



Nishnawbe Aski Nation  
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## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **NAN SUPPORTS PARTICIPANTS, ORGANIZERS OF FIRST NATION HOCKEY TOURNAMENTS**

**THUNDER BAY, ON:** Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Deputy Grand Chief Derek Fox and Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum expressed support for participants and organizers of two major First Nation hockey tournaments this week.

“We wish all teams and players the best of luck in these tournaments and we recognize Chief Patricia Faries, the Moose Cree community and tournament organizers for their outstanding efforts to carry on the proud tradition of the Little NHL. Based on the pillars of sportsmanship, respect, citizenship and education, this event provides a unique opportunity for youth to compete with honour and pride for their communities while promoting nation-to-nation citizenship,” said Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum.

The 46<sup>th</sup> Little Native Hockey League Tournament “Our Journey, Our Hopes and Dreams!” is hosted by Moose Cree First Nation with games played in the City of Mississauga. It features more than 200 teams and 2,500 players from across the province competing in 17 divisions March 12-16.

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Northern Bands Hockey Tournament features 40 teams competing in eight pools in Dryden March 13-19.

“Achievement through sport can build character and strength and we are thrilled that so many members of our First Nations, especially our youth, are participating in both of these tournaments. We hope these young athletes are inspired by the guiding principle of Little NHL tournament co-founder and former Chief James McGregor, that it’s not if you win or lose, but how much you tried and how fairly you played,” said Deputy Grand Chief Derek Fox, a former player who competed with First Nation hockey star Jonathan Cheechoo during his successful career in major junior and semi-pro hockey.

Cheechoo, a member of Moose Cree First Nation and National Hockey League star with the San Jose Sharks and Ottawa Senators, is Honorary Chair of the Little NHL Tournament.

More information: [www.lnhl.ca](http://www.lnhl.ca), [www.northernbandshockeytournament.com](http://www.northernbandshockeytournament.com)

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