

August 25, 2023

To Mayor Simon Yu and city council members,

I am writing in support of the Caledonia Nordic Ski Club application for an expansion of their licence of occupation area at the Nordic Ski centre at 8141 Otway Road.

It is my hope that the City of Prince George lends its support to this application.

I am a 35 year member of the club. Skiing is a passion of mine. The Caledonia Nordic Ski club makes what could be a long dark lonely winter into exactly the opposite. A short drive from my home finds me skiing through gorgeous snow covered forests interspersed with open areas that offer views of our beautiful Nechako River valley. After a good ski one can enjoy companionship and camaraderie at the lodge. I love to ski with my dog and it is the dog trails that will be lost because they are only a temporary loan from the company that will eventually mine the land. I feel that having more crown land to take the place of this lost land will be advantageous in that it will allow the club to continue to offer a diverse set of trails.

A few years ago when the idea of the Pidherny Trails was presented to North Nechako residents at a meeting at Edgewood School there was worry about the trails from home owners that lived adjacent to the trails. Now the houses next to the trails are much sought after and sell as soon as listings are posted. Hopefully the situation will be the same for Catherine Drive residents.

I noticed in The Prince George Citizen that some residents of Catherine Drive are worried about losing the cooling effects of the forest and are also concerned that putting a ski trail through the area could be a fire risk. The Pidherny trails took advantage of a grant to have the forest thinned to protect it from fire. In addition perhaps a ski trail could act as a fire break.

There are magnificent trees in Caledonia Nordic Ski Club area and I see new ski trails being similar to the trails in the Ancient Forest/Chun T'oh Whudujut Park. I feel that a ski trail will not adversely affect the forested area but will instead allow more people to enjoy nature.

Sincerely,
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