

**RBC DAIN RAUSCHER ACQUIRES ASSETS OF
FIRST INSTITUTIONAL SECURITIES, L.L.C.**

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 5, 2002 – RBC Dain Rauscher Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Royal Bank of Canada (TSX, NYSE: RY), today announced it has signed a definitive agreement to acquire certain assets of West Paterson, N.J.-based First Institutional Securities, LLC, a privately held investment banking firm that serves both institutional and high-net-worth retail clients throughout the United States.

The acquisition will result in an expansion of RBC Dain's presence in the important New York-New Jersey metro market. In addition, First Institutional has a strong presence in both the fixed income institutional and retail sectors of the market, the two largest components of RBC Dain's business.

Details of the asset acquisition were not disclosed. The transaction is expected to close in early 2003.

RBC Dain plans to offer employment to all of First Institutional's fixed income and retail financial consultants and the support staff. First Institutional operates all of its business out of the West Paterson, N.J. location, serving more than 600 institutional and 4,000 high-net-worth retail clients.

"First Institutional is an ideal fit for our wealth-management platform," said Peter Armenio, president and COO of RBC Dain Rauscher. "The firm has proven product knowledge and established relationships in sectors of our business that are very important to us. By adding the business of First Institutional we will grow both the fixed income and private client parts of our business."

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“This combination furthers the mission our firm has been dedicated to for more than 25 years,” said Stanley Goldberg, CEO of First Institutional. “RBC Dain’s resources will provide our current clients with expanded products and services and will allow us to extend our reach to untapped markets.”

Following the close of the transaction, Goldberg, First Institutional President George Liss, and other key First Institutional executives will play ongoing roles with RBC Dain. Goldberg will assume a managing director role within RBC Dain’s Private Client Group, overseeing operations of the West Paterson office. Liss will help ensure a successful transition, while playing a key role in the ongoing success of the business. Bert Gore, chief operating officer and director of institutional sales, will be named senior vice president and managing director of financial institutions for RBC Dain, assuming responsibility for expanding RBC Dain’s presence with depository institutions. Matthew Boardman, director of trading and retail sales, will become a managing director within taxable trading for RBC Dain.

About First Institutional Securities

First Institutional Securities has roots dating back to the creation of Liss, Tenner and Goldberg Inc. in 1976. A specialized investment banking firm, First Institutional services both regional institutional and high-net-worth retail clients throughout the United States. First Institutional provides individualized service with strategies for optimal asset management solutions to its institutional clients, which include commercial banks, insurance companies, savings banks, savings and loan associations, bond funds and bank trust departments.

About RBC Dain Rauscher

RBC Dain Rauscher Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Royal Bank of Canada (TSX, NYSE: RY), is the parent company of RBC Dain Rauscher Inc., the nation's ninth largest full-service securities firm with more than 2,000 financial consultants and 6,000 employees. The companies serve individual investors and small business owners through offices coast to coast, and capital markets and correspondent clients in U.S. and international markets. Founded in 1909, RBC Dain Rauscher is a member of the New York Stock Exchange and other major securities exchanges, as well as the Securities Investor Protection Corp.

About RBC Financial Group

Royal Bank of Canada (TSX, NYSE: RY) uses the initials RBC as a prefix for its businesses and operating subsidiaries, which operate under the master brand name of RBC Financial Group. Royal Bank of Canada is Canada's largest financial institution as measured by market capitalization and assets, and is one of North America's leading diversified financial services companies. It provides personal and commercial banking, wealth management services, insurance, corporate and investment banking, and transaction processing services on a global basis. The company employs 60,000 people who serve more than 12 million personal, business and public sector customers through offices in North America and some 30 countries around the world. For more information, please visit www.rbc.com.

Safe Harbor: This news release includes forward-looking statements, including the expected date of completion of the transaction and possible benefits of the transaction to the parties, that are subject to certain risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ materially from the results contemplated in these forward-looking statements.

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