



FROM THE DESK OF THE MD



South African fire fighters arrived safely in Canada to assist with wildland fire fighting

Dear Colleagues

48 Wildland fire fighters from South Africa arrived safely in Edmonton, Canada, in the early hours of this morning (SA Time), to provide much needed support to the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC), as hundreds of fires have swept across much of Western Canada during the past few weeks.

The fire fighters arrived safely and they will be receiving briefings and some training over the next few days to familiarise themselves with the conditions in Canada before they will be deployed to the fire lines.

As part of a resource sharing arrangement between Canadian fire fighting agencies and ourselves, the fire fighters will initially be deployed to Edmonton, from where they will be dispatched to assist with the suppression of wildland fires in the surrounding forestry areas.

Our organisation has a long history of implementing a range of unique fire and land management products and services to fit specific needs within the land owner community in Africa and abroad.

The WoF Integrated Fire Management System which includes amongst others fire awareness, fire prevention (fuel load reduction, prescribed burning and alien plant control), fire protection, fire detection and fire suppression has been lauded as a huge success and is also now implemented by Working on Fire in Chile and Australia.

We are pleased to note that, as part of the Canadian deployment preparation, the WoF training standards and qualifications were verified against the Canadian, USA, Mexico, Australian and New Zealand systems and our training was way up there, being compatible with international standards. This is the first time that such an exercise has been undertaken in Canada and we hope that it will pave the way for future cooperation between South Africa and Canada.

Let us all continue to stand behind these fire fighters and wish them well in carrying the SA Flag over in Canada.

Llewellyn Pillay

WORKING ON FIRE MANAGING DIRECTOR



Fire fighters briefed on arrival in Canada



WoF MD Llewellyn Pillay greeting fire fighters at airport before their departure to Canada