



-For Immediate Release-

**2015 Firefighter Stairclimb Challenge  
Media Launch: Jan 29 2015 at 10:00am THE BOW**

**Calgary, AB – January 2015** On Sunday May 3, 2015, 500 firefighters from all over the world will be climbing the stairs of Calgary's **BOW Building**, Western Canada's tallest building and the highest building elevation in the world, in support of **Wellspring Calgary**.

Brought to you by the Calgary Firefighters Benevolent Fund and Encana, in support of Wellspring Calgary, witness the brave ones who will ascend the 775 vertical feet (on top of 3400 feet elevation!) - 1204 steps - of THE BOW Building, in full firefighter duty gear.

Inspired by Seattle's *Scott Firefighter Stairclimb Challenge* (a 785 ft climb), the sister of local fallen firefighter, Gord Paul, brought this event to the attention of the **Calgary Fire Department**, the **Calgary Firefighter Benevolent Fund** and local cancer charity, **Wellspring Calgary**. **Encana** and H & R Reit have generously contributed the use of THE BOW Building for the challenge.

Wellspring Calgary is the only comprehensive cancer support centre of its kind in Western Canada, since 2007 offering programs, resources and support to people impacted by cancer – those diagnosed, caregivers and families. The **Calgary Firefighter Benevolent Fund's** purpose is to provide assistance to firefighters and their families when they experience health related issues. The connection these organizations share is that a prevalent occupational hazard of the firefighter's job is cancer. Those who live with cancer are heroes to their families and friends, living out each day with courage and hope. Firefighters also provide courage and hope; they are our everyday heroes. The event is fully endorsed and supported by the Calgary Fire Department.

“We are excited to be a part of this unique challenge in support of Wellspring Calgary,” says Chief Dongworth. “The stair climb is going to require great athleticism on the part of its participants, but I know the Calgary Fire Department’s firefighters are up for the challenge. I invite our fire service colleagues across Canada and around the world to join us on May 3 to see if they can beat our times. What better way to support those living with cancer than with some friendly firefighter competition.”

Active professional, volunteer and retired firefighters from across the world are invited to participate in this ultimate fitness challenge, climbing 775 vertical feet (1204 steps) of THE BOW’s north stairwell, overlooking the city’s downtown core. Starting at 3400 feet above sea level, this climb is the highest elevation stairclimb in North America! Firefighters will be timed wearing their full duty gear, including their SCBA packs (without air/oxygen).

## **Event Details**

**What:** Media Launch for 2015 Firefighter Stairclimb Challenge

### **Speakers / Presenters:**

- Emcee Stu Laird, former Calgary Stampeder and CFD firefighter
- Calgary Fire Department – Chief Steve Dongworth
- Kathy Blas, history of the idea coming to Calgary and engaging the involved parties
- Encana – Ryder McRitchie, VP Investor Relations & Communications
- Patti Morris, executive director Wellspring Calgary (the beneficiary charity)
- Wellspring Calgary member testimonial

There will also be a small group of firefighters who will be climbing THE BOW stairs in full gear for media photo opportunities.

**Where:** Encana, THE BOW Building, 500 Centre Street SE, 54<sup>th</sup> floor, Mountain View Room

**When:** January 29, 2015 **10:00 a.m.**

**Why:** Wellspring Calgary aims to use funds raised through this event to continue to offer quality programs and resources to all those living with cancer, including understanding and responding to the needs of the firefighting community through key programs and resources.

**PLEASE NOTE:** All media in attendance will need to register **by noon on Tuesday January 27** in order to gain security access to THE BOW Building.

***For more information or to register for the media launch please contact:***

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