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**Kimberley Nordic Club Welcome Centre Grand Opening**

A new Welcome Centre has been established at the Kimberley Nordic Club (KNC). This project was made possible through a combined investment of \$236,585, including \$94,634 from the Government of Canada and \$59,146 from the Province of British Columbia through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure stream, along with \$34,000 from the Columbia Basin Trust and \$48,805 contributed by the Kimberley Nordic Club (including generous donations from the Round the Mountain Legacy Fund and the Kootenay Freewheelers)

The new facility will enhance the experience of both winter and summer Nordic Centre trail users. Located directly at the Nordic Centre parking lot, the building will provide a welcoming space for all club members and visitors to find key products, information, and services that support safe trail usage. The space will feature a new service desk for trail pass and membership sales, an expanded rental shop, a retail shop, centralized storage for KNC ski program equipment, and a year-round, accessible public washroom.

“We’re making outdoor recreation more accessible, comfortable and enjoyable for all with this new Welcome Centre,” said Christine Boyle, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs. “Whether you’re skiing in winter or hiking and biking in summer, having a welcome space with essential services means more people can safely experience the beauty of Kimberley’s trails. Investments like this strengthen community connections and support healthy, active lifestyles for years to come.”

Hikers, trail runners, and mountain bikers will be particularly thrilled to see the new washroom at the Nordic Centre. The area is well-regarded as the busiest trailhead in Kimberley, but has never had permanent summer washroom facilities. Recent mountain bike trail network expansions, including the Electrify the Mountain initiative, have attracted many new trail users to Kimberley, which has created a need for additional trailhead infrastructure. The KNC is very happy to share that the new washroom facility will provide much-needed services to the outdoor recreation community.

This new, permanent structure replaces a temporary trailer that served as the ticket kiosk and



gear rental shop for 15 seasons. Since the original kiosk was first put into service in 2010, the club has increased from 390 to 1915 members, and annual winter trail pass sales have increased from 1500 to 7000. The club is proud to offer a new space that will meet the needs of the community, both now and into the future.

“Our government is proud to invest in the Kimberley Nordic Club to establish a permanent Welcome Centre that will serve as a hub for outdoor recreation in the region,” said the Honourable Stephen Fuhr, Member of Parliament for Kelowna, on behalf of the Honourable Gregor Robertson, Minister of Housing and Infrastructure and Minister responsible for Pacific Economic Development Canada. “By supporting infrastructure for skiers, hikers, and cyclists, we’re making Kimberley an even more attractive destination for outdoor enthusiasts and promoting active lifestyles year-round.”

The Welcome Centre grand opening took place on Saturday, December 20th at 10:00am. The event included an address from the club president Tim McKee, a few supportive words from Mayor Don McCormick, an official ribbon cutting ceremony, and free snacks and refreshments in the Welcome Centre throughout the day, sponsored by Stoke Market.