

## Toronto Leaside Girls Hockey Association Setting the Record Straight -- Fairness in Girls Hockey

**Toronto, November 13, 2009.** The Toronto Leaside Girls Hockey Association (TLGHA) stands firm on its assertion that city-owned arenas in Toronto should all follow the city's Ice Allocation Policy ensuring that community youth (girls and boys not girls vs. boys) have equitable access and first priority to city ice. Many recent statements are false, misleading and inflammatory – and simply skirt the fact that ice is not being allocated consistent with city equity policy.

Here are the facts:

- TLGHA girls hockey has been part of the Toronto community for 35 years. With over 900 players we have achieved the critical mass to be able to offer a full range of age and skills appropriate hockey programs. This is essential to the continued success, enjoyment and development of girls hockey in Toronto.
- TLGHA has 210 youth players resident in the North Toronto Arena Board's local area. After four years of written requests (including proof of residency) and presentations these players have been completely denied any ice. There is no equitable ice allocation policy at North Toronto on any basis. The board serves their founding members. They do not serve the North Toronto community.
- TLGHA has 167 youth players resident in the Ted Reeve local area. The two hours of ice our house league players enjoyed for many years was taken away this season. In its place we were offered four hours of ice unsuitable for young house league players. We did not accept one hour of ice per week from 5pm-6pm on Thursday evenings. On a per capita basis, local boys house league players get eight times as much ice as girls. Local GTHL players (competitive youth) get more than eleven times as much ice as our girls.
- TLGHA has 131 youth players resident in the Larry Grossman Forest Hill local area. When the small girls division of the Forest Hill Hockey Association collapsed four years ago, we absorbed as many players as we could but could not get the ice time from the arena. Since then we have been submitting annual requests. This year we have been allocated four hours of ice. No ice was taken away from the men's groups playing on Sunday morning or Thursday evening. With an equitable ice allocation policy we have no doubt that all youth groups at the arena will benefit.
- TLGHA has 159 youth players resident in the Leaside Gardens local area. Leaside is the only arena with an equitable allocation policy where girls receive the same per capita allocation of ice as boys. It has worked that way for many years. We hope to see a second pad built in the near future following the same equitable model but we regret that might not happen for some time.
- TLGHA has another 115 youth players from other parts of Toronto and only 16 from outside Toronto.
- We have 121 adult players. All of our adult programs are on private ice.

Here is what we want:

- We want the city Ice Allocation Policy applied consistently at all city-managed arenas.
- We want City Council to pass a motion to require all arena boards to implement the city's Ice Allocation Policy.
- We do not want girls house leagues to get ice at the expense of other house leagues.
- We want adult groups off prime time ice. It should be allocated to youth hockey.
- We want to engage in a constructive dialogue with the city and arena boards.
- We support the construction of more arenas in our community.
- **WE DO NOT WANT TO BE SHUT OUT ANY LONGER.**

For more information contact TLGHA at 416-488-6737 or leasidegirlshockey@hotmail.com.