



Moose Cree First Nation

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Jonathan Cheechoo Reaches Career Milestone of 1,000 Games as a Professional Hockey Player



Moose Factory, ON - The Chief and Council of Moose Cree First Nation wish to congratulate Jonathan Cheechoo on reaching a career milestone of 1,000 games as a professional hockey player. He achieved this historic feat today, February 18th, 2016 with his current team, Dinamo Minsk of the Kontinental Hockey League (KHL), a professional league in Europe. And he marked the occasion in style, scoring a power play goal and in the shootout to secure a 3-2 victory for his team.

We celebrate with him, his family, and with the Moose Cree membership and we are proud to acknowledge and honour his success and many accomplishments over his sixteen-year career as a professional hockey player. Many of us followed his development from his time as a youngster playing locally and through the junior leagues and we recall the excitement and pride we felt in 1998 when he was drafted by the San Jose Sharks of the National Hockey League. Jonathan spent six seasons with the Sharks, the highlight of which was his winning of the Maurice "Rocket" Richard Trophy as the leading goal-scorer during the 2005-2006 season; truly an amazing accomplishment which secured him a permanent place among the elite of NHL players.

Following his years with the Sharks and then with the Ottawa Senators, he played with distinction for several seasons throughout the American Hockey League before moving on to the KHL. His father, Mervin Cheechoo had this to say: "Carol Anne and I are so proud of our son. Way to go Jon! It wasn't easy but you battled through all the pain and through all the obstacles with perseverance, we love you! You are an inspiration to our First Nations youth."

The Chief and Council of Moose Cree First Nation could not agree more! Since his days with the Belleville Bulls of the Ontario Hockey League and up to today, Jonathan has been a positive role model and inspiration for not only the youth of Moose Cree, but for First Nations youth across Canada and the United States. He has demonstrated how hard work and determination can turn dreams into reality. And he has demonstrated that great things are within reach for any of our youth, and that being from a remote community is in no way a limitation to reaching one's goals. He is proof that anything is possible for our youth.

Once again, congratulations to Jonathan Cheechoo on this historic occasion of reaching 1,000 games as a professional hockey player!

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