

**Speaking Notes – Sports Hall of Fame Inductions**

**June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – Russ Ramsay Room**

**[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]**

Good evening everybody. I'm thrilled to welcome you here to the Civic Centre for this evening's Sault Ste. Marie Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. It's a great honour for me to participate and I am very glad to be joining you.

Tonight, we are recognizing the achievements of three of Sault Ste. Marie's greatest athletes: Aaron Fiacconi, Adam Kates and Richard MacLennan.

Though Sault Ste. Marie is in some ways a small community, there is no question that we have a knack for producing outside athletic talents. People from the Soo have achieved tremendous success in a wide variety of sports as athletes, coaches and builders.

This year's inductees reflect the range of athletic talent in our community. Aaron, Adam and Richard are being honoured for their success in the sports of football, cross-country skiing and speed skating, respectively. Our three honourees have competed professionally, nationally, and internationally, and on all these stages they have represented Sault Ste. Marie with distinction.

It is a great privilege for me to be able to help commemorate the achievements of our three inductees this evening. I'd like to offer my thanks to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee for their work in organizing tonight's celebration. I'd also like to recognize all of the other City staff who helped to make this evening a success.

I also want to mention and thank the Hall of Fame Selection Committee for their work in selecting this year's nominees. As I mentioned previously, Sault Ste. Marie has produced an incredible number of talented athletes and accomplished coaches and builders. This makes choosing inductees a very difficult task, but without question the committee has chosen very well with this year's selections.

To Aaron, Adam and Richard, on behalf of the Office of Mayor and our City Council, please accept my sincere congratulations on being inducted into the Sault Ste. Marie Sports Hall of Fame. You have been remarkable ambassadors for our community and your respective accomplishments in sport have brought great pride to our citizens. The positive examples each of you have set have inspired many younger athletes.

The lasting recognition of being inducted into the hall of fame has been well-earned in each of your cases, and it is my hope that each of you—as well as your families and friends—feel suitably proud to be acknowledged in this way.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak tonight. Please enjoy the rest of the evening.