



October 24, 2001

Fraser Basin Council Tours Lower Fraser

*Vancouver, BC.....*The Board of Directors of the Fraser Basin Council (FBC) toured the lower Fraser River today by boat as part of its quest to know and understand the Fraser River and its state of sustainability.

Board members explored many of the major issues pertaining to the stretch of the river from the mouth of the north arm to the Rosedale Agassiz Bridge, and the valley through which it flows. This section of the Fraser has always been a significant centre of human settlement, and cultural and economic activity. It is the traditional home of the Halkomelem speaking First Nation who has been sustained by this region for thousands of years. In 1808 Simon Fraser travelled through the valley. Fur traders soon followed, leading to the establishment in 1827 of a fur trading post at Fort Langley. This trading centre then seeded a significant commercial fishery and agricultural development in the region. The region has continued to grow and diversify to this day. Our journey along the river will include both urban and rural settings, facilitating our understanding of both the "Working River" and the "Natural Living River". Some points of interest discussed by Council Directors included:

- ❑ Local ecology, geology, geography and hydrology
- ❑ First Nations history and current issues
- ❑ Modern history including industrial, residential, and agricultural development
- ❑ Fish and fisheries management
- ❑ Flood hazard management
- ❑ Debris management
- ❑ Water quality

The Fraser Basin Council, a non-profit organization established in 1997, brings people together to stimulate dialogue, find common ground, and overcome conflict to advance social, economic, and environmental sustainability in the Fraser River Basin. The Council is made up of individuals from throughout the Fraser Basin, and includes representatives from federal, provincial, local and First Nations' governments. Home to 2.7 million people, the Fraser Basin covers approximately one quarter of BC in land area and produces 80% of BC's provincial economic output. See website - www.fraserbasin.bc.ca

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