

OPEN LETTER TO MR DARYL KATZ

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BIRTH OF CANADIAN NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

NOW IS THE TIME OR NEVER

NHL LOCKOUT: EDMONTON OILERS EYE SEATTLE FOR TALKS ABOUT POSSIBLE RELOCATION

Toronto Star, Tuesday September 25, 2012

Another National Hockey League season comes to its end, another all American Stanley Cup final and another American Stanley Cup Champion. That makes nine championships in the past ten years for the Americans. Montreal won it in 1993 the last Canadian team to do so. When the opening round of playoffs for the Stanley Cup began two months ago there were sixteen teams entered -- twelve American, four Canadian. In the quarter-finals there were seven American teams and one Canadian team. In the semi-finals all four were American teams. In the past seventy-six years of Stanley Cup Playoffs, Canada has won the championship forty-two times, the United States have won it thirty-four years. There are twenty-four American cities with NHL franchise teams, most of which are very well financed. Canada has six franchise teams, five of which have said they will need social assistance if they are to remain in Canada. These long odds make it very difficult for Canadians across the country to see the day when Canada will once again celebrate a Stanley Cup championship. Lord Stanley's trophy of hockey excellence and superiority, donated in 1893, is now more at home south of the border. What has gone wrong with the Canada's hockey way of life, which until 1972 was universally considered the best in the world? Let's take a look.

For the few or the many who may be interested and would like to consider what course of action can be adopted nationwide as being sound, feasible and especially needed to assure that Canada will soon retrieve its former hockey glories and international status, there are two main proposals and possibilities to consider. Adopting these changes may be the starting point of a new era, a new format of hockey excellence, for our players, our fans, the nation and our financial establishment. First, the formation of a Canadian National Hockey League --secondly the reestablishment of the Stanley Cup as our symbol of our National Hockey Champions.

Is such an idea possible, practical, conceivably or unsound and contentious? It depends on how one looks at it and the needs that exist. Other than banking and politics Canada no longer has a defining

national industry. It has a few companies working successfully in the industries of other countries and in the world of international trade and industry, but not one singular Canadian industry to call our own and profit from. So the national need exists for a significant hockey program which will once again restore our international status in the most Canadian of all worldwide athletic enterprises. The needed cities are there, the hockey talent is there, the money for franchises is there. Everyone employed by the Canadian National Hockey League would be paid in Canadian currency -- which will automatically reduce present player salaries by forty percent or more. Other Canadian workers across Canada work every day of their lives for Canadian, American, and European and Asian companies operating in Canada and are paid in Canadian dollars. There are enough fans paying enough money presently for NHL games in Canada, to support successfully a Canadian enterprises such as our own professional hockey league. Our Canadian Junior hockey leagues turn out a couple hundred hockey players a year. Europe does the same. If European countries can support their own hockey leagues, Canada should be able to do so also. Presently there are hockey leagues in the Czech Republic, Germany, Switzerland, Belarus, Slovakia, Finland, Austria, Japan, Sweden, Latvia, the Ukraine, Russia, Italy and Norway. There are two hundred and eighty European hockey players - - 28 percent of the leagues' total -- employed by NHL teams. The International Ice Hockey Federation will receive twenty-nine million US dollars from the NHL over the next three years as compensation for hiring their top home-grown players. From these published numbers one can safely calculate that approximately six hundred and fifty Canadian hockey players earn their living playing in the NHL. These players were born and raised in Canada and played their minor and junior hockey for cities and towns across the country. Canadians and expatriated Canadians make up the great majority of the managers, coaches, and supervisors of the hockey and business affairs of the league and its member teams.

EXCERPTS:

June 20, 2001

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http://www.daldin5.com/can_hockey.pdf

Best wishes!

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