

## Teck Regional Snow Camp (Northern Region): Winter Has Finally Arrived & It's Here to Stay!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE December 20, 2018

Smithers, B.C. - After being postponed by two weeks due to lack of snow, the perfect weather finally arrived for December 14<sup>th</sup> with some impressive dumps of snow to create instant winter. Athletes were blessed with an incredible weekend of fun, learning and challenge, supported by a fabulous team of coaches and parental volunteers, even Santa made an appearance! It was a busy weekend at the Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club.

51 young athletes aged 8-14 participated and featured 20 athletes from out of town from clubs along the Highway 16 corridor; Snow Valley Nordics (Terrace/Kitimat), Omineca Cross Country Ski Club (Burns Lake), Caledonia Nordic Ski Club (Prince George), Nechako Nordics (Vanderhoof).

This training camp celebrated the



newly established Ski North Team, intended to promote solidarity and companionship with all the Northern Teams in the region. "Ski Friends" from previous seasons met again and new connections were made. Some junior athletes (aged 15 and older) also joined in as youth mentors to help coach the Track Attack ages. A youth group from Witset also bussed in to enjoy the trails on Saturday.



All the kids were enthusiastic and overjoyed with all the snow to ski and play in, and totally appreciated all the coordinated events by all the committed coaches, including high performance coaches Nicole Perrin (Prince George head coach), Geoff Recknell (Bulkley Valley Junior Development Racing Team Coach) and Lisa Perry (Bulkley Valley head Coach) among the over 12 Athlete Development Coaches that volunteered with the Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club. Many of the volunteer coaches put in such dedication, working to advance into higher accreditation and knowledgeability to help young skiers improve to their best in the regional training camps.

Besides challenging their skill levels, all kinds of fun activities occupied the off-time and evening hours, including some rocking air band performances!

As for the trails, the conditions were amazing! Groomers worked hard at early and late hours to keep the trails in excellent condition with all the new snow coming down. All the camp participants were also treated to nourishing meals and delectable high-energy snacks from a remarkable team of parent kitchen volunteers led by the culinary expertise of Paula Bartemucci and Tamara Gillis.

All this was made possible with the generous sponsorship of Teck Resources Limited who provided funding and hats and prizes that the young skiers adorned with pride. Winter is clearly here to stay! With this successful snow camp complete the Ski North team is eager to challenge themselves in the upcoming race season!



For more information, please contact:

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Cross Country BC (CCBC), the provincial sport governing body for cross country skiing in British Columbia, is a notfor-profit, club-based organization of more than 18,000 members. CCBC offers programs and services to support the continuous development of cross-country skiing for all ages and abilities, from introductory experiences to international excellence.

Teck Resources Limited is the title sponsor of CCBC's Skier Development Program, thereby supporting excellence in sport and providing youth with experiences that will help them prepare for the future.

For more information on Cross Country BC, please visit <u>www.crosscountrybc.ca</u>.





