



## **GTHL's Statement on Potential City of Toronto Work Stoppage**

Friday, January 27, 2012, 2012

The potential for a City of Toronto work stoppage continues to be of great concern for the Greater Toronto Hockey League.

Currently there are 28 GTHL House League programs that rely solely on the use of facilities owned and operated by the City of Toronto. Most of these programs would have to shut down during any work stoppage if the arenas are not accessible.

The North York Hockey League, which is a division of the Greater Toronto Hockey League, operates a league of over 300 select teams and would be significantly impacted if access to these facilities was limited or eliminated during a potential stoppage.

Of the GTHL's own competitive League, approximately 32% of the GTHL games are held in City of Toronto operated facilities. If there is a work stoppage, the League would be able to complete its regular season schedule by utilizing the ice contracts not impacted by the work stoppage. The League would be forced to modify the playoff schedule which would be altered depending upon when any work stoppage begins. The Pro Hockey Life King Clancy Tournament (the oldest hockey tournament in the world), and the Founder's Cup would both be at risk and likely would not operate.

Any work stoppage will affect an approximate total of 30,000 hockey players and their families.

The GTHL is mindful of both the City of Toronto's position and the position of the Unions involved in this dispute. It is not the intention of the GTHL to take sides in this matter however the GTHL Board does have an obligation to keep our participants and their families informed as to the potential implications of any work stoppage.

Given these factors, the GTHL Board of Directors would like to advise the following;

- The GTHL is hopeful that if there is any work stoppage, all City of Toronto operated arenas will remain open and accessible for all children and youth which will allow for each participant to complete their hockey season.
- If that is not feasible, the GTHL hopes that several arenas will remain open to allow for a minimal disruption in minor hockey games. If an arrangement could be agreed upon which would permit some arenas to remain open and operated by management staff, and the Union agrees not to picket these facilities, the GTHL would continue to schedule games in these facilities and it is likely that any House League Programs that operate out of these specific facilities would be able to continue operation.

- The GTHL would not schedule games in a facility that is staffed by replacement workers and it is highly unlikely that any House League program would continue to operate in these facilities based on the potential that these facilities would be picketed.
  
- If it is the intention of the Union to picket arenas that remain open, whether those arenas are staffed by City of Toronto management staff or replacement workers, the GTHL would not schedule games in any City operated facility and it is highly unlikely that any House League program would continue to operate in these facilities as it would force families into the disruption and animosity that sometimes can be created during labor disputes.

### **About The GTHL**

Founded in 1911 and currently celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Greater Toronto Hockey League is a non-profit organization and is the largest amateur minor hockey league in the World. There are over 40,000 participants registered annually in the GTHL. GTHL jurisdiction spans Toronto, Mississauga, Vaughan and Markham and includes players ranging from the ages of 4-20.

### **For further information please contact:**

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