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Pictures Attached

Earthcycle™ Sustainable Packaging Solution Finalist in Fruit Attraction Innovation Hub Awards *Earthcycle Blueberry Packaging competing in Sustainability and Commitment Actions category*

HANTSPORT, NS (Sept 28th, 2023) – CKF Inc., a prominent global leader specializing in the design and North American manufacturing of sustainable packaging solutions, proudly announces its status as one of the five distinguished finalists for the Fruit Attraction Innovation Hub Award for Sustainability and Commitment. CKF's submission for consideration is the EC 652, a successful 18 oz top-seal blueberry punnet that has been increasingly making its presence felt in major North American big-box retailers.

Shannon Boase, Senior Director of New Market Development, expresses the company's elation: "We are honored to receive recognition from our industry peers worldwide, acknowledging our groundbreaking Earthcycle material innovation, and, in particular, our innovative blueberry packaging."

The blueberry packaging in question is not only certified as home compostable and recyclable but also bears the FSC certification. In April 2023, a pivotal supply chain and retail trial was conducted in collaboration with Costco Canada and The Fruitist. Based on positive feedback from consumers and its solid performance within the supply chain, the packaging was subsequently rolled out in July. It reached a wider network of blueberry packers, becoming readily available throughout Canada and select stores in the US Pacific Northwest in partnership with Townsend Farms.

The new Earthcycle-branded EC 652 is designed as an 18 oz top-seal blueberry punnet, engineered to seamlessly integrate into automated packing lines equipped with existing top-seal tooling. In the process of bringing this innovative package to market, CKF approached the challenge with a holistic perspective, collaborating closely with key players throughout the supply chain. Shannon Boase highlights this approach: "We engaged in partnerships with top-seal, denester, and flexible film companies, all with the shared objective of matching or even surpassing PET pack speeds using Earthcycle punnets. This value-added collaboration with our packing clients has yielded positive outcomes, enabling us to meet our pack speed objectives."

CKF will be showcasing the EC 652, alongside its comprehensive range of Earthcycle packaging solutions for produce, at the upcoming Fruit Attraction event in Madrid, at Booth 8B07B.

About CKF Inc.

CKF Inc. is a diversified Canadian-owned manufacturer that proudly offers a wide range of moulded pulp, foam, and PET products to meet the specific demands of retail consumers, food service operators and the packaging industry. CKF is a member of the Scotia Investments Family of Companies, whose core values include long-term stewardship, environmental integrity, and community well-being.

R.A. Jodrey established Canadian Keyes Fibre Company Limited in the summer of 1933, during the worst of the Great Depression years. The Company began with a single plant in Hantsport, NS, manufacturing pie plates and cake circles for bakeries. CKF has experienced uninterrupted growth since its establishment and now operates five plants in Canada—Hantsport, NS., Rexdale, Ont., three in BC: Langley and Delta, and two plants in the US in Clinton, IA and El Paso, TX—employing 1,000 people. Nationally recognized brand Royal Chinet® is one of CKF's best known products and stands as a symbol for many Canadians —of family, friends, and joyous occasions.

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