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*Representing the
Thoroughbred Horsemen
and
Horsewomen of Ontario*

Dear Members,

As the year winds to a close I wanted to take this opportunity to thank our members for your continued dedication to the horse racing industry in Ontario.

Equally I wanted to express gratitude for the hard work of our HBPA Directors throughout the year and reflect upon the HBPA's most recent announcement, the new horsepeople agreement with WEG.

As you are likely now aware The HBPA of Ontario and Woodbine Entertainment Group (WEG) have successfully reached an agreement for horsepeople in Ontario for the next four years.

Our previous contract with WEG is due to expire in March 2019 and the announcement of the new agreement before the end of the Woodbine meet couldn't have come at a better time. As our equine athletes venture south of the border or to their winter retreats our horsepeople can feel optimistic about our industry's growth and sustainability and make sound plans for the future.

It is the hope of the HBPA that this contract will bring about a new era for horseracing, one that includes increased purse money, greater financial transparency and sharing of new revenue streams with Woodbine.

After many months of cumbersome negotiation between the HBPA and WEG the highlight of the new contract is that horsepeople in Ontario will now be racing for some of the top purses in North America. \$18 million in guaranteed purses will be added to races at Woodbine over the length of the contract representing the first increase in purses this decade.

Substantial development on the Woodbine property is well underway. The new contract will secure additional monies from revenue derived from future development to be added to future race purses. In the contract WEG has also agreed to greater financial transparency and any redistribution of underpayments.

Negotiations also consisted of WEG investing a total of \$4 million in capital for horseracing related improvements throughout the length of the new contract.

I would personally like to thank the dedicated team of HBPA Directors and the WEG team of Jonathan Zammit, Tom Via and Joe Aschaiek who came together to negotiate in good faith and achieve the best contract for both parties. My appreciation also extends to Jim Lawson, the Woodbine Board and the HBPA Board who ultimately approved and endorsed the final agreement.

While there continues to be challenges for the horseracing industry in Ontario, the future of thoroughbred horseracing at Woodbine can be looked at with optimism and opportunity for growth.

On behalf of the Board of the HBPA of Ontario we would like to wish our HBPA members and your families happy holidays and best wishes for success and happiness this coming year.

Warm Wishes,

Sue Leslie, President

William Diamant, Vice President - Owners
Nick Gonzalez, Vice President - Trainers
Sherry McLean, Secretary/Treasurer
David Anderson
Veronica Attard
Roger Attfield
Janet Black
Josie Carroll
Conrad Cohen
Bruce Pollock