



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Cancellation of the 2020 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair**

June 24, 2020 [Toronto, ON] – Due to our ongoing concern regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the excitement of The Royal will have to wait for another year. The Royal's Board of Directors today made the heart-wrenching but unanimous decision to cancel the 2020 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, originally scheduled for November 6<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> at Exhibition Place, Toronto. This treasured annual tradition will return better than ever in 2021.

"Over the past several months, we've all experienced an unprecedented disruption to our daily lives and are redefining how we live, work and play. Ultimately, our decision is grounded in our commitment to help ensure the health and well-being of our community at large," stated Charlie Johnstone, Chief Executive Officer at The Royal. "Our primary responsibility remains rooted in serving our community and protecting the integrity and welfare of all. We understand and appreciate the time, effort and financial commitment required to compete and exhibit at The Royal and did not make this decision without very careful consideration."

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair is the largest combined indoor agricultural fair and international equestrian competition in the world. Each fall, The Royal brings together hundreds of competitors, thousands of animals and hundreds of thousands of guests to celebrate the best in agriculture, local food, and equestrian competition. During its storied history, The Royal has been cancelled on only one other occasion, during World War II. At that time, the stalls within the historic Royal Horse Palace were transformed into Army Barracks to house soldiers preparing to be deployed to join our Canadian and Allied troops fighting in Europe. Today, The Royal once again stands in support of its community, first and foremost.

"During these uncertain times, we're heartened by the resilience of farmers, the ingenuity of entrepreneurs, and the abundance of care shown towards family, friends and animals," concluded Johnstone. "As we lead up to our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations in 2022, we take comfort knowing that the 2021 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair will be, as always, an outstanding experience for all those who compete, exhibit and attend."

In addition to The Royal's Agricultural Food Competitions, which will still take place in 2020, virtual programming designed to engage, educate and motivate is currently being explored for this Fall. More details regarding this exciting initiative will be released soon. In the meantime, all Canadians are encouraged to continue supporting Canadian farmers, producers and local retailers.

Together we will get through this, and “Bring the Country to the City” next November 5<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

To view a video message from The Royal, [please click here](#).

<https://the-royal-agricultural-winter-fair.prezly.com/cancellation-of-the-2020-royal-agricultural-winter-fair>

#### **About The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair**

Since 1922, The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (“The Royal”) has celebrated excellence in agriculture, food and equine sport. Every year in November, more than 300,000 guests visit The Royal, which is the world’s largest combined indoor agricultural and equestrian show. Held at Exhibition Place in Toronto, The Royal showcases Canada’s leaders in agricultural, food, and equine excellence.

[www.royalfair.org](http://www.royalfair.org)

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