



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **QUADRUPLE PODIUM FOR NTDC THUNDER BAY SKIERS IN SPRINTS AT SKI NATIONALS**

MARCH 23rd, 2017 – Canmore Alberta

Wednesday's competition at the Canadian Ski National Championships in Canmore was the classic sprint races. The event started in the morning with individual time trials and then the top thirty from each category moved on to six person heats for quarterfinals, semifinals and finals. By the end of the day, Thunder Bay skiers got to the National podium four times, claiming two gold and two bronze, with lots of thrills and spills in the fan favorite sprint event along the way.

Thunder Bay was represented by five skiers in the Junior Women's event, all of whom made the heats. National Team Development Centre (NTDC) Thunder Bay's Annika Richardson and Lisle Compton continued their winning ways, skiing strongly through the quarter and semifinals. In the finals, Richardson skied away from her pursuers to claim the gold medal, while Compton grabbed the bronze with her trademark smile. Makaila Hudson fought hard in the B Final and came up with a 10<sup>th</sup> place finish overall for the LU Thunderwolves. Hannah Shields of Lappe Nordic and Erica Mihell (LU), finished 18<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, respectively.

The Senior Women's category also had five Thunder Bay women and they all qualified for the heats. Katherine Stewart-Jones (NTDC) fought ferociously through her heats, finishing third overall for the bronze medal. Alannah MacLean (also NTDC) skied well and made the finals, but had to withdraw due to injury, finishing 6<sup>th</sup>. Jennifer Jackson of LU/Lappe Nordic put in another strong performance, finishing as the 8<sup>th</sup> Canadian. Mia Serratore (NTDC/Big Thunder Nordic Ski Club) was having a great race, leading her quarterfinal heat but fell on the ice as she skied through a tricky underpass and finished 19<sup>th</sup>. Sadie White (NTDC/BTNCS) finished as the 10<sup>th</sup> Canadian.

In the Junior Men's category, 7 Thunder Bay athletes fought for spots in the heats. Levi Warkentine (LU) and Aidan Carr (BTNSC) gave their all in the time trial, but didn't get through. Noah Taylor (LU) and Fergus Foster (NTDC/BTNCS) each were taken out in tangle ups in their quarterfinals. Noah Thompson (LU) finished 16<sup>th</sup>. Levi Nadlersmith made an epic surge in the finishing stretch of his quarterfinal heat to finish 14<sup>th</sup>. Graham Ritchie skied strong for BTNSC to lay down the top Thunder Bay Junior Men's performance of the day as the 7<sup>th</sup> Canadian.

Ten Thunder Bay men fought for spots in the tough Senior Men's heats. Gavin Shields (Lappe Nordic/LU), and Geoff Way-Nee, Sean Carter and Hayden Gorman (also all of LU) skied hard on the challenging course but didn't advance. Angus Foster (NTDC/BTNCS) and Andy Shields (Lappe Nordic) made it to the quarterfinals. Julian Smith and Bob Thompson both of NTDC fought their way to the B Final, finishing as the 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Canadians, respectively. Michael Somppi (NTDC/Lappe) pushed hard in the A Final, finishing 4th, while Evan Palmer –Charrette (also of NTDC/Lappe) came away with the big win as the top Canadian sprinter. With that win, Palmer- Charrette tops off a super season as the Buff Sprint Series overall Men's Champion.

Now the Junior and Senior women and men have two days recovery while the Juvenile and Junior Boys and Girls take over the sprint trails.

For full results and more coverage see <http://new.zone4.ca> and <http://www.cccski.com/Home.aspx>

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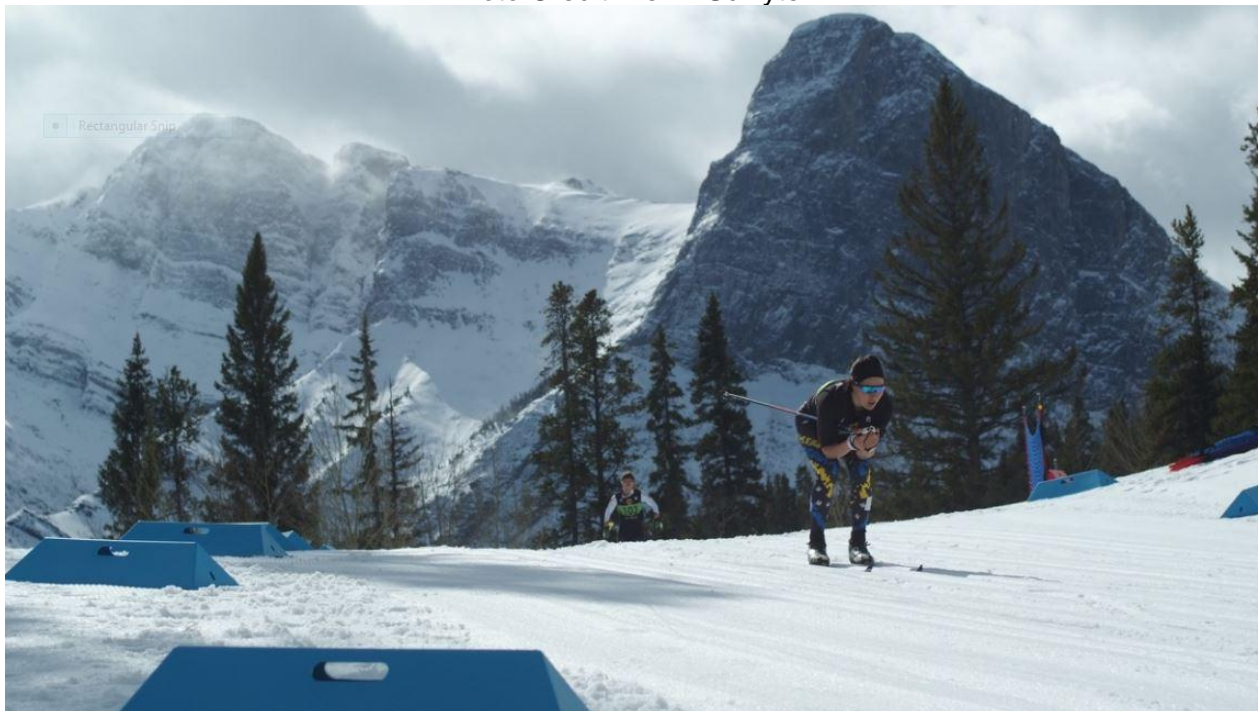
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5 Images attached

Title Thunderwolf in the Mountains

Caption: LU Thunderwolf Jennifer Jackson recovering before she attacks the next uphill.

Photo Credit: Kevin Schlyter



Title Thompson Going Down

Caption: Noah Thompson (224) gets caught up and goes down in the quarterfinal heats.

Photo Credit: Kevin Schlyter



Title: Annika Richardson

Caption: Richardson capturing Canadian Junior Women's sprint gold.

Photo Credit: Kevin Schlyter



Title: Palmer-Charrette, Thompson and Foster  
Caption: Palmer-Charrette leading the pack in the heats.  
Photo Credit: Rod Somppi



Title: Stewart-Jones and MacLean Heats  
Caption: NTDC's Stewart-Jones (107) and MacLean (115) do battle with Dahria Beatty (104) in the heats.  
Photo Credit: Kevin Schlyter

