



August 20, 2024

## **The Chippewa Tri-Council named hosts for Little NHL 2025**

*The Chippewa Tri-Council (CTC) is excited to announce that we have been confirmed as host communities for the 51st Annual Little NHL tournament in March 2025. An official signing ceremony will be held at noon on Saturday, August 24th, at the John Snake Memorial Multi-Purpose Grounds prior to the commencement of the Rama Powwow. We will welcome leadership from the Chippewas of Georgina Island, Beausoleil and Rama First Nations, the Little NHL Executive and delegates from the city of Markham to the ceremony.*

*It is a great honour to keep up the tradition of the tournament, an event that is the highlight of the year for many of our young people. It brings together so many of our families, united by our children and love of sport.*

*Chico Ralf, Little NHL President, said, "I look forward to another amazing tournament that brings our First Nation Teams, players, elders, parents, family and friends from all four directions in Ontario. Whether you are a player, family member or friend, we are all one LNHL family."*

*The first tournament had 17 teams and a modest 200 players in Little Current. In 2024, the tournament welcomed over 4,000 players, on 246 teams from U7 to U18 in 550 games. The event will be held in Markham, a city that has the capacity to accommodate these numbers, both on the ice and in accommodations.*

*Many First Nation communities have hosted the tournament over the 51-year history. These include Aundeck Omni Kaning, Curve Lake, Dokis, Fort William, Garden River, M'Chigeeng, Nipissing, Sagamok, Saugeen, Six Nations, Walpole Island, Wausauksing, Wikwemikong, Whitefish Lake and Whitefish River. The CTC is proud to carry on the legacy of this tournament.*

*Little Native Hockey League (Little NHL) tournament was started by five very special people who wanted to start a tournament for our First Nation Youth. Their collective dreams became a reality when they held their first tournament during the Christmas break in 1971.*

*We look forward to bringing a uniquely CTC imprint to this marquis event.*