



Open Letter to HEO Participants

October 11, 2022

As we begin another hockey season, Hockey Eastern Ontario (HEO) would like to take a moment to acknowledge that ongoing Hockey Canada developments have been on the minds of many in our community. Some of you have reached out to share your views and concerns with us; we want to assure you we have read every one of your messages and we thank you for sharing them.

We all want a safe and inclusive space for our players, coaches, trainers, officials, volunteers, and spectators to enjoy our great game. Families should know that those managing the activities of their children adhere to the highest ethical standards and will take the appropriate action when needed to safeguard the well-being of those entrusted in our care.

We all have a responsibility to ensure that maltreatment, bullying and harassment is eliminated from hockey, starting with our national sport organization — Hockey Canada.

HEO continues to monitor the Hockey Canada situation. With many issues facing sport and sport governance today, including in hockey, we have a real opportunity to make unprecedented change now, for the long-term good of our sport.

We want you to know that HEO has been in constant contact with our provincial counterparts across the country. We are working together to ensure that any decisions taken are in the best interests of all participants across our Branch and in other Branches.

HEO has pushed for Hockey Canada's Action Plan to be implemented as quickly as possible. We have joined the Ontario Hockey Federation and Hockey Northwestern Ontario in a call to Hockey Canada to suspend the \$3 Hockey Canada Participant Assessment Fee, while work on the Hockey Canada Action Plan is underway.

We are engaged in the Hockey Canada Governance Review led by the Honourable Thomas Cromwell, C.C. We have also called for the rapid implementation of Hockey Canada's Independent Third-Party process for receiving and managing maltreatment, bullying and harassment allegations across all Hockey Canada Members.

We welcome today's statement from the Hockey Canada Board as a necessary first step to earn back the trust of Canadians. We look forward to working with the Interim Management Committee to bring about significant change for the betterment of hockey. Along with all 13 Members of Hockey Canada, HEO will participate in the election of a new slate of Directors to the Hockey Canada Board.

You have our word that we will keep you informed of developments. HEO is a volunteer-dependent organization, and earning and keeping your trust is vital to the work we do.

Hockey Eastern Ontario