



For Immediate Release

Registration for Canadian Birkie 2022 cross-country ski events opens October 14

Canadian Birkie set for February 11th until February 28th, 2022

Edmonton, October 13th, 2021 - Thursday, October 14th at Noon, the Canadian Birkebeiner Society will open its registration for their Canadian Birkie Ski Festival running from February 11th to February 28th. The society will start its 32nd Canadian Birkie Ski Festival in-person cross-country ski events in Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area and in Edmonton. The in-person events will be followed by a two-week Virtual Canadian Birkie giving cross-country skiers the opportunity to participate at their own pace, at their own place.

The Canadian Birkie Ski events on Saturday, February 12th offer skiers a timed, personal-best challenge at distances from 2 km to the well-known 55 km with pack, the Torskeklubben Birkebeiner. On Sunday, February 13th, families can join the Barnebirkie family ski with distances of 1 km and 3 km at Silverskate in Hawrelak Park. The Canadian Birkebeiner Society is putting COVID-19 protocols in place to offer volunteers and participants a safe Birkie. In case the Festival is cancelled due to new developments in the pandemic, all registrants will receive a spot in the 2023 Canadian Birkie. In the current situation, participants can only ski after they show proof that they are fully vaccinated. If the COVID-19 situation changes before February, the society will inform registrants.

"After missing the in-person event last year because of COVID-19, we are really looking forward to offering a great loppet this year. I know a lot of skiers will be excited to get back to Blackfoot and ski through that amazing wilderness area so close to Edmonton," said Birkie President Dave Cooper.

After last year's inaugural success, the Virtual Canadian Birkie will run from February 14th to February 28th, 2022. Cross-country skiers around the world have an opportunity to take part in the Birkie at their own pace, at their own place. Virtual Birkie participants will be encouraged to share their experiences through social media for a chance at sponsor prize draws.

For more details, please visit canadianbirkie.com and follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

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Canadian Birkebeiner Society

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About the Canadian Birkebeiner Society:

Since 1985, the Canadian Birkebeiner Society has organized Canada's largest classic, cross-country ski festival held on the second weekend of February. As well, the non-profit society aims to involve participants of all ages in cross-country skiing, promoting an active and healthy winter lifestyle.

In addition to the Canadian Birkie Ski Festival, the Canadian Birkebeiner Society organizes the Virtual Canadian Birkie, ski training and other ski events to allow people to enjoy cross-country skiing in a friendly and fun atmosphere.

The Canadian Birkie Ski Festival allows participants to relive the Birkebeiner legend of how two Birkebeiner warriors rescued the future Norwegian Crown Prince by skiing him to safety in the middle of winter. In the longest race of the Canadian Birkie, skiers still carry a 5.5-kilogram weight that symbolizes the Crown Prince Haakon Haakonsson.

The Virtual Canadian Birkie invites participants to take part in the Birkie at their chosen location between February 14th and February 28th. After the event, registrants upload their distance and a photo of their event. The participants get a chance to then compare themselves with other Virtual Birkie skiers. Family, clubs, and organizations can take part in the "Most KM Skied" Award allowing people to set a group goal.

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