

CALEDONIA NORDIC SKI CLUB

Presentation to City of Prince George
Mayor and Council
September 11, 2023



Re: Letter of Support for Facility Expansion

CNSC Mandate

The CNSC board has a constitutional mandate to:

- To provide, sponsor, encourage and foster cross country skiing, Nordic events and complimentary recreational activities including, but not limited to running, hiking, cycling, among its own members and members of the community.
- To purchase lease or otherwise acquire land, buildings, equipment, and other property for the pursuit of the said society.
- To do all such things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of any of the above objects or for the necessary or proper operation of the said society.



The Caledonia Nordic Ski Club (CNSC)

- Formed in 1957 (non-profit society)
- Promotes an active healthy lifestyle through Nordic sports (year round)
- Builds, maintains/grooms xc ski trails (~50km) and has a 30 lane biathlon range
- Has an active membership of 2600 members
- Offers programs for all ages and abilities as per the national sport development framework
- Hosts major events for xc skiing, biathlon and Para Nordic athletes, including
 - 2015 Canada Winter Games
 - 2016 Western Canadian Championships
 - 2019 World Para Nordic Championships
 - 2022 Canadian Biathlon Championships
 - 2022 BC Championships
 - 2023 Canadian Selection Trials – to select junior and senior teams to represent Canada in world competitions



Financial Contributions to the Community

Over a two week period in 2024 CNSC will host:

- The 2024 World Para Biathlon Championships, and
- The 2024 World Para Nordic Skiing World Cup Finals

These events bring substantial financial benefits to the city and the region, as quantified by the Sport Tourism Economic Assessment Model (STEAM), as follows

- 2019: local \$5.3 million, provincial \$6.3 million
- 2022: local \$683k, provincial \$836k
- 2023: local \$384k, provincial \$457k
- 2024: local \$4.2 million, provincial \$4.9 million

\$10.5 million local contribution over 6 years.



Quality of Life Contributions to the Community

These are substantial financial contributions to the local economy for a volunteer not-for-profit organization, and they are enabled by having a strong club with strong volunteers.

However;

- The predominant value of the club and its facilities is the recreational services that are provided to the community and surrounding areas.
- These services go well beyond skiing; as described in the request letter:
 - Winter time: skiing, biathlon, snowshoeing, dog friendly ski trails
 - Summer time: running, hiking, mountain biking, berry picking, birding, disc golf
 - Numerous organizations such as schools, running clubs, cycling clubs, the Prince George Iceman for example, utilize the facility for their own events.
- And, these services go well beyond the membership into the city and entire surrounding areas
- These QOL services are frequently featured by recruiters of local employers



Security of Land Access

An operation of this nature is directly dependent upon a suitable, adequate and secure land base.

- CNSC currently operates on a combination of replaceable crown land tenures and annual land use agreements with adjacent property owners.
- As noted in the request letter, the main land use for the adjacent properties is gravel extraction which makes long term access very unlikely.
- We are very fortunate to have Terus Construction Ltd as a neighbor, as their land supports a significant portion of our ski trails.
- However, longer term the gravel resources will be depleted, the land will be repurposed and unavailable.



Security of Land Access

Options to Maintain Adequate land Base

- CNSC is completely surrounded by private land except for a band of crown land to the south, along the back side of Cranbrook Hill.
- This band of land is the only available option for land expansion that is adjacent to the Otway Nordic Centre.
- We have spoken to both the city and the regional district planners to confirm that the land is properly zoned and appropriate for the intended use.
- The land, and our existing land tenures, overlap significantly with the Cranbrook Hill Greenway Trail, and we have a memorandum of understanding between us for areas that are jointly managed.



Process

Government Process

- Crownland applications are initiated through Front Counter BC, and managed internally by government staff.
- Government processes address outreach to the public in general.

CNSC Process

- CNSC has a Trails Committee that is mandated to deal with outreach to members.
- There are three property owners with property immediately adjacent to the area of interest that have been contacted by CNSC and they have expressed no concerns.
- A broader communication and outreach would be undertaken as appropriate after a licence is issued and trail development plans are being finalized.



Summary

- CNSC club is growing and the land base is shrinking.
- The obligation of the CNSC board is to acquire adequate amounts of suitable land to meet its mandate.
- There is only one viable option to expand the Otway Nordic Centre land base.
- It is as simple as that.
- The city and the club enjoy a mutually beneficial working relationship
- CNSC is proceeding with an application for a Licence of Occupation and would very much appreciate a letter of support from the city in that process.

