



## MADE FOR ONTARIO PLAN

Upon the distribution of the Notices of Motion to be addressed at the Hockey Canada 2008 Semi-Annual Meeting scheduled for November 20-22 in Toronto, it was apparent that Motion # 7, if passed, would have a profound effect on Minor Hockey:

*It shall be the obligation/responsibility of all Branches under the authority of Hockey Canada, in their sole and unfettered discretion, to implement residency registration regulations for the formation of teams within their Branch. **The residency registration regulation must allow for increased movement of players as the age of the player increases.***

### October 2008

At the October meeting of the Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF) Minor Council, the proposed Hockey Canada Motions were reviewed to determine a position for recommendation to the Board for their guidance at the HC Semi-Annual Meeting. With regard to Motion # 7, the four Minor Member Partners of the OHF were split, with two in support of the Motion and two opposed. The Chair of Minor Council declined to vote, opting to forward the issue to the Board for its determination. At the Board Meeting, the question on Motion # 7 resulted in a tie vote, with the Chair casting the deciding vote in support of the Motion. The following Motion was also proposed and carried at that same meeting:

*Regardless of the outcome of Motion #7 at the Hockey Canada Semi-Annual Meeting, OHF Minor Council will actively continue its review of Minor Hockey residency within the OHF.*

### November 2008

Each of the four Minor Member Partners was tasked with the responsibility to develop a "Made for Ontario Minor Hockey Plan" for the November 2008 Minor Council Meeting. This plan was to be developed to determine how, as a group, the Minor Member Partners with their different philosophies and structures could design a residency model that would work within the OHF. As a by-product, should the HC Motion pass, the OHF would have a base upon which to build its policies or regulations.

At the November OHF Minor Council meeting, each of the member partners presented its views and concerns. The OMHA presentation read, in part"

*The OMHA in its structure is unique, no other Member Partner, nor, Branch of Hockey Canada has the diverse situations that are encountered across the breadth of the OMHA. This diversity results from the compilation of large urban communities and small rural Hamlets and Townships that are members of our*



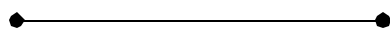
Association. Over the 75 year history of the OMHA, these Cities, Towns and Hamlets were arranged in Categorized groups from AAA to E all to meet the caliber of competitive ranking that would provide an equal opportunity for any Centre to excel in their quest for an OMHA Championship banner. This has spawned a Hometown atmosphere and instilled pride in a Centre's individual achievements.

The intent of the proposed amendment put forth by Hockey Canada, presents many challenges to the structure of the OMHA, our size, both in area and numbers will need careful consideration of the situations and circumstances that dictated how our Association will evolve.

Inasmuch as no determination was achieved at the November OHF Meeting; it was resolved to reconvene at the February OHF meeting for further discussions.

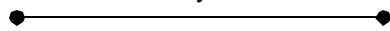
At the November Hockey Canada Semi-Annual Meeting, Motion # 7 was narrowly defeated.

December 2008



At the December 2008 meeting of the OMHA Board, the President struck an *ad hoc* Committee of OMHA Board and Staff members, to be chaired by W. Pries. This Committee was tasked to develop a 'Made for Ontario Plan' for the OMHA. The first Committee meeting addressed orientation and assignments.

January 2009



General discussion and the formulation of two resolutions to be forwarded for Board approval:

- Definition of the term "Hometown Hockey":

*Hometown Hockey has been the foundation for the Ontario Minor Hockey Association for seventy-five years. It is a philosophy based upon local players playing on local teams. Hometown Hockey is more than "hockey", it is about the development of community pride, family, friendships and building a foundation for life.*

- Establish of a "Mission Statement" to give direction to the Committee in its deliberations:

*The OMHA, working in concert with the OHF Member Partners will develop the methodology for greater player movement, while retaining the integrity of the Community based programs. To assess and review the current hockey landscape within the Ontario Minor Hockey Association and identify opportunities for potential change that will enhance the minor hockey experience of all members.*



February 2009

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Committee request approved by the OMHA Board, to convene an open, 'Town Hall' Meeting on May 2, 2009. The purpose of the Meeting will be to assess and review the current hockey landscape within the OMHA and identify opportunities for potential change that will enhance the minor hockey experience of all members. This meeting will also listen to the concern of the Membership, and possibly dispel the many rumors that are circulating among the Hockey Community. Yes, there have been discussions in regard to amalgamations and reduction of categories, but these discussions have been just that, discussions, there has never been any attempt to put forth a proposal for adoption by the Committee or Board, on these subjects to date.

March 2009

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On March 7, an OHF-sanctioned meeting of the four Minor Member Partners reviewed a proposal from an appointed Mediator outlining the parameters and a schedule of proposed meeting dates, for ensuing discussions.

In preparation for the May 'Town Hall' Meeting, a questionnaire is available for completion in an effort to gather feedback from the membership with respect to the issues being addressed by the Made for Ontario Committee. The results of this questionnaire will contribute to the agenda of the Town Hall Meeting. The questionnaire is available on-line:

[www.omha.net/madeforontario](http://www.omha.net/madeforontario)

The concept of greater player movement is inevitable. To meet this challenge, we need to develop a system for movement that meets the aims and objectives of the OMHA.

*We can't ignore this challenge and hope it goes away, it won't, it is a certainty.*