

## Great West Vans – Continued

The company had been in business in Canada for over 35 years when Debraga and his wife Carrie bought the company in 2012 and later added the trailer line.

Equipment and inventory shipments from Canada began last month with the goal of beginning assembly in early June. The company will occupy a building owned by the City of Winfield, which is currently being expanded to accommodate a new office and showroom addition, along with paint and fiberglass booths. The C3 Region will gain a new business creating 40 jobs immediately, with plans to increase to 90 employees. Plans also include the addition of a larger Class B+ motorhome once the new facility and production are fully established. Several new families will also be relocating with the company from Winnipeg, who are eager to buy homes and enjoy the hospitable Sunny South. C3 President David Thornell learned of this company's interest while attending an RV tradeshow in Louisville, Kentucky in December, with the initial visit to the region in February of this year. The Debragas' discovered an area that has an established tradition in supporting companies that make manufactured housing, so this is simply an extension of our workforce's proven ability to make quality homes on wheels. However, in this case, their main product line will include engines and many creature comforts to take their customers across North America in style. We are excited to welcome this new company, its owners and key executives to Alabama, to Marion County (one of three counties in the C3 Northwest Alabama region), and to Winfield, who has been GREAT in supporting and welcoming this company by jumping through hoops that are necessary, yet not so common, since it is not often that you relocate an entire business (and individuals) from one country to another.

Debraga stated "We are convinced that there is an excellent opportunity for us to accelerate the continued growth of our company in Winfield. We know that we will see significant savings in our fixed costs by working in the U.S., beginning with reduced shipping costs, as 95% of our sales are to U.S. customers. This allows for us to not only be closer to buyers, but also to our dealers, as the majority are located in the Southeast U.S. We thank C3 for helping us every step of the way in arriving at this decision that we believe will lead to long-term success for our company."