



**CROSS COUNTRY NWT
Board Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2021 – 7:00 PM
Zoom Meeting**

BY TELECONFERENCE

Shawne Kokelj, President

Angela Littlefair, Secretary & Treasurer

John Stephenson, Yellowknife Ski Club representative

Heather Scott, Yellowknife Ski Club representative

Ollie Williams, Administrator

Sarah Pruys, Administrator

Carolyn Hunter, Inuvik Ski Club representative (joined at 7:48pm)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM.

1 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed.

2022 Arctic Winter Games were added to the agenda.

2 Approval of Minutes (January 18, 2021)

The minutes of the regular board meeting of January 18, 2020 were approved.

ACTION ITEM: Administrators to post January 2021 minutes on nwtski.com and distribute minutes to the CCNWT board and clubs.

3 Action Items (January 18, 2021)

Board members noted the progress of the January 18, 2021 action items.

4 COVID-19

Administration noted CCNWT had received an additional \$12,026 through Sport Canada's COVID-19 Emergency Support program. This funding must be spent by March 31, 2021 and then reported on in a timely manner.

The board agreed to use this money to support community skiing programs, like getting a skiing program started in Ulukhaktok, purchasing neckwarmers/toques/mitts for Sahtu youth so they have adequate winter clothing and can participate in workshops, promoting NWT Ski Day, and purchasing skis for next year for communities.

5 Territorials and Travel to Ski Events

ACTION ITEM: Clubs to notify Administrators what events they plan on attending outside of their home community, how many participants will be attending these events, and how much money they need from CCNWT.

President Shawne Kokelj noted some of this money can be held over for next year and hopefully used to send youth to races in the southern provinces if clubs don't need all of it this year.

ACTION ITEM: Administration to ask the Hay River Ski Club if other clubs are invited to its Polar Cup Biathlon Races and inform other clubs if it is open to the rest of the NWT.

Yellowknife Ski Club representative John Stephenson noted the Yellowknife club will issue a formal race notice for the Yellowknife Ski Races/Territorials.

6 NWT Ski Day

NWT Ski Day is Sunday, February 14. CCNWT is running a contest encouraging residents to share photos of themselves, their families, and their friends getting outside and enjoying the sport. Residents who share photos and tag #CCNWT will be entered to win prizes, which include Aurora Heat handwarmers and four \$250 gift cards for Overlander Sports. CCNWT is also requesting permission from entrants to reshare their photos on CCNWT platforms. The contest ends February 14 at 3pm MDT.

A secondary event, pole matchmaking, is also taking place at the same time. CCNWT is looking for Yellowknife residents to donate old ski poles (individuals or pairs) to ship to Ulukhaktok for their new ski program. CCNWT will pick up the poles and handle shipping – all residents have to do is let CCNWT know they have poles to donate.

7 Nordiq Canada club fundraising

Nordiq Canada is helping clubs fundraise through the Ski Local, Support Local campaign.

Here are the details:

- 95% of the funds your club raises stay with the club, the other 5% go to Nordiq Canada to cover expenses like credit card processing fees
- This is a completely optional initiative

Nordiq Canada will:

- manage the online donation platform
- issue tax receipts to donors
- disburse funds to clubs in April

Clubs will:

- share the campaign with club members and encourage all to make a donation

8 Safe Sport

NWT youth skier Ella Kokelj is on the NWT Safe Sport implementation strategy working group.

9 Retention of Skiers

Membership is up 45% for Nordiq Canada and we know the number of skiers is also growing locally. Shawne suggested brainstorming how we can retain this new skiers in future years, such as offering guided skis on trails off ski club properties, having HP skiers wear race suits during practice to increase visibility, encouraging non-members to volunteer at events, and having CCNWT board members being present and helpful on the trails on NWT Ski Day.

The Yellowknife representatives noted that while the club might not see the benefit of people using the guerilla groomers' trails and not the ski club, the participation in skiing in general is a positive.

10 RYSE events

Administration provided an update on the RYSE events, which are scheduled to take place in Fort Providence (x2, dates TBD), Fort Simpson (Feb 13-14), Colville Lake (Feb 25-26), Tulita (Mar 10-11), Deline (Mar 18-19), Fort Good Hope (Mar 23-24), Norman Wells (Mar 25-26), Hay River (late March), and Inuvik (April).

The various clinics will be led by Annika Olesen, Anna-Spring Doerfler, Kerry Wheler, and possibly Ella Kokelj and/or Rae Panayi.

11 Ski Orders with Overlander Sports

Overlander Sports in Yellowknife plans to order skis for next season by the end of February. If your club wants to order equipment, make sure you get your order in soon as they are already predicting equipment shortages for next season again.

12 2022 Arctic Winter Games

As per Bill Othmer's email

The 2022 Arctic Winter Games are scheduled to take place March 6-12, 2022 in the regional municipality of Wood Buffalo, Alberta. The Arctic Winter Games International Committee (AWGIC), as the rights holder of the Games, is considering whether or not the 2022 Games should proceed as scheduled.

For various reasons, related to contracts, Games preparation and other obligations, this important decision needs to be made by the beginning of March 2021.

The AWGIC has engaged the Sport Law & Strategy Group (SLSG) to collect feedback from stakeholder groups. This feedback will be used by the AWGIC to understand the risks associated with the following options:

- proceeding with the 2022 Games as scheduled
- deferring the 2022 Games until 2023
- canceling the 2022 Games entirely

Stakeholder interviews will be held February 5 – 17. Feedback from the interviews and the results from this survey will inform the AWGIC's decision.

Sport North did not indicate CCNWT was a stakeholder that would be interviewed about this decision, but Administration advised if clubs have any strong opinions to email Bill Othmer directly at bothmer@sportnorth.com.

John suggested the NWT could look at hosting an NWT-only winter sporting event. Shawne asked that this idea be revisited at the next board meeting once AWGIC has made a decision.

Shawne suggested the CCNWT board review its 2020 Arctic Winter Games Athlete and Coach Selection Policy before there is significant board and coach turnover.

ACTION ITEM: Administration to email the 2020 Arctic Winter Games Athlete and Coach Selection Policy to the executive board for an initial review.

8 Club Updates

YELLOWKNIFE SKI CLUB

- NWT Ski Day on FEB 14. No trail fees.
- World Snow Day was held on Jan 17. Estimated 150 people on site. Skigo Bingo wrapped up this day with prizes
- Annual Trail Grooming workshop on January 24. 16 people attended including experienced and new groomers. Chance to train new people and review schedules, equipment and safety with all.
- Lessons interest exceeds ability to deliver
- Ski in School events - NWT and national funding for students and teachers skiing opportunities. School skis being organized, repaired and waxed.
- Loppet planning underway for March 28
- Ski Races planning pending
- Guerrilla Groomers continue to increase track setting in the area. FB page on Yellowknife Ski Updates well subscribed for non Ski Club trails.
- Membership numbers over 700 (pending review and update by Registrar to give CCNWT final number). Past years number were 450 to 500. Jackrabbits are at a recent record of 96. (We had 125 approx 1990)
- Considering running a March Break ski camp - but it may be too much work

INUVIK SKI CLUB

- Opened membership on Jan 26.
- Have 25 members and have had ppl skiing both weekends (at -40C) with student hire working in the clubhouse to lend out equipment.
- Have a strong board, with more people wanting to join the board.
- Holding an event this weekend - some sort of all encompassing event to get people engaged and skiing.
- Inuvik Skis to the North Pole event being planned, where skiers will collectively ski the distance to the North Pole from Inuvik.

HAY RIVER SKI CLUB

- Not in attendance.

FORT SMITH SKI CLUB

- Not in attendance.

9 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Monday, March 8, 2021 at 7 PM.

Action item: Administrators to confirm next board meeting date (February 8, 2021) with clubs and encourage clubs to send alternate to meetings if club representative cannot attend.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM.