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**For immediate release**

## NEWS RELEASE

### **Award-winning chef to prepare exclusive dinner for Firefighter Stairclimb Challenge**

*Michael Noble signs on to help raise funds for Wellspring Calgary*

CALGARY – On May 1, dedicated firefighters from across North America will suit up in full duty gear and challenge themselves to climb 1,204 steps (775 vertical feet) of Calgary's renowned BOW tower, to raise awareness and funds for firefighters and citizens who are living with cancer. Award-winning, local chef, Michael Noble has announced his support for the fundraising endeavour by preparing a celebratory dinner at the firehall for an exclusive group of civilians who are invited this year to join Chief Steve Dongworth in ascending the steps of the BOW.

Like most people, Chef Michael Noble says he has been touched by cancer, having lost his best friend to cancer in high school and more recently noting the loss of a young chef in the community who succumbed to brain cancer.

"I am always most happy to support community initiatives as I have always treasured this connection with both of my restaurants," he said. "Our goal is to be part of the fabric of the community and to do what we can to help lighten the burden for those less fortunate. To date we have donated over \$250,000 to local charities."

Michael Noble, owner of top local restaurants Notable and The Nash, will prepare a celebratory dinner at a firehall for Chief Dongworth, the crew on duty and the civilian challengers. Noble is internationally trained and was featured as a Canadian chef on Iron Chef. Noble came in second place as Avenue Magazine's Best Chef in 2014.

This year marks the second annual Firefighter Stairclimb Challenge, hosted by the Calgary Firefighters Benevolent Society and presented by Encana Corporation in support of Wellspring Calgary. The event brings awareness to the risks firefighters take every day in their occupation, to save lives and expose themselves to many cancer-causing situations. More broadly, it brings awareness to anyone impacted by cancer. Last year the Firefighter Stairclimb Challenge raised over \$128,000 with proceeds supporting Wellspring Calgary.

A new element of this second year of the climb is the "Challenge the Chief" invitation to a limited group of civilians who want to challenge Chief Dongworth's 2015 climb time of under 18 minutes in full duty gear (an extra 40 pounds of weight). Ten spots are open for individuals contributing a donation of \$10,000. Along with the climb, civilians will experience a training day in the life of a firefighter and the celebratory dinner after the event with Chef Noble, and more.

Wellspring Calgary is privileged to be the recipient of funds and awareness raised by the firefighters from all over North America participating in this event, and delighted that Chef Noble has joined the exciting event in its second year.

To learn more about the Firefighter Stairclimb Challenge please visit: [www.calgarystairclimb.com](http://www.calgarystairclimb.com)

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### **About Wellspring Calgary**

Founded in 2007, Wellspring Calgary is a charitable organization that supports, informs and empowers those diagnosed with cancer by helping them address the fear, isolation, disruption and practical problems cancer can bring to their lives. Wellspring's vision is to ensure that no one has to face cancer alone.

As an affiliate of the Wellspring Cancer Support Foundation, Wellspring Calgary provides a comprehensive range of support, resources and programs so anyone living with cancer and the people who care about them can improve the quality of their lives. All programs and services are informed by evidence and offered free-of-charge and without referral in a welcoming and caring community-based centre.

**For more information, please contact:**

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