

FAIRFAX *News Release*

Stock Symbol: FFH

TORONTO, September 17, 2001

Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited announces that it intends to make a Normal Course Issuer Bid, subject to regulatory approval, for up to 1,000,000 of its subordinate voting shares through the facilities of The Toronto Stock Exchange and in accordance with the by-laws and rules of the Exchange. The shares to be purchased for cancellation represent less than 10% of the public float of the 12,352,118 outstanding subordinate voting shares of Fairfax. This Normal Course Issuer Bid will commence September 20, 2001 and may extend until September 19, 2002.

Fairfax is making this Normal Course Issuer Bid because it believes that in appropriate circumstances its subordinate voting shares represent an attractive investment opportunity and that consequently purchases under the bid will enhance the value of the shares held by the remaining shareholders.

Fairfax purchased none of its subordinate voting shares under its Normal Course Issuer Bid which commenced September 20, 2000 and will terminate on September 19, 2001.

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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