



To the players, coaches, staff, parents, our partners and all those that support minor hockey in Sudbury.

I would like to start by introducing myself. My name is Jason Innis and I was recently nominated and voted in as the new President of the Sudbury Minor Hockey Association (SMHA). To say that I'm nervous about my year ahead is an understatement. To say that I'm excited about the year ahead and the future of SMHA hockey is also an understatement. But before I get into that, I have to take care of this first.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank Angela Vendette for her dedication and hard work as President of SMHA over the past six years. Angela should be recognized for her many contributions behind the scenes that I'm becoming aware of as I transition into this role. Angela should be commended for navigating SMHA through two challenging years of disrupted hockey. We also want to thank Angela for being instrumental in successfully applying for and being awarded the Emergency Relief Community Sport and Recreational Grant. We will surely put the money to great use. Angela is very knowledgeable and will continue with the Board as Past President. I'm very thankful to have Angela as a resource heading into this season.

One thing that you should know about me is that I love hockey. I love the smell of the arena. Most of all, I love what hockey has to offer everyone. Hockey is a game that can provide so many life lessons. Regardless if a player is on a winning team or a losing team, the players will no doubt learn how to be a team player. We all want our kids to be winners, but I'd like to believe that what we hope to build with our athletes is resilience and perseverance, discipline and sportsmanship. And with the right support and development, they will ultimately be winners on and off the ice.

Our Board has had a bit of a slow start since the transition this summer. It has been a month since being voted in, but I feel some momentum growing. Within the first month I've sat down with the Presidents and Board members from Copper Cliff Minor Hockey and Nickel City Hockey Associations. We discussed potential opportunities to collaborate for the betterment of player development in Sudbury, and to support one another where possible. I hope to continue these meetings with the associations throughout the year.

With our coaching selections now complete, we turn our attention to Rep tryouts and House League registration. SMHA has also been hard at work updating policies to provide additional guidance to teams and families heading into the 2022/23 season. Please visit our website for more information.

I'm excited to work with this Board, as we head into the 2022/23 season. We are exploring exciting opportunities and potential partnerships for the season. As we head into a new hockey season may I offer some parting words. Be patient with your players, with your teams and with your coaches. Be supportive. Be encouraging. Be excited. A mighty structure cannot be built without a solid foundation of support. And most of all, have fun!

Thank you,

Jason Innis, President of SMHA

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