



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

Media Release

For Immediate Release

November 24 , 2025

Northern Manitoba Trappers' Festival is excited to announce the Fur Queen competition has 12 contestants for the 2026 Festival. According to Trappers' Festival Fur Queen Director Krista Tooley, this is the highest number of contestants she has seen as the director. “It is so exciting to have 12 contestants this year. With so many young women wanting to take part in this competition and be part of Trappers' Festival it creates extra excitement for the months leading up to our amazing Festival.” Tooley explains the Fur Queen contestants, along with the 2025 Reigning Fur Queen Court, will be extremely busy leading up to the 2026 Festival. “You are going to see these young ladies out and about volunteering their time at numerous community events, selling fur queen tickets, and other fundraisers that they have planned.” She goes on to say, “It's not easy putting yourself out there to compete in something like the Fur Queen competition, so I am incredibly proud of each and every one of them for being brave enough to take part in this year's competition. If you see these ladies out and about, please stop by and say hi, have a quick chat and let them know how amazing they are, I know they will appreciate it.”

The Fur Queen competition is an integral part of Trappers' Festival and in many ways goes beyond the competition part. “My hope is always that these young women will take away something positive from being part of this competition whether they place or not. The amount of growth that I have seen in every candidate that has taken part in the past is unbelievable. These young women grow in ways they never thought possible and sometimes don't even see it for themselves until months or even years later,” Tooley says, adding “they also make lifelong friendships with the other young women who are running for Fur Queen as well as the reigning court who is with them every step of the way. I tell them every year that this year is special and unique and only this group of young women will experience this Festival, this way. Although there are some similarities of course year to year, one year's experience is never exactly the same as another, which makes it so incredibly special.”

As director, Tooley considers herself incredibly lucky to have the honour of walking alongside these young women on their journey while running for Fur Queen. “I tell every single girl who chooses to take part in this competition that they are now part of the Trappers' family - regardless of if or where you place, you are a part of this family forever, and it is an absolutely amazing family to be a part of.”

Nicole Ducharme-Chief, 2024 1st Princess has joined the committee this year, and adds that "being a part of the Fur Queen Committee this year was not on my bingo card but once I was asked, I could not say no, it just felt it was meant to be! I can absolutely say I am so excited to be back alongside the wonderful family I've made within the Festival. I am looking forward to watching all of the beautiful contestants and reigning court shine! This celebration holds a special place in my heart forever and I am ready and excited to help make it happen this year.”

The 2025 Reigning Fur Queen Court is:

Fur Queen - Autumn Graff

1st Princess - Krissy Kirkness

2nd Princess - Trinity Flett

This year's contestants are as follows:

Miss Aseneskak Casino - Peyton Constant

Miss Christian Sinclair Consulting - Reegan Dick

Miss Opaskwayak Cree Nation - Sasha Young

Miss PBDC - Summer Lathlin

Miss Clearwater Wellness - Jaiden Elder

Miss The Pas Firefighters Association - Katie Dixon

Miss The Pas Kick It - Kiana Cook

Miss Paskwayak Gas Bar - Kishia Harris

Miss The Pas Junior Curling - Ally Finnerty

Miss Ashley Nicole Designs - Celeste Cook

Miss Alouette Hotel - Dakota Kotz

Miss Opaskwayak Education Services - Jada Nasekapow

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For more information contact NMTF Fur Queen Director Krista Tooley at 204-620-2373

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.