

February 15, 2013

To the Members of the Selection Committee of the Hockey Hall of Fame,

My name is Joseph Boyden, a Canadian mixed blood novelist and journalist of Irish and Ojibwe heritage. My novels include the internationally bestselling *Three Day Road* and *Through Black Spruce*, and they've won such prizes as the Scotiabank Giller, The Rogers Writers Trust Prize, The Amazon First Novel Award, and McNally Robinson Aboriginal Book of the Year Award.

I am writing this letter to ask you to consider nominating Reggie Leach for Honoured Membership in the Hockey Hall of Fame. I can personally attest to how Mr. Leach was and certainly continues to be an amazing inspiration to Aboriginal youth across this country. He's a point of pride for First Nations people in Canada and has opened the door to so many youth wanting not just to play the game of hockey but to succeed in a world that is often foreign and frightening to them.

I don't have to tell you all of "The Riverton Rifle's" many accomplishments on the ice as his years of excellence, record-breaking play, and sportsmanship speak for themselves. But what makes Reggie Leach such a standout player and person is his continued love for his community and for communities across our nation, the adoration of his fans, aboriginal and non-aboriginal alike, and the pride he has instilled in so many young people since his first days on the ice.

His admission to the hallowed halls of your institution will bring real pride to people across our continent. Reggie Leach broke down a lot of barriers and made a massive positive impact on the game and on a lot of us kids watching him with breathless wonder and amazement.

Sincerely,

Joseph Boyden