

FAIRFAX
News Release
Stock Symbol: FFH

TORONTO, May 4, 1998

FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 1998
\$000s

	First Quarter	
	<u>Latest</u>	<u>Year Ago</u>
Total revenue	637,107	484,929
Net earnings	52,834	31,913
Net earnings per share	\$4.75	\$3.05

Net earnings for the quarter increased 66% to \$52.8 million from \$31.9 million last year. Net earnings per share for the quarter increased to \$4.75 per share from \$3.05 per share last year.

The earnings improvement in the first quarter was due to greater interest, dividends and capital gains offset by less favourable underwriting results.

There were 11.1 million weighted average shares outstanding in the first quarter of 1998 compared to 10.5 million in 1997.

During the first quarter, Fairfax announced agreements to purchase Crum & Forster Holdings Inc. and two Skandia subsidiaries. These acquisitions are expected to close by the third quarter, and the earnings from these companies to be acquired are therefore not included in the 1998 first quarter earnings of Fairfax.

Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited is a financial services holding company which, through its subsidiaries, is engaged in property, casualty and life insurance and reinsurance, investment management and insurance claims management.

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