ermineskin Cree Nation. The acquisition of the franchise will enhance the business opportunities and employment positions for NGCI while supporting the Trusted Freshness Brand that focuses on the "Grow Local", Buy Local" business philosophy."

NGCI President & CEO - Sam Minde

"Interesting business model, Trusted Freshness Franchise will add value to the Group of Companies, we will work hard to achieve success with our new partners."



NGCI Chief Executive Officer – Sam Minde