

August 23, 2023

City of Prince George
1600 Patricia Boulevard
Prince George BC V2L 3V9

Mayor & Council

I am writing on behalf of the Caledonia Nordic Ski Club to inform you that the club intends to apply for an expansion of its licence of occupation area upon which the Otway Nordic Centre is located at 8141 Otway Road. We very much appreciate the support you have given the club in the past, and your involvement in the major events that are hosted at our facility. We are respectfully requesting a letter from you in support of this current expansion application, to accompany our submission to government.

During the first year of COVID the club waived usage fees for the general public and the following year membership surged to 2800 members, which has since trailed off to 2500 but overall, there has been a sustained increase in membership as well as day users. We operate on approximately 436 hectares of land, of which 120 hectares is private land that we access by way of goodwill annual agreements with an adjacent property owner. The adjacent private property's basic use is gravel extraction so long-term use of this land for ski trails is unlikely. We have identified an equivalent area of land on the West side of Cranbrook Hill that is the only remaining crown land that is adjacent to the Otway Nordic Centre. There is also a small 5-hectare block that would enhance our dog friendly ski trails. We want to establish formal operating access to these land parcels to ensure the longevity of our facility and the services that it provides to the community.

The Caledonia Nordic Ski Club is a not-for-profit entity that operates without direct financial support from any level of government. It provides year around recreational opportunities including skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, mountain biking and casual uses such as berry picking, bird watching and disc golf. There are ski programs for the community, including hosting of elementary school classes in the school ski program that hosts approximately 2500 students

Respecting the unceded ancestral lands, culture and people of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation



annually, ski school for those that want to learn to ski, ski instructor programs for those who want to teach, and parallel summer programs for mountain biking.

In addition, the club hosts provincial, national and international Nordic ski and biathlon competitions that bring millions of tourism dollars into the region. Recent examples include the Nordic portion of the 2015 Canada Winter Games, the 2019 World Para Nordic Ski Championships for both cross country skiing and biathlon, the 2023 Team Canada selection event to select the teams that represented Canada in the World Championships held in Whistler in January. And as you are aware, in 2024 the club will host the Para Nordic Skiing World Cup Finals, and the Para Biathlon World Championships.

A map showing the club's current land tenure agreement areas, and the proposed expansion areas is included with this letter. The proposed use is to expand the ski trail network, and offset the incremental loss of ski trails that are located upon private land. We have obtained a letter of support from the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation and are hoping to obtain similar letters from both the city and the Regional District of Fraser Fort George as the property of interest lies partially within both jurisdictions.

Hopefully we have provided enough information to base a decision upon. I am happy to do a presentation to council as requested.

Sincerely,



Jim Burbee, CNSC Director

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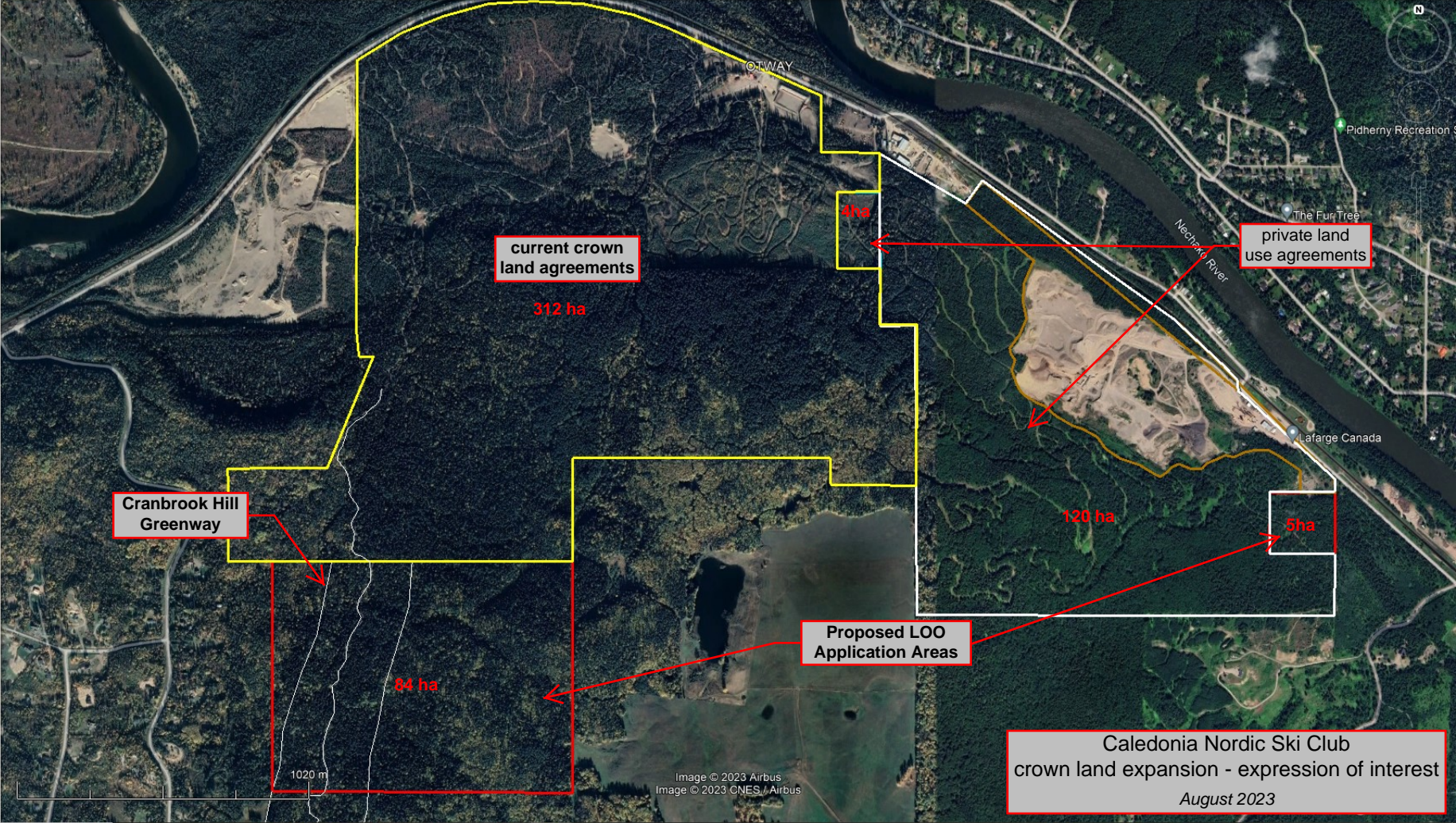
Attachments:

Map of proposed licence of occupation application area

Letter of support from Lheidli T'enneh

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current crown
land agreements

312 ha

312 ha

private land
use agreements

120 ha

5 ha

Cranbrook Hill
Greenway

Proposed LOO
Application Areas

84 ha

1020 m

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Caledonia Nordic Ski Club
crown land expansion - expression of interest
August 2023