



Kahnawá:ke Ratitsénhaiens
Mohawk Council of Kahnawake

Châteauguay



Ville de Châteauguay
Édifice de la Mairie
5, boulevard D'Youville
Châteauguay (Québec) J6J 2P8
Téléphone : 450.698.3008
Télécopieur : 450.698.3019



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

(Kahnawá:ke – July 27, 2005) The Aboriginal Sports Circle, Canada's national voice for Aboriginal sport and recreation, is pleased to announce that Kahnawá:ke has been selected to host the 2006 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships. The event will be held in Kahnawá:ke Mohawk Territory, which is located minutes from downtown Montreal, Quebec.

The National Aboriginal Hockey Championships will provide a forum for elite Bantam/Midget aged Aboriginal hockey players. The Event will attract participation from First Nations, Inuit, and Métis athletes, coaches, and sport leaders. The long-term vision for the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships is to establish a competitive structure that will serve as the impetus for grassroots and regional Aboriginal hockey development across Canada. The event helps to foster unity and pride and celebrate the athletic abilities of Aboriginal athletes from across the country.

In announcing the awarding of the 2006 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships, Rick Brant, Executive Director of the Aboriginal Sport Circle said, *"This event is unlike other hockey championships as it will offer a unique blend of high performance competition in a strong, supportive cultural environment. It was with this in mind that we [Aboriginal Sport Circle] made the decision to award the event to the community of Kahnawá:ke."*

Kahnawá:ke Chief Tiorahkwathe Gilbert said. *"We're very happy and excited to be hosting the Aboriginal ice hockey first nations championships for the youth, in our territory of Kahnawá:ke, Ionkwatonhnhahere tanon ionkwatshanon:ni tsi wa'akwaterihwat'kwe:ni watia'kwatentsha kenthó Kahnawá:ke tsi kanenhston, o:wisake tehontken'nionhe ken nithiti'ion:sa ki:ken kakwitehs'tsiko:wa."*

Jeff Spencer, Executive Director of the First Peoples Sport and Recreation Circle of the Eastern Door and the North (FPSRCEDN), responded to the announcement: *"It is a privilege and an honor to have the 5th annual National Aboriginal Hockey Championships hosted in our region in the host community of Kahnawá:ke. It is truly a National event that showcases the talents of our Aboriginal youth."* The FPSRCEDN is the Provincial Aboriginal Sport Body that carries the mandate to represent the grassroots sport and recreation interests of the Aboriginal peoples in Quebec.

Olympic Gold Medallist, Alwyn Morris, of Kahnawá:ke said, *"I would like to congratulate the organizing bid committee in their achievements to bring the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships to Kahnawá:ke. The event itself will give Kahnawá:ke an opportunity to showcase our local talent for both male and female participants."*

- 30 -

For Additional Information Please Contact:

2006 Host Organizing Committee

Dave Canadian
Sports and Recreation Unit
Mohawk Council of Kahnawake
P.O. Box 720
Kahnawake Mohawk Territory
J0L 1B0
Phone: 450-638-2672
E-Mail: davec@mck.ca

Aboriginal Sport Circle

Rod Jacobs
Manager of High Performance Programs
Roundpoint Memorial Building
RR#3, Akwesasne Mohawk Territory
Cornwall Island, Ontario K6H 5R7
Phone: 613-938-1176, ext 23
Cell: 613-323-2717
Fax: 613-938-9181
E-Mail: rjacobs@aboriginalsportcircle.ca

2006 NAHC BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Location & Dates

The 2006 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships will be held in Kahnawá:ke Mohawk Territory April 30 – May 6, 2006. The competition will span seven (7) days with both the male and female championship games being held on Saturday, May 6, 2006.

Community Snap Shot

Kahnawá:ke is located 10 kilometers south of Montreal, on the banks of the St. Lawrence River. The word “Kahnawá:ke” means “on the rapids,” which perfectly describes the Territory’s eastern reaches. Kahnawá:ke is one of seven communities, which comprise the Mohawk Nation. In turn, the Mohawks (or Kanien’kehaka – the People of the Flint) are part of the larger Iroquois Confederacy. Kahnawá:ke is home to approximately 8,000 residents.

Sanction

As an event sanctioned by Hockey Canada, the 2006 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships will operate in strict accordance with the rules and regulations established for national championships.

Event Overview

Principles

The National Aboriginal Hockey Championships are an elite competition where the best Bantam/Midget age hockey players are selected on behalf of their Provinces and Territories to compete for the national title – The Turtle Island Cup. The event is inclusive, which means anyone of Aboriginal ancestry, whether First Nations (status or non-status Indian), Inuit or Métis, is eligible to compete.

Team Selections

The National Aboriginal Hockey Championships are designed as an All Star event. As such, each Provincial/Territorial Aboriginal Sport Body is responsible for developing and conducting a region wide team selection process (i.e. talent identification camps) to determine its team roster.

Ancestry

Teams will be comprised only of players and coaches who are of Aboriginal ancestry. Every player and coach must carry with her/him documentation that verifies her/his Aboriginal ancestry. In most cases, picture ID along with a Status Card, Inuit Card, or Métis Membership Card will be adequate.

2006 NAHC BACKGROUND INFORMATION *cont'd*

Ages

Male Division:

Male teams are restricted to using Bantam and Midget age players as of the 2005/2006 hockey season - born in the years of 1988 to 1992.

Female Division:

Female teams are restricted to using Bantam and Midget age players as of the 2005/2006 hockey season - born in the years of 1988 to 1992. An exception is made in the female division, which allows teams to carry a maximum of five (5) overage.

Team Rosters

Each team shall consist of the following:

20 Players

1 Manager

1 Head Coach

2 Assistant Coaches (maximum)

1 Trainer/Equipment Manager

4 Alternates Players

Residency

All players and coaches must hold permanent residency in the Province/Territory for which he/she competes. Exceptions are made for players who attend school on a full-time basis in another Province or Territory. In such cases, the player can choose to compete for either his/her home Province or Territory, or where he/she attends school.

Policy on Drug and Harassment Free Sport

The Aboriginal Sport Circle promotes drug and harassment free sports. Therefore, a strict "zero tolerance" policy has been adopted for the 2003 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships. All participants are strictly prohibited from the use of alcohol, tobacco (non-ceremonial) and performance enhancing substances. Any acts of harassment or discrimination will not be tolerated.

Competition Format

Each team will compete in a round-robin format. Upon completing the round robin, teams will advance to the semi-finals (four teams in total). The two winning teams will advance to the championship final, while the losing teams will compete in the Bronze medal game.