



OCTOBER 7TH, 2021

BCU FOUNDATION AND BCU FINANCIAL FIRE FIGHTERS PARTNER WITH THE ONTARIO PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION TO SUPPORT CAMP FACES.

Together with the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation, who will serve as program administrator, BCU Financial Fire Fighters and the Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association are pleased to announce a partnership that will make a difference to Ontario's Fire Fighters and their families.

By its very nature, Emergency Services is a high risk occupation which can result in a tragic loss, not only to Line of duty death but also by the suicide of a member. The loss of a loved one to a family is tremendous and incredibly challenging to deal with but to a child it can be even greater. Many children experience feelings of confusion, anger, fear, isolation and depression.

Camp F.A.C.E.S. provides families who have suffered this tragic loss the opportunity to be with others who have experienced similar loss. Along with trained personnel and mental health oversight, these families will have the opportunity to experience some normalcy all while developing lifelong friendships.

Camp Faces, through the oversight of the Canadian Critical Incident Stress Foundation, also offers retreats for families who require ongoing counseling who are living with a serving or retired member who has been diagnosed with a PTSD. These weekend retreats on Pidgeon Lake in the Kawarthas offer an opportunity for families to come together with a common thread. Through the power of peer support, trained personnel and mental health oversight, these families will have the opportunity to share, connect, grow and learn, all while building lifelong friendships.

The BCU Foundation has established an initial donation of \$10,000 in support of this new partnership. The Foundation will also accept individual donations from Ontario's Fire Fighters and the general public in order to build up an even greater level of support, while issuing tax receipts for these individual donations. The contributions will flow to the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation who will ensure that all monies raised through this initiative will be directed exclusively to Ontario Fire Fighters and their families. As a result of this partnership, the Ontario Professional Fire Fighters will join the CFFF's new partner council to provide input, along with other industry partners, on the direction of the Foundation. Additionally, individual contributions are welcome to further build up the financial resources for this program. Donations can be made through the BCU Foundation. Please go to: <https://bcufoundation.com/donate-today> and select "Fire Fighter 911 Fund" from the drop down menu. Donations of \$25.00 or more will be issued a tax receipt.

For more information on Camp Faces, and the Canadian Critical Incident Stress Foundation, you can go to <https://campfaces.org/>

We look forward to making this important contribution to a cause that will directly benefit Ontario Fire Fighters and their families.

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