

John Huybers  
3125 Riverview Road  
Prince George, BC  
V2K 4Y8

Redacted

September 4, 2023

Mayor and Council  
City of Prince George  
1600 Patricia Boulevard  
Prince George, BC, V2L 3V9

Subject: Request for City of PG letter of support for CNSC tenure expansion

Dear Mayor and Council

I am the past president of the Caledonia Nordic Ski Club (CNSC). CNSC is requesting a letter of support from the City of Prince George for the expansion of its tenure area through a request for a licence of occupation of adjacent vacant crown land. I am writing this letter in an effort to help ensure that the mayor and council is aware of the value that CNSC provides to the Community. CNSC is a not-for-profit organization that has been providing economical all season non-motorized outdoor recreational opportunities to residents of Prince George and the surrounding area. These non-motorized recreational opportunities are wide ranging and include skiing, snowshoeing, running, hiking, biking, disk golf, berry picking, etc.

CNSC has provided millions in economic benefits to the area by hosting national and international skiing and biathlon competitions. CNSC membership continues to grow as it remains affordable to local area individuals and families.

Over the past 60 years CNSC has developed strong long-term relationships with business and community groups including, PG Cycling Club, PG Road Runners running club, PG Naturalists society, PG Outdoor Recreation Society, Greenway Society, PG Iceman Society to name a few. CNSC has recently entered into a formal partnership arrangement with the Lheidli T'enneh and has had a long-term relationship for School District 57 for its students.

CNSC has developed and maintains over 50 km of XC ski trails and over 50 km of single-track trails for snowshoeing, running, biking. CNSC has membership fees for winter use to cover the costs of snow making and trail grooming but does not charge or restrict non-motorized access. These trails are located on a combination of crown land under tenure to CNSC through licenses of occupation and on private land through land use agreements between the land owners and CNSC. The majority of this private land is slowly but continuously being removed from our use agreements as they are developed for gravel extraction.

Ski and single-track trails are the cornerstone of CNSC operations and if CNSC is to remain viable in the future the club needs to consider expansion into adjacent, and suitably zoned vacant crown land to ensure it has suitable area to provide trails. Should CNSC be successful in its request for a license of occupation for these adjacent crownlands a separate independent public comment process would be undertaken to develop various trails through a portion of those lands at some future point. The development of trails requires careful planning to ensure specific engineering goals, environmental values and social concerns are considered.

I hope that the mayor and council will consider the community value that CNSC has continued to provide over the past 60 years and will provide a letter of support for the tenure expansion to help ensure the success of CNSC in the future.

Note: I understand that this submission information will be published to the online council meeting agenda.

Sincerely

Redacted

John Huybers

Past President CNSC and long-time City of PG resident and CNSC member