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**Subject:**

FW: Caledonia Nordic Race Teams Ski Exchange with Club Skinouk

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**From:** Robin Ditto [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** March 6, 2025 12:18 PM  
**To:** District <[district@rdffg.bc.ca](mailto:district@rdffg.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Darren Ditto [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]**Subject:** Caledonia Nordic Race Teams Ski Exchange with Club Skinouk

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Dear Chair and Directors of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to share an exciting program that recently had a significant impact on our community and to make you aware of the benefits it brings to young athletes across the country. The Canada Sport Friendship Exchange Program (CSFEP) provides young athletes with unique opportunities to engage in cultural exchanges through sport, building friendships, resilience, and fostering unity.

Our cross-country ski team at Caledonia Nordic was paired with athletes from Club Skinouk in Gatineau, Quebec. The exchange was part of a broader initiative that not only focused on athletic development but also created lasting connections among athletes from different regions of Canada. Through this program, athletes engage in friendly competition and collaborative training, while also gaining new perspectives and experiences that go beyond sport.

The Skinouk leg of the exchange took place from December 1-9, 2024, when the Caledonia athletes traveled to Gatineau to join the Skinouk team for a week of training, skiing, and exploration of the region. This portion of the exchange also included a race at Première Neige, where the teams competed together in a friendly, collaborative environment, and opportunities to explore the rich culture and history of the Capital Region.

The Caledonia Nordic side of the exchange, which took place from February 10-17, 2025, included a week of exciting activities that brought athletes together both on and off the snow. The athletes spent time training and racing at our local venues, explored the beauty of the Prince George region, including a visit to Wells/Barkerville and Cluculz Lake, and participated in a variety of community-building activities. Highlights included racing at BC Cup 2 with regional teams, an Indigenous learning day at the Central Interior Native Health Society (CINHS), and a wrap-up celebration that allowed both teams to reflect on the bonds they had formed.

The Canada Sport Friendship Exchange Program, which receives funding from Exchanges Canada – Department of Canadian Heritage, provides a platform for young people to engage in shared experiences, break down geographic barriers, and develop critical life skills such as resilience, collaboration, and leadership. These exchanges are invaluable in helping to build stronger, more connected communities, while promoting the values of sportsmanship and respect.

We are grateful to the CSFEP program for funding travel for this initiative and for providing our young athletes with such a transformative experience. I wanted to share the success of this program with you as part of ongoing efforts to raise awareness of the positive impact it has on youth across Canada.

Thank you for taking the time to read about this wonderful initiative. I am happy to discuss this further if you are interested in learning more about the CSFEP program and its benefits for athletes and communities.

Yours Truly,

Robin Ditto  
Lead Exchange Organizer  
Caledonia Nordic Race Teams  
Prince George, BC