



For Immediate Release - December 19, 2002

BC Climate Exchange promotes learning about climate change

Vancouver, BC: The Fraser Basin Council is pleased to announce the launch of **BC Climate Exchange**, a new initiative to support the work of business, government and community organizations engaged in public education and outreach on climate change.

BC Climate Exchange promotes learning about climate change by improving access to educational resources and providing skills training for organizations that are developing education and outreach programs. A new website (www.BCClimateExchange.ca) provides access to a wide variety of online case studies, brochures, workshops and resource people. Organizations and individuals with resources and tools on climate change are encouraged to go to the site and add their information.

"The Fraser Basin Council sees this as an opportunity to bring organizations together to deliver effective public education and outreach on climate change, its impacts and solutions", said Jack Blaney, Chair of the Fraser Basin Council. "As advocates for sustainability, the Council wants to see climate change connected to the issues that we can all agree on – social well-being, a vibrant economy and a healthy environment."

"British Columbians are concerned about climate change, and need to understand how it is relevant to them," BC Water, Land and Air Protection Minister Joyce Murray said. "The BC Climate Exchange will ensure that organizations in BC deliver information on climate change to the BC public in a coordinated and cost-effective way."

"We've said many times that meeting the challenge of climate change will require a concerted effort from each of us – governments, industry and individual Canadians. The BC Climate Exchange is a great example of that kind of partnership in action," said the Honourable David Anderson, Minister of the Environment.

"Building awareness and understanding of climate change is essential," said Natural Resources Minister Herb Dhaliwal. "The more Canadians know, the more they will become part of the solution. The BC Climate Exchange can help to promote learning about the climate change opportunities of made-in-BC technology and knowledge."

The BC Climate Exchange is coordinated by the Fraser Basin Council, and is supported by a funding partnership including the Government of Canada (Climate Change Action Fund), the Province of British Columbia, the Fraser Basin Council and the Canadian Institute for Climate Studies.

State of the Fraser Basin Conference and Workshop

Presented by the Fraser Basin Council, the State of the Fraser Basin Conference (January 24-25, 2003) and Workshop (January 23) are set to tackle the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the Basin and the new kinds of leadership that are needed. A groundbreaking indicator report on the Fraser Basin State of Sustainability will be released at the event. Climate change will be a major topic of discussion at the Conference and in the indicator report.

Dates: January 23 - 25, 2003

Location: Vancouver Airport Conference Resort, Richmond BC

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE DETAILS ON THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM:

LOG ON: <http://www.fraserbasin.bc.ca> OR CALL: 604-683-7718

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The Fraser Basin Council brings people together to find solutions to advance social, economic, and environmental sustainability in the Fraser River Basin. The Council includes individuals from throughout the Fraser Basin, with representatives from federal, provincial, local and First Nations' governments, as well as the private sector and civil society. Home to 2.7 million people, the Fraser Basin covers approximately one quarter the province, supports diverse ecosystems and produces 80% of BC's economic activity.

See our website for more information: www.fraserbasin.bc.ca

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