

January 3, 2020

## **INFORMATION FOR CANADIANS WISHING TO HELP WITH AUSTRALIAN WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION EFFORTS**

While many Canadians, both home and abroad, have expressed their desire to help with the Australian wildfires, please be advised that there is not currently a role for Canadian volunteers to assist in bushfire suppression.

The Canadian specialists deployed to Australia are chosen by the member agencies based on their specific expertise and abilities in the respective areas of work. The CIFFC will not be requested to deploy volunteers to Australia.

While Australia does use volunteer firefighters, these firefighters are familiar with and trained to specific standards relative to firefighting in Australian conditions. These volunteers understand the working conditions, equipment and tactics used throughout the country.

The CIFFC and the Australian authorities, kindly request that Canadians, home and abroad, not contact the Australian state fire services directly, as their staff are already at maximum capacity and contact will just add to their workload.

For those wishing to donate, the New South Wales Rural Fire Service has created dedicated bank accounts to collect donations for the families of the volunteer firefighters who were tragically killed while working to suppress these fires.

For more information on donating, click on the links below:

[Firefighter Samuel McPaul](#)

[Firefighters Geoffrey Keaton and Andrew O'Dwyer](#)