

Kelowna Nordic Celebrates New Groomer Purchase

Kelowna Nordic Ski & Snowshoe Club recently brought members, volunteers, donors, and community leaders together to celebrate the purchase of a new Prinoth Bison groomer—an essential investment supporting trail quality, safety, and long-term sustainability for Nordic skiing in the Central Okanagan.

The celebration highlighted a reality familiar to Nordic clubs across British Columbia: grooming equipment is the backbone of a successful and reliable Nordic program. For Kelowna Nordic, the groomer directly influences the experience of thousands of skiers and snowshoers each winter and supports a broad range of activities, from recreational skiing to youth and school-based programs.

The event was attended by Gavin Dew, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Kelowna–Mission, and Tom Dyas, Mayor of the City of Kelowna. Their participation underscored the importance of collaboration between volunteer-led sport organizations and municipal and provincial governments. Kelowna Nordic Ski & Snowshoe Club President Marshall Moleschi also addressed attendees, recognizing the collective effort that made the groomer purchase possible.

“This groomer represents far more than a piece of equipment,” said Moleschi. “It reflects the strength of our volunteers, the generosity of our donors, and a shared belief that accessible Nordic skiing is an important part of healthy communities.”

Earlier this season, Kelowna Nordic was unsuccessful in its application for a Capital Equipment Gaming Grant. In response, the club’s Board of Directors undertook a careful financial review and—supported by strong community fundraising through its Groomer and Snowflake Campaigns—approved the purchase of the groomer that had previously been leased.

According to the club, owning the groomer provides improved long-term financial stability, reduces operating uncertainty, and allows volunteers to plan grooming operations more effectively throughout the season.

Mayor Dyas acknowledged the broader community benefits delivered by the club, noting the role Nordic skiing and snowshoeing play in promoting outdoor activity, volunteer engagement, and year-round use of recreational spaces. MLA Dew also recognized the commitment shown by Kelowna Nordic’s volunteers and supporters in sustaining a high-quality trail network for the region.

The celebration also included recognition of past club leadership, acknowledging the contributions of former presidents whose service helped guide the club’s development and governance over time.

As a member club of Cross Country BC, Kelowna Nordic's experience reflects the challenges and opportunities faced by Nordic organizations across the province—particularly the importance of strong governance, community support, and long-term planning when investing in essential infrastructure.

Kelowna Nordic Ski & Snowshoe Club is a volunteer-run, non-profit organization offering cross-country skiing and snowshoeing opportunities for residents and visitors in the Central Okanagan, serving participants of all ages and abilities.

Photos



Gavin Dew, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Kelowna–Mission, and Tom Dyas, Mayor of the City of Kelowna, with Kelowna Nordic's new Prinoth Bison groomer.



Members, volunteers, donors, and community leaders gather at Kelowna Nordic to celebrate the purchase of the new groomer.



MLA Gavin Dew, Tom Dyas, Mayor of the City of Kelowna, and Kelowna Nordic President Marshall Moleschi address attendees during the Groomer Celebration.