



Northern Manitoba Trappers' Festival
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“Let Your Spirit Soar in 2024”

For Immediate Release

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The Northern Manitoba Trappers' Festival Board of Directors is confirming that the World Championship Dog Races, as well as all dog races normally held during Festival, have been officially cancelled for 2024. The decision to cancel the races has come as a result of consultation with The Pas Kinsmen Club who are instrumental in planning, preparing and running the races annually. According to Race Director Mike Roberts the decision was made after a thorough analysis of the trail. “To make a trail we need roughly one foot minimum for our trail and for a starting line like ours we would like to have roughly two feet of snow to work with. At this point we don't have the snow required throughout the trail to ensure that we can groom a safe and exciting trail for our mushers,” Roberts said.

2024 Trappers' Festival Chair Lorie Stevenson comments, “Trappers' Festival is known for a world class race trail and without the minimum required snow, we cannot offer such a trail. We take great pride in being able to bring to the mushers a top trail and it is because of this that mushers travel, often from great distances, to compete at our races year after year. We do not want to compromise our trail quality, potentially having a negative impact on our racers.”

In addition to evaluating the current route, other potential routes were also looked at as well as consideration for possibly holding the race at a later time. “There is a lot of planning and preparation that goes into the dog races. Having the race at a later time would be extremely difficult as it is one stop on a circuit of race stops for many of the mushers that attend. We would not want to interfere with other races that may be able to be held and it would be difficult to plan for the amount of volunteers we need. This year the forecast isn't looking favourable for more snow so we may not be in a position to do it later even if we could manage all the other factors,” Stevenson said.

“We are extremely grateful for the work the Kinsmen Club members put in each and every year, and we know that the recommendation to cancel was not made lightly. We are the longest running winter festival in Manitoba and the second longest winter festival in Canada. We are proud to be able to bring to life the traditions and way of life of northerners every year and despite this unfortunate turn of events we feel confident that our community will still be able to experience the very best in exciting competition and family fun,” Stevenson said.

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For more information contact Trappers' Festival Chair Lorie Stevenson 204-620-2360.

The Northern Manitoba Trappers' Festival will be celebrating its 77th Festival this year, February 14-18th. 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.