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PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

Collingwood, Ontario, August 6th, 2014

Alpine Ontario and The Nik Zoricic Foundation grow partnership with new initiatives and events

Today, **Alpine Ontario Alpin (AOA)** and **The Nik Zoricic Foundation (The NZ Foundation)** announce they will be partnering on a number of sporting events and initiatives throughout 2014/15. The partnership kicks off with the Annual NZ Cycling Challenge at the Centurion Cycling Event, in Collingwood, Ontario from September 12-14, 2014. All proceeds from registrations with The NZ Foundation team will support upcoming initiatives with the NZ Foundation and AOA. For more information and registration details visit <http://www.nzfoundation.ca/events/view/2014-nz-cycling-challenge>.

The two organizations will also work together on an expanded provincial U10/12 development camp program. As part of the development camps, the organizations will visit selected ski clubs throughout Ontario, while targeting new initiatives in Northern Ontario and further expanding the National Capital Division and South Ontario programs for the 2014/15 season. In addition to the development camps, The NZ Foundation will also be supporting AOA at the U14 and U16 level speed camp projects, which is focused on safely developing the unique skill set required for speed environments.

“We are very pleased to enter into this partnership with The NZ Foundation, as it will allow us to better develop athletes throughout the province, while ensuring we keep them safe,” said AOA Technical Director, Brad Lashley. *“The NZ Foundation’s focus on athlete safety and athlete development is a great mandate and one that we are proud to embrace.”*



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In recognition of Nik's exceptional accomplishments and impact within alpine ski racing and ski cross communities here in Ontario, AOA in collaboration with The NZ Foundation, will host the first annual 'Nik Zoricic Cup' which will consist of two slalom races scheduled for under the night lights on December 29th and 30th at Mt St Louis Moonstone. The timing of the event is designed to capture Ontario's elite level athletes including Canadian Ski Team, NCAA, and Ontario Team athletes while also creating an excellent environment for our developing racers both male and female in an exciting night environment. More details to follow.

"We are excited about these new opportunities with Alpine Ontario," said Bebe Zoricic, Father of Nik and The NZ Foundation Executive Director, "this collaboration and partnership will help support the mission for the NZ foundation and Ontario alpine and ski cross athletes."

Visit the www.nzfoundation.ca for more information about The NZ Cycling Challenge and these new initiatives in the upcoming months.