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SKAGIT RIVER VALLEY TREATY:

CANADA AND UNITED STATES EXCHANGE INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced that the Honourable John Fraser, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, and His Excellency, Paul Heron Robinson, Jr., the Ambassador of the United States of America, today exchanged, on behalf of the Canadian and United States Governments, the Instruments of Ratification, which bring into the force of law in both countries the Treaty between Canada and the United States of America relating to the Skagit River and Ross Lake, and the Seven Mile Reservoir on the Pend d'Oreille River - better known as the Skagit River Valley Treaty. The Instruments of Ratification were exchanged at a small ceremony at the Department of External Affairs in Ottawa. Distinguished witnesses to the exchange included the Commissioners of the International Joint Commission, and representatives of the United States and British Columbia.

The exchange of Instruments of Ratification marks the successful resolution of a longstanding bilateral environmental issue involving Canadian concern over a proposal to raise the Ross Dam in the State of Washington to provide an additional electrical power supply for the City of Seattle. This proposal, which had been given international sanction by the International Joint Commission in 1942, would have resulted in the flooding of the Skagit River Valley in British Columbia. The Treaty, one of three documents of the Skagit Settlement package, was signed in Washington, D.C., on April 2, 1984. The other two documents, a British Columbia-Seattle Agreement and a Canada-British Columbia Agreement, were signed in Vancouver on March 30, 1984 and October 29, 1984 respectively.

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