There has been an increase in resource sharing in Canada since the mid nineties. Ontario has gone through cycles as a ‘resource importer’ and a ‘resource exporter.’ Significant progress has been made nationally and internationally by Agencies, CIFFC and Compacts.
An Importer’s Perspective

Benefits

- Help when we need it most – people, equipment, aircraft
- Opportunity to recycle our own staff
- Media takes notice
- Integration of resources smoother every year
- Sharing knowledge and networking – building the Fire Community

Risks/Challenges

- Safety – tactics, identify hazards/assess risks
- Knowing when you have enough
- Understanding out of province policies and requirements – Safety, Collective Agreement (hours, breaks, overtime, etc.), Overnight accommodations needs, equipment maintenance
- Visiting IMT’s may not be aware of local issues, concerns or strategies
- Financial – approvals, perceptions, cost (i.e. transport costs)
An Exporter’s Perspective

Benefits
- Experience, skills development, learning
- Morale
- Opportunity to support other agencies
- Financial

Risks/Challenges
- Maintaining sufficient resources back home – Good long range resource planning necessary
- Crews & Tankers can be recalled quickly – Equipment may be gone for several months
- Safety – tactics, hazards, accumulated fatigue
- Bringing home invasive species (a/c, equipment)
- Home - work program (vacation time, equipment procurement/refurbishment, deferred projects)
- Professionalism
- Financial – approvals, perceptions, administrative workload, $$ don’t always go to the fire program
- Communications with staff – the new reality - resource sharing and the associated workload is part of our jobs and will increase in the future
Other Challenges

- Interoperability (radio/IT) – fire agencies, other responders
- Need for national contracts or provincial contracts with similar deliverables (i.e., Type Contract 2 Crews, Basecamp Infra, etc.)
- Aging workforce – loss of experienced staff (FBANs, DIVS, IC’s…)
- What happens when more than 3 or 4 provinces/territories are busy?
- Shortages of trained/experienced staff to work in command centres.
  - Move needed towards standard positions/structure in Fire Centres
- Training
  - Common training will lead to reduced orientation time for incoming resources
Summary

• A Win/Win Situation
• Many benefits from Exporting and Importing Resources
• Nationally, we have made significant strides over the last 10-15 years.
• Thanks