



*A message from Harley Hotchkiss of the Calgary Flames, Chairman of the National Hockey League Board of Governors:*

The National Hockey League Board of Governors fully supports and endorses the action taken on its behalf today by Commissioner Gary Bettman. This action was not taken lightly, but the Union left us no choice. For several years, Commissioner Bettman has pursued every possible option on our behalf to prevent a decision of this magnitude from becoming necessary.

At this solemn moment, we reaffirm the unwavering resolve of all 30 Clubs to make the NHL healthy through the creation of a modern economic system that will pay the players fairly, keep ticket prices affordable and make sure that, each season, each team realistically can compete for the most cherished trophy in sports, the Stanley Cup.

We want our fans to know we understand the impact this dispute has had on you. We want you to know how very much we appreciate the patience you have shown the NHL during this difficult moment in its history, and we want you to know we are deeply sorry for any hardship caused. We remain committed to resolving our business issues in a way that assures the long-term viability of the League so that no disruption of this type ever will impose itself again on our great game and our fans.

Sincerely,

Harley Hotchkiss