Media Advisory:

**UNA-Canada Proudly Hosts the Canadian International Model UN (CANIMUN) in Edmonton**

**Edmonton: February 22, 2012:** The United Nations Association in Canada (UNA-Canada) is pleased to invite you to the eighth Canadian International Model United Nations (CANIMUN) conference taking place in Edmonton from March 1st to 4th. CANIMUN 2012 will build upon the unprecedented success and popularity of past CANIMUN conferences, all of which boast a series of UN-styled committees dealing with the world’s most pressing and complex issues, but it will feature an innovative simulation of the upcoming Rio +20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

Open to university and college students, CANIMUN is one of Canada’s primary post-secondary level simulation events. While drawing heavily on Alberta and BC participants, UNA-Canada will once again welcome volunteer staff and delegations from across Canada and the United States: collectively they will bring regional and international diversity, as well as their Model UN expertise to CANIMUN 2012.

Kathryn White, Executive Director of UNA-Canada, notes “These unique and powerful experiential learning opportunities are often an important turning point in the development of career decisions and an understanding of the complexities of the global community in which we live for CANIMUN participants.”

CANIMUN will open with a distinguished panel that we would be pleased to have you attend. The keynote speaker will be H.E. Mr SHA Zukang – Under-Secretary-General of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and Secretary-General of the RIO +20 Conference. Other dignitaries will include Doug Horner, Deputy Premier of Alberta and Dr. David Atkinson, President of MacEwan University and Kathryn White, UNA-Canada’s Executive Director.

**WHAT:** Opening ceremonies of the 2012 Canadian International Model United Nations (CANIMUN)

**WHERE:** MacEwan University
Robbins Health Learning Centre, Building 9
10700 - 104 Avenue

**WHEN:** Thursday, March 1st at 6:00 pm

For further information about the opening ceremony and CANIMUN as a whole please contact:

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The United Nations Association in Canada (UNA-Canada) is a registered charity, founded in 1946, with a mandate to educate and engage Canadians in support for, and understanding of the United Nations and its issues, which have a global impact. A Canadian NGO, UNA-Canada has a wide variety of programmes and activities through which to build Canadian capacity to identify and address emerging international issues on a national basis and to provide a foresight and policy research capacity underpinning this innovative programming. With a professional, national secretariat in Ottawa and regional offices in Calgary and Toronto, UNA-Canada derives much of its strength and community outreach from its network of twenty volunteer-based branches and contact points. Working with the private and public sectors, academia, community leaders, like-minded NGOs as well as multilateral organizations, UNA-Canada provides a place for Canadians to offer their made-in-Canada solutions to challenges confronting the global commons and to develop skills in living together in peace and prosperity. Key programmes target Canadian youth, human rights, sustainable development, environment, peacebuilding and corporate social responsibility. For more information, and for a sense of the full scope of our work, we invite you to visit our website at www.unac.org.

UNA-Canada is delighted to collaborate in particular with Grant MacEwan University (Edmonton), Mount Royal University (Calgary) and Red Deer College in the planning for CANIMUN 2012

We are also pleased to acknowledge the generous support of a number of sponsors:

Enbridge; CAPP (Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers); RBC Foundation; Eagledown; City of Edmonton; UNA-Canada-Calgary Branch; UNA-Canada-Edmonton Branch and UNA-Canada-Vancouver Branch; UN Environment Programme (UNEP); Canadian Commission for UNESCO; and the Province of Alberta