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## Press release

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### **Rio Tinto Alcan initiates CDN\$200 million Canada fund**

**10 July 2008**

Rio Tinto Alcan has initiated formation of the previously announced CDN\$200 million fund to support communities in Canada. Named the Rio Tinto Alcan Canada Fund, this is a major step in the fulfilment of Rio Tinto's promise to continue the former Alcan's commitments to communities in which it operates. The endowment will be built up over a five year period beginning with the first instalment to be made in July 2008, consistent with the commitment made by Rio Tinto one year ago when it announced the recommended offer for Alcan Inc.

"The former Alcan group of businesses have a legacy of resource stewardship and sustainable community support and development which closely match Rio Tinto's global values," said Dick Evans, chief executive, Rio Tinto Alcan. "We are very proud to build on this historical record by formalizing the continued commitment of Rio Tinto Alcan to Canada through the creation of the Rio Tinto Alcan Canada Fund."

The Rio Tinto Alcan Canada Fund will be overseen by a largely independent Board of Directors, chaired by Dick Evans, whose members include:

- H  l  ne Desmarais, chair of the board and CEO of the Montreal Enterprises and Innovation Centre
- Sir Brian Fall, former British high commissioner to Canada and consultant to Rio Tinto
- Clifford Moar, former chief, Montagnais First Nation
- Gaston Ouellet, associate professor, HEC Montr  al (*  cole des Hautes   tudes Commerciales*)
- Monica A. Patten, president and CEO, Community Foundations of Canada
- David A. Thompson, chairman, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority

The Rio Tinto Alcan Canada Fund's mandate is to deliver on existing commitments in Quebec and elsewhere in Canada such as support for the Montreal International Jazz Festival, the Montreal Neurological Institute, the Montreal Planetarium and numerous other commitments in the Saguenay, Quebec and Northern British Columbia regions, and also to develop new programs in line with values and areas of focus, consistent with sustainable development, that are shared with Rio Tinto.

"The creation of the Rio Tinto Alcan Canada Fund caps a year in which Rio Tinto has announced significant projected investments in Canada, potentially totalling over US\$8 billion," continued Evans. "Rio Tinto believes firmly that it is in our strategic interest to support local communities as we expand our footprint and capacities in Canada."

For more information on the Rio Tinto Alcan Canada Fund, please visit [www.riotinto.com/riotintoalcan](http://www.riotinto.com/riotintoalcan), under Our Approach or send an email to [FondsRTACanadaFund@riotinto.com](mailto:FondsRTACanadaFund@riotinto.com).

### About Rio Tinto in Canada

Rio Tinto Alcan joins other Rio Tinto operations in Canada in creating an economic powerhouse centred in Quebec, with operations bordering on the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic oceans. In addition to Rio Tinto Alcan, Rio Tinto owns or holds majority stakes in Rio Tinto Exploration, in Vancouver, BC, Diavik Diamond Mines, in the NWT, QIT Fer et Titane, in Sorel-Tracy, QC, and the Iron Ore Company of Canada (IOC), of Sept-Iles, QC and Labrador City, NL. Rio Tinto's worldwide copper projects group is also headquartered in Vancouver.

### About Rio Tinto

Rio Tinto is a leading international mining group headquartered in the UK, combining Rio Tinto plc, a London and NYSE listed company, and Rio Tinto Limited, which is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange.

Rio Tinto's business is finding, mining, and processing mineral resources. Major products are aluminium, copper, diamonds, energy (coal and uranium), gold, industrial minerals (borax, titanium dioxide, salt, talc) and iron ore. Activities span the world but are strongly represented in Australia and North America with significant businesses in South America, Asia, Europe and southern Africa.

### Forward-Looking Statements

This announcement includes "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. All statements other than statements of historical facts included in this announcement, including, without limitation, those regarding Rio Tinto's financial position, business strategy, plans and objectives of management for future operations (including development plans and objectives relating to Rio Tinto's products, production forecasts and reserve and resource positions), are forward-looking statements. Such forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of Rio Tinto, or industry results, to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements.

Such forward-looking statements are based on numerous assumptions regarding Rio Tinto's present and future business strategies and the environment in which Rio Tinto will operate in the future. Among the important factors that could cause Rio Tinto's actual results, performance or achievements to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements include, among others, levels of actual production during any period, levels of demand and market prices, the ability to produce and transport products profitably, the impact of foreign currency exchange rates on market prices and operating costs, operational problems, political uncertainty and economic conditions in relevant areas of the world, the actions of competitors, activities by governmental authorities such as changes in taxation or regulation and such other risk factors identified in Rio Tinto's most recent Annual Report on Form 20-F filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the "**SEC**") or Form 6-Ks furnished to the SEC. Forward-looking statements should, therefore, be construed in light of such risk factors and undue reliance should not be placed on forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this announcement. Rio Tinto expressly disclaims any obligation or undertaking (except as required by applicable law, the City Code on Takeovers and Mergers (the "**Takeover Code**"), the UK Listing Rules, the Disclosure and Transparency Rules of the Financial Services Authority and the Listing Rules of the Australian Securities Exchange) to release publicly any updates or revisions to any forward-looking statement contained herein to reflect any change in Rio Tinto's expectations with regard thereto or any change in events, conditions or circumstances on which any such statement is based.

Nothing in this announcement should be interpreted to mean that future earnings per share of Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited will necessarily match or exceed its historical published earnings per share.

Subject to the requirements of the Takeover Code, none of Rio Tinto, any of its officers or any person named in this announcement with their consent or any person involved in the preparation of this announcement makes any representation or warranty (either express or implied) or gives any assurance that the implied values, anticipated results, performance or achievements expressed or implied in forward-looking statements contained in this announcement will be achieved.

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