



Box 773, Beeton ON, L0G1A0

November 27, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Canadian Ski Council, I am pleased to extend our full support to the **Second Tracks Program**, a remarkable initiative developed by North Shore Ltd. (NSL) and the YMCA to promote youth engagement in winter sports in the Collingwood and surrounding areas.

The Second Tracks Program embodies the values we strive to uphold as an organization: fostering access to skiing and snowboarding, reducing barriers to participation, and encouraging healthy, active lifestyles among youth. With a focus on inclusivity and community, this program addresses critical issues such as mental health, social engagement, and access to recreational activities that may otherwise be out of reach for many families due to financial constraints.

The Canadian Ski Council is particularly inspired by the program's multifaceted approach:

1. **Inclusive Access:** By partnering with Blue Mountain to provide complimentary ski passes, equipment rentals, lessons, and transportation, the program creates a safe and supportive environment for youth to discover and thrive in winter sports.
2. **Addressing Mental Health:** The emphasis on outdoor activity as a mental health outlet for adolescents is critical. Research consistently highlights the benefits of physical activity and outdoor play in reducing stress, improving mood, and fostering resilience among youth.
3. **Community Sustainability:** By encouraging the donation and repurposing of high-quality ski equipment, the program promotes sustainability while equipping participants with the tools they need to succeed.
4. **Building Connections:** Bridging the local community with the broader skiing ecosystem fosters a sense of belonging and mutual support, ensuring that youth and families can participate in the region's vibrant winter culture.

The Canadian Ski Council is committed to supporting programs that make winter sports more accessible and inclusive. We believe the Second Tracks Program has the potential to set a benchmark for community-driven initiatives nationwide.

We commend NSL, YMCA, and their partners for their vision and dedication, and we look forward to the positive impact this program will bring to Collingwood and beyond. The Canadian Ski Council is eager to support Second Tracks as needed and would be pleased to explore potential collaboration opportunities to ensure the program's success.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Pinchbeck
President and CEO
Canadian Ski Council
ppinchbeck@skicanada.org