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Canadian Opera Company announces \$10 million gift from the Fraser Elliott foundation

Toronto, Ontario – Richard Bradshaw, General Director of the Canadian Opera Company, today announced a major gift of \$10 million towards the capital campaign for the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts from donor R. Fraser Elliott. Mr. Elliott, Senior Partner of Stikeman Elliott, is a long-time supporter of opera and the Canadian Opera Company. The announcement was made at the COC's groundbreaking ceremony on the site of its new home, the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts. In recognition of his support, the Four Seasons Centre auditorium will now be known as R. Fraser Elliott Hall.

In introducing Mr. Elliott's gift to the Four Seasons Centre, General Director Richard Bradshaw said, "Fraser Elliott, for whose friendship and support I owe a great personal debt, is a man of great wisdom, warmth, generosity and vision. He is one of the great philanthropists of this country and we are enormously grateful to him."

The historic groundbreaking event was attended by over 400 well-wishers, including Isadore Sharp (Honorary Campaign Chair and Founder, Chairman and CEO of Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts), Arthur Scace (President of the Board and Campaign Co-chair), the Honourable Ernie Eves, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable David Collenette, Minister of Transport and the Minister Responsible for the Greater Toronto Area, the Honourable David H. Tsubouchi, Ontario Minister of Culture, the Honourable Sheila Copps, Minister of Canadian Heritage, and His Worship, Mayor Mel Lastman.

With this \$10 million gift from Fraser Elliott, the Canadian Opera Company capital campaign has reached almost half of its \$150 million goal. Gifts already announced include the province's donation of the land worth \$31 million, the Government of Canada contribution of \$25 million, and Four Seasons contribution of \$20 million to name the new facility. As one of the co-chairs of the COC's campaign cabinet, Arthur Scace also announced that the COC Board of Directors has personally committed \$13 million to date towards the capital campaign.

"We couldn't have asked for a better gift on this historic day," says Arthur Scace. "Fraser Elliott has always been a leader and his commitment to this company and to the Four Seasons Centre is remarkable."

The Canadian Opera House Corporation gratefully acknowledges the support of Infrastructure Canada and the Government of Ontario and the Ontario SuperBuild Corporation.

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