## Message from President

Welcome players, coaching, staff, parents, hockey fans, and Elders to the Native Hockey Alberta Council website. Have you noticed we have spent the summer and fall planning and reorganizing under a new brand to ensure we improve our delivery of programming for the First Nations, Metis and Inuit youth?

We strongly believe hockey truly unites a community as it brings together people to enjoy a game of talent, skill, courage and tactics. Time spent playing and watching hockey will be most memorable stories told for generations. The success we have enjoyed over the past several years is because of the efforts of fellow players, referees, arena staff, and the volunteers, coming together as a team. We would like to thank the efforts and contribution of those that made it possible for teams to participate in the annual provincial Championships. This includes coaches, managers, parents, sponsors and volunteers that worked to raise the necessary funds to participate in the annual gathering of our people to celebrate the skills of our youth.

Native Hockey Alberta Council (NHAC) board and volunteers know players look forward to this tournament as they show case their hockey skills developed over the past season. We recognize that the competitive nature of hockey can create negative emotions and hostility, but hope that, when the final buzzer rings that these mind-sets will be left on the ice like a true champion. Regardless of the final score, every player that forms a team has a special story to share and a future path to journey down. Individually we stand alone, united we form teams, families and vision given to us by our forefathers.

NHAC strives to build a strong Team Alberta year after year and we continue to witness the improved skills of our aboriginal hockey players. We also see and appreciate the continued dedication and support of parents as well. Hockey performance embraces the concepts taught to us by our Elders and we will continue to acknowledge those teachings.

NHAC goal is not just hosting the annual tournament but building character and leadership in our youth by using hockey as the universal language. Hockey is a family experience that builds a strong community spirit. Enjoy each child's goal of the NHL and help build upon that energy.

Thank you,

Greg Sparklingeyes

Oct 6, 2018