



For Immediate Release

Canadian Birkie opens registration for first Virtual ski event *Virtual Canadian Birkie takes place February 12 – 21, 2021*

Edmonton, December 3, 2020 – The Canadian Birkebeiner Society opened registration today of the first ever Virtual Canadian Birkie as part of this year’s cross country ski events. The Virtual Birkie is a ten-day event that offers cross country skiers worldwide an opportunity to participate in the Canadian Birkie at their own pace, at their own place. Participants can sign up to ski, roller-ski, run, walk or cycle one of the Birkie distances: 4, 8, 13, 31 or 55 kilometres.

“As we can only offer limited spots at our main Canadian Birkie due to the Covid restrictions, we decided to organize the Virtual Canadian Birkie as an alternative option,” said society President Dave Cooper. “Each year participants travel from other provinces and other countries to ski the Birkie loppet near Edmonton. The Virtual Birkie offers these skiers a chance to also be part of our Birkie events in 2021. It is a simple concept and anyone can take part, no matter where they live.”

The Virtual Canadian Birkie invites participants to take part in the Birkie at any of their chosen locations between February 12th and February 21st. 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 goal as a group.

For more details about the Virtual Canadian Birkie, please visit <https://canadianbirkie.com/virtual-birkie/> and follow us on social media ([Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#)).

Media Contacts, Canadian Birkebeiner Society:

Dave Cooper, President: 780-298-2856 c | davecooper555@gmail.com

Delianne Meenhorst, Marketing Director: 587-986-7832 c | dmeenhorst@yahoo.com

Marion Hinteregger, Birkie Coordinator: 780-686-0506 c | coordinator@canadianbirkie.com

Pictures are available on request via: coordinator@canadianbirkie.com.

CANADIAN BIRKEBEINER SOCIETY

7240 82 Avenue NW, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6B 0G1 | Ph: (780) 430-7153 ski@canadianbirkie.com | canadianbirkie.com

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 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.

In 2021 the Canadian Birkebeiner Society modified the Canadian Birkie to meet AHS protocols and guidelines. As a result, the Canadian Birkie can only offer 640 skiers a spot in the main event. The Barnebirkie family ski at Silver Skate in Hawrelak Park registration opens in January.