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## Media Release

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### WASAYA GROUP INC. (WGI) HOLDS FUNDRAISING BANQUET FOR CT SCANNER PURCHASE

**Dec 3, 2008 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** *Wasaya Group Inc. is holding their second annual Fundraising Dinner in support of acquiring a CT Scanner for the new Sioux Lookout District hospital. The new hospital currently under construction is called the Meno Ya Win Health Centre (MHC). The Health Centre is providing the space and annual operation costs in anticipation of receiving the CT Scanner Unit which is projected to cost about \$1.85 million. So far the Campaign sits at \$832,000 with the bulk of the donations and pledges coming from the Wasaya Group of Companies. The Fundraising event will take place tonight at the Ontario Metis Nations Hall in Thunder Bay. Wasaya Group hopes the Campaign will break the \$1 million milestone through a combination of donations and pledges received during the evening's fundraiser.*

Thunder Bay, Ont. – It all started one day when (the late) Grace Teskey, a terminally ill cancer patient from Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI) asked WGI President and CEO, Tom Kamenawatamin, if there was anything “Wasaya” would be able to do to help bring a CT Scanner Unit to Sioux Lookout. At the time patients arriving in Sioux Lookout for medical assessment from remote communities faced further travel and economic and physical hardship if they were referred to Winnipeg or Kenora for a CT Scan. Also many CT scans did not take place as they would have if a CT Unit was readily available. CT Scanners can greatly aid in the early detection of diseases such as cancer or in the diagnoses of time sensitive head and trauma injuries.

Mr. Kamenawatamin took the request to the Chiefs of the Wasaya Communities and received the mandate to pursue the request. The project developed with various meetings with the MHC Foundation and Mr. Kamenawatamin & Stanley Sainnawap of WGI were added to the MHC Foundation Board. Further meetings with First Nation's leaders and business partners led to the May 2007 WGI contribution of \$525,000 towards the CT Unit. Other First Nation communities have become active with fundraising activities and although the communities are generally considered economically disadvantaged, the spirit and resolve of these communities has proved strong combining to bring the current total to \$832,000 towards the \$1.85 million target.

WGI published a 32 page CT Scanner Project booklet last year which highlights the Fundraising Campaign's progress to date and makes this available through its [www.wasayagroup.com](http://www.wasayagroup.com) website in addition to online pledge forms and other fundraising reports and updates. Wasaya Group encourages businesses to take notice of the Campaign, particularly those who derive a significant percentage of business from First Nations.

WGI represents ten First Nations shareholder communities in Northern Ontario and is committed to acquiring significant interest in viable businesses important to First Nation people for the purpose of generating economic benefits and returns while maintaining cultural principles and value. Wasaya Group Inc. is the parent Company of Wasaya Petroleum LP, Wasaya Airways LP, Metal Ahnokeewin LP, Wasaya Prop Shop LP, Wascan Terminals Inc. In addition WGI operates two non-profit entities Wasaya Community Economic Development Corporation and Wasaya Weecheewaywin Inc. and is a shareholder of the Landmark Inn and Bamaji Air Inc.

For information about the CT Scanner Campaign please contact: Tom Kamenawatamin, President & CEO WGI (807) 475-9576 or Eric Kudaka, Policy & Projects, WGI (807) 473-2524



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**About Wasaya Group Inc.:** Wasaya Group Inc is owned by the ten First Nations of: Bearskin Lake First Nation; Kasabonika Lake First Nation; Kingfisher Lake First Nation; Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug; Nibinamik First Nation; Wapekeka First Nation; Wunnumin Lake First Nation; Muskrat Dam First Nation; Pikangikum First Nation; Keewaywin First Nation. Wasaya Group Inc. is in its 20<sup>th</sup> year of business and is actively pursuing new partnerships and viable economic opportunities that will generate economic benefits and returns while maintaining cultural principles and value.