



**52ND ANNUAL L'NHL
SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

**SPIRIT
OF THE
GAME**

**EMPOWERING WOMEN & GIRLS
IN HOCKEY**

WELCOME FROM OGIMAA TIM OMINIKA & THE WIIKWEMKOONG UNCEDED TERRITORY COUNCIL 52ND ANNUAL LITTLE NATIVE HOCKEY LEAGUE TOURNAMENT MARCH BREAK 2026 | MARKHAM, ONTARIO

Boozhoo and Aanii,

It is a great honour to welcome all players, families, coaches, and supporters to the 52nd Annual Little Native Hockey League Tournament.

The Little Native Hockey League represents more than a tournament; it is a gathering that strengthens our identity, fosters lifelong friendships, and empowers our young athletes to carry forward the spirit of our Nations both on and off the ice. As the Host Community for the next two years, Wiikwemkoong is honoured to share our rich traditions in language and culture, along with the enduring values of teamwork, respect, and perseverance that define our people.

This year's theme, "Spirit of the Game – Celebrating Girls and Women," honours the incredible growth, strength, and achievements of our female athletes. In recent years, the girls' division has seen remarkable expansion, with record-breaking numbers of teams participating—a powerful reflection of the determination, passion, and leadership of our young women. We anticipate yet another year of historic participation as more girls than ever step onto the ice to showcase their talent, courage, and love for the game.

We invite partners and sponsors to join us in making this event an unforgettable experience for all. Your support plays a vital role in ensuring that every child who participates feels inspired, valued, and proud of who they are. Together, we can create meaningful opportunities that promote healthy lifestyles, strengthen community connections, and celebrate the excellence of Indigenous youth in sport.

As we look forward to welcoming thousands of visitors to Markham for the event, we do so with gratitude, optimism, and the spirit of unity. Chi-miigwetch to the Little NHL Executive, the Wiikwemkoong Little NHL Planning Committee, and to the many volunteers, sponsors, and families whose efforts make this event possible. Your hard work keeps the Little NHL strong and full of life. As the tournament begins, we wish every team a safe and memorable week. Play hard, support one another, and carry your community's pride with you—on and off the ice.

Miigwetch



Ogimaa Tim Ominika and

Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory Council



DEAR COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND FRIENDS,

Wikwemkoong Unceded Territory, together with the Little Native Hockey League (Little NHL) Executive, is proud to announce that planning for the 52nd Annual Little Native Hockey League (Little NHL) Tournament is well underway. The 2026 tournament will take place in the City of Markham, Ontario, from March 15th - 19th, 2026.

As the host First Nation, Wikwemkoong is honoured to carry forward the Little NHL's remarkable legacy of bringing together Indigenous players, families, and communities from across Ontario. This year also marks the reinstatement of Marian Jacko, a proud member of Wikwemkoong, as President of the Little Native Hockey League. Her leadership and lifelong dedication to Indigenous sport will continue to strengthen and grow this tournament that means so much to our youth and communities.

We invite you to consider the sponsorship opportunities enclosed in this package as a way to play an important role in this year's tournament. Your support helps ensure that every young Indigenous athlete can take part in an unforgettable experience that fosters pride, teamwork, and leadership—both on and off the ice.

Now in its 52nd year, the Little NHL stands as Canada's largest Indigenous-organized youth hockey tournament, built on the guiding principles of Citizenship, Education, Sportsmanship, and Respect. For generations, this tournament has inspired a sense of belonging and unity, while creating lifelong friendships and memories for Indigenous youth and their families.

The success of the Little NHL has always depended on the dedication of our volunteers, communities, and the generosity of partners like you. Together, we can continue to empower Indigenous youth through sport, celebrate their achievements, and honor the values that make this tournament truly special. *Miigwech* (thank you) for your time, generosity, and continued support of the 52nd Annual Little Native Hockey League Tournament, proudly hosted by Wikwemkoong Unceded Territory.

Miigwech (Thank you),
Marian Jacko
President, Little Native Hockey League



LITTLE NHL HISTORY

The Little Native Hockey League (Little NHL) tournament began in 1971 through the vision of five dedicated community leaders who wanted to create a hockey tournament for First Nation youth. These founders were the late Earl Abotossaway, former Chief Jim McGregor, the late James D. Debassige, the late Reverend Leonard Self, and the late Norman Debassige. Their dream became reality when they hosted the first tournament during the Christmas break of 1971.

Over the past five decades, the tournament has become a beloved annual tradition — a celebration of community, youth, and culture. Many First Nation communities have proudly hosted the tournament, including Aundeck Omni Kaning, Curve Lake, Dokis, Fort William, Garden River, M'Chigeeng, Moose Cree, Nipissing, Sagamok, Saugeen, Six Nations, Walpole Island, Wausauksing, Whitefish Lake, Whitefish River, Aamjiwnaang, and now, once again, Wikwemikong Unceded Territory as the host for 2026.

Many former LNHL players have gone on to succeed at elite levels — including AA, AAA, Junior, College, OHL, and NHL — while the spirit and intent established by the founders remains the same. Each year, the tournament continues to foster **pride, teamwork, leadership,** and **cultural connection** among Indigenous youth across Ontario.

The Little NHL stands proudly on its four pillars:

Education • Citizenship • Sportsmanship • Respect



**“It’s not if you win or lose,
but how much you tried
and how fairly you played.”
— Former Chief Jim McGregor**

LITTLE NATIVE HOCKEY LEAGUE

1971

The first tournament featured 17 teams and 200 players in Little Current. Today, the LNHL has grown into the **largest First Nation-organized hockey tournament in Ontario**, welcoming over 270 teams, 4,000 players, and more than 10,000 spectators from across the province.

The 52nd Annual LNHL Tournament will continue this legacy under the leadership of Wikwemkoong Unceded Territory, celebrating girls and women in hockey, cultural pride, and the unifying spirit that makes this tournament so special.

2026



2026 LITTLE NHL SPONSORSHIP LEVELS AND OPPORTUNITIES

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES TO REACH EXTENDED AUDIENCES ACROSS ONTARIO

Sponsorship of the **Little Native Hockey League (LNHL)** tournament is a meaningful opportunity to promote your organization and build relationships with First Nation communities and Indigenous families across Ontario. The tournament brings together youth, families, Elders, leaders, and organizations — uniting communities through hockey and the shared values of **Education, Respect, Citizenship, and Sportsmanship**. This year's theme, "**Spirit of the Game – Empowering Women & Girls in Hockey,**" highlights Indigenous leadership, representation, and empowerment through sport.

SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS

As a sponsor of the 52nd Annual Little NHL Tournament, your organization will be recognized before, during, and after the event through a range of advertising and engagement opportunities that correspond with your sponsorship level.

Sponsors will receive:

- Prominent logo placement and recognition throughout the tournament
- Invitations to exclusive host and sponsor events
- Access to activation and media opportunities
- Charitable tax receipts where applicable

NEW: TWO-YEAR PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

For the first time, the Little Native Hockey League is offering **2-year sponsorship commitments (2026–2027)**. This partnership extension rewards early sponsors with enhanced recognition, exclusive experiences, and year-round visibility across both tournaments.

2-Year Partners Receive:

- Special recognition during the 2026 Opening Ceremony, including a verbal thank-you from the host and logo inclusion in the stage presentation
- Feature in a pre-tournament press release announcing early supporters
- Spotlight post on LNHL social media and website, highlighting your organization's story and community commitment
- Exclusive puck drop opportunity at the 2026 Championship Games
- Priority selection for activation spaces and event booths at both tournaments
- First right of renewal for the 2027 LNHL tournament

We invite you to review the Sponsorship Levels chart and consider joining us as a proud supporter of LNHL 2026 – Hosted by Wikwemikong Unceded Territory.

On behalf of the Wikwemikong Host Committee and the Little NHL Executive, we sincerely thank you for your continued support of this historic and high-profile annual event. Miigwech! (Thank You)

2026 LITTLE NHL SPONSORSHIP LEVELS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Hosted by Wikwemikong Unceded Territory – LNHL 2026

DIAMOND SPONSOR – MAIN ARENA PARTNER

\$100,000 (1-Year) | \$200,000 (2-Year Commitment)

Diamond sponsors receive all Platinum benefits AND:

- Naming rights at the Main Arena (Centennial Community Centre)
- Company logo featured at main arena entrances
- Company logo included on banners and in photos of Championship Teams
- Full-page company advertisement in the official tournament program (Online & Hard copy)
- Dedicated sponsor recognition on the official LNHL 2026 website
- Special recognition during the Opening Ceremony and Championship Games
- Official Presenting Partner of the VIP Reception (Meet & Greet)
- 10 VIP tickets for the VIP Reception
- Logo inclusion in livestream and broadcast coverage
- Sponsor promotion at the Wikwemikong Annual Cultural Festival
- Priority choice of booth/activation space
- Priority renewal rights for LNHL 2027

PLATINUM SPONSOR

\$75,000 (1-Year) | \$150,000 (2-Year Commitment)

- Right to use the LNHL 2026 event logo in all advertising and promotions
- Opportunity to provide corporate information and/or swag items for athlete welcome bags
- Brand recognition on event signage, LNHL website, and social media channels
- Recognition advertisement in the official tournament program
- Recognition during the Opening Ceremony and Closing Ceremony
- Recognition in media correspondence and Host Committee communications
- Opportunity to set up a corporate booth or fan activation during the event*
- Official sponsor of the VIP lounge for Meet & Greet following the Opening Ceremony
- VIP area access for Opening Day Celebration
- Invitation to present medals at Championship Games
- Exclusive opportunity to sponsor the Girls' Showcase Game or Fan of the Game feature
- 10 VIP tickets for the Opening Ceremony
- Appreciation gift or memorabilia acknowledging sponsor contribution



2026 LITTLE NHL SPONSORSHIP LEVELS AND OPPORTUNITIES

GOLD SPONSOR

\$50,000 (1-Year) | \$100,000 (2-Year Commitment)

- Brand recognition on selected venues, LNHL website, and social media channels
- Recognition in the official tournament program
- Verbal acknowledgment during the Closing Ceremony
- Opportunity to include branded items in athlete swag bags
- Exclusive opportunity to sponsor an Opening Ceremony segment and/or tournament activity
- 8 VIP Tickets for Opening Ceremony
- 3 Tickets for VIP Reception

SILVER SPONSOR

\$25,000 (1-Year) | \$50,000 (2-Year Commitment)

- Brand recognition on selected venues, LNHL website, and social media channels
- Recognition in the official tournament program
- Verbal acknowledgment during the Closing Ceremony
- Exclusive opportunity to co-sponsor an Opening Ceremony segment and/or tournament activity
- 3 VIP Tickets for Opening Ceremony
- 3 Tickets for VIP Reception

BRONZE SPONSOR

\$10,000 (1-Year) | \$20,000 (2-Year Commitment)

- Organization name listed on the LNHL website
- Thank-you recognition on LNHL social media channels
- Exclusive opportunity to sponsor the admissions table
- VIP tickets

FRIENDS OF LNHL

Variable contribution (monetary or in-kind)

- Includes acknowledgment letter and charitable tax receipt



SPONSORSHIP COMMITMENT FORM

Contact Person _____

Address _____

City/Prov/Postal Code _____

Office Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- \$100,000 / \$200,000 — Diamond (Main Arena Partner)
- \$75,000 / \$150,000 — Platinum
- \$50,000 / \$100,000 — Gold
- \$25,000 / \$50,000 — Silver
- \$10,000 / \$20,000 — Bronze
- Donation (cash, prize, or in-kind contribution)

Payment Method: E-Transfer | Cheque | Money Order

Amount: _____

Tax receipt required?

Yes

No

Donor's Name _____

Check if you prefer to remain anonymous

Sponsorship Commitment Deadline: February 14, 2026

Sponsorship Payment Deadline: February 28, 2026

Please make cheques payable to: Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory
19A Complex Drive
Wikwemikong, ON P0P 2J0



UPDATED ARENAS:

- Angus Glen Community Centre
- Centennial Community Centre
- R.J. Clatworthy Community Centre
- Crosby Community Centre
- Elvis Stojko Arena
- Markham Village Community Centre
- Milliken Mills Community Centre
- Mt. Joy Community Centre
- Stouffville Arena
- Stouffville Clippers Sports Complex

DIAMOND ONLY BENEFIT	DIAMOND	PLATINUM	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	DONATION
Naming rights at Main Arena	★					
Logo at arena entrances	★					
Logo in Championship Team photo areas	★					
Full-page program advertisement	★					
Livestream/broadcast inclusion	★					
Promotion at WUT Cultural Festival	★					
Priority booth/activation choice	★					
Priority renewal rights	★					



SPONSOR LEVELS AND BENEFITS	DIAMOND \$100,000/ \$200,000	PLATINUM \$75,000 / \$150,000	GOLD \$50,000 / \$100,000	SILVER \$25,000 / \$50,000	BRONZE \$10,000 / \$20,000	DONATION
Right to use event logo	★	★				
Athlete welcome bag items	★	★	★			
Website & social media recognition	★	★	★	★	★	
Program recognition	★	★	★	★	★	
Venue branding (premium for Diamond & Platinum)	★	★	★	★	★	
Media recognition	★	★				
Booth / fan activation space	★	★				
VIP Lounge sponsor (Opening Ceremony)	★	★				
VIP area – Opening Day	★	★				
Medal presentation	★	★				
Girls' Showcase / Fan of the Game	★	★				
Opening Ceremony segment or tournament activity	★		★	★		
Appreciation gift / commemorative item	★	★	★			
VIP Tickets- VIP Reception	10 ★	5 ★	3 ★	3 ★		
VIP Tickets –Opening Ceremony	10 ★	10 ★	8 ★	3 ★	★	

Contact: Kiana Manitowabi, Sports & Event Coordinator
Email: kianamanitowabi@wikwemkoong.ca

