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NEWS RELEASE

Vicki Burns to lead new Lake Winnipeg Watershed initiative *Project will help foundations determine strategy, best use of resources*

OTTAWA, April 24, 2008 – Community Foundations of Canada today named Vicki Burns as the coordinator of its Foundations in the Lake Winnipeg Watershed initiative, a collaborative effort among community foundations and other funders in the region to determine how philanthropy can help address the crisis in the watershed.

Burns, who was at the helm of the Winnipeg Humane Society for almost 15 years, is best known for her recent efforts to introduce more sustainable and environmentally friendly practices to Manitoba's hog industry. She has also spoken out concerning pesticides and farm animal welfare; she is currently a member of the Animal Advocacy and the Farm Animal Welfare Committees of The Winnipeg Humane Society.

"Vicki's passion for environmental issues and her role as an advocate for all creatures, great and small, will serve her well in this new role," said Monica Patten, President and CEO of Community Foundations of Canada (CFC). "She has a deep understanding of the interconnectedness between our environment and our quality of life and that's what this initiative is all about."

The Lake Winnipeg Watershed initiative is part of Community Foundations of Canada's Environment program which is funded by the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation. Additional funding for the Foundations in the Watershed project comes from the Edmonton Community Foundation, the Thomas Sill Foundation, the Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation and the Winnipeg Foundation.

A number of these and other foundations are already working together to provide funding to the Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium and to develop a public education campaign and website on the crisis in the watershed.

"It's great to see the foundations in this region mobilizing to help affect change in the watershed," said Vicki Burns. "I'm excited by this opportunity to raise public awareness of the crisis we're facing and to help these funders come together to think strategically about the watershed and how they can have a positive, long-term impact on the watershed's health."

About the watershed

Lake Winnipeg is the largest aquatic life support system in Western Canada, sustaining a complex food web and the largest commercial fishery west of the Great Lakes. The lake is linked to a vast area of North America from which it collects precipitation and groundwater. Its watershed covers nearly a million square kilometres stretching from the Rocky Mountain foothills almost to Lake Superior.

This crucial lake and its watershed are under severe stress due to excess nutrients from urbanization, agriculture and economic development. It will take the collective action of all sectors to address the challenges in the Lake Winnipeg Watershed.

Today's announcement builds on a meeting held by foundations in the watershed in October 2006. For copy of the report from that meeting, see:

http://www.cfc-fcc.ca/environment/program_updates_regional.cfm#winnipeg

About Community Foundations of Canada (CFC)

Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) is the national membership organization for the more than 160 community foundations found in cities, towns and rural areas across the country.

Community foundations build and manage permanent endowments to support charities in their area. They use their broad local knowledge to connect donors to the causes and organizations that matter most to them, helping them make a lasting difference in their communities.

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