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DESIKA

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Fort McKay First Nation, Mikisew Cree First Nation, and Advisian Worley Group announce new environmental and engineering consulting partnership

Feb 16, 2023 – Mikisew Advisian Environmental, a partnership between Mikisew Group, the business entity of the Mikisew Cree First Nation (MCFN) and Advisian, Worley’s consulting business, is happy to announce the sale of a 25% interest in the company to Fort McKay First Nation (FMFN).

The newly formed partnership will be called Desika LP. Desika will provide environmental services in the Athabasca Region such as: water, geoscience, decommissioning and restoration. Desika's consulting work will provide clients with science-based technical solutions, uniquely influenced by Indigenous knowledge and connection to the land.

The investment is another step towards FMFN’s economic diversification strategy that focuses on creating a sustainable economy for future generations. FMFN is committed to business interests that align with the Nation’s traditional values, while also supporting new employment opportunities, enhancing community and cultural initiatives, and environmental sustainability.

“We are pleased to have purchased a 25% stake in Desika and are excited to be working alongside Mikisew Cree First Nation and Advisian Worley Group. Fort McKay First Nation has put a lot of focus on creating a long-term business strategy that will create economic sustainability for future generations. Working alongside a group of people who share this sentiment for their own Nation and group is vital for our success,” said Chief Mel Grandjamb, Fort McKay First Nation.

For Mikisew Group, the transaction further strengthens and scales its ability to provide engineering and environmental consulting services across air, water, and land on traditional territories and beyond.

“Mikisew Cree First Nation is committed to growing those businesses in our portfolio which not only create long-term economic benefit for the Nation but also help to protect our land and environment for generations to come. Indigenous wisdom has a huge role to play in environmental strategy and we welcome our partners at Fort McKay First Nation to the table,” said Chief Billy-Joe Tuccaro, Mikisew Cree First Nation.

For Advisian, Worley Group, the growth of the partnership helps pave the way for environmental sustainability, reconciliation, and economic prosperity. As well as allowing it to better serve clients in the Fort McMurray region and beyond.

“We recognize that working with the traditional caretakers of the land where our people and our clients work and play is important to the future of our people and the planet. We’ve had some great success through our partnership with the Mikisew Group. Now, with the welcome addition of the Fort McKay First Nation, we have more opportunities to learn from one another, grow together, and deliver great sustainable outcomes to our clients in the Athabasca region,” said Steven Whittall, Senior Vice President, Advisian.

The name, Desika, reflects the coming together of Mikisew Group, Fort McKay First Nation, and Advisian. Desika is a combination of the word *des* which is Dene for Water and *minosihtahk* the Cree word for restore. The name represents a journey towards reconciliation through environmental sustainability.

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Fort McKay First Nation

Fort McKay First Nation (FMFN) is located 60 kilometres north of Fort McMurray, on the shores of the Athabasca River. The Nation manages a business portfolio of 14 as an income-focused private equity fund. Income is generated from shareholder distributions in the portfolio companies, as well as debt instruments which the Nation provides to targeted investments. The income that the Nation generates from its private equity arm is used to pay for the costs of programs and services such as education and health care in the community of Fort McKay. Only 5-10% of FMFN's annual operating budget comes from federal or provincial governments.

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Mikisew Group

Based in Fort McMurray, Alberta, Mikisew Group is the business entity of the Mikisew Cree First Nation. Since 1991, Mikisew Group has been a leading oil sands partner specializing in site services, maintenance, logistics and construction.

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Advisian and the Worley Group

Advisian is Worley's global consulting business providing strategic advice integrated with deep technical expertise. Worley is a global company headquartered in Australia and our purpose is delivering a more sustainable world. Worley is a leading global provider of professional project and asset services in the energy, chemicals, and resources sectors. As a knowledge-based service provider, we use our knowledge and capabilities to support our customers to reduce their emissions and move towards a low-carbon future.

Worley Limited is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX: WOR).

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