



Northern Manitoba Trappers' Festival
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“Where the Trappers Mix in 2026”

Media Release

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The final planning stages are underway for the 79th Annual Northern Manitoba Trappers' Festival, with some exciting changes and updates. “This year the Board of Directors have been working tirelessly to ensure that the tradition of Trappers' Festival continues,” 2026 Chair Lorie Stevenson commented. “Every year, as a board, we review what worked, didn't work and what we can do to make the Festival better for the community. I am happy to report that our directors are continuing to bring the top-notch events the community expects.”

This year, the Festival will once again be hosting a Talent Show. Under the direction of Director Jennifer Reynolds, the Talent Show, which was a very popular event of the past, has been brought back to life. “We are excited this event has returned. Jennifer is working to ensure there is an opportunity for community members of all ages to share in their talents. The show will be held at Opasquia School on Festival Friday, with the stage set to showcase an eclectic line-up of northern talent,” Stevenson said.

Another change this year is the Trappers' Festival official headquarters will be located at the Wescana Inn Rendezvous Room. The past few Festivals there have been an official HQ and an event HQ. “This year we are bringing them back together. This is for the ease of our visitors and participants. People can buy event tickets, Trappers merchandise, as well as check out Festival memories. In addition event registrations will all be held at this headquarters,” Stevenson updated.

Stevenson also noted there is a major change in the dog races this year. On the advice of the Kinsmen Club, who work closely with our Dog Race competitors, the start times to the races have all been pushed back one hour. “The Kinsmen and Dog Race competitors are prioritizing the safety of the dogs and the mushers. The last couple of years, we have had to play it by ear day-to-day and in the end push back times. This year all the race times will start one hour later than previous years. This means the World Championship Races will have an 11 a.m. start time Thursday, Friday and Saturday,” Stevenson commented.

Stevenson added her on-going appreciation to the community and businesses that sponsor the Festival as well as the many volunteers that help. Anyone wishing to volunteer can reach out to the Festival through the website or social media. “We are currently looking for volunteers for ice bar security and servers,” she said.

The Northern Manitoba Trappers' Festival will be celebrating its 79th Festival this year, February 18-22nd. Trappers' Festival is the longest running winter festival in Manitoba and the second longest winter festival in Canada. Trappers' Festival is proud to host the World Championship Dog Races, King and Queen competition as well as more than 20 events for people of all ages. Check out Northern Manitoba Trappers' Festival Facebook & Instagram pages or visit our website at www.trappersfestival.ca