

## Edmonton's Ken Block Named Fire Chief of the Year

Edmonton Fire Rescue's Chief Ken Block has been named Fire Chief of the Year by the [Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs](#). The honour was announced at the organization's annual conference in Regina on September 25, 2013.

Block was recognized for his leadership and his work in earning Edmonton a reputation as one of North America's most progressive and respected fire services. The award recognizes accomplishments during his time as Fire Chief, to which he was appointed in February 2009.



"The City of Edmonton is fortunate to have a Fire Chief as dedicated and committed to protecting the safety of residents as Ken Block. We congratulate him on this prestigious recognition and thank him for the service his department provides in keeping our city safe," said Mayor Stephen Mandel.

Achievements under Block's leadership include:

- in 2010 Edmonton Fire Rescue became just the third Canadian fire service to be recognized for its fire and emergency services by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International
- the development of an effective labour management model
- the introduction of Alberta legislation that recognizes 14 cancers as being job-related for firefighters

"Such recognition is an incredible honour and I am humbled to receive the award," said Block. "The fire service is all about teamwork and this recognition serves as a reflection of the significant contributions of all staff, past and present, who have contributed to our Edmonton Fire Rescue Services being considered one of the best fire services nationally and internationally."

Block joined [Edmonton Fire Rescue](#) in 1980 and progressed through the ranks to be appointed the department's 16th Chief. The department has grown to include over 1,000 firefighters, investigators, and prevention officers, with 28 fire stations, an annual operating budget of \$170 million, and responds to over 36,000 calls for help annually.

Block sits on numerous committees for the advocacy of public safety.

The honour is the latest in an accomplished career for Block. He has previously received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal (2013), the Alberta Centennial Medal (2005), the Canadian Exemplary Services Medal (2000), and the Alberta Emergency Services Medal.

Since 2002 the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs annually recognizes both a professional and volunteer chief of the year. Donations are made in the recipients name to a charity of their choosing.

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