



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

February 8, 2013

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

My name is Wabanakwut Kinew and I am the Director of Indigenous Inclusion at The University of Winnipeg. My role involves setting up academic programs which help to connect young First Nations, Métis and Inuit people with opportunities, primarily in the mainstream economy. During my family time I volunteer as a Hockey Canada certified hockey coach with two young sons playing in Winnipeg's Saint James Amateur Minor Hockey Association. Finally, I am a lifelong fan of hockey.

I am writing this letter to ask you to consider nominating Reggie Leach for Honoured Membership in the Hockey Hall of Fame.

As a child I held Reggie Leach in high esteem. For young Indigenous people such as myself, having a role model like Mr. Leach helped to inspire my passion for the game. In the past number of years I have seen Mr. Leach give back to the community in general and Indigenous people in particular. Whether at hockey dinners or on the ice, Mr. Leach continues to help people. It is fair to say that his example lead me in part to become a volunteer with minor hockey today.

Over and above that, his achievements in hockey speak for itself. He is a Stanley Cup winner, for a time owned the record for most combined regular season and playoff goals in a single year, and he boasts the unique accomplishment of being the first person to win the Conn Smythe trophy while on the losing team of the finals.

Bestowing upon him the honour of induction into the Hockey Hall of Fame would be significant, not just for him, but would also be viewed by many Indigenous people as an achievement for the community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wabanakwut Kinew'.

Miigwetch/Thanks!