



PRESS RELEASE

FREDERICTON'S FAMILY THEMED WINTER FESTIVAL RESCHEDULED TO 2023.
frex@frex.ca, (506) 458-8819

Organizers of Fredericton's new mid-winter activity festival, have been consulting with public health to determine the viability of this major event with the current state of COVID 19. Original discussions indicated that plan to proceed was doable given that it was outdoors, and the large open space offered by the exhibition grounds. The WinterFrolic website also outlined requirements for double vaccination and mask wearing as well as 50% reduced capacity. Co-Chair of the event, Mike Vokey stated, "The goal of the WinterFrolic event is to provide the opportunity for children and adults to go out and exercise and look after their physical and mental health. We have been discussing with public health options to provide a safe event."

Early last week it looked like the safety protocols planned would allow for the large outdoor event to continue at level 2 of the COVID-19 alert system, but the new variant has continued to worsen. "Our most recent discussions have been with Dr. Mark McKelvie MD, CCFP, MPH, DTM&H, Regional Medical Officer of Health" said Vokey. The advice provided by Dr. McKelvie is. "Our general guidance at this time would be to not go ahead with the event as planned. The timing and nature of this in the last 2 weeks of January is challenging given what we are currently experiencing in the province, as well as what is anticipated".

Reegan McDougall, also co-Chair of the event added, "Safety is our highest priority for our guests and volunteers and we are 100% committed to following the advice from public health. That being said we are confident that we are doing the right thing in announcing that this year's inaugural WinterFrolic event has been rescheduled for FROSTival 2023. The event charity partner, Gilles Allain, Executive Director, Chalmers Foundation added, "Although we had been looking forward to the inaugural WinterFrolic, The Chalmers Foundation is supportive of the tough decision to postpone

this year's event. Our mission is to build healthy, caring communities and we look forward to helping with WinterFrolic 2023. We're incredibly fortunate to live in a city so rich in winter wellness resources and we encourage citizens to take advantage of these to stay healthy and active this winter".

The City of Fredericton, organizers of the annual FROSTival event provided the following;

"The cancellation of Frostival's first-ever WinterFrolic is a huge disappointment for the City. We know families were looking forward to this event as a way to celebrate the winter season and spend time in the fresh outdoors," said Mayor Kate Rogers. "With the ever-changing pandemic guidelines it is crucial that we help prevent the spread of COVID-19. It is my sincere hope that Frederictonians can celebrate this fun-filled event together next year."

"The silver lining in this decision to delay the event is that we have a year to work on creating the very best mid-winter event possible for 2023. We have event higher ambitions for what we can do with this extra time for the WinterFrolic event", stated McDougall.

Updates and more information on the event and plans for 2023 can be found at www.winterfrolic.ca