



Minister of Defence joins the Canadian Ski Marathon to salute Canadian Military Contribution

Immediate Release – Ottawa - The Canadian Ski Marathon (CSM) will pay tribute to the Canadian Military and Safety Group for their contribution to this year's 44th CSM ski event on February 13 and 14 and for their contribution over the event's 43 year history.

Greg Koegl, President of the Canadian Ski Marathon stated "The Canadian Military's contribution to the CSM event goes over and above the call of duty. CSM skiers get to witness the military skills and abilities of our reservists in action. They embrace the opportunity to show their skills to let their Canadian pride shine."

Approximately 200 reservists and cadets from local regiments in the Ottawa, Gatineau and Quebec area participate in this event by helping to keep the trails safe as skiers start their 160 km, 2-day ski journey that spans from Gatineau to Montebello and then on to Lachute, Quebec. They set up and operate the checkpoints which function as refueling stations that offer food supplies and hydration, man road and highway crossings, provide communications and evacuation services to ensure skier safety.

"The Canadian Forces and the Canadian Ski Marathon share a history of mutual support that spans over forty-three years of sharing the objectives of fostering a commitment to fitness, health and embracing challenge." said the Minister of Defence, the Hon. Peter MacKay.

The Honorable Peter MacKay, Minister of Defence - Honorary Chair of this year's Canadian Ski Marathon and the Honorable Peter Milliken, Speaker of the House of Commons (and avid CSM skier) will be saluting the Canadian Military's contribution to the Canadian Ski Marathon during a short press conference and photo op on Parliament Hill's front lawn – east side between 11:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., on February 1, 2010.

"It is an honor to host this event on Parliament Hill. It's a great way to show-case our Canadian spirit for adventure and winter outdoor fun" said Honorable Peter Milliken, Speaker of the House of Commons.

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