



## **Land Acknowledgement**

The Kearney Dog Sled Races Committee will begin this event by acknowledging that we are meeting on aboriginal land that has been inhabited by Indigenous peoples from the beginning. We acknowledge that we live on, work on, and enjoy the lands that have been inhabited by Indigenous peoples from the beginning. Indigenous families know these lands and long before today, as we gather here, there have been indigenous peoples who have been the stewards of this place. We would also like to honour and recognize the Metis, Inuk, and the many other groups of Indigenous people who have cared for Turtle Island which we know as Canada today.

We wish to recognize that without the contributions of indigenous peoples over thousands of years, sled dog sports would not be enjoyed and loved by all of us here today. We recognize and deeply appreciate their historic connection to this place and this practice of dog sledding.

As settlers and newcomers, recognition of the contributions and the historic importance of Indigenous peoples must also be clearly and overtly connected to our collective commitment to make the promise of Truth and Reconciliation real in our communities. We must face and accept the challenge without fail. It is all of our responsibility to help achieve justice for all those who have been lost, and those still surviving today, after experiencing intergenerational trauma from colonization, persecution, and systematic genocide that has been taking place in Canada for hundreds of years. We are grateful for the opportunity to meet here, and we thank the generations of Indigenous people who have taken care of this land and its waters for thousands of years. Indigenous people still continue to contribute and protect mother earth today.

The Town of Kearney is within the district of Parry Sound. It is located on The Robinson Huron Treaty which is inhabited by the Anishnabe people and we honour the 6 Indigenous communities that surround us; Wasauksing First Nation, Shawanaga First Nation, Magnetawan First Nation, Henvey Inlet First Nation, Dokis First Nation, and Moose Deere Point First Nation. We also honour the many Urban Indigenous People who reside across our community and beyond. As we are all treaty people, it is important to learn about the lands we stand on and the people who live here.

The Kearney Dog Sled Races Committee and its officials are committed to ensuring that we honor and acknowledge the deep connection our event has to indigenous peoples. We must all act without oppression or racism and seek to understand how we can contribute towards healing and reconciliation. This acknowledgement is only a small step. We understand that true reconciliation can only be done with actions, and not only with words. As we commence our event, we ask all who gather here to take time to reflect on what you can do to call for truth and reconciliation, and for justice for first nation peoples near and far.

Thank you / Chi Miigwech.