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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MICHAEL P. ROBINSON, NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
THE BILL REID GALLERY OF NORTHWEST COAST ART**

The Bill Reid Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Michael Robinson as CEO of the Bill Reid Trust and Executive Director of the Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art, as of January 1, 2009.

Michael Robinson has over 20 years of leadership experience, including eight years as President and CEO of the Glenbow Museum in Calgary (2000 - 2007). Mr. Robinson's career has spanned environmental and social regulation of energy mega projects in the Canadian North, NGO governance and management, community and international development, cultural planning and programming, writing and media commentary.

David Gillanders, Chair of the Bill Reid Foundation said, "We are fortunate that Michael Robinson has decided to return to his home town to join us at this time. His vast experience will prove invaluable in the development of our organization and will add greatly to the cultural life of Vancouver."

Robinson has made significant voluntary contributions to Friends of the Earth Canada, the David Suzuki Foundation, and the Southern Alberta Land Trust Society. Other volunteer appointments have included Chair of the Canadian Polar Commission, Chair of the Bow Valley Centre Redevelopment Planning Advisory Committee, and Co-chair of the imagine CALGARY process. In 2005, Robinson was awarded the Order of Canada. He received the Weaver-Tremblay Award for Exceptional Contributions to Canadian Applied Anthropology in 1998 and was a British Columbia Rhodes Scholar in 1973.

An interdisciplinary thinker, writer, and frequent publisher, he is currently writing two books, *A Practical Guide for CEO's of NGO's*, and *Stories that Won't Leave My Mind*.

Mr. Robinson succeeds Dr. George MacDonald, who was named Director Emeritus of the Foundation. MacDonald said, "Michael has the depth of experience to position the Foundation and the Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art so as to assure their dynamic and sustainable futures."

The Bill Reid Foundation was established as a registered charity in 1999, its mission being to preserve the art and perpetuate the legacies of Bill Reid. The Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art opened its doors to the public in May 2008 and promotes knowledge, understanding and appreciation of contemporary Aboriginal arts of the Northwest Coast of America.

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