



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Jonathan Toews donates \$1 million for 'Dakota's Future' & will serve as Campaign's Honorary Chair**

December 7, 2016 (Winnipeg, MB) - Dakota Community Centre announced today that Jonathan Toews has made a donation of \$1 million towards the Centre's largest-ever fundraising effort, the Dakota Futures Capital Campaign. It was also announced that Jonathan Toews will serve as the Campaign's Honorary Chair.

"We are extremely grateful to Jonathan for his leadership as Honorary Chair of our Campaign and his transformational donation to the Dakota Community Centre," said Tom Thiessen, Chair, Dakota Community Centre Board of Directors. "His generosity reinforces our belief in the importance of access to wellness, recreation and sport programs as key to a healthy community."

"From my earliest days playing hockey, Dakota Community Centre has always played a pivotal role in my upbringing and my career", said Toews. "Today, I continue to be honoured to have my name associated with the Sportsplex on the Dakota campus. My parents have instilled in me the importance of giving back, and I believe that in supporting Dakota, we will see endless possibilities for the Community Centre's future and transformation in the lives of our community members."

The donation from the Jonathan Toews Foundation, the largest ever private donation to a community centre in Manitoba, was officially announced today at an event at the Dakota Community Centre, in the south St. Vital community of Winnipeg where Jonathan grew up. The event was attended by Mr. Toews' parents, Andrée Gilbert and Bryan Toews, his brother David Toews, along with invited guests including public officials, community leaders, members of the Dakota Community Centre Board and the Dakota Futures Capital Campaign Cabinet and other supporters.

The Dakota Futures Capital Campaign will support the construction of a new 60,000 sq. ft. Fieldhouse, along with future development on the Dakota Community Centre campus. The new Fieldhouse will include a 30,000+ sq. ft. gymnasium that will accommodate multiple court sports, such as basketball and volleyball, sport training and conditioning, as well as a host of other sport and recreational events at the local, national and international levels. A three-lane walking/running track, sprint tracks and studio space for health and wellness programs will also be part of the new facility. The Fieldhouse will be connected to the existing Jonathan Toews Sportsplex through an enclosed connection and is expected to open in the Fall of 2017.

"We are so proud that Jonathan has chosen to give back to the community in this way. Our family has such fond memories of hockey practices and friendships made at the Dakota Community Centre. We look forward to the opening of the new Fieldhouse and the continued growth of the Dakota campus," said Jonathan's parents Andrée Gilbert and Bryan Toews.

“Through programs for all ages and acting as a gathering place in our community, the Dakota Community Centre transforms thousands of lives each year,” said Michele Augert, CEO of the Dakota Community Centre. “Jonathan’s generous gift and his import role in the Campaign will ensure Dakota’s vision of creating an engaged, healthy vibrant community will continue for generations.

Further announcements regarding the Dakota Futures Capital Campaign will be made at a later date.

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### **About the Dakota Community Centre/Jonathan Toews Sportsplex**

Incorporated in 1987, the Dakota Community Centre has significantly contributed to shaping Winnipeg’s sport and recreation landscape. The Community Centre’s primary facility, the 95,000 square foot Jonathan Toews Sportsplex, houses two indoor ice rinks, a gymnasium, nursery school, skate shop, athletic centre, strength training facility, as well as numerous multi-purpose spaces. The Sportsplex was named in Jonathan Toews’ honour in 2010 in recognition of his history with the Dakota Community Centre, his support of his hometown of Winnipeg as well as his numerous hockey achievements. Mr. Toews grew up in south St. Vital and began his hockey career as a Dakota Lazer, playing out of the Dakota Community Centre.

With a focus on “*Building Possibilities / Transforming Lives*”, the Dakota Futures Capital Campaign will raise funds to support the construction of a new 60,000 sq. ft. Fieldhouse and other improvements on the Dakota Community Centre campus.

### **For more information, please contact:**

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# **DAKOTA** COMMUNITY CENTRE

## FIELDHOUSE PROJECT



Connected to the Jonathan Toews Sportsplex, the new \$20 million Fieldhouse is expected to open in the Fall of 2017. The Fieldhouse will add 60,000 sq. ft. of sports & recreational space to the Dakota Community Centre and include:

- Main floor gymnasium space to accommodate 6 volleyball courts/3 basketball courts 12 badminton and other court sports in a common overlaid court area.
- Three lane walking/running track, sprint track and exercise equipment areas on the mezzanine (upper) level
- Health & wellness studio, for yoga and other health & wellness activities
- 30,000 sq ft. of open space for large scale events
- Large/accessible dressing rooms with shower facilities & washrooms
- Multiple storage areas for sports equipment and other supplies
- Mobile retractable bleachers, expandable for large spectator events
- Canteen/seating/eating area with viewing windows to gymnasium
- Covered/heated connection to Jonathan Toews Sportsplex
- Drop off area and additional parking
- LEED Silver Certified

Construction of the Fieldhouse is being made possible by the generous support of:





## ABOUT JONATHAN TOEWS AND HIS HISTORY WITH THE DAKOTA COMMUNITY CENTRE

Jonathan Toews was born in Winnipeg on April 29, 1988. He grew up in south St. Vital and began his young hockey career as a Dakota Lazer, playing out of the Dakota Community Centre. Toews went on to achieve greatness in the hockey world as the youngest Captain of the Chicago Blackhawks and a 3-time Stanley Cup champion.

Jonathan's on-ice accomplishments include:

- Selected by the Blackhawks with the third overall pick in the 2006 NHL Entry Draft. Joined the team in 2007/08.
- Nominated for the Calder Memorial Trophy as NHL rookie of the year 2007/08.
- Named Team Captain in 2008, becoming the youngest Captain of the Blackhawks and third-youngest captain in NHL history.
- Won the Stanley Cup in 2010, 2013 and 2015.
- Won the Conn Smythe Trophy for the playoff MVP in 2010.
- Was the youngest player to join the Triple Gold Club 2010.
- Competed internationally for Team Canada and won gold medals at the 2005 World U-17 Hockey Challenge, 2006 and 2007 World Junior Championships, 2007 World Championships, the 2010 Winter Olympics (a tournament where he was named Best Forward) and in the 2014 Olympic Games.

In 2010 when he brought home the Stanley Cup for the first time, the City of Winnipeg Mayor Sam Katz announced that the Dakota Community Centre, where he began playing hockey, would bear his name to honor his accomplishments. The main facility on the Dakota campus is named the Jonathan Toews Sportsplex at the Dakota Community Centre.

Jonathan and his family remain dedicated supporters of the Community Centre and the south St. Vital community. Following each of his Stanley Cup wins in 2010, 2013 and 2015, Jonathan returned home to the Jonathan Toews Sportsplex at Dakota Community Centre to celebrate with his home town community. A hockey card was created specifically by the Dakota Community Centre for his 2015 celebration and distributed to all who attended.

The 95,000 square foot Jonathan Toews Sportsplex houses two indoor ice rinks; a gymnasium, nursery school, skate shop, athletic centre, strength training facility, a canteen, the Centre's administrative offices, as well as numerous multi-purpose spaces. The new 60,000 square foot Fieldhouse is currently under construction and will be connected to the Jonathan Toews Sportsplex by a covered walkway.

The Dakota Community Centre community is very proud of Jonathan's many accomplishments and honoured that his name is part of our Centre's identity.