



April 17, 2017

**For Immediate Release**

**HOCKEY CALGARY WILL ANNOUNCE UPCOMING CHANGES TO THE RESPECT IN SPORT CERTIFICATION FOR THE 2017-18 SEASON AND BEYOND**

**CALGARY, AB** – Join Sheldon Kennedy and Respect Group along with Hockey Calgary Executive Director Kevin Kobelka and Mount Royal University as they announce the next phase of ongoing education with regards to the mandatory “Respect in Sport” course for all Hockey Calgary parents and coaches.

In 2010, Hockey Calgary was the first minor hockey association to introduce a mandatory online Respect in Sport course, requiring at least one parent from each household of hockey-playing children to obtain their Respect in Sport certification. The certification is compulsory for enrollment in a Hockey Calgary program.

In 2014, Hockey Calgary partnered with Mount Royal University (MRU), to study the implementation of this program and the impact it had on behavior in the overall minor hockey program. Research findings from the study can be found here - <https://www.hockeycalgary.ca/page/index/id/340/>

Respect in Sport encourages positive behaviors from parents, players, coaches and referees, while maintaining a safe environment for everyone involved.

**Media are encouraged to attend-**

**When:** Thursday April 20, 2017

**Where:** Max Bell Arena, Main Lobby (outside of Hockey Calgary offices)

**Time:** 11 a.m. followed by a light lunch

**Who will be in attendance:**

**Sheldon Kennedy:** Co-founder, Respect Group & Lead Director – Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre

**Wayne McNeil:** Co-founder, Respect Group

**Kevin Kobelka:** Executive Director, Hockey Calgary

**Julie Booke:** Associate Professor, Department of Health and Physical Education, MRU

**Minor Hockey Family**

**Social Media Outlets:**

**Hockey Calgary**

Twitter/Instagram/Facebook: @HockeyCalgary

**Respect Group**

Twitter/Instagram/Facebook: @respectgroup /@respectgroupinc/ Respect Group

For information please contact:

**Lisa Rosengarten**

Manager, Marketing, Communications & Events

[Lisa.rosengarten@hockeycalgary.com](mailto:Lisa.rosengarten@hockeycalgary.com)

(403) 245-5773 ext. 205