

# **Mackinnon TRANSPORT INC.**



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **MacKinnon Transport and Walker Group Join Forces to Expand Service Offerings**

*One of the best good-news stories to hit the trucking industry in 2009  
Acquisition catapults family-operated fleets to stronger position in marketplace*

GUELPH, ON: August 26, 2009 . MacKinnon Transport Inc., one of Canada's 50 Best Managed Companies, announced today it has acquired the St. Thomas, Ontario- based Walker Group of companies, which consists of LE Walker Transport Ltd. and Mid America Freight Systems Ltd. Both companies are major players in the dry van and flatbed marketplaces in North America.

The deal creates a combined entity that will operate out of MacKinnon's head office in Guelph where the company will manage over 1,300 pieces of equipment and employ a workforce of 420 people.

"This deal, which is effective immediately, represents a great opportunity for both companies," said Evan MacKinnon, President and CEO of MacKinnon Transport Inc. "Our combined organization will be well positioned from an equipment and personnel standpoint. At a time when many trucking companies are economically challenged we are fiscally robust and poised to respond quickly as the economy rebounds."

The decision to combine the two fleets is welcomed by leaders of both companies who say the move positions them to streamline service delivery and exercise opportunities for increased business growth. The new entity will also benefit from synergy created by their similar corporate cultures which have derived from three generations of family ownership and management.

"We are merging the best business practices of the Walker Group and MacKinnon Transport," said Walker Group President Julie Tanguay. "While both companies are recognized leaders in the dry van and flatbed markets, our customer base is quite diversified with little duplication. We are strategically positioned to respond rapidly to changing markets and customer requirements."

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Inking the deal means MacKinnon and Tanguay become business partners through their joint ownership of the combined entity. Julie and I share common business values and ethics, said MacKinnon, and our leadership talents complement each other extremely well. We're very excited about what our joint effort will be able to produce.

MacKinnon will remain as President and CEO of the organization, which will continue to operate as MacKinnon Transport Inc. Tanguay will take on the newly created role of Executive Vice-President Sales, and will head up sales efforts for the combined fleet from the company's head office in Guelph.

MacKinnon credits his company's long-standing relationship with Bank of Montreal (BMO) for helping to make the acquisition possible. MacKinnon's 60-plus year relationship with BMO was certainly a benefit considering the current view that most financial institutions have of our industry, he said.

**MacKinnon Transport Inc.** is a truckload carrier offering warehousing and logistics services, servicing points throughout North America. The company, a third generation family-owned business in its 81<sup>st</sup> year, is a Platinum Member Canada's 50 Best Managed Companies, a seven-time winner of the Truckload Carriers Association Fleet Safety Award, and recognized six consecutive years by Canadian Transportation & Logistics as a Carrier of Choice.

**Walker Group** is the parent company of LE Walker Transport Ltd., also a third generation family owned company, which has been in operation for 62 years. LE Walker Transport is a truckload dry van carrier offering services throughout North America, while Mid America Freight Systems is Walker Group's flatbed operation. Walker Group is led by Julie Tanguay who is the chairperson of the Ontario Trucking Association; she is the first woman to hold this position in the association's 83 year history.

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#### **Note to Editors:**

**Media Availability** . Walker Group's Julie Tanguay and MacKinnon Transport Inc.'s Evan MacKinnon will be available for interviews.

**Photographs** - Publicity photos of business partners Julie Tanguay and Evan MacKinnon (posed together) are also available upon request.