



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOCAL AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS HELP ENSURE SUCCESSFUL SCOUTING EVENT

ARES 2017-01

Fourteen Amateur Radio Operators (often called “Hams”) from the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Unit will be spending the weekend outside at Camp Amisk providing communications to the annual Klondike Derby held by Scouts Canada.

Over the two days, teams of 8 Scouts, Cubs, Guides or Pathfinders will navigate a 2.5km course using map and compass skills to find a number of “towns” while pulling a Klondike Sled with all their supplies. An ARES member will be positioned at the towns along the course to ensure things run smoothly and provide communications in an emergency. This means being out-of doors for up to eight hours regardless of the weather.

“Winnipeg ARES must have all-weather capability so we can’t just do scheduled events from May through October, we are always on the look-out for events that our members would find challenging and stimulating year-round” said Jeff Dovyak the Emergency Coordinator of the Winnipeg ARES unit. The Hams are all volunteers who train to be able to supply emergency communications when needed. They use public service events like this and the Manitoba Marathon to prepare for emergencies like floods and forest fires. ARES has supported the Klondike Derby annually since 2006. *“Winnipeg ARES does not get many opportunities to provide Public Service Communications in winter conditions. Klondike Derby is an excellent opportunity to help out a worthy not-for-profit community group while simultaneously gaining experience operating outdoors in the winter or getting a winter operations refresher.”* Mr. Dovyak continued.