

For Immediate Release
330-30SRM2002-005
July 17, 2002

Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

TRUSTEE, ADVISERS NAMED TO COAST SUSTAINABILITY FUND

VICTORIA – Eric van Soeren has been chosen as the trustee for a \$35-million trust fund created to address economic impacts of land-use decisions along British Columbia's coast.

Van Soeren, who served as B.C. job protection commissioner until February 2002, was chosen in a competitive, open process based on experience and expertise. He will be assisted by an advisory board representing key interests. Its members are:

- Ken Dyson, past president, Truck Loggers Association.
- John Horning, vice president, International Forest Products.
- Harvey Arcand, secretary treasurer, IWA Canada.
- Bill Harrison, Campbell River city councillor.
- Tim Sheldan, executive director, field services and timber sales, Ministry of Forests.

The Coast Sustainability Trust was created on March 28 to honour commitments made by the previous government a year earlier. A proviso for \$10 million in matching funds by organizations other than the provincial government will bring the total aid package to \$45-million. The funds must be disbursed by March 31, 2007.

The funds will reduce the economic impact of coastal land-use decisions on workers, contractors and local communities. The advisory board will make recommendations on proposals to the trustee, who will make final decisions.

The trust fund is part of a broader coast strategy that includes finalizing coastal and marine plans, economic arrangements with First Nations and protection areas on the Central Coast. Also part of the strategy is eco-based management of resources, following the advice of the Coast Information Team, an independent group of scientists.

More information on the coast strategy can be found at <http://srmrpdwww.env.gov.bc.ca/coastalstrategy/> online.

-30-

This information bulletin and a backgrounder with board member biographies are at www.gov.bc.ca/srm/ online.

Contact: Graham Currie
 Director, Communications
 250 356-2862