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For Immediate Release

***Caledonia Nordic Ski Club receives \$1Million to Develop Paved Roller Ski and Roller Biathlon Training Trails!***

On April 25, 2023, the Province of British Columbia, under the Destination Development Fund announced Caledonia Nordic Ski Club will receive \$1million in funding for the development of paved roller ski/roller biathlon competitions trails.

“Our government is proud to support the tourism sector, the people who work in it, and its sustained recovery,” said Lana Popham, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport. “By supporting the Caledonia Nordic Ski Club, we are investing in tourism infrastructure to strengthen a year-round visitor economy and increasing community vibrancy for residents and visitors alike.”

“We are absolutely overjoyed and incredibly thankful to the Province of BC for the approval of this grant,” said Kevin Pettersen, Chair of Competitions at Caledonia Nordic. “Paved competition trails for xc and biathlon have been a key piece within our strategic and facilities development plans for well over a decade. These strategic plans have been so important for having shaped the way our club has become a world class Nordic facility, and now this enables us to realize our strategic vision to become a year-round Nordic facility for all 4 seasons,” added Pettersen who has served in various roles on the Caledonia Nordic Board for over 10 years; with 5 of those as President prior to moving into the position of Competitions Chair for the Club.

Receiving this grant will help complete Caledonia’s vision for paved trails and is a direct result of Caledonia's long history, dedication and hard work of hosting Nordic competitions from local events right up to the world championship levels and is a monumental game changer in many ways.

The paved competition trails will allow Caledonia to replicate the incredible success for hosting major winter events in the summer and fall seasons. These trails will also provide the ability for the club to host local, regional, national and international dry land roller ski/roller biathlon training camps, and most importantly, provides a safe



and welcoming alternative for Nordic athletes to train in the summer and fall on roller skis, training which currently takes place on public roads.

As with everything we do here at Caledonia, the view is always to look for how these projects provide benefits to our community and members. While this incredible funding opportunity is contingent on attracting and hosting competitions, we are also very pleased to be working with other funding collaborators to expand upon this core project and provide a greater diversity of the paved trails in order to support and stimulate recreational roller skiing as well as greatly enhance accessibility routes and opportunities for people with disabilities.

Receiving the funding from the Province of BC's Destination Develop Fund would not have been possible without the ongoing support of Caledonia Nordic's incredible staff, volunteers and outside partners including the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, City of Prince George, Tourism Prince George, the Prince George Chamber of Commerce, Northern BC Tourism, Nordiq Canada, Biathlon Canada, Cross Country BC, Biathlon BC, Spinal Cord Injury BC, Northern Development Initiatives Trust, and the Caledonia Nordic Board of Directors. Together we make huge dreams come true!

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