



## **Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon featured in Prime Minister's podcast**

Saskatoon, Sask. (March 3, 2010) – The 50<sup>th</sup> annual Sports Celebrity Dinner of the Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon is featured in a recent podcast from Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Harper attended the Feb. 5 dinner with hockey greats Wayne Gretzky and Gordie Howe. In the video of the event, the Prime Minister commended the Kinsmen club for its projects to help the underprivileged in Saskatoon.

“This organization does great things for the city and has for a long time,” he said. “You know organizations like this, the dedication and teamwork involved, are a lot like a sports team—it’s about working with the team, putting someone other than yourself first. Kinsmen do a great job of that.” The Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon is a member of Kin Canada, an all-Canadian service organization dedicated to serving the community’s greatest need.

In a lengthy Q &A, Harper interviewed Gretzky and Howe on a range of topics, including their thoughts on the Olympics, best moments in their careers, and whether the NHL would add more teams in Canada. In response to the latter question, Gretzky said, “Hockey is Canada and Canada is hockey. If we can find a way to put a franchise in Nova Scotia, one in Quebec City, one in southern Ontario, one in Saskatoon, one in Winnipeg . . . it is our game, it’s our country.”

Gretzky also shared that he met Howe for the first time at a Kinsmen dinner in his hometown of Brantford, Ont. Howe was “bigger and better than I could have ever imagined,” he recalled. Seven years later, Howe was Gretzky’s teammate in a WHA all-star game.

“I felt so humbled and honoured to be involved with the Sports Celebrity Dinner. It was an event that no one will ever forget,” said Marc Hoffort, chair of the 50<sup>th</sup> annual Sports Celebrity Dinner. A total of 1,250 people attended the dinner.

The Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon supports many projects in the city, including an inner-city hockey league, a special needs shopping night and a tackle football league. The club also organizes a number of fundraisers throughout the year, including the Sports Celebrity Dinner, Car Awards and a Home Lotto.

**Kin Canada** is an Association of 508 Kinsmen, Kinette and Kin Clubs from coast to coast. To date, members have raised more than \$36 million to help fight cystic fibrosis and have contributed more than \$1 billion to Canadian communities since the Association was founded 90 years ago. For more information about Kin Canada, visit [www.kincanada.ca](http://www.kincanada.ca)

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