

CANADA CONTINUES TO SEND INCIDENT MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL TO HELP WITH THE AUSTRALIAN BUSHFIRES

The Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) is currently coordinating fourth and fifth deployments of highly trained staff as part of a Canadian contingent from wildfire agencies across the country to Australia. These specialists will join 3 deployments already hard at work supporting Australian crews battling bushfires, thus bringing the total number of Canadian personnel to 95 by January 6. These latest deployments will then replace the first group of 21 that left for Australia December 3.

“Throughout the holiday season, the Canadian agencies worked diligently to find additional resources to assist our friends in Australia,” said Kim Connors, Executive Director of the CIFFC. “Canadians continue to offer their heartfelt support and sympathy to the people of Australia and the Canadian wildland community is working hard to identify additional resources in order to help with their suppression efforts.”

Of the 95 personnel, none are front-line firefighters. The Canadian specialists from across the country will assume a variety of roles within Incident Management Teams (IMT), including roles in command, aviation, planning, logistics and operations. There will soon be team members from Yukon, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland Labrador and Parks Canada assisting with the fire-fighting efforts in Australia, primarily in the state of New South Wales.

The CIFFC, based in Winnipeg, is a not-for-profit corporation owned and operated by the federal, provincial and territorial wildland fire management agencies to coordinate resource sharing, mutual aid, and information sharing. The Centre coordinates domestic mutual aid agreements as well as international agreements, including the current agreement with Australia.