

FAIRFAX *News Release*

Stock Symbol: FFH (TSX and NYSE)

TORONTO, June 16, 2004

FAIRFAX REQUESTS FILING OF REGISTRATION STATEMENT BY ZENITH NATIONAL INSURANCE CORP.

Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited announces that Zenith National Insurance Corp. (NYSE: ZNT), at Fairfax's request, has filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission a registration statement pursuant to which Fairfax will offer 3.1 million shares of the Zenith common stock which it owns in an underwritten public offering. In addition, Fairfax will grant the underwriters an option to purchase up to an additional 400,000 shares of Zenith common stock to cover over-allotments.

Fairfax determined to effect this sale so that its TIG Insurance subsidiary, which as a run-off operation pays claims but earns only minimum premium revenue, could benefit from monetizing its investment holding of 2,966,449 shares of Zenith common stock. The sale of a small additional number of its shares of Zenith common stock will lower its investment to less than 25% of the outstanding shares of Zenith, as a result of which Zenith may be able to lower its deductible under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002. Fairfax has no current intention of selling any of its remaining shares of Zenith common stock following the conclusion of this offering.

A registration statement relating to these securities has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission but has not yet become effective. These securities may not be sold nor may offers to buy be accepted prior to the time the registration statement becomes effective. This press release shall not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy nor shall there be any sale of these securities in any state in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the securities laws of any such state.

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.

-30-

For further information contact: Bradley P. Martin, Vice President, at (416) 367-4941