

[View this email in your browser](#)



**30th Annual
CANADIAN
birkie
Ski Festival.**
February 8-10, 2019



Canadian Birkie Ski Festival a Go This Weekend

(Edmonton, February 4, 2019) Despite our current cold snap and heavy snowfall, trail conditions will be the best in many years when more than 1,000 skiers hit the trails Saturday at the 30th annual Canadian Birkebeiner Ski Festival.

The Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area which borders Elk Island National Park is a winter wonderland today, but crews will soon be packing and resetting all the trails to ensure the 55 km, 31 km and 13 km trail routes are in top shape.

The cold weather will help set the snow, and the new tracks will be fresh and fast. Most forecasts call for temperatures to moderate by Saturday, and be even milder in time for the kids Sunday Birkie held this year from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in conjunction with the Silver Skate Festival in Edmonton's William Hawrelak Park.

However, if the extreme cold persists, we have several options, including delaying the start of the long events, and shortening the 55 km course. The 2/4 Ole's Tour kids' event could also be moved to Birkie Sunday at the Silver Skate Festival. Please consult our social media sites and www.canadianbirkie.com for regular updates as the week progresses.

The long course skiers (55 and 31 km) start in waves beginning at 9 a.m. from the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village and head south through twisting routes, ending hours later at the Waskehegan Staging Area which serves as the Festival centre, complete with food and beverages (this year including beer and special coffees), a massage tent and change trailers.

The short events, from the 13 km to 4/8 km and 2/4 km, all start and end at the Festival site. There is no parking, but we have continuous bus service between Waskehegan and the Bethel Transit Station. We also have buses to return long course skiers to their cars at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village.

It should be a great day for the whole family, for novice skiers and the old pros alike. Everyone who experiences a Birkie will come away with a new appreciation our slogan: Ski like Vikings!

**Registration for the Saturday Birkie closes at noon on Wednesday.
For further details, check out our website:**

[Go to Birkie Website](#)

This three day festival begins on February 8 at 11:30 am at Woodvale Facility with the Birkie Opening Ceremonies. Municipal, provincial and federal politicians will bring greetings, Birkie Board members will thank event sponsors, and Vikings will introduce the 2019 Birkie baby. Media are invited to attend this 30th Birkie celebration followed by a light lunch at Noon.

For more information, please contact:

Dave Cooper, President, 780-298-2856
Laura McIlveen, Marketing Director, 587-984-0394
Marion Hinteregger, Birkie Coordinator, 780-686-0506
