



COMING SOON IS FINALLY HERE: New Prairie North Co-op Food Store in Melfort Scheduled to Open August 17

Melfort, SK (for immediate release) – A little over 27 months ago Prairie North Co-op and the City of Melfort announced a project that honours the co-operative's commitment to building a legacy – the construction of a new, 25,000 square foot, state-of-the-art Co-op Food Store adjacent to the Stone Gate development. The COMING SOON sign went up and land development began. Today we are thrilled that “coming soon” is finally here!

“We are all pretty excited that the time has come to make this move. On Saturday, August 12, our mall location closed at 6 pm so that the task of moving everything from one location to another could begin”, says Terry Tremblay, general manager for Prairie North Co-op, “the mall location will remain closed during the move that will take four days. If all goes well, we plan to open for business in our new location at 9 am on Thursday, August 17. There is a lot of work to be done but I am confident that we will be ready to open as planned.”

Tremblay goes on to say, “it is an investment in our future as a co-operative. This new build will ensure that Prairie North Co-op grocery customers in Melfort and surrounding area will be able to access our great Co-op products in a new food store that will allow us to leverage new technological advances in the food industry.”

Recognizing that moving the food store from the mall location to the Stone Gate development may have an impact on some, Prairie North Co-op has worked with the City of Melfort to come up with a solution. “In addition to sharing our plans for the move, I am also proud to share that we have finalized the details with the City of Melfort to use the Handi Van as a shuttle service. The van will pick up at 1:00 pm every Tuesday and Thursday at Diefenbaker, stop at the Fields Store entrance of the mall, and transport people to our new food store to do their shopping,” explains Tremblay. “At about 2:00 pm the shuttle will return the way it came. There is no charge for anyone using the service as we will absorb all costs.”

This service will start on Tuesday, August 22. NOTE: Prairie North Co-op will continue to offer delivery service for online and phone in orders for a cost of \$5.00/order and if anyone using the shuttle that has more than couple of bags of groceries, they can request delivery for the same fee.

“Collaboration and co-operation are at the heart of what we do. I would like to thank the City of Melfort for working with us on this,” says Tremblay, “our north star *is making a difference in members' lives*, and this is one way in which we are delivering on that guiding principle. A couple other groups that I would like to personally thank are our people for the work that they have done to get us to this point, the minor football team for helping us move this past weekend, the Prairie North Co-op Board of Directors for their leadership and foresightedness, and our contractor, Kor-Alta, for their great work. There were so many times over the lifespan of this project that I witnessed shining examples of our values – service, integrity, and unity – and for that, I am truly thankful.”

ABOUT PRAIRIE NORTH CO-OP

Prairie North Co-op operates out of 21 locations – from St. Brieux, Spalding and Naicam in the west; to Melfort and Brooksby in the north; and Archerwill and Kelvington in the east. We serve our members with products and services that help build, feed, fuel and grow the communities in which we live and do business.

We take pride in our community involvement and our commitment to providing quality products and services. Prairie North Co-op employs 296 and serves 12,795 members. We continue the tradition of giving back, not only in patronage refunds to our members, but also through financial support to several local organizations. In 2022, sponsorship and donations totalled almost \$154,463 to 223 different organizations in our trading area. Locally invested. Community-minded. Lifetime membership benefits. We are Co-op.

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