



September 26, 2008

To: Hockey NWT  
Hockey Nunavut  
All Minor Hockey Associations

Effective immediately (2008/09 season),

## All coaches and on-ice participants must wear CSA approved, and properly fastened helmets while on the ice.

Regulating this policy is the responsibility of the local minor hockey association. This is no different from other equipment regulations such as neck guards, or where applicable, mouth guards.

Coaches have a huge influence on player attitudes and must lead by example. Coaches wearing helmets show players that safety is our number one priority, and regardless of age or stature necessary precautions must be taken.

We now understand the longterm impacts and severity of concussions. Coaches who do not wear helmets are at risk. While the numbers of incidents may be few, the injuries are often severe. Hockey Canada has initiated a country wide initiative on safety for coaches and on-ice helpers. We at Hockey North feel the time has come to reduce this risk by initiating the "Helmet Policy" across the north.

Hockey Canada (HC) prides itself in being a hockey leader; and this includes being a leader on safety issues. In 2001 HC made the following recommendation: *"It is recommended that all on-ice participants which would include coaches, and assistants wear a CSA approved properly fastened helmet for all sanctioned on-ice sessions. In all clinics, including National, Branch and association sanctioned, clinic participants MUST wear a CSA approved properly fastened helmet for all on-ice sessions"*. Since this time almost all Branches, or local minor hockey associations across Canada have implemented a helmet policy for coaches. Hockey North is one of the last Branches to do so.

We trust that this directive is clear. We look forward to fun and safe hockey being enjoyed across the north.

Respectfully,

Mike Gravel  
Minor Hockey Chair

Gary Vivian  
President