



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Yukon Quest International Association (Canada) disappointed in Alaskan decision**

**May 3, 2022 (Whitehorse, YT)** – The *Yukon Quest International Association (Canada)* is disappointed in the decision of the *Yukon Quest International, Ltd.*, the Quest's governing body in Alaska, to unilaterally dissolve the ongoing partnership to host the annual Yukon Quest 1,000 Mile International Sled Dog Race.

In a press release on May 2, 2022, the Alaskans stated that the two organizations were “unable to agree on significant proposed rules changes applicable to the race beginning in 2023.”

The Yukon Board categorically disagrees with that assessment of the situation.

The decision comes midway through ongoing negotiations between the two organizations centred on dog care in future races. Negotiations have been ongoing since the end of the 2022 races, including multiple meetings by the two Boards as well as two meetings of the Joint Board Executive Committee.

In a Joint Board Executive Committee meeting on April 29, the Yukon Board agreed to hold the 2023 1,000-mile race utilizing the 2020 rules as the Alaskans demanded, with the request that additional data be collected with respect to run/rest intervals and tracker reliability, a tally of veterinary equipment used during the race, and also consideration given to adding an additional mandatory vet check. This additional information would be used in the future to make informed, scientific decisions about how best to improve dog health before, during and after races.

Acceptance of those requests by the Alaskan Board was not a requirement of the Yukon Board to host a joint race in 2023.

The Yukon Board believes that the changes listed above would not have altered the character or nature of the race. The Yukon Board does, however, believe that the Yukon Quest must continue to examine its rules and regulations, particularly as they affect the race's canine athletes.

Races like the Yukon Quest have a duty and responsibility to set an example in the larger mushing community, putting the focus on dog care.

The Yukon Quest will continue in the Yukon, with Yukon Quest races scheduled for the upcoming winter. The Yukon Quest will start in Whitehorse on Feb. 18, 2023, and consist of three races – a 100-mile race, a 250-mile race and a 450-mile race – that will run the traditional Quest trail through Braeburn, Carmacks, Pelly Crossing and Dawson City. Information on those races, including sign-up information and purse totals, will be available later this spring.

#### **For more information or to arrange an interview, contact:**

John Hopkins-Hill  
Operations Manager, Yukon  
(867) 668-4711

#### **YUKON**

#2 – 1109 First Ave. Whitehorse, YT Y1A 5G4  
Phone: 867.668.4711  
Email: yukondirector@yukonquest.com

