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Press Release

The Western Provinces Hockey Association (WPHA) Announced Six Prairie Municipalities Ready to Bring Junior 'A' Hockey Teams to Their Towns and Cities.

Western States Hockey League (WSHL) Commissioner Ron White attended Cold Lake, Alberta, Canada on February 8th to announce the new Canadian locations joining the 25 year old USA Junior hockey league.

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada – February 13, 2018: A press conference was hosted by Cold Lake, Alberta on February 8, 2018 to announce “shortlisted” teams ready to start operations in the 2018-2019 hockey season. Ron White, WPHA International Expansion Representative- Derek Prue and Seattle Totems owner (a US divisional team in the WSHL) - Gordon Whitaker all attended. The WSHL’s main priority, as stated by the League and Divisional Representatives- is to develop players and get them to the next stage in their hockey and/or academic career.

“We wanted to improve our league’s level of play and compete for college spots, so we made our own rules. Last year on my team in Long Beach, we had five Canadian 20-year-olds that were aged out and wanted to keep playing. All five continue to play hockey for the University of Arkansas,” explained White. (Ron White, Cold Lake, Alberta February 8, 2018)

At the WSHL’s December 2017 College Showcase, held annually in Las Vegas and growing larger every year – 111 college scouts attended and handed out 160 college or professional commitments out of 250 eligible players.

The six municipalities announced as shortlisted to start teams in 2018 are Edson, Hinton, Meadow Lake, Slave Lake, Morinville and Cold Lake. Season ticket drives will begin in these communities in the near future, and equity positions have been arranged for local community and business leaders. There are four more markets that are interested in joining the WPHA, but not as far along in planning and facility auditing.

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