MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

May 2, 2007

FIRE CHIEFS: NON-PARTISAN SUPPORT FOR NATONAL FIRE ADVISOR

The Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC) today applauded Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion's announcement of his party's commitment to the appointment of a National Fire Advisor and called upon the leaders of the other federal political parties to make similar pledges.

"Appointment of the National Fire Advisor is the single most important immediate action that the federal government could take to support the Canadian Fire Services," said Fire Marshal Patrick Burke, CAFC President. "It is a non-partisan issue affecting the safety of all Canadians and we expect all parties to support this initiative."

CAFC is concerned that the frequency and magnitude of disasters, both natural and man-made are increasing. Dealing effectively with such events will be far beyond the capacity of individual fire departments.

"CAFC is calling for a coordinated and standardized approach to training and equipment in the Fire Services," explained Fire Marshal Burke. "Currently, no federal department or agency has that responsibility. A National Fire Advisor would establish and monitor national fire training standards, coordinate emergency preparedness and provincial/territorial fire prevention activities and maintain national fire statistics to assist in long term planning." he said. "The National Fire Advisor should become a vital component in helping the Fire Services better protect the lives and property of Canadians."

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