

**Press Release: January 30<sup>th</sup> 2007**

**Special Meeting – ODMHA Minor Council - January 29<sup>th</sup> 2007**

At a special meeting of the Ottawa District Minor Council, on January 29th, 2007 a motion was put forward stating that:

*"A branch-wide "AAA" league will commence in the ODMHA, for the 2007-2008 hockey season, in accordance with regulations and policies drafted by the "AAA" Sub-committee under mandate from Minor Council".*

This motion was in relation to all information prepared to date by the AAA sub-committee and is to be a 3 year pilot project commencing at the Midget and Bantam levels for 2007-2008. The motion was presented by the chairperson of the sub committee and seconded from the floor.

A motion to amend was presented and seconded from Minor Council members who supported the “AAA” pilot proposal but wished to amend the start date until the 2008-2009 hockey season.

Discussion on both the motion and the amendment to the motion lasted for over an hour before the ODMHA President, Mr. Mike Depratto, called for a vote. This was an open vote with all members, District Chairpersons, and Executive council free to vote as they wished.

The amendment was defeated and the motion to proceed with the pilot project passed. This approval means that there is a tremendous amount of work to be done to launch the pilot and can only succeed with the full cooperation of all. The sub-committee members will continue working with the Districts and yet to be formed Zone executive bodies to ensure that this transition be carried out as smoothly as possible.

The creation of a "AAA" tier of hockey will bring the ODMHA into alignment with the rest of Canada where "AAA" already exists as the top minor hockey tier. It will also involve a restructuring of the two remaining tiers of competitive hockey to ensure the least amount of disruption to all levels, including house league, the grass root foundation for all of the competitive leagues.

The proposal for 5 new "AAA" catchments and the draft supporting documents are available for viewing online through links at the ODMHA website, [www.odmha.on.ca](http://www.odmha.on.ca).