



Dear Fernie Nordic Society Members (and future members!)

First of all, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank the Fernie Nordic Society community for all of your support during the Spring of 2020. It was an unprecedented time, and one with great uncertainty. Because of your support, kindness, and respect, we were able to keep our trails open and groomed until April 22<sup>nd</sup>, providing our community with a safe recreational outlet. It was a record year! A huge thanks also to the volunteer groomers at the Elk Valley Nordic Centre and the crew at the Fernie Golf and Country Club for supporting that extended season with incredible grooming.

Our landowners are critical to the FNS operations, so acknowledgement also goes to The Cedars, Galloway Lumber Ltd. and the Fernie Golf and Country Club for their partnership. We share a value of providing safe access to outdoor spaces, and it is a privilege to continue to operate on these lands, particularly in a time when outdoor recreation is critical to our physical and mental well-being.

The Fernie Nordic Board of Directors have spent the last 6 months digging into every aspect of our nordic ski operations, developing COVID-19 protocols to ensure the health and safety of our volunteers and members. This is our absolute, number one concern. Our Board and the volunteer leads for our grooming, trail ambassador, facilities, registration, membership, programs and events areas have been working hard to develop protocols that will ensure a safe experience for all.

To date, we have completed our COVID-19 protocols for our Race Team, Facilities, Grooming, Volunteers/Contractors and Trail Ambassadors and Registration/Membership. In progress is our Skills Development Program (kids program) and Events (tabled while large events continue to be limited). The summary of our COVID-19 policy can be found at: <https://www.fernienordic.com/covid-19/>.

This is new to all of us, and as we go through the evaluation process of the Skills Development Program, we thank the community for patience and understanding. It is our first priority to ensure that we as a Board, and as a community, are not putting our volunteers and children, or their parents, at undue risk. At the same time, we are committed to continue to support opportunities for youth in the Elk Valley to engage with nordic skiing, and develop lifelong skills. We will find a way to do this, safely.

We are ready to provide you with the best trails this year – with new a new partnership at the Adventure Centre (providing access to the dog friendly loop behind the Golf Course!), a brand new roller at the Nordic Centre and a strong crew of groomers ready to lay some fresh corduroy. Make sure you have your pass, and thank you again for your continued support.

See you on the trails!

Sincerely,

Megan Lohmann

President, Fernie Nordic Society, on behalf of the Board of Directors

November 12, 2020