I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the inaugural International Conference for Fire and Rescue Executives.

Firefighters shoulder great responsibilities and face grave risks in safeguarding the lives and property of their fellow citizens. Canadians have profound respect for those who face danger on a daily basis, and I am honoured to have this opportunity to express our gratitude for the sacrifice and dedication of professional firefighters and rescue workers everywhere.

As the executives responsible for the smooth and efficient functioning of fire and rescue services, you are called upon to maintain the public’s trust while delivering sound financial management, making decisions in times of crisis, and fulfilling a command and control function. This event, under the theme “Leadership in Critical Times,” provides an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas and information on issues of mutual concern with your fellow executives from around the country, and to make the most of this opportunity for professional development and continuing education.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I offer my best wishes for a memorable and productive meeting.


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