

Healthy Kids Community Challenge Kick-Off

Saturday January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1:30 P.M., Queen Street (In Front of Essar Centre)

[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]

Good afternoon everyone. It's my great pleasure to welcome you all here for the kick-off of the Healthy Kids Community Challenge in Sault Ste. Marie.

It's probably no surprise that it takes a lot of people to organize a ball hockey event **this big**. First and foremost, I'd like to thank the Soo Greyhounds hockey club and players for their participation today. I know it will be very exciting for all of our young hockey fans here to play with the members of the Greyhounds. Thank you to the Hounds for taking part and for supporting active and healthy lifestyles for young people.

I'd also like to thank the Algoma Leadership Table and Dr. Daneen Dénomme—the Project Manager for the Healthy Kids Challenge—for coming up with the idea for today's tournament and helping to organize it.

There are a number of other partners I would also like to acknowledge who have made this event possible. These include: Soo Source for Sports, Tim Hortons, SK Group, Bon Soo, Metro, Once Upon A Child and Value Village.

I also want to offer a big thank you to all of our event volunteers who are here today to help us out and keep everything running smoothly.

The Healthy Kids Community Challenge is going to be a three-year project in Sault Ste. Marie and we're looking forward to many more great community events such as this one as the challenge unfolds.

I want to keep my comments brief so that we can get to the hockey. Thank you again for allowing me to speak, and to everyone taking part today, remember to play fair and have fun!