



Deer Lodge Curling Club
425 Woodlawn Street
Winnipeg, MB
R3J 2J3
(204) 888-4834

January 11, 2021

Dear Members,

We are writing you today to provide an update on the Deer Lodge Curling Club's operations and the 2020-21 season. If you are not already aware, the current restrictions have been extended until January 22nd by the Province, which means at least another couple of weeks until we hear an update regarding recreational sports.

This has led the Board of Directors to make the difficult decision to shut down the ice plant and close the door on a potential return to play this season. We are all extremely disappointed, but ultimately feel this is in the best interest of the curling club long-term.

This decision was not made lightly, and we want to take this opportunity to explain some of the efforts that have been made and factors that went into this decision.

Over the past couple of months, the ice plant has been running on its lowest possible setting in order to maintain the ice surface and enable a quick turn-around should the Province lift restrictions. However, this does come at a cost and the club's other 'fixed' expenses such as hydro, insurance, property taxes, etc. are all still being incurred. We were fortunate enough to apply for and receive two \$5,000 bridge grants from the government, and we took advantage of some loans that came available as a result of the pandemic to help with cash flow and get us by.

We were hopeful that a January return-to-play would mean we could re-open the club with a 15-game schedule that would have taken us to the end of April. We also had created a 10-game season starting in mid-February in case that was an option. However, looking at recent trends and more importantly at the club's cash position, we have come to the point where continuing the way we are will be a detriment to us being able to open the club in the future.

The unfortunate reality of the situation is that waiting for good news and holding out hope of a return to curling did not come without a cost. In an effort to be as transparent as possible, we want to let everyone know that the regular membership fees collected every year do not cover the operational costs to run the curling club. These differences are made-up through bar revenue and fundraising efforts primarily, and every year we try our best to break even. Without either of these important revenue streams this year and a number of teams choosing not to curl this season due to the pandemic, the club is in a very tight spot financially. That is the primary reason as to why we are making this difficult decision, and we felt that as the Board



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of Directors, we would be doing a disservice to the members by continuing to spend and borrow money for a chance to play again in the next few months. We are turning our attention long-term and want to put the club in the best position possible to re-open and be successful for years to come.

Please be assured that we are working diligently to pursue any financial assistance possible, and will look at creative fundraising opportunities between now and next September to help in any way possible. Some of those ideas include opening up the bar/lounge despite not being able to curl (if permitted), running online 50/50's, or holding a can drive to raise some extra funds.

We are all extremely disappointed in having to make this announcement and we are sure that all our members will be as well. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please reach out to any of the following people:

Kris Keough
dlccpresident@gmail.com

Corey Thompson
dlccmembershipdraw@gmail.com

Scott Peterson
dlccassociateleagues@gmail.com

Despite the on-ice activity being shut down, Willy Dogs will continue to operate out of the kitchen for the next few months until Will's summer season is able to begin. He has been grateful for the support from members and the general community, but please continue to think of Will and his business over the next few months. He is available at 431-997-9455 or you can look him up on Skip the Dishes.

Thank you for understanding as we move forward with this tough decision. Please know that it was not made lightly, but made with the continued health of our club in mind. We will continue to update you all as changes or opportunities arise and are looking forward to the next time we can be together again in-person.

Sincerely,

The Deer Lodge Curling Club
Board of Directors