



Kenora Bass International

PO Box 1660
Kenora, Ontario Canada

April 21, 2020

MEDIA RELEASE

It is with very heavy hearts the Board of Directors announces the cancellation of KBI 2020.

Covid19 has proven to be an unprecedented public health emergency that has altered the way we all move through our lives. Following the direction of Premier Ford and the Public Health Agency of Canada, we believe that cancelling this year's event is the best decision for our community and community members.

We realize that August is over 3 months away, but there are several factors that will impact our ability to coordinate such a large event this year.

1. **Our Sponsors:** so many of our amazing sponsors have been hit hard financially and emotionally during this pandemic, suffering closure or substantial loss of revenues. Our Board can not, in good conscience, ask those people to support our event in these very trying times.
2. **Our Volunteers:** our dedicated team of volunteers have been with us for many years. So many of our friends have lost their income or seen a major reduction of income and are struggling to make ends meet. If things start to settle down this summer, the majority of these folks will be heading back to work and unavailable to take the time to volunteer at KBI.
3. **Our Anglers:** we know the majority of our KBI anglers would still like to come fish, and we appreciate you. But many are in the same difficult situation as our Sponsors and Volunteers.
4. **Our Community:** our KBI Board of Directors feels strongly that, regardless of what the summer brings, we cannot ethically encourage people to travel to Kenora and gather in large groups, day and night, for 3 days under the tent. We believe that would be socially very irresponsible, and we want to ensure Kenora that we will do our part to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Our Board is already talking about making KBI 2021 bigger and better than ever. We hope everyone understands how difficult this decision was for us to make, and that you will continue to support our event for the years to come.

Wishing everyone good health as we work our way through this very difficult time. Stay home and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Cori Libitka and Laci Dingwall, Co-Chairs
KBI Board of Directors