



MEDIA RELEASE

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**Robert Kitamura
Named Director of Operations for Team Ontario for 2009-2011**

Toronto - The **Ontario Under 17 Program Policy Committee** is pleased to announce that **Robert Kitamura** will continue in his role as Director of Operations for Ontario's Under 17 Team through 2011.

"The committee is pleased that Rob has agreed to continue in his role as Director of Operations for Team Ontario for next 2 years stated acting Under 17 Policy Committee Chairman Ted Baker." Rob has demonstrated that his leadership qualities and ability to select teams at this level is second to none. We look forward to his continued commitment to excellence while selecting Ontario's high performance hockey players at this age classification over the next 2 years."

"It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I accept the role of Director of Operations of Team Ontario for another 2-year term. I look forward to the challenge of identifying and evaluating Ontario's high performance under 17 hockey players for the next 2 seasons. We will begin the process of identifying our athletes with regional camps that will be held throughout the Province during April and May 2009. We will conclude the identification process with a final Provincial camp that will be held at Ottawa University from June 25th to June 28th, 2009. Our ultimate goal is to name a team that will represent Ontario and win a gold medal for the third year in a row at the 2009/2010 World Hockey Challenge being held in Timmins Ontario later this year." stated Kitamura.

Kitamura is currently the **Director of Central Scouting for the Ontario Hockey League**. As Director of Operations, he will assist the Under 17 Policy Committee in selecting a coaching staff while co-ordinating all scouting assignments, training camps and competitive events that the team will be involved with during 2009/2010 and 2010/2011.

The Ontario Under 17 Program is a component of **Hockey Canada's Program of Excellence** and is co-ordinated through the **Hockey Development Centre for Ontario** on behalf of their **3 Ontario Branches**. The program receives financial support from the **Ministry of Health Promotion**. In total, more than 1500 players will participate at regional Under 17 identification camps throughout Ontario this spring.

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