

**September 1, 2023**

Good evening to you all

We wanted to let our members know that the board of directors is preparing an application to expand CNSC's license of occupation (LOO). This is a significant step for the club! As you may know, Otway it is not a park, protected area, or designated recreation site. CNSC does not own the land on which we operate, which we refer to as our tenure. We are extremely thankful to be able to provide healthy nature-based recreation year-round on the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, with whom we have a strong ongoing relationship. Together, we recently signed a new partnership agreement to guide our work into the future. More specifically, we have now received a letter of support from the Lheidli T'enneh for our pending application to government.

One of the key purposes of the CNSC, according to its constitution, is to "to purchase, lease or otherwise acquire land, buildings...[etc.] for the pursuit of the said Society" ([2017](#)). Part of our tenure is on Crown land owned by the province (~312 hectares), and part is on private land owned by Terus Construction (~120 hectares). Terus kindly allows the club access through an agreement secured annually, and we owe Terus significant thanks for their ongoing generosity. Trails on Terus lands include a number of singletrack trails, the current dog trails, as well as Ridgerunner, Birch Bend, and almost all of Raven's Col.

We understand and expect that over time the club will lose access to a significant portion of those trails on private land, if not all of them. For example, gravel extraction has already impacted the current dog trails, and will continue to impact a larger portion of them. Because it's private land, the club may also lose access all together. Although we have excellent relations with Terus, the possible sale and/or re-purposing of the land in the future presents a significant risk that we want to mitigate.

Land use decisions on Crown land are made by the Ministry of Forests (or other ministries), who grant the club permission to operate through a 'License of Occupation' for our intended recreation purposes given the public benefit. Our use of this forest and land for recreation helps maintain its character in the face of other diverse and more-intensive land uses and decisions locally, including the sale of contiguous Crown land to private ownership. Upholding the club constitution and stewarding the future of the club, the board has prepared an application to expand CNSC's license of occupation on a ~84-hectare portion of the only remaining contiguous Crown land, which extends south along the Cranbrook Hill Greenway. CNSC is a founding member of the Cranbrook Hill Greenway Society, and we operate in cooperation with them according to our MOU. The Ministry's decision-making and consultation processes begin once we make our application. Most importantly, we have received a letter from the Lheidli T'enneh supporting this application, which they have reviewed. Some work continues in compiling and refining the final application materials, but we hope to officially make the application shortly.



Any future trail development can only occur after being granted a License of Occupation, and would then follow [CNSC trail building policy](#). We hope to make a strong application with the support of partners, members, and neighbours.

Members can always contact the board. If member's have any questions, please direct them to John Bowes, [gm@caledonianordic.com](mailto:gm@caledonianordic.com)

