

Firestorm 2003 – Provincial Review

***Suite 369, 1177 West Hastings,
Vancouver, BC V6E 2K3
TELEPHONE: (604) 660-1178
FACSIMILE: (604) 660-1355***

For Immediate Release
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Filmon Announces Schedule of Public Meetings for Wildfire Review

Vancouver – The Firestorm 2003 Review Team today announced it would be holding public meetings in British Columbia communities affected by this year’s wildfires.

“We are undertaking a comprehensive, independent review of this year’s unprecedented and devastating wildfire situation,” said Gary Filmon, Chair of the Firestorm 2003 Review Team. “As part of this review, we want to ensure people from impacted communities have an opportunity to present their input.”

Public meetings will be held in the following communities:

1. Barriere, Nov. 12th, 2003, 1:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Fall Fair Hall, 677 Barriere Lakes Road
2. Kamloops, Nov. 13th, 2003, 1:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Forster’s Convention Centre, 1250 Roger’s Way
3. Osoyoos, Nov. 24th, 2003, 1:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Senior’s Centre, 17 Park Place
4. Penticton, Nov. 25th, 2003 1:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Trade and Convention Centre, 273 Power Street
5. Kelowna, Nov. 26th and 27th, 2003, 1:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Grand Okanagan Hotel, 1310 Water Street
6. Chase, Nov. 28th, 2003 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Chase Community Hall, 547 Shuswap
7. Cranbrook, Dec. 1st, 2003, 1:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Heritage Inn, 803 Cranbrook Street North
8. Nelson, Dec. 2nd, 2003, 1:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Prestige Inn, 701 Lakeside Drive

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Additional meetings may be added depending on the number of presentations. Those interested in presenting should pre-register by calling (604) 660-1178 or e-mailing Fire.Storm2003@gems6.gov.bc.ca.

Interested parties who are unable to attend a scheduled public meeting are encouraged to send their written submissions either via email or by regular mail to: Firestorm 2003 Provincial Review, Suite 369, 1177 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6E 2K3.

“This is a full and open review which will assess the province’s response to the wildfires, and provide recommendations the British Columbia government can consider in advance of the 2004 fire season,” said Filmon. “I have already received strong input from many stakeholder groups and individual British Columbians. I would encourage those with a view on the matter to send a written submission to our office.”

Filmon, the former Premier of Manitoba, was appointed to review the province’s response to the wildfire situation by British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell on Oct 6th. Filmon is scheduled to present his report to government by Feb 15th 2004.

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Media Contact:
Jim Sproul, Executive Director
Telephone: (604) 660-1178

For more information on the Firestorm 2003 Provincial Review Team and its mandate, visit:
www.2003firestorm.gov.bc.ca.