

FAIRFAX *News Release*

Stock Symbol: FFH (TSX and NYSE)

TORONTO, July 14, 2003

FAIRFAX COMPLETES U.S. PRIVATE CONVERTIBLE DEBT ISSUE

Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited has today completed its previously announced offering of US\$150 million of 5% convertible senior debentures due July 15, 2023 at an issue price of 100%. This amount does not include a 30-day option granted to the initial purchasers to acquire up to US\$50 million of additional debentures. The debentures were sold on a private placement basis in the United States in reliance upon Rule 144A of the U.S. Securities Act of 1933.

These debentures and the subordinate voting shares issuable upon conversion will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933 or any state securities laws and may not be offered or sold in the United States absent an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act of 1933 and any applicable state securities laws. The debentures and the subordinate voting shares issuable upon conversion will not be qualified for sale under the securities laws of any province or territory of Canada and are not being offered for sale in Canada or to any resident of Canada, or to or for the account of any resident of Canada, except in accordance with applicable Canadian securities laws.

This press release does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any security and shall not constitute an offer, solicitation or sale in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful.

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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