

Extravaganza Hockey Tournament

Friday, February 16

[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]

Good evening everyone, I am very pleased to be here at the Community First Soo Pee Wee Arena to kick off the 2018 Extravaganza Hockey Tournament.

With 115 teams participating in the tournament this weekend, the Extravaganza is Northern Ontario's largest minor hockey tournament and I want to take a moment to welcome all of the visitors from out of town, along with the Saultitians gathered here tonight.

I also want to recognize MPP Romano for being here with me tonight. Thank you Ross for joining us.

Every time I come to the Pee Wee I'm flooded with memories I've made here. Like many people in the Sault, this is where I learned to play hockey.

For more than fifty years, the Soo Pee Wee Arena has been a community gathering place and a home for minor hockey in Sault Ste. Marie.

Generations of youth have learned to skate, learned the game of hockey and learned the values of teamwork, fair play and sportsmanship at this facility. Memories have been made and lifetime friendships forged on the ice, in the locker rooms and in the stands of this building.

None of these memories would be possible if it weren't for our city's dedicated local hockey community.

The Pee Wee is one of two volunteer built arenas in Canada, and to this day volunteerism continues to be essential to operations here.

To all the participants, their families and friends, these volunteers are the people who make this tournament possible and they will ensure your experience is a memorable one.

Thank you.