



ALPINE ONTARIO

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Ontario Ski Season is On!

January 13, 2016 - **Collingwood, ON:** After a slow start to winter, the Ontario alpine season finally kicks off with several slalom races scheduled for this weekend and early next week. January 16 and 17 will mark the long awaited return of The Nik Zoricic Cup – FIS Slalom at Craigleith Ski Club, and January 18 and 19 will see two more FIS slalom races to be hosted at Mount St. Louis Moonstone. Check out our full race schedule [here](#).

Not only are these the first races of the season in Ontario, they will also mark the first time the Mackenzie Investments Ontario Ski Team (OST) has been able to race on their home turf. It is shaping up to be an exciting season as athletes push the boundaries to reach new all-time best results.

“The OST has been posting some great results in Western Canada and the States,” said Alpine Ontario Alpin Executive Director, Scott Barrett. “We’re excited to have them race in Ontario where their family and friends can show their support and join in the excitement. Although we will be missing Patrick McConville, last year’s Nik Zoricic Cup winner and OST veteran, we are confident that given the depth of our team there will be many other OST athletes that will compete for the top spot this weekend.”

OST athletes Camryn Metzger, Patrick McConville, Karl Kuus, Jake Gougeon and Emma Woodhouse were all overall winners in FIS races this month. Metzger and Luel posted U18 wins as well. Metzger’s results are particularly impressive given this is her first year racing FIS and that her first win was wearing Bib # 44.

Two former Canadian Ski Team Members will also be in action and competing this weekend at the Nik Zoricic Cup: Julien Cousineau from Lachute, Quebec and Kate Ryley from Toronto, Ontario.

Cousineau is a former CAST member who started skiing at Lac Carling in the Lachute area at the age of two. His competitive ski career began in 1998 and lasted until his retirement after finishing 8th at the 2010 Winter Olympic Games.

Kate Ryley grew up skiing at Craigleith Ski Club and was racing at seven years of age. She was invited onto the Ontario Ski team in 2005 and never looked back. An NCAA Champion and eight-time all-American, Ryley graduated from the University of Vermont as one of the most decorated athletes in NCAA history. Ryley is currently in the midst of launching a new career in real-estate working at Blue Elephant Realty in Toronto.

The Nik Zoricic Cup is a FIS race that supports the Nik Zoricic Foundation which strives to support elite skiers on their quest for success by creating unique development opportunities and training camps, supporting those that deserve it and need it. NZ’s mission is to support opportunities and initiatives for ski racers ages 12-16 that minimize those constraints, to support elite athletes by facilitating the continuous advocacy of importance and implementation of safety initiatives in sport and to support athletes achieve long-term success by providing education on the opportunities available to athletes through sport.

About Alpine Ontario (AOA)

Alpine Ontario Alpin (AOA) is the provincial governing body for the sport of alpine ski racing in Ontario. Alpine Ontario's newly refined mission is to provide leadership and structure for high quality, sustainable and affordable programming and to communicate the competitive, recreational and lifestyle benefits of ski racing to the community.

AOA represents four divisions, 45 member clubs and over 30,000 active athletes, coaches and officials (volunteers). AOA coordinates several successful programs across the province and continues to foster the development of "state of the art" ski-racing programs from the grass roots level to the elite level.

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For more information on the Ontario Ski Team, AOA races, U18 Nationals or Provincials, please contact:

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The 2016 Mackenzie Investments Ontario Ski Team

