



Hockey Eastern Ontario and HEO Minor Announce Creation of the New HEO

Effective August 1, 2020, Hockey Eastern Ontario (HEO) and Hockey Eastern Ontario Minor (HEO Minor) are proud to announce the creation of a new single not-for-profit corporation. This was enabled by a strong membership vote of the two existing corporations.

This new Corporation, operating under the name Hockey Eastern Ontario (HEO) will be responsible for all minor and junior hockey programs in the Branch. This change will help us meet Hockey Canada's expectations of us as a Branch, allow us to speak with one voice, provide us with an opportunity to streamline services and find efficiencies, and encourage us to focus on excellence in hockey programming for our members.

HEO and HEO Minor's efforts to create this new governance structure were helped considerably by the expertise and guidance of Hockey Canada and its representative, Mr Eric Sorensen, as well as the professional legal advice of Kelly Santini LLP.

Hockey Canada is pleased to see the outcome of the hard work of the HEO Branch leadership to propose an amalgamation to its members that is sensible and forward-looking. "This new model sets the stage for much future progress to be made for all hockey families in eastern Ontario" said Michael Brind'Amour, Chair of the Board of Directors of Hockey Canada.

Key players in the Branch also commented on the change. "As we enter the 100th anniversary of HEO, nothing could make me more proud than to see this Branch take these steps to better support all of our Members, today and for decades to come", said Barb Levere, president of the HEO Branch. Gary Hopkins, president of the former HEO Minor organization noted that minor hockey is the foundation of this Branch. "Our members are encouraged to see these changes that will support and enable excellence in minor hockey programming." The Commissioner of the CCHL, Kevin Abrams commented "I'm pleased to support these changes in governance. Junior can thrive and innovate in this new environment, building on progress and programs we have already put in place."

The new HEO will be governed in the short term by an interim Board. Elections will be held on August 22 for a President and six Directors. The new HEO Board will focus on key issues identified by Members in recent consultations, as well as working to bring about a responsible and enabling Return to Hockey for the coming season.

For release August 1, 2020.
HEO Governance Committee