



Press Release

Theo Fleury Overdue for Hall of Fame

June 30, 2020 (Ottawa, ON) – The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) calls on the Hockey Hall of Fame’s 18 person nominating committee to put Theoren Fleury on the ballot for 2021.

“With Indigenous History Month coming to a close, it's time to recognize the accomplishments of Theoren Fleury for his contributions to hockey and place him in the Hockey Hall of Fame” states Kim Beaudin, CAP National Vice Chief. “This is a long overdue acknowledgement. He was eligible in 2009, picked in the 8th round and 166th overall. Due to his small stature, hockey pundits did not expect much from him”.

A news article in 2018 from the New York Times highlighted the number of Indigenous players who played in the National Hockey League (NHL). Of the 80 indigenous players, this would include Theoren “Theo” Fleury, from Oxbow, Saskatchewan.

Taking a cue from his father at the age of five, Theo borrowed a pair of skates because his family didn’t have the money to buy skates or equipment and he began his journey of love for hockey.

Since his retirement from the Calgary Flames in 2006, over 13 years ago, it is time that Theo take his rightful place at the panica of hockey and be recognized by all Canadians for his contributions to Canada’s obsession of Hockey.

There are few players in history who can match Theo Fleury’s record.

The numbers speak for themselves. He finished his NHL career with 1088 points, a Stanley Cup champion in 1989 with the Calgary Flames, and seven appearances in NHL’s All-Star Games. He was part of the “century points club”, scoring over 100 points in a season, two times.

On the international stage, he led Team Canada to world Junior gold in 1988 as Captain, won gold in the 1991 Canada Cup, was a member of Canada’s 1998 Winter Olympic team and won the Olympic gold in Salt Lake City in 2002.

All of these achievements in spite of his career being cut short at age 34.

Theo Fleury’s struggles while playing in the NHL are a matter of public record. So too are his accomplishments, leadership and community-building, including visitation to Canadian prisons since that time. His bravery in speaking out about the sexual abuse he experienced while playing hockey as a junior, as far too many Indigenous youth experience, is an example that should be recognized and honoured.

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Junior Hockey should have protected him as a young teenager as he ventured into life as a hockey player without the watchful eye of his family.

Overcoming trauma is a lifelong journey. Once he acknowledged his addictions, he explored his Métis culture, participated in traditional sweats, researched his Métis roots and family history. This became the bedrock of his soul as he began to change for the better. He has become a role model for all Indigenous people in Canada who strive to express who they are, their heritage and identity in various sports.

CAP is calling on the Canadian Hall of Fame to ensure that Theoren Fleury is brought in to the ballot and acknowledged for 2021.

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For media interviews please contact:

Kim Beaudin

306-717-1429

K.beaudin@abo-peoples.org

The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples is the national voice representing the interests of Métis, Status and non-Status Indians, and Southern Inuit Indigenous People living off-reserve. Today, over 80 per cent of Indigenous people live off-reserve.



Communiqué de presse

TITRE : Calibri 13

Texte Cambria 11 : Date (Ottawa, ON) – Idéalement, un communiqué de presse devrait être concis et précis. Il devrait inclure toutes les informations pertinentes dont un journaliste ou un éditeur aurait besoin. Un bon communiqué de presse évitera des courriels de suivi des médias et / ou suscitera des questions plus pertinentes susceptibles d'accroître l'intérêt pour l'événement ou le sujet en question. Éviter d'évoquer le fait que le CPA se retrouve marginalisé.

Un bon communiqué de presse aidera à contrôler le récit derrière l'événement / le sujet discuté et à toucher un large public. Par conséquent, il doit être clair et simple (non technique), inclusif et attrayant pour un large public, publié à un moment opportun et facilement accessible.

SECTION 1: Le premier paragraphe du communiqué de presse doit répondre aux questions suivantes: "qui", "quoi", "quand", "où" et "pourquoi" et être accrocheur. Les paragraphes suivants pourraient renseigner sur le contexte de l'événement et son impact sur l'organisation.

SECTION 2: Partagez les étapes passées ou les faits marquants, des statistiques ou des recherches pour informer sur le contexte dont un journaliste aurait besoin. Il est possible de structurer cela en plusieurs paragraphes ou sous forme d'idées en tirets. Il est aussi souhaitable d'incorporer des citations (du chef national ou d'autres parties prenantes / sujets pertinents / experts impliqués dans l'événement couvert)

SECTION 3: Soulignez une fois de plus ce qui rend cette histoire importante pour le public. Terminez avec plus d'informations sur l'événement, la « vue d'ensemble », ainsi que des liens de pages externes pour plus d'informations.

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Pour les demandes d'entrevues, veuillez contacter:

Jessica Dawson, Adjointe executive

613-747-6022

j.dawson@abo-peoples.org

Le Congrès des peuples autochtones est la voix nationale représentant les droits, les intérêts et les besoins des Métis, des Indiens statués et non statués, et des peuples Inuits du Sud vivant hors réserve. Aujourd'hui, plus de 70% des autochtones vivent hors réserve au Canada.