

Joint Forum of Financial Market Regulators

Forum conjoint des autorités de réglementation du marché financier

January 28, 2005

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PENSION SUPERVISORY AUTHORITIES

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CANADIAN INSURANCE SERVICES REGULATORY ORGANIZATIONS

Tom Hampton Associat General Manager Alberta Insurance Council Dear Stakeholder,

With the approval of the Canadian Council of Insurance Regulators (CCIR), the Canadian Securities Administrators (CSA) and the Canadian Association of Pension Supervisory Authorities (CAPSA), on behalf of the Joint Forum of Financial Market Regulators (Joint Forum), we are very pleased to announce the final release of *Principles and Practices for the Sale of Products and Services in the Financial Sector*.

The *Principles and Practices for the Sale of Products and Services in the Financial Sector* (Practice Standards) set standards of professionalism and fair conduct that Canadian consumers should be able to expect in their dealings with financial services intermediaries.

The Practice Standards were developed by the Joint Forum Sub-Committee with the assistance of an industry liaison group and extensive stakeholder consultation.

The Sub-Committee is very appreciative of the comments received from all the stakeholders during the consultations. We are particularly indebted to the work of the members of Industry Liaison Group whose expertise was instrumental to the development of the coordinated, national, cross-sectoral Practice Standards.

At this time, the Joint Forum is urging the voluntary adoption of the Practice Standards and expects that financial industry associations will reflect or incorporate the Practice Standards into their codes of conduct and that intermediaries not attached to any association will implement them as best practices.

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It should be noted that Quebec regulators participated solely as observers in the project and have not formally endorsed the Practice Standards. Going forward, Quebec will monitor implementation of the Practice Standards and any additional activity of the Joint Forum in this area.

The Joint Forum today also released *A Consumer's Guide to Financial Transactions*, which interprets the Practice Standards for consumers and helps them assess the conduct of their current or prospective financial services intermediaries.

You can obtain a copy of *Principles and Practices for the Sale of Products and Services in the Financial Sector* and *A Consumer's Guide to Financial Transactions* from the Joint Forum website at www.jointforum.ca.

Sincerely,

David Wild Chair

Joint Forum of Financial Market Regulators

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Jim Hall Chair

Joint Forum Sub-Committee on Principles and Practices for the Sale of Products and Services in the Financial Sector