It is with great sadness Exchange Income Corporation (EIC) acknowledges the passing of Wayne McLeod, President and Chief Executive Officer of Keewatin Air LP.

A true aviation pioneer in Canada’s North, Wayne started his journey with Keewatin Air in 1997, operating King Air aircraft out of the company’s Rankin Inlet base before transitioning to the Learjet Air Ambulance program. After briefly leaving Keewatin Air for a series of positions with the Manitoba Government Air Services Branch, Wayne returned to Keewatin Air in 2002 to assume the role of Chief Pilot. Following the acquisition of Keewatin Air by EIC, Wayne assumed the role of President and CEO for the company.

Wayne’s management of Keewatin Air’s evolution as a world-class provider of Air Ambulance Services was built on the passion he showed every day for the delivery of vital medical services to the residents of Canada’s North. His belief in the importance of Keewatin Air’s vision, to distinguish the company as a leader in safe, high quality aeromedical service and air transport through a total commitment to improving service, listening to customer needs, and maintaining an uncompromising integrity, was apparent in every decision he made.

A seasoned aviator with a deep love for the Canadian Arctic and the people who call it home, Wayne’s unwavering dedication to the communities Keewatin Air serves is well known. Whether lending his time as a stand-in for Santa Claus at community events, spearheading an initiative offering free CPR training to the residents of Nunavut, or during his many years working with the Northern Air Transport Association to build aviation capacity in Canada’s North, Wayne’s commitment to making positive contributions was always personal and heartfelt.

To commemorate Wayne’s tremendous contributions to Keewatin Air, we have secured the registration C-FDWM and will operate one of our medevac aircraft in honour of Wayne’s memory.

Wayne was also known by his EIC colleagues for his incredible mentorship and team spirit. Never hesitant to pitch in and help where there was need, Wayne’s time at EIC is defined by the number of stories we all share about his selfless nature, his good humour and his commitment to getting the job done. In one particularly notable instance exemplifying his dedication to our organization, Wayne jumped in at a moment’s notice to personally travel to Iqaluit and deliver vital documents to the Government of Nunavut on behalf of another EIC subsidiary. That was Wayne, always the first to answer the call when his colleagues needed him.

Every year, we present the CEO of one of our subsidiary companies with our President’s Award – the highest recognition of commitment and contribution to EIC. Wayne won this coveted award in 2018, by very popular consensus, as a recognition of his unquestioned willingness to go above and beyond in his efforts on behalf of the company. To honour his tremendous legacy and celebrate his life, that award will now be known as the Wayne McLeod Award. An artist has been commissioned to design a commemoration that celebrates his place of honour in the history of our organization while reflecting the spirit in which the award is given.

EIC asks that you keep Wayne’s family in your thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

Wayne’s obituary may be viewed at: www.mackenziefh.com