



## MEDIA RELEASE

May 4, 2009

### OMHA 'Town Hall' Meeting Discusses Made for Ontario Plan

---

RICHMOND HILL, Ontario - On Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, the OMHA hosted a 'Town Hall' Meeting to discuss the Made For Ontario Plan. This Plan stems from the Notices of Motion at the 2008 Semi-Annual Meeting of Hockey Canada, Motion # 7 which addressed the issue of residency and increased player movement. Although that motion failed, the Ontario Hockey Federation, as the Branch, proposed that "regardless of the outcome of Motion # 7, OHF Minor Council will actively continue its review of Minor Hockey residency within the OHF."

To be proactive OMHA President Marg Ensell appointed an ad hoc Committee, chaired by Vice-President Wayne Pries to develop a 'Made for Ontario Plan' for the OMHA. The Committee's mandate includes assessment and review of the current hockey landscape within the OMHA and identification of opportunities for potential change that will enhance the minor hockey experience of all members.

The 'Town Hall' Meeting was held at the Brampton Courtyard Marriott hotel where 300 people from across the OMHA Membership attended. Chaired by Kevin Almond, the meeting included an overview of Motion #7, the OHF's position and an event synopsis to date. It was followed by an introduction of the OMHA Ad Hoc Committee by Chair Wayne Pries.

"Consultation with our Membership is essential," explained Chair Wayne Pries. "The 'Town Hall' Meeting was important to provide information and to solicit feedback as the Committee moves forward."

After the introduction, the OMHA reviewed the results from the OMHA Made for Ontario Questionnaire that was posted on the OMHA website during the month of April. Over 2,000 responses to the questionnaire were tabulated. Notable findings included:

- Coaching is the number one concern of the OMHA followed by Residency regulations
- 84% of respondents believe the OMHA should develop standards for minor hockey associations to ensure consistency and quality of hockey programming
- 68% of respondents support the amalgamation of Centres
- 41% of respondents support the current residency regulations while 43% do not support them
- Community Pride is the number one issue for supporting residency regulations
- More Choices for Players is the number one reason to relax residency regulations
- Residency regulations should be relaxed as age levels increase

For more information on the OMHA Made for Ontario Plan and other supporting documents, please visit.

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

#### **About the Ontario Minor Hockey Association**

The Ontario Minor Hockey Association, founded in 1935, is the largest minor hockey association in the world and oversees a participant base of 300,000 consisting of players, coaches, trainers, officials, hockey volunteers and parents across the province. The OMHA has 260 active member minor hockey associations and annually coordinates 31 leagues and approximately 600 development clinics throughout Ontario. For more information, visit [www.omha.net](http://www.omha.net).

To learn more please contact:

Mark Dickie, Ontario Minor Hockey Association  
P: (905) 780-2155, E-mail: [mark.dickie@omha.net](mailto:mark.dickie@omha.net)