

7600 Otway Road
Prince George, BC V2M 7B4

September 5, 2023

City of Prince George
1100 Patricia Blvd, Prince George,
BC V2L 3V9

Subject: Letter of support for the expansion of the Crown Land License of Occupation application by the Caledonia Nordic Ski Club

Dear Mayor and Council...

I'm writing on behalf of our family to provide our whole hearted support of the expansion of the License of Occupation that is being proposed by Jim Burbee on behalf of the Caledonia Nordic Ski Club (CNSC).

Over the past decade, CNSC has had a tremendously positive impact on the residents of Prince George as being a recreational oasis, while at the same time, becoming a world class Nordic facility that has welcomed visitors regionally, provincially, nationally and all around the globe (contributing well over \$10 million dollars to our local economy). I have personally been able to witness this first hand having been on the CNSC board over this time in various roles (i.e. Vice President, President, Past President, Chair of the 2019 World Para Nordic Skiing Championships, Director at Large, Director of Competitions, Chair of the 2024 Para Biathlon World Championships and 2024 Para Nordic World Cup Finals). It has been such an incredible honour and rewarding experience to be part building such a positive place in our community that is now world renowned. We have so many people that have expressed the Nordic Centre is the reason that they choose to come, live and stay in Prince George.

We have been so very fortunate to have such passionate and incredible volunteers such as Jim Burbee to help shape the Nordic Centre into the world class facility it is today. The incredible network of trails and all the related infrastructure does not happen by accident, but rather with a strong cohesive vision, strategic planning, a facilities development plan, and a sustainable model in which to implement these plans. Through considerate and careful planning, we have been able to grow our facility while still maintaining the incredible richness of the outdoor experience that everyone enjoys. The value of this was truly evident through the last few years our membership flourished from a previous historic high of 1800 members to over 2800 members (making it one of the largest Nordic ski clubs in Canada and North America). During the early part of the COVID-19 pandemic, we were one of the only recreational facilities in our community that could continue to operate. Even as other recreational facilities came back on track, our membership levels still remain very high (~2500 members) over historical levels. With growth in membership and users, comes an increasing demand for a variety of skiing experiences and one that has been on the "wish list" for members has been a longer recreational touring trail at our facility. As with everything we do at the ski club, we look for the multiple benefits, and one largest benefit to being able to build trails into these areas (that are being requested under this

expanded tenure) is that it helps to provide access for wildfire response. I witnessed the importance of wildfire access first hand in early July 2017, when Prince George was hit by numerous lightning strikes which started many fires around the city, and in particular, one at the Nordic Centre. The Prince George Fire Dept was able to quickly deploy a wildfire crew to the Nordic Centre, and was able to physically drive their vehicles and equipment within metres of the fire (that was large enough to be seen from Catherine Drive, along Otway Road, as well as residents of North Nechako). As both an avid member of the Caledonia Nordic Ski Club, but also as one of its closest neighbours (7600 Otway Road), I am doubly grateful for this added benefit of fire suppression access that these ski trails provide.

I would not only request the city support this expansion of the License of Occupation, but also to celebrate the incredible work that Jim Burbee has done on behalf of the Caledonia Nordic Ski Club and the City of Prince George to make this one of the best Nordic facilities in the world.

Thank you so much for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Redacted

Kevin Pettersen

Redacted

Dr. Jacqueline Pettersen