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## **Canadian Birkie moves ahead with cross country ski event for children**

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

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Link to media release pdf [here](#)

**Edmonton, January 20th, 2022** - Thursday morning the Canadian Birkebeiner Society opened registration for the Canadian Barnebirkie ski event taking place in Hawrelak park on Birkie Sunday, February 13th, 2022. The annual Barnebirkie ski adventures focuses on children and their families and is organized in cooperation with Silver Skate Festival in Hawrelak Park.

Roberta Hyland, the Barnebirkie Chief says: "The Barnebirkie is where Birkie dreams begin. This event gives families an opportunity to enjoy winter fun in a safe, outdoor setting with mascots and Vikings. The classic cross country ski distances include 500 m, 1 km and 3 km. Families will ski and can then continue on to enjoy the Silver Skate Festivities."

The Barnebirkie 2022 will see a few changes in keeping with the Birkebeiner's current COVID-19 protocols. There will be no mass start and children will receive a goodie bag with a snack instead of being served food. Touch points will be minimized, social distancing of two metres will be maintained, and QR code checks will be in place.

The Canadian Birkie Ski Festival held from February 11th to February 28th offers cross country skiers a variety of other opportunities. The Birkie in-person ski events on Saturday, February 12th include a timed, personal-best challenge at distances from 2 km to the well-known 55 km with pack, the Torskeklubben Birkebeiner.

"After missing the in-person event last year, we are really looking forward to offering a great loppet under careful COVID-19 protocols. 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.

The Canadian Birkebeiner Society COVID-19 protocols offer volunteers and participants a chance to participate in a safe Birkie. Under the current situation, participants can only ski after they show proof they are fully vaccinated. If the COVID-19 situation changes before February, the society will inform registrants. In case the festival is cancelled due to new developments in the pandemic, all registrants will receive a spot in the 2023 Canadian Birkie.

After last year's inaugural success, the Virtual Canadian Birkie will run from February 14th to February 28th, 2022. The two-week Virtual Canadian Birkie gives Cross-country skiers and sport enthusiasts the opportunity to participate 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 <https://canadianbirkie.com> and follow us on social media ([Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#)).

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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.

**Canadian Birkebeiner Society**

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