



Lt.-Governor Iona Campagnolo and Former Deputy Prime Minister Herb Gray Confirmed for "State of the Fraser Basin" Conference, January 23-25

Vancouver, BC (December 10, 2002): Lieutenant-Governor Iona Campagnolo, and Herb Gray, former Deputy Prime Minister of Canada, are set to tackle leadership, business and sustainability issues at the upcoming "**State of the Fraser Basin**" conference and workshop being organized by the Fraser Basin Council, January 23-25, 2003.

Drawing upon his 40 years at the centre of Canadian politics, Gray's presentation at the opening banquet on January 23 will focus on the new kinds of leadership that are needed to ensure a sustainable region. Campagnolo will present the 2002 Sustainability Awards, January 25, which recognize achievements of individuals and organizations from all parts of the Fraser Basin, a region that stretches from the Rockies to Richmond and covers more than one quarter of the province.

Commenting on the conference, Fraser Basin Council Chair, Jack Blaney, said the Basin is at a crossroads as the region faces its toughest issues ever. "Today we are at a critical turning point. In the Fraser Basin and in our adjoining coastal zones, we have the most magnificent piece of real estate on earth - an unparalleled asset we must enhance and protect.

"But if we are to build a robust and enduring economy, we must concurrently address global climate change, protect our fragile ecosystems and improve the quality of the water we drink and the air we breathe. We must also bridge the gap between the urban and rural regions, and ensure that the decisions we make today do not compromise the quality of life for future generations.

"For business, government and society at large, these are tough issues. We need new ways of dealing with them. Fundamentally, amongst all groups, we need to create a better sense of trust and strong, social capital. Long term solutions that will achieve a truly sustainable future require a new kind of leadership. This is what our conference will deliver. I'm delighted that Herb Gray and Iona Campagnolo are joining us. Their experience, leadership and understanding of the issues will go a long way to ensuring that January's conference and workshop hit close to home."

Former Fraser Basin Council Chair Iona Campagnolo was appointed BC Lieutenant-Governor in September, 2001. Prior to chairing the Fraser Basin Council, Her Honour's career included broadcasting and federal politics where she was a Member of Parliament and cabinet minister. Herb Gray was elected thirteen times to the House of Commons and served in variety of cabinet positions, including Deputy Prime Minister and Solicitor General. Today, Gray is the Canadian Chair of the International Joint Commission, an organization that oversees trans-boundary water and air issues between Canada and the USA.

The State of the Fraser Basin Conference will focus on the current state of economic, social and environmental sustainability across the Fraser Basin. The advance workshop, January 23, will provide practical tools and techniques for businesses, community groups and public sector staff who are struggling with policies and programs aimed at ensuring a vibrant economy, healthy environment and social well-being. A groundbreaking indicator report on the Fraser Basin State of Sustainability will also be released at the Conference.

Contact: Raymond McAllister, Director of Communications
Email: rmcallister@fraserbasin.bc.ca

604-488-5350 (Tel)
604-488-5351 (Fax)

**Register On-line for the Conference & Workshop: www.fraserbasin.bc.ca
Take advantage of the Early Bird Rate! Deadline is December 16, 2002.**