



HOCKEY CALGARY

BOUNDARY REVIEW UPDATE

Happy New Year, and welcome back for the stretch drive of the 2018-19 season. This is an exciting time of year as we prepare for the 40th Annual Esso Minor Hockey Week. I look forward to some exciting hockey action over the next couple of weeks, and seeing who will be crowned EMHW champions for this year. I encourage everyone to get out and support your community teams in their quest for the title, but please remember to do so in a positive and respectful manner. As the tension increases and the games become more intense please remember that the game of hockey needs to be fun. Hockey is a source of fitness for our youth, and a place where the athletes can develop friendships and life skills so that they can be the future leaders in our community.

Each year Hockey Calgary engages in numerous projects along with our member Associations to improve the state of the game for all of our members. This season is no different and over the last couple of months we have been actively reviewing the boundaries within our program. Let me first say that **'No Decisions have been made at this point'**, and Hockey Calgary will be working closely with the executives of our member Associations throughout the process.

Hockey Calgary last revised the boundaries in 2015, addressing issues in specific areas of the city. The changes had the desired effect for the first couple of years, but unfortunately the landscape has changed once again. The challenge faced is that the growth in communities is not equal across the city, and even more importantly the growth in communities 'with hockey players' is even more disproportionate. At present we have Associations with less than 500 active players and other Associations with well over 1000 players. These vast disparities create issues in competitive balance, seeding, evaluations, volunteer burn out and access to ice, just to name a few.

The overriding goal of Hockey Calgary in this process is to **'continue to develop an environment where every player in the City of Calgary has an equal opportunity to develop their skills'**.

Some of the criteria we are focusing on to assess the situation include:

- Improve access to ice for all members
- Reduce size gap between small & large associations
- Optimize travel time for all members
- Improve competitiveness across associations
- Grow the game

These decisions are very difficult and we realize they will affect some families to a greater extent than others. History tells us that there is no one perfect solution, and that the changes made may not last forever, but we are doing our best to find solutions for the membership as a



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whole. In making the decisions we will attempt to balance the individual needs of the hockey associations, the parents, the players and the communities with what we perceive as a better environment to play hockey in moving forward.

Over the next 2 months we will continue to work closely with the elected leaders of each of the community hockey associations. These individuals are well aware of the needs of their home Association, and I am confident they will represent the members to the best of their ability. At present they have been provided with numerous 'potential scenarios' to review and make recommendations on. As stated earlier these are just options and at this point no final decisions have been made.

As discussions continue Hockey Calgary and our member Associations will continue to provide all relevant information to our membership. Once again we thank you for your ongoing support as we work to make Hockey Calgary a great place to play.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Kobelka'.

Kevin Kobelka
Executive Director
Hockey Calgary