



## **FLAHERTY & CRUMRINE INVESTMENT GRADE FIXED INCOME FUND**

### **CLOSES INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING**

**Toronto, December 15, 2004 (TSX: FFI.UN):** Brompton FFI Management Limited is pleased to announce that Flaherty & Crumrine Investment Grade Fixed Income Fund has completed its initial public offering of 14,400,000 units at a price of \$25.00 per unit for gross proceeds of \$360,000,000. The units have received a rating of P-2 *f* by Standard & Poor's and commence trading today on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol FFI.UN.

The net proceeds of the offering will be invested in an actively managed portfolio of fixed income securities consisting primarily of corporate debt and hybrid preferred securities of North American issuers. All of the securities will be rated investment grade at the time of purchase. Distributions will be paid monthly and are targeted to yield 6.5% per annum based on the original subscription price of \$25.00 per unit. The first distribution is scheduled to be made to unitholders of record on January 31, 2005 and payable on February 14, 2005.

Flaherty & Crumrine Incorporated, headquartered in Pasadena, California, has been retained as portfolio manager to provide investment advisory and portfolio management services to the Fund. Flaherty & Crumrine, with aggregate assets exceeding U.S. \$3.2 billion, has specialized in the active management of preferred securities and debt instruments for institutional clients and publicly traded closed-end funds for over 21 years.

Brompton FFI Management Limited, a member of the Brompton Group, is the Manager of the Fund. Brompton manages in excess of \$2 billion in assets.

The offering was made through a syndicate of agents co-led by RBC Capital Markets and CIBC World Markets Inc. and including Scotia Capital Inc., BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc., National Bank Financial Inc., TD Securities Inc., HSBC Securities (Canada) Inc., Canaccord Capital Corporation, Desjardins Securities Inc., First Associates Investments Inc., Raymond James Ltd., Dundee Securities Corporation, Acadian Securities Incorporated, IPC Securities Corporation, Newport Securities Inc., Research Capital Corporation and Wellington West Capital Inc.

For further information about Flaherty & Crumrine Investment Grade Fixed Income Fund and Brompton's other investment products, please contact your financial advisor or visit our website at [www.bromptongroup.com](http://www.bromptongroup.com).

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