

CANADA AND PARAGUAY ANNOUNCE AGREEMENT THAT WILL BENEFIT HUNDREDS OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

This Tuesday, December 14 at 13:30 p.m. (Canada time), a press conference was held at the Toyotoshi Complex in San Lorenzo, Paraguay, in order to communicate on an agreement signed between the Honorary Consul of Paraguay for the Province of Ontario, Canada; Mr. Mario Toyotoshi and the Canadian-based non-profit organization “Firefighters Without Borders” (FWB).

On December 1, 2021, a 40-foot container loaded with preowned firefighting personal protective equipment left a Mississauga warehouse destined to the port of Asunción, Paraguay and to the Paraguayan Volunteer Firefighters Corps (CBVP).

The used firefighting personal protective equipment (PPE) of 500 pants jackets, 423 boots, 314 helmets, 450 gloves, and 500 flash hoods loaded in this container are a donation from the Firefighters Without Borders (FWB), a non-profit organization established in 2009 with the purpose of “help[ing] equip tomorrow’s firefighter heroes and their communities, both in Canada and around the world.” Without any doubt, this donation will not only better equip the Paraguayan firefighters in their heroic and voluntary duties but through their work make a meaningful difference in the communities they serve across Paraguay.

The culmination of this pilot project becoming a reality was preceded by conversations between the Vice President of Firefighters without Borders Mr. Craig Dockery and the Honorary Consul of Paraguay for the Province of Ontario Mario Toyotoshi early in 2021 and the formalization of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed on March 25, 2021, between the Honorary Consulate in representation of the beneficiary the Paraguayan Volunteer Firefighters Corps and the Firefighters Without Borders. This MOU not only outlines this donation but outlines a potential for another additional 7,500 sets of personal protective equipment and a “multi-phase training project” that hinges upon the success of this pilot project.

It is important to note that this pilot project has been made also possible by the Toyotoshi Group of companies that have provided financial and vital support behind the transportation and logistical work.

On behalf of the Paraguayan Government and in his capacity as a Honorary Consul, Mario Toyotoshi expressed his deep and respectful appreciation for this generous donation to the Firefighters Without Borders’ President Mr. Frank Lami, Vice President Mr. Craig Dockery, Director of Equipment – Mr. Matt Poliziani , Director of Projects – Ms. Danielle Mischkot , Director of Communications – Ms. Erika Adams, and Director of Training – Mr. Jon Pannunzio and all the members of the Firefighters Without Borders organization and extraordinary efforts made by its members amid the many challenges posed by the pandemic.

