

**THE FRASER RIVER BASIN'S MEDICAL CHECK-UP:
DON'T MISS THE CONFERENCE AND THE RELEASE OF THE NEW
STATE OF THE FRASER BASIN REPORT**

For Immediate Release – January 17, 2003

Vancouver, BC: 300 participants have already registered for the upcoming “**State of the Fraser Basin Conference**”, January 23-25 where the Fraser Basin Council will launch its groundbreaking **State of the Fraser Basin Report**. The report is the equivalent of a medical check-up for a California-size region of British Columbia that stretches from the Rockies to Richmond. The Fraser River Basin accounts for 80 per cent of BC's economy, is home to two-thirds of BC's population, and is an area of tremendous natural beauty and diversity.

The non-profit, non-partisan **Fraser Basin Council**, chaired by former Simon Fraser University President Jack Blaney, is convening the conference to bring together community and business leaders, politicians, environmentalists and other non-governmental organizations to review the report and apply its 16 sustainability indicators to create a more sustainable future for the Basin.

From population trends, to water and air quality, climate change, business trends, endangered species, agriculture, forestry, and preparing for the next great Fraser River Flood, the report and conference tackle today's most topical issues in an effort to set priorities for effective action throughout the Basin. Other conference topics include the gaps between urban and rural communities, the impact of the Mountain Pine Beetle as it eats its way into the economy of BC's interior, and the general health of people living in the Basin.

The **Conference (January 24 and 25)** and **Advance Workshop (January 23)** feature speakers from small and large businesses, community and environmental organizations, and all four orders of government.

Conference Opening Banquet - Thursday, January 23 - 6:30 pm

An unforgettable evening featuring former Deputy Prime Minister Herb Gray and adventurer and raconteur Bruce Kirkby.

Fraser Basin Sustainability Awards - Saturday, January 25 - Noon

Join Lt.-Gov. Iona Campagnolo and Jack Blaney as they honour outstanding organizations from all parts of the Fraser Basin.

STATE OF FRASER BASIN CONFERENCE & ADVANCE WORKSHOP

WHEN: January 23 - 25, 2003

WHERE: Vancouver Airport Conference Resort, Richmond BC

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE DETAILS ON THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM:

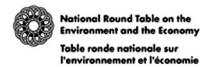
LOG ON: <<http://www.fraserbasin.bc.ca>> **OR CALL:** 604-683-7718

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**Conference
Sponsors**



Municipal Finance Authority



Vancouver Foundation

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Weyerhaeuser

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Canada

Industry Canada

Environment Canada

Mountain Equipment Co-op

Thrifty Foods

Teck Cominco

Fraser Port Authority

North Fraser Port Authority

KPMG

Hot topics at the Conference and in the Report include:

- The general health of the Basin: How's the patient doing?
- Population trends: high growth in urban areas vs. declining populations in many rural communities.
- The next great Fraser River Flood: What will it cost? How many people are at risk?
- Impact of the Mountain Pine Beetle as it eats into the economy of BC's interior.
- Is our economy becoming more or less diversified?
- Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal relationships: The lack of constructive relationships is causing uncertainty in our economy.
- Global warming: What are the potential effects on our forests, farms and ecosystems?
- Are Fraser Basin salmon stocks increasing or declining?
- How many species are at risk of extinction?
- How safe is our drinking water?
- Is environmental air quality contributing to an increase in respiratory illnesses?
- Are people in the Fraser Basin healthier than they were 10 years ago?
- How serious is the invasion of "noxious weeds"?
- Business and industry: Are they "good corporate citizens"?

Conference speakers and presenters include:

- Jack Blaney, Chair, Fraser Basin Council
- Linda Coady, VP, Pacific, World Wildlife Fund Canada
- Jock Finlayson, VP, Business Council of BC
- Kirsti Iverson, Chair, Grasslands Conservation Council
- Phillip Legg, Director, Policy Development, BC Federation of Labour
- Kim Baird, Chief, Tsawwassen First Nation
- David McGuinty, President & CEO, National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy
- Mark Anielski, President, Anielski Management Inc.
- Stan Hagen, BC Minister of Sustainable Resource Management
- Ed John, Grand Chief, Tl'azt'en Nation and Executive Member, First Nations Summit
- Pat Wallace, President, UBCM

ADVANCE WORKSHOP PROGRAM - Thursday, January 23 - 8:30am- 5:30pm

This "how-to" workshop is for every business and community that's looking at the challenge of sustainability within their own organization. Featuring real life case studies from business, government and communities, the day-long workshop includes practical tools and techniques that deal with complex economic, social and environmental issues.

Advance Workshop speakers include:

Richard Prokopanko, Alcan BC / Dave Mowat, VanCity Savings Credit Union / Martin Goebel, Sustainable Northwest / Johnny Carline, GVRD / Dave Parker, Teck Cominco / Peter Robinson, Mountain Equipment Co-op / Myrna Khan, Canadian Business for Social Responsibility / Mark Jeffrey, Eco-Efficiency Partnership / Lisa Barrett, Mayor, Bowen Island

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