



Eastern Canada/Candy Cane Cup, Dec. 11-12 at Gatineau's Nakkertok Ski Centre ENGNE to run first major Eastern XC-ski race since early 2020

Gatineau, Quebec, November 23, 2021 – Nordiq Canada has awarded Événements Nordiques Gatineau Nordic Events (ENGNE) an Eastern Canada Cup event, to be held at Nakkertok on December 11 and 12, in conjunction with the Candy Cane Cup, the December fixture for the local cross-country (XC) ski community. This will be the first major Eastern XC-ski race since the start of the pandemic in early 2020, and is receiving strong support from Tourisme Outaouais and Ville de Gatineau to ensure its success.

Over 500 skiers from across Eastern Canada are expected to take part in this event, which includes qualifying races for the juniors who will represent Canada at a series of U.S. races later in the winter. Many of the same skiers, and more, will return to Nakkertok in February for the finale of the Eastern Cup series, the Eastern Canadian Championships, which will be held February 11 to 13, 2022.

To ensure the safety of everyone involved, athletes, coaches and volunteers must be fully vaccinated to participate, and strict Covid-19 safety protocols have been put in place.

Jacques Dumont the head of the organizing committee said: "Ottawa/Gatineau is a hotbed of skiing in Canada. The fact that we were awarded two of the highest-level races in Canada at this time, reflects the confidence Nordiq Canada has that our region can be counted on to run very well organized competitions."

While snowfall to date have been sparse in the region, Nakkertok has been busy making snow, and expects to have a 2 km. homologated race loop, the "Nakkertrak", ready for the racers.

Athletes will vie for over \$2,000 of prize money at the Eastern Canada Cup in December and \$6,000 at Eastern Canadian Championships in February, as part of the "[Hall Mark of Excellence Program](#)". The program was set up by former Canadian National Team coach Marty Hall, and his wife Kathy, to help with the development of skiing in Canada and the U.S.

We will provide an event schedule, and list of participants, closer to the event. Media are invited to visit the Nakkertrak in the coming weeks, and to cover the event December 11 and 12. Out of town racers will be arriving on Friday, December 10.

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ENGNE was created by Chelsea Nordiq, Nakkertok Nordic, Club Skinouk and the Gatineau Loppet to organize the Gatineau stage of the 2016 Ski Tour Canada, FIS World Cup event. ENGNE ran the 2019 Canadians Ski Championships and was scheduled to run the 2021 Championships until it was cancelled due to Covid-19.