

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **AHL COMES TO ABBOTSFORD**

**Abbotsford, Tuesday, April 28, 2009** - The Calgary Flames American Hockey League (AHL) affiliate is officially coming to Abbotsford, announced local ownership spokesperson Lane Sweeting today.

The best possible brand of hockey will come to the City of Abbotsford's new 7018 seat Entertainment and Sports Centre for the start of the 2009 – 2010 season.

"We're extremely excited to be calling Abbotsford our new home," said Calgary Flames President Ken King. "Playing in a Canadian market in front of sophisticated hockey fans that understand the game, only one hour by air from Calgary, will most certainly enhance our player development program."

"The AHL will bring a new era of hockey to fans in the Fraser Valley and across the Lower Mainland who, up until now, have not had the opportunity to enjoy this level of hockey," said Sweeting. "This will be an exciting and an affordable way for fans to see great hockey with regular tickets priced between \$12 to \$36."

The Calgary Flames will send their top young talent to the Fraser Valley to play and continue training on their AHL team. The AHL is the best development league in the world, grooming players for the National Hockey League. Eighty-four percent of the 2008-09 NHL players were graduates of the AHL.

"The Fraser Valley is hockey country and we are overdue to have this caliber of hockey in our region," stated Abbotsford Mayor, George W. Peary. "Our new Entertainment and Sports Centre is a state of the art facility and will be one of the premier buildings in the league."

Fans can help to name the team by visiting [www.fraservalleyahl.com](http://www.fraservalleyahl.com) and entering the "Name the Team" contest on the website.

Founded in 1936, the AHL is in its 73rd season. Last year more than six million fans attended AHL games across North America. NHL stars Miikka Kirpusoff (Calgary Flames), Jason Spezza (Ottawa Senators), Martin Brodeur (New Jersey Devils), and Daniel Briere (Buffalo Sabres) are among hundreds of current NHL players who honed their skills in the AHL.

The Calgary Flames have been a member of the National Hockey League since 1980 and will celebrate their 30th season with the 2009-10 season.

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