

# APPENDIX A

## PROPOSAL FOR THE MOVE OF THE BNSC CROSS COUNTRY SKI EQUIPMENT

### **Bonnyville Nordic Ski Club history:**

We started our xc ski club four years ago, based on the interest of community members in the MD of Bonnyville Area, including the town of Bonnyville. A key part of our success is our excellent cross country ski trails Muriel Lake M.D. Park. Our club volunteers have an excellent working relationship with Rod & Greg + our MD Parks Staff, who maintain & groom our ski trails at Muriel Lake Campground to meet the needs of our community residents.

The Muriel Lake trails are now the premier xc ski destination in our Lakeland Region, with a reputation as one of the best cross country ski trails between Edmonton & Saskatoon! Together, we are developing our sport to attract visitors & tourists to the Lakeland.

Last winter, our ski club volunteers started grooming xc ski trails at Moose Lake Provincial Park, Cold Lake Provincial Park, Jessie Lake Trail in Bonnyville and at other private property sites in our region.

We work together with our friends at Hamilton House B&B to promote their xc ski resort at Cherry Grove.

We work very closely with our sister-club from St Paul's - Lakeland Cross Country Ski Club. Last winter they started a partnership with the County of St Paul to provide xc ski trails at the Westcove Campground. Our clubs are now cooperating to prepare a bid to host 2026 Alberta Winter Games – cross country skiing and possibly the biathlon.

Our MD promotional xc ski video with Snow Seekers was the icing on the cake, to help put our Lakeland Region on the map...as we progressively build the foundation as a mecca for xc skiing on the prairies.

We have developed the opportunity to promote xc skiing in our region. One of the obstacles for new skiers in the cross country ski world is the availability for equipment rentals when the thought comes to try this sport. This is why the BNSC volunteers feel a collaboration with the MD could be the answer.

### **A little history of the Cross Country Ski Equipment rental program and its challenges!**

One of the challenges our ski club volunteer leaders are dealing with is to provide a facility for our xc ski equipment rental program to meet the needs of our community and visitors.

Presently people who want to rent cross country ski equipment can only do so for yearly, and half year rentals. We presently have the skis at the ACFA (the French cultural center) in storage and volunteers are booked to do the rental fittings. Because

we are volunteer based, and our club is small, we can not offer daily or weekend rentals at this time. This does limit the access for folks to try cross country skiing when weather and conditions are perfect for a day's trial or just a weekend try. Our main mission is to promote the sport and get more people on cross country skis.

For the past three years our ski club has been searching for a location in Bonnyville to offer our ski rental program during the winter, looking for a place that people could drop by during the week to rent equipment. There was a short time that the C2 and the program was successful, it is space that caused the C2 was able to take over and store the skis for a season. This was successful, but space was a great issue and the skis had to be returned to the club storage at the ACFA.

Moving the skis to the Shaw Centre would open the opportunity for community members to access ski equipment rentals. This will open opportunities for any community residents, guests, and visitors to rent equipment and go out for a day of fun and experience the great trails that are around the area.

Also offering a chance for visitors/tourists planning on coming to the Lakeland to rent ski equipment as part of their winter vacation.

The ski rental program is well organized, and this can be shared with the MD staff, to ease the transition from our club volunteers to the Shaw House. The club skis are marked and numbered, we use a spreadsheet to keep track of the renters. The long rentals (seasonal) are set up through a program called the zone 4. Zone 4 also has our club memberships and lessons sign up. The Club feels the Shaw house would be very beneficial for both the MD and the club as a collaboration.

One of the most successful cross country ski rental program that is near to Bonnyville is at the Strathcona Wilderness Centre, east of Sherwood Park, in the County of Strathcona. Their success is because they provide ski rental services to the public at the times when people want to rent. Below is the link to their xc ski rentals + other potential parks services our MD of Bonnyville may consider for future planning.

[Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing | Strathcona County](#)

Our goal is to provide the public with an opportunity to rent ski equipment at an affordable price, for individuals and families. This will help grow the cross country community.

We believe that our MD of Bonnyville - Shaw House is an ideal location to offer a cross country ski rental program. This strategy will encourage skiers to ski on our MD of Bonnyville - Muriel Lake Campground Ski Trails as well as the trails in and around our community.

Below could be what this will look like:

**MD of Bonnyville Cross Country Ski Equipment Rental Program**  
in partnership with the Bonnyville Nordic Ski Club House

**Location:** Shaw House - Vezeau Beach

**Hours:** Monday to Friday 8:30am-4:30pm

**Rental Process:**

- Cross Country Ski Rental Information will be available on the MD website as well on the Bonnyville Nordic Facebook Page and in our (Bonnyville Nordic Ski Club) brochure that are dispersed throughout Bonnyville
- people who want to rent xc skis will have access at the Shaw House
- rentals available on a first come, first served...no reservations
- photo ID is required to rent equipment
- the rental forms are already set up for the BNSC and the MD staff can use the same ones or develop another tracking/rental agreement.
- Staff would be taught how size for the equipment rentals – shoe size, skis and poles length. We have papers already developed for the part.
- This is the sample that the Strathcona Wilderness centre has for their rentals.  
[Strathcona Wilderness Centre Equipment Individual Minor - Rental \(windows.net\)](http://windows.net)
- MD staff will verify the inventory numbers on the equipment Rental Form and collect payment for equipment rental fee, (we have a damage deposit that we have taken and return to the patrons when the skis are returned without damage)
- rental equipment will be returned to the Shaw House front desk for MD staff to record & refund deposit.
- MD staff will keep the rental room organized, including spraying disinfectant to the ski boots, presently the club has supplies to do this as well.

Below are rental pricing options which will need to be negotiable between the club and the MD Bonnyville staff. We will work with the MD of Bonnyville staff to negotiate a shared profit point – there is profit to be made and right now the profit is used for replacing the skis as needed and buying more equipment when needed.

**Short-Term Rental Rates** (20% discount for Bonnyville Nordic Ski Club Members)

Daily Rates = pick up one day & return the same day or next day

Youth \$12

Adults \$18

Weekend Rates = pick up Friday & return Monday

Youth \$24

Adults \$36

Weekly Rates = pick up & return same weekday

Youth \$40

Adults \$60

Christmas Holiday Season = December 18th to January 3rd

Youth \$60

Adults \$90

**Long-Term Rental Rates ONLY for Bonnyville Nordic Ski Club Members: These have been organized through the Zone 4 system.**

Full Season = November to April 9th

Youth \$150

Adults \$300

Youth Registered in BNSC Youth Program \$80

Parent Volunteer Helpers of youth program \$120

First Half of Season = November to January 3rd

Youth \$100

Adults \$200

Second Half of Season = January 4th to April 9th

Youth \$100

Adults \$200

**NOTE:** We would like to promote a Bonnyville Nordic Ski Club membership and offering a discount helps promote the club. To qualify for our Members discount rates, they can log onto our Membership registration page:

[Bonnyville Nordic 2023/2024 Membership | Zone4.ca](https://www.zone4.ca/Bonnyville-Nordic-2023/2024-Membership)

We will also provide the Shaw House with Information Brochures for our Bonnyville Nordic Ski Club.

**Partnership:** Working with the MD would benefit all the community. More access to outdoor sports is healthy and fun. Cross Country skiing is a very active sport and is successful in many other communities and we want this for the residents of the Bonnyville area. The Bonnyville Nordic Ski Club is energetic, and we have plans that we would love to promote – we love our groomed trails and want all to come and enjoy this sport.

With a partnership with MD there would be more access to skis therefore more potential for skiing.

Please consider our proposal and we look forward to further discussions in this possible venture.

Thank you,

Linne Bowler,  
Christine St Laurent  
BNSC ski rental committee