

EDMONTON FIRE CHIEF HONOURED

Release date: Thursday, September 27, 2007

Randy Wolsey, Fire Chief of Edmonton Fire Rescue Services, is Canada's Full-time Fire Chief of the Year. His award was announced last evening during the closing ceremonies at the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs' annual conference held in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

Fire Chief Wolsey began his fire services career in 1972 and became Edmonton's Fire Chief in 2001. Edmonton Fire Rescue Service comprises 864 firefighters and 146 support staff working out of 24 active fire halls to protect 760,000 citizens.

Through his leadership, Edmonton Fire Rescue Services has become recognized for its professionalism and dedication. Fire Chief Wolsey's ability to communicate, his honesty and integrity and his commitment to work for the betterment of the fire service, locally, provincially and nationally, has earned him widespread respect within his department and across Canada.

Fire Chief Wolsey is a tireless campaigner on the shortcomings in the Canadian and Alberta Building Codes. His concerns have received widespread attention and he has become recognized as a leading spokesman for the Canadian fire service on this important issue.

Ontario Fire Marshal Patrick Burke is President of the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs. In congratulating Fire Chief Wolsey he referred to him as "a standard of excellence against which all Canadian fire chiefs can evaluate themselves."

The fire service in Canada is comprised of 3,500 fire departments and 108,000 firefighters and their officers.

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KAHNAWAKE COMMUNITY PROTECTION DIRECTOR HONOURED

Release date: Thursday, September 27, 2007

Terry Diabo, Director of Community Protection for the Mohawk of Kahnawake Territory, is Canada's Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year. His award was announced last evening during the closing ceremonies at the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs' annual conference held in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Kahnawake is located off the Island of Montreal in close proximity to the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Director Diabo joined the Kahnawake Fire Brigade in 1971 and became Chief in 1980. He was promoted to Director of Operations in 1993 and held that position until becoming Director of Community Protection in 2006. The Brigade is comprised of 32 members, 50 per cent of whom are trained to provide emergency medical services as well.

The Kahnawake Fire Brigade operates from a Native philosophy based on a responsibility and desire to help, respect for every person, concern for community and an appreciation of Mohawk spiritual values.

Director Diabo's record of accomplishment has already been recognized. He was the first President of the Aboriginal Fire Fighters Association of Canada, a position that he held for 10 years and recently became a founding member of the Quebec Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators.

CAFC's Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year has become an international beacon for good will for the Fire Services of both Canada and the U.S.A., being invited annually to speak at the Junior Fire Cadet Program of Vermont's Fire & Police Academy.

Ontario Fire Marshal Patrick Burke is President of the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs. In congratulating Director Diabo, he stressed "the crucial role the volunteer fire services play as the front-line responders for local emergencies, particularly in rural or remote parts of Canada."

The volunteer fire service in Canada is comprised of 3,200 fire departments and 84,000 volunteer firefighters and their officers. They comprise 91 per cent of all departments and 77 per cent of total personnel.

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FIRE CHIEFS OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED

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Fire Chief Randy Wolsey of the Edmonton Fire Rescue Services has been named Canada's Full-time Fire Chief of the Year. Director of Community Protection for the Mohawk of Kahnawake Territory, Terry Diabo, is the Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year. Kahnawake is located off the Island of Montreal in close proximity to the St. Lawrence Seaway

Both awards were announced last evening during the closing ceremonies at the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs' annual conference held in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

Director Diabo was the founding President the Aboriginal Fire Fighters Association of Canada, a position that he held for 10 years. Fire Chief Wolsey has become recognized as a leading spokesman for the fire service on the shortcomings of the Canadian and Alberta Building Codes

Ontario Fire Marshal Patrick Burke, is President of the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs. In congratulating Fire Chief Wolsey and Director Diabo, he said that, while there are major differences between the Edmonton and Kahnawake fire services, the two award winners share important characteristics.

"Both of our Fire Chiefs of the Year are mandated to protect the lives and property of their citizens. To do so effectively, they must be committed to training, public education and appropriate equipment," CAFC's President observed. "More than anything else," he added, "they have equally shown themselves to be true leaders."

There are 3,500 fire departments in Canada and 108,000 firefighting personnel. Volunteers comprise 91 per cent of all departments and 77 per cent of total personnel.

For more information, contact:

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