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2009 Kamloops International Bantam Ice Hockey Tournament Update

Kamloops, B.C. – The legendary 2009 Kamloops International Bantam Ice Hockey Tournament (KIBIHT) scheduled for April 8-12, 2009 is receiving very strong registration demand.

Out of a total of 24 male teams there are 19 confirmed registrations from teams in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Washington State. Other teams from Michigan, California and Western Canada have also expressed interested in registering for KIBIHT. For the first time ever KIBIHT will be hosting 8 female midget AAA teams with already 5 confirmed registrations from western Canada with several more serious inquiries including a team from New Brunswick.

"In recognition for four decades of support from Kamloops fans and visitors we are pleased to announce that admission to all games in 2009 will be free!" says Gerard Hayes, KIBIHT Director. "Based on the quality of teams registered so far we know this will be one of the most exciting and competitive tournaments ever and KIBIHT, the City of Kamloops, event sponsors, and Kamloops Minor Hockey Association are ready to roll out the red carpet to all players, coaches, families and fans."

The Western Hockey League has announced its intent to support KIBIHT by sponsoring the Breakfast Banquet and a parent's information session highlighting the WHL's Education/Scholarship Program. Both of these events will take place April 10, 2009 at 9:00AM at Thompson Rivers University. KIBIHT is also pleased to announce Aberdeen Mall is the new title sponsor for the female tournament.

According to Mr. Ron Robison, WHL Commissioner, "KIBIHT is an ideal tournament for our **WHL Clubs to evaluate many top ranked bantam-aged players in advance of the WHL Bantam Draft** and Kamloops has always put on a first-class event. We look forward to supporting KIBIHT as a major partner in 2009."

"The City of Kamloops is a proud partner of KIBIHT and we are supporting this event with a \$10,000 sponsorship in 2009." says Byron McCorkell, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services.

Through its official website at www.KIBIHT.com there will be daily updates and information available to interested teams and fans.

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To stage a first class International Minor Hockey Tournament co-hosted by The City Of Kamloops and Kamloops Minor Hockey Association for elite female midget and male bantam hockey players and provide them with a platform to showcase their skills further enhancing the Tournament Capital of Canada.

