**

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

**[Team] to host mental health awareness game in partnership with CMHA [Branch]**

[City, Date] – The [club name] have partnered with Canadian Mental Health Association, [name of local branch] for a mental health awareness game [date and time of game] when the [club name] take on the [opponent name] at [arena name].

The game day experience will have several features to promote the importance of mental health, including:

* A CMHA-run kiosk on the concourse where fans can learn more about mental health and the organization’s community-based services
* A ceremonial puck drop and photo opportunity with CMHA [branch name]
* Videos featuring [club name] players talking about the importance of mental health
* Public service announcements about mental health and CMHA [name of local branch]
* Mental health signs for fans to write on and show in unison at a designated stoppage in play
* A CMHA fundraising component

This mental health awareness game is part of the [club name]’s ongoing partnership with CMHA [local branch] and its Talk Today program. Originally launched by CMHA Ontario in partnership with the Ontario Hockey League in 2014, Talk Today provides an important opportunity to address the mental health needs of athletes across Canada. Through this program, over 1,100 OHL players and over 400 coaches, billets and staff have received mental health and suicide prevention training across the league.

The key piece of the Talk Today program has been to educate players about mental health and suicide prevention. Each team is also linked to a CMHA mental health coach, who provides support and mental health resources to individuals in need. Additionally, CMHA experts work with players from the [club name] to deliver an in-class presentation about mental wellness to elementary school students.

“[Quote from local CMHA branch using key messages provided],” said [name], executive director/CEO/mental health coach of CMHA [local branch].

“[Quote from local team contact],” said [name], [position] of the [local club].

Tickets for the game are still available, starting from $[price]. For ticket information, contact [info from local club].

Read more about Talk Today [link to web story].

***About Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario:***

*Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), Ontario is a not-for-profit, charitable organization funded by the provincial Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. We work to improve the lives of all Ontarians through leadership, collaboration and continual pursuit of excellence in community-based mental health and addictions services. Our vision is a society that embraces and invests in the mental health of all people. We are a trusted advisor to government, contributing to health systems development through policy formulation and recommendations that promote positive mental health. Our 30 local CMHA branches, together with community-based mental health and addictions service providers across the province, serve approximately 500,000 Ontarians each year.*

***About the Ontario Hockey League:***

*The Ontario Hockey League is a proud member of the Canadian Hockey League which is the world’s largest development hockey league with 60 teams in nine Canadian provinces and four American states. In addition to the OHL, the CHL is made up of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League and the Western Hockey League. Last season, more than nine million fans attended CHL games in the regular season, playoffs and at the Mastercard Memorial Cup. The CHL supplies more players to the National Hockey League and U Sports than any other league. For more information, visit www.ontariohockeyleague.com.*

-30-

Media contacts:

[name] [name]

[title] [title]

[CMHA local branch] [local club]

[phone number] [phone number]

[email address] [email address]