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## Media Release

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### **WASAYA GROUP INC. (WGI) AND LAKEHEAD MARINE & INDUSTRIAL CELEBRATE NEW VENTURE “METAL AHNOKEEWIN” WITH RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY DURING WGI BANQUET IN THUNDER BAY**

**Dec 3, 2008 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** *Wasaya Group Inc. and Lakehead Marine & Industrial Inc. will be celebrating the opening of “Metal Ahnokeewin LP” with a ribbon Cutting Ceremony during the Wasaya Group Inc. Banquet and Fundraising Event being held at the Metis Nation Hall in Thunder Bay Wednesday Dec. 3, 2008.*

**Thunder Bay, Ont.** – The new company, **Metal Ahnokeewin LP** is located at the Great Lakes Marine & Industrial/Metal Ahnokeewin complex 401 Shipyard Drive in Thunder Bay. **Metal Ahnokeewin LP** was established to market products and services related to metal fabrication. The name “**Metal Ahnokeewin**” is a combination of English and Oji-Cree meaning “Metal Works”. **Metal Ahnokeewin LP** combines the industrial facilities and technical know-how of **Lakehead Marine & Industrial Inc.**, an **Upper Lakes Group** company, and the **Wasaya Group’s** market knowledge of aboriginal and northern communities. With 51% ownership held by the **Wasaya Group Inc.**, **Metal Ahnokeewin LP** is an aboriginal-owned company. The first project undertaken Metal Ahnokeewin is the fabrication of Bulk Fuel Storage Tanks. These tanks will be used in tank farms and other fuel storage applications.

The business opportunity for **Metal Ahnokeewin LP** is based upon the recognized need for metal products to serve the infrastructure and industrial requirements in First Nations, mining operations, energy extraction activities, electricity infrastructure and forestry services throughout Northern Ontario and other areas of Canada. While serving the needs of the northern communities provides the initial impetus for the partnership, **Metal Ahnokeewin LP** will be successful in the long-term by developing a reputation for quality products at competitive prices.

**Lakehead Marine & Industrial Inc. General Manager Steve Allen** says, “I am excited about the new opportunity we have to work with the Wasaya Group in the startup of our new venture “Metal Ahnokeewin”. We have identified existing needs in the Wasaya Group communities and other First Nation communities for products such as Fuel Storage Tanks and other Industrial Metal products.

**WGI President and CEO, Tom Kamenawatamin** says, “Metal Ahnokeewin LP is open for business and ready to take orders for Bulk Fuel Storage tanks which is one of the first products produced by this new Joint Venture Partnership. Our communities are in desperate need for Fuel Tank replacements, expansion, and upgrades. We have recently received certification for one of our tank designs and other models are currently being developed to meet the needs of many First Nations, Nursing Stations, Fuel Dealers, Mining Companies and a variety of other clients. With the capacity to do Heavy Industrial Metal Fabrication, Metal Ahnokeewin is already capable of producing specialty products and performing repairs for other sectors such as the Mining and exploration industry.”

WGI represents ten First Nations 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 Wecheewaywin Inc.

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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.