



Al-Amin Vira – Okotoks

1. Provide a brief history of your hockey involvement:

I have been playing hockey since the age of 7 in Calgary. Currently, my two sons (Ayaan and Caheel) are both registered in Hockey Alberta as participants in the upcoming hockey season.

As a visible minority, I have put in a tremendous amount of time to help the youth gain confidence in playing hockey at high levels in Alberta and Ontario. I was instrumental in starting up the Ismaili Youth Hockey League and the Ismaili Hockey League to promote the sport.

2. Provide a history of involvement in other professional or volunteer positions that you believe would help you excel in this position:

Below is a brief summary of my voluntary experience:

- World Partnership Walk - Corporate Sponsorship Coordinator
Jan 2000 – Jan 2002
Cause: Poverty Alleviation
- Aga Khan Visit to Atlanta, USA – Co-Convener for Security
May 2008
- Jubilee Games Dubai, UAE - National Sports Lead for Team Canada
Jan. 2015 – Jul. 2016
- Calgary Ismaili Students Association, University of Calgary - President
Aug 1998 – Aug 1999

3. What skills, attributes, experiences would you bring to the Hockey Alberta Board, if elected?

One of the main reasons why I am interested in joining this board is an opportunity to give back to the sport that I am highly passionate about. I have achieved many great things in my career with exposure to some amazing companies such as Pricewaterhouse Coopers, Ernst & Young, Royal Caribbean Cruises and currently, at Okotoks Honda. I would like to bring forth this valuable experience to this board which will assist in helping current and the future generations of hockey players.

This opportunity will also allow me to learn some great things from other board members that can help my future track. If approved, I am really looking forward to working with this group of directors. I feel strongly that I can and will have a positive impact on the Hockey community here in Alberta.



4. What is it that you believe is important for the Hockey Alberta Board to focus on in the next three years?

- Hockey **Development** at all levels of hockey.
- The most important one at the moment is **COVID 19** protocols. Parents and the hockey community at large are itching at getting back to normal with games and practices. This in my opinion is short sighted and can come back to impact the population at large. I think Hockey Alberta has done the right thing by slowly easing their way back to hockey like we know it.
- **Hockey diversity and inclusivity.** Being a minority, I can sometimes see the gap in inclusivity. My own true belief is that things always work out if you stick to it. However, as we all know with the recent events and stories surrounding Akim Aliu and Evander Kane speaking out; it is a stigma that we need to get in front of.
- **Non-Sanctioned leagues.** Using HSL as an example. I personally know off many of hockey players that have left Hockey Calgary to join HSL for better competition. I myself left Hockey Calgary for one year in favour of HSL and I can tell you, that it is not better. However, there is a perception that HSL is better, more competitive and an opportunity for better development. We, as a hockey community, need to understand why this is happening and how to get in front of it. I truly believe sticking with the process, sticking with Hockey Alberta and Hockey Calgary is the right way to go. Just like companies, if we stay stagnant, we will be outdated. So, we have to evolve with the times.