media release

For Immediate Release: Friday, December 21, 2001

UCC formally applies to enter Canada West Athletics in 2003

KAMLOOPS - It's not exactly a letter to Santa, but the end result may well be a present under the tree next year for UCC Athletics. That's because a letter in the mail today from UCC is the first step in formally applying for membership in the Canada West Universities Athletic Association.

UCC has sent to Canada West their application for Associate Membership to compete in men's and women's basketball starting in September 2003. The formal application will be on the agenda for discussion at the Canada West semi-annual meetings in February, where UCC officials are also likely make a formal presentation.

Voting on the application by member institutions from B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba will not take place until the CWUAA Annual General Meetings next May. If approved for September 2003, it would give UCC a 15 month transition period to the highest level of university athletics in Canada.

The UCC application is being sponsored by Trinity Western University in Langley, who became only the third B.C. institution to join Canada West just a few years ago. Since then, Simon Fraser University (SFU) has also joined Canada West, and the addition of UCC would set the stage for exciting new provincial rivalries in university sports.

UCC President Roger Barnsley, in approving the start of the formal application process, also stressed that this is just the first step in lengthy process, and there's still much to be done before this becomes reality.

"Moving to the highest level of athletic competition is consistent with our long-term strategic plan for UCC, and would be an important step in the continued development of student life on campus, but we will move forward with caution. Many key decisions, some of them beyond our control, are still to be made before anything can be finalized."

- 30 -

For further details: Jeff Speedy - UCC Athletic Director at 318-2137 (Cell); 828-5273 (Office)