

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**GOVERNMENT ASKED TO RECOGNIZE DELINE AS
BIRTHPLACE OF HOCKEY**

OTTAWA – Member of Parliament Dennis Bevington (Western Arctic) today presented in the House of Commons a petition calling on the Minister of Canadian Heritage, Conservative Josée Verner to recognize Deline, Northwest Territories as the birthplace of hockey.

“Deline’s claim is supported by the journals of arctic explorer Sir John Franklin,” said MP Bevington. “His writings predate other claims for the birthplace of hockey.”

Franklin wrote in his journal that in October 1825 his men exercising by playing hockey on a small lake near the present day community of Deline. Deline is located about 600 kilometres northwest of Yellowknife on the shores of Great Bear Lake.

Bevington was asked to present the petition by the Member of the NWT Legislative Assembly for the Sahtu, Norman Yakeleya.

On February 16, 2006 the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly voted unanimously to have the Federal Government recognize Deline as the birthplace of hockey.

The House of Commons’ Standing Orders require the government to respond within 45 calendar days to every petition submitted to it. Under the authority of the Clerk of the House, the original petition is forwarded to the Office of Parliamentary Returns of the Privy Council Office, which makes arrangements with the appropriate government department or agency for the preparation and collection of a reply.

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For more information, please contact

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