

FAIRFAX *News Release*

Stock Symbol: TSE:FFH

TORONTO, November 30, 2001

FAIRFAX ADVISES OF A.M. BEST RATINGS ACTIONS

Fairfax advises that A.M. Best Co. today affirmed its financial strength rating on Crum and Forster Insurance Group at A- (Excellent) but downgraded the financial strength rating of TIG Insurance Group from A- (Excellent) to B++ (Very Good). While noting TIG's adequate level of capitalization, A.M. Best cited particularly its belief that TIG's turnaround will be protracted. A.M. Best's full news release regarding these ratings entitled "A.M. Best Downgrades Rating of TIG; Affirms Rating of Crum and Forster; Affirms Ratings of Fairfax and its Subsidiaries" can be found on its website, www.ambest.com.

While disappointed by the ratings action relating to TIG, Fairfax believes that various initiatives which are in process should nevertheless allow TIG, with its statutory capital of approximately US\$900 million, to substantially continue to write its desired business.

As recognized by A.M. Best, Fairfax maintains a conservative liquidity position at the holding company, with cash in excess of Cdn\$500 million which is expected to grow to Cdn\$800 million by year-end and significant long established bank lines of credit. Consistent with its long-standing principle to always be soundly financed, Fairfax recently raised Cdn\$250 million in additional equity capital, thereby maintaining its shareholders' equity at over Cdn\$3.2 billion and lowering its net debt to capital to a very conservative 24%, its lowest level since 1993.

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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