Chief Executive Officer Report

Ron Basaraba
Wacheyea,

I am pleased to announce that this is Volume 1 of our commitment to publish a quarterly newsletter informing our ownership communities and beyond with events and news on CreeWest, enhancing communication and awareness as CreeWest moves forward in new endeavors building our First Nations Regional Organization of CreeWest GP Inc. into a strong viable company with sustainability for today but growing for tomorrow.

I am very proud and excited to be involved with CreeWest in the last year. It has been challenging but rewarding at the same time. Our Board has been extremely supportive of our endeavors moving forward.

As you know, CreeWest presently holds the DeBeers Air Transportation Contract in Joint Venture with Air CreeBec. This is the foundation that gives us the opportunity to move forward and expand into the aviation sector ourselves. Kind of like the “Baby” that grew. Our goal and mandate is the Aviation Sector to pursue and build our own Airline in the means of passenger, cargo, scheduled services and Air Ambulance operations.

With that said, our interests also involve non-aviation sectors as well. We are open to Ownerships, General Partnerships, Joint Ventures along with building on good business relations solidifying the First Nations Regional Organization of CreeWest into a fine tuned prosperous identity supporting First Nations employment and dividends back to CreeWest ownership communities supporting our Limited Partners and enhancing their well-being.

In the past year we have ceased and corrected areas of operations that were of concern, focused on our visions and priorities, expanded in Joint Venture opportunities along with our most recent acquisitions of Hangar facilities and a small Air Charter company out of Sioux Lookout.

This setting us up for sustainability for today with growth and opportunities for tomorrow and into the future. We are entering into some very exciting times and I look forward to working with you, communicating and building our relations.

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CreeWest Limited Partnership Purchases Sioux Lookout Hangar, Northern Skies Air Services Shares and Aircraft for servicing Northwestern Ontario

By Frank Giorno

CreeWest LP closed a deal on October 17, 2013 to acquire Northern Skies Air Services which will operate as a division of the controlling company CreeWest Limited Partnership.

Northern Skies Air Services will continue to hold the operating certificate, with the ownership of it now controlled by CreeWest LP, a company that expands in its mandate in owning and operating its own Airline Company to one that will in addition now provide hangar facilities and also in joint venture with Northern Airborne Maintenance for aircraft repair and maintenance services.

“This is a big step for CreeWest” said Ron Basaraba, CEO CreeWest GP Inc., “But a positive one! – The acquisitions are positive assets for the LP. ”

CreeWest LP’s plans to acquire these acquisitions has been in the works for sometime. CreeWest’s Board of Directors gave the go ahead in April 2013 to purchase the hangar facility and air charter service located in Sioux Lookout, Ontario.

“What we are interested in is a venture that provides sustainability for today and growth and expansion for the future,” Basaraba said. “This is important because of mining opportunities i.e.; “The Ring of Fire” and other mining activities moving ahead with exploration and mining development in the next few years.”

The acquisitions will also allow CreeWest to expand and build on service to Timmins and the James Bay Coastal areas, the backyard of our geographical humble beginnings

“With a large amount of our own capital and approved funding from the Nishnawbe-Aski Development Fund and Commercial Institute Financing, CreeWest was able to put this deal together that became reality,” along with huge support from our Board and Chiefs explained Basaraba.

Prior to the purchase, CreeWest undertook a careful review of Northern Skies Air Services’ equipment and reviewed the potential of the Sioux Lookout location for profitable services to northwestern Ontario. The review confirmed and found that the acquisition positions CreeWest to be a leader in providing services to mining companies and local freight and passenger services to First Nations communities in northwestern Ontario. As well the purchase gives CreeWest the foundation that will enable CreeWest to expand services into Timmins and James Bay coastal communities in near future.

Additional services provided by CreeWest will include regular of charter flights for regular and emergency health needs; flights for Ontario government business for ministries such as Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Natural Resources, Northern Development and Mines and federal government ministries such as Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Health Canada and various others.

“There is a growing need in the resource sector such as mining also, “ Basaraba said, “ We see a steady growth of business over the next ten to twenty years and this makes the purchase of the air service and hangar, most attractive. in the geographical area that we are now situated in.

The acquisition of Northern Skies Air Services will prove and solidify potential wealth creation in the decision to acquire such a well constructed hangar as we feel that establishing ourselves now, will certainly assist us in future to be a player in future mining activities as a hub and distribution center in aviation and non aviation sectors.

“We will build, grow, expand and make our ownership communities proud of what we have accomplished and where we can go from here,” Basaraba added.

CreeWest is a First Nations Regional Organization founded by community economic development representatives from the Attawapiskat, Fort Albany, Kashechewan, and Weenusk First Nations originally formed to provide the benefits arising from the construction and operations of the De Beers Canada Victor Project. CreeWest LP presently holds the Air Transportation contract with BeBeers Canada and is in a Joint Venture agreement with Air CreeBec providing the work of that contract of Air Transportation and cargo movement between Timmins and the DeBeers Victor Site.
**The Hangar**
- Located at the Sioux Lookout Airport
- Built in 2007 - 90 x 125
- Can house up to 6 aircraft inside ie; King Air, PC-12 Type aircraft.
- Can fit as large as a DC-3 (Basler) aircraft Type.
- Most up to date and modern Hangar facility at the YXL airport
- Heated by propane, however mostly heated by HVAC system (used oil). Propane radiant heat only comes on if the temperature lowers to a certain degree.
- Presently houses 3 tenants with room for 2-3 more.
- Building with tenants pays for itself
- Large staging area outside. Will accommodate Dash 8 tarmac space if required.
- Potential for non aviation staging area for mining or other means.
- No other hangars or space availability at the airport unless newly built.

**1977 Piper Navajo Chiefton (C-GCTH)**
- Seats 8
- Max Pay load 1800 ibs
- Can fly single Pilot
- Lower MTC costs
- IFR & VFR approved
- Interior Leather
- WXX radar and Storm Scope
- Heavy Duty wheels & brakes
- No Damage
CREEWEST
GP INC

Joint Ventures

CreeWest along with our present Joint Venture with Air Creebec that is now going into its 7th year, CreeWest has diversified and expanded into “Joint Venture” agreements with Logikal Code, Winmar Restorations Timmins, Big “O” Construction, McCabe Promotional products and Northern Airborne Maintenance recognizing the potential for business opportunities for all parties.

With our JV partners being specialists in their field of work, they also realize to grow their business and open doors for more opportunities, joint venturing with a First Nations Regional Organization would certainly assist this opportunity along.

CreeWest recognizes that these joint venture will have its share of benefits as well for the Limited Partnership communities consisting of Peawanuck (Weenusk), Attawapiskat, Fort Albany and Kashechewan in agreement on sales promoted and obtained due to the Joint Venture. CreeWest has diversified and expanded into these “Joint Venture” agreements recognizing the potential for business opportunities for all parties.
Air Creebec Inc.’s beginnings date back to 1979. Following ratification of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, the Cree Regional Authority was faced with a unique opportunity to extend its activities to the field of transportation. The Cree Nation was a promising market and needed an air carrier whose main objective would be to meet its expectations.

In the spring of 1979, the Grand Chief of the Cree Nation of Quebec and Austin Airways held their first of several meetings, which eventually led to the creation of an airline belonging to the Cree and called “Air Creebec Inc.”. At the beginning of the new airline’s operations in 1982, 51% was Cree-owned and 49% was owned by Austin Airways.

In 1988, the Cree bought out their partner’s share of the business and has wholly owned Air Creebec ever since. This was the largest commercial transaction ever completed by Canada’s aboriginals.

Increasing from 30 employees in 1986 to 165 in 2000, Air Creebec is earning a reputation as a serious, reliable airline.

Air Creebec is also carving out an enviable name for itself in the field of charter flights, where it is respected for its ability to quickly and efficiently react, not only for routine services but also for emergencies, such as forest fires and floods. Our airline offers a VIP charter program for businesses, whereby a certain type of aircraft may be selected for a long-term contract.

Mission Statement:

Air Creebec's primary purpose is to provide safe, reliable and efficient air transportation within Eeyou Istchee and beyond.

It is acknowledged for its expertise and experience in aviation and in the region we serve. Team members will be honoured and proud to be part of the firm and will benefit from industry standard compensation, a challenging working environment, unlimited opportunity for professional advancement and personal growth and full involvement in the relevant decision making processes within the firm.

There will be a high level of trust and mutual respect amongst team members, Creeco and clients. Each person must understand and subscribe to the firm’s mission and will be given an opportunity to assist in its accomplishment.

Creeco will always place the welfare of the firm and that of its clients above their own self-interests. However, it will always be understood that Creeco can expect to receive fair compensation reflecting the value of their contribution and the capital they have invested.

The firm will be highly innovative in its delivery of excellent customer service and will always be guided by its principal purpose of contributing to the development and self-sufficiency of the Cree Nation while maintaining long-term profitability.
In Honour and in Celebration, CreeWest hosted a “Congratulatory” Dinner Night at the Days Inn Timmins celebrating the Grand Opening of Five Nations Energy new building along with recognizing the hard work and achievements over the years, honouring Pioneers such as Ed Chilton and Cecil MacDonald. It was very gratifying to have the Chilton and MacDonald family members attend as well.

The attendance of approximately 80 guests were entertained by Brent Edwards of Moose Legs 2.

“Mushkegowuk Grand Chief Dr. Stan Louttit also travelled to Timmins for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

“This is a dream come true,” said Louttit. “This the culmination of years and years of dreaming and effort to be able to do something for the members of the communities. And that’s what it’s all about. It’s about the people in the community who receive reliable power now. We couldn’t have said that 20 years ago, with diesel powered generation. I think, with these people leading the way, we’re in good hands.”

Five Nations Energy Inc. (FNEI) cut the ribbon to officially open the doors to its new offices, barely a kilometre out of Timmins down Highway 655.

“This is another milestone that the communities themselves have been able to accomplish,” said company president Mike Metatawabin. “This building marks another milestone where we’ve come a long way in a very short time. The building itself will house our operations team and include the maintenance and carry out the work that’s required.”

FNEI is owned by the three communities of Fort Albany, Kashechewan and Attawapiskat, along with the associated members of Taykwa Tagamou and Moose Cree First Nations. It is a transmission company servicing the three coastal communities, as well as DeBeers Canada and its nearby mining operations.

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We’re connected to the grid now,” said Metatawabin. “We started the process back in 1996 when the founding members formed Five Nations Energy. From then onward, we slugged away, negotiating with industry and with government for the funds.

“It’s been a long process. The community of Fort Albany was lit up back in 2000. So it’s been in an ongoing process and it hasn’t been very easy.”

Among those marking the occasion at the new $5 million building were Chief Norman Hardisty from Moose Cree, Chief Derek Stephen of Kashechewan, Chief Theresa Spence of Attawapiskat, Chief Rex Knapaysweet of Fort Albany and Chief Linda Job of Taykwa Tagamou.
CreeWest First Nation Education Award

Dear Student,

The CreeWest First Nation Education Award was launched to assist First Nation students to complete post-secondary education, and provide an opportunity for CreeWest to strengthen its relationship with our shareholder communities. Selected students are awarded up to $500 to use towards tuition, textbooks, supplies and living expenses.

We award four scholarships annually for students majoring in disciplines related to Business Administration, Marketing, Accounting, Commerce, and Aviation. One scholarship is awarded to each of our four First Nation shareholder communities (Attawapiskat, Fort Albany, Kashechewan, and Peawanuck) on an annual basis.

Who is eligible?

You are eligible to apply to the CreeWest First Nation Education Award Program if you meet these criteria:

- You are a member of the Attawapiskat, Fort Albany, Kashechewan, or Weenusk First Nations
- You have been accepted to or are currently attending an accredited post-secondary institution in Canada
- You maintain a full course load that leads to a recognized degree, certificate or diploma
- You require financial assistance to pursue your education

If you are already receiving partial funding from other sources, you may still apply to the CreeWest First Nation Education Award to cover additional educational expenses.

How to apply

Please send your completed application by January 17th for the Winter Semester to the address below. Do not submit more than one application per year.

Postal Mail
CreeWest GP Inc.
P.O. Box 248
Moose Factory, ON
P0L 1W0

Fax
You may fax your application to (705) 268-2737. Faxed applications must be followed up with an original by postal mail.

E-mail
Applicants may submit their application by e-mail. However, it is incumbent upon the applicant to ensure receipt of their application.

Applications can be addressed to: tanya.small@creewest.ca

www.creewest.ca
CreeWest is a proud Sponsor of the Peetaback Academy Fort Albany High School Girls Basketball Team. They are attended the North East Ontario Athletic Association (NEOAA) in November and with success their as a regional qualifier, it moves them to the Federation of School Athletic Association (OFSAA) all Provincial Tournament.

**Good Luck Girls!**

CreeWest also a proud sponsor of the Attawapiskat Minor Hockey Association (AMHA)

**Best Wishes & Good Luck to all in the 2013/2014 Season**

Do you have photos, stories or community announcements you would like to share? We’d be happy to display them in our next issue. Please send your photos or stories to: tanya.small@creewest.ca

**Advertising Opportunity**

Would you like to advertise your business in our next issue? Please contact our office for details.
“Kids Helping Kids”

On November 18, 2013, the Thunder Bay Boys and Girls Club and through its Executive Director Albert Aiello has graciously donated surplus sports equipment to CreeWest to be sent up north to our ownership communities of Weenusk, Attawapiskat, Fort Albany and Kashechewan for the schools and youth programs.

The sports equipment received is a mixture of items ranging from hockey equipment, baseball equipment, soccer balls & shoes, basketballs, volleyballs, dodge balls, goalie equipment, etc. A lot of these items are brand new or close to being new.

CreeWest Chief Executive Officer Ron Basaraba received assistance from some of the boys and girls as they load his pick up truck (see left) with the equipment. The items filled the back of the truck along with the cab of the truck. They were very interested on where all these items were going and their response was “COOL”

In the next little while, Ron will sort out all the equipment and evenly divide the equipment between the communities. Once that is complete it will all be brought to Timmins and dropped off at Air Creebec Cargo (our Joint Venture Partner). From there it will be sent up to the communities on space available donated by Air CreeBec.

The Thunder Bay Boys and Girls Club end up with an overabundance of equipment each year and at times ends up in storage and just be a waste, says Albert Aiello. We are very excited that this surplus of sports equipment will go to First Nation communities and assist the schools and their Youth programs. Its Kids Helping Kids and it’s a good feeling.

CreeWest receives funding for asset purchase

CreeWest applied for funding with Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund (NADF) to link a vision into reality. The funding was part of a detailed business plan & process to see CreeWest finalize and close a deal on its most recent acquisitions at the Sioux Lookout Airport. October 18, 2013 CreeWest closed the deal on a hangar facility, Navajo Chieftain aircraft and the Shares of Northern Skies Air Service.

Through our own capital, NADF and commercial banking, CreeWest invested 1.3 million dollars into our aviation endeavours. The assistance of NADF goes towards the asset purchase of the hangar facility and lease hold improvements such as a newly renovated passenger lobby and crew rest area at the Sioux Lookout based hangar.

“This was a very long and very detailed process working with Wakenagun Community Futures Development Corporation and Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund, but the end result is we accomplished what we set out for and overcame many hurdles to get there with assistance from NADF” says Ron Basaraba. We are very pleased and excited to be moving forward and without the support and assistance from NADF, Wakenagun, our Board of Directors and Chief’s from our ownership communities, this may not have been possible. We have a lot of work ahead of us as we move forward in the aviation sector. These are exciting times and we thank NADF for their assistance and guidance through this process. Meegwetch!
CreeWest Board of Directors

CreeWest is governed by a four-member Board of Directors. Mr. Mike Fox, representing the Weenusk First Nation, Hosea Wesley representing the Kashechewan First Nation and Michael Knapaysweet representing the Fort Albany First Nation. The Board of Director representing Attawapiskat First Nation is currently vacant. Directors serve at the pleasure of their respective First Nation shareholder.

In addition, the Board of Directors appointed Mr. Pat Chilton & most recently Mr. Mike Metatawabin as advisors to the Board.

CreeWest Staff

In July 2012, Mr. Ron Basaraba joined the CreeWest team as the Chief Executive Officer. Tanya Small has been employed with CreeWest since December 2007 as the Finance & Administrative Officer.

Ron Basaraba—ron.basaraba@creewest.ca
Tanya Small—tanya.small@creewest.ca

Season’s Greetings with all good wishes for the New Year!

From the Board of Directors, Board of Advisors and Staff at CreeWest

Happy Holidays