

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Libra Foundation and Pineland Farms, Inc. Announce Major Gift of Fort Kent Outdoor Center to Local Community Organization

FORT KENT, MAINE — In a significant move supporting community-driven recreational initiatives, the Libra Foundation and Pineland Farms, Inc. are proud to announce the transfer of ownership of the **Fort Kent Outdoor Center (FKOC)** to its local governing body. This gift marks a new chapter for the beloved venue, as it officially becomes a community-owned asset, ensuring its long-term sustainability and impact in the St. John Valley region.

For nearly 25 years, the Libra Foundation has been a steadfast supporter of the Fort Kent Outdoor Center, contributing to its growth and success as a premier outdoor recreation facility in Northern Maine. As the current owner, Pineland Farms, Inc., in recognition of the community's strong stewardship and vision, is gifting the property to the Fort Kent Outdoor Center organization, led by a dedicated board of local leaders and volunteers.

A Community Treasure and Hub for Outdoor Recreation

The **Fort Kent Outdoor Center** is a world-class venue, offering a variety of recreational facilities that cater to visitors of all ages and skill levels. It features:

- **Extensive Trails:** Over 25 kilometers of groomed trails for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, mountain biking, and hiking, maintained to the highest standards year-round.
- **State-of-the-Art Grooming Equipment:** The center utilizes a specialized groomer and other equipment to ensure optimal trail conditions, providing a superior experience for all outdoor enthusiasts.
- **Community Lodge:** A welcoming lodge serving as the heart of the facility, where guests can warm up, gather, and enjoy the stunning views of the surrounding landscape.
- **Wax Buildings:** Conveniently located waxing facilities for skiers, enabling the venue to accommodate local and visiting ski teams and host major competitions.
- **Stadium and Biathlon Range:** A professional-grade stadium and biathlon range that have hosted national and international competitions, making Fort Kent a renowned destination for Nordic skiing and biathlon.

A Milestone for the St. John Valley Community

This ownership transfer underscores the long-term planning and commitment of local leaders and community members who have worked tirelessly to ensure the venue's future. Under their management, FKOC has built a robust foundation of community participation, secured long-term

funding sources, and positioned the center as a key asset for both residents and visitors to the region.

Carl Theriault, a community leader and board member of the Fort Kent Outdoor Center, shared his excitement about the gift:

"This is a significant day for Fort Kent and the entire northern Maine community, which has truly embraced this incredible venue. We are deeply grateful to the Libra Foundation, which has been instrumental in building and supporting the center for nearly 25 years. With this gift, we are excited to continue growing this community resource for generations to come."

Looking Ahead

The transfer of ownership reflects a shared vision for the future of the Fort Kent Outdoor Center — one where the community plays a central role in guiding its development. The venue will continue to serve as a vital recreational, educational, and economic asset, promoting healthy lifestyles, attracting visitors, and fostering a strong sense of local pride.

About the Fort Kent Outdoor Center

The Fort Kent Outdoor Center is a premier year-round recreational venue located in the heart of northern Maine. It offers an extensive trail network, a welcoming lodge, and a renowned biathlon range and stadium. The center hosts a wide array of activities, from cross-country skiing and snowshoeing to mountain biking and hiking, providing exceptional outdoor experiences for the entire community.

For more information, please visit <http://www.fortkentoc.org> or contact:

Carl Theriault, Board Member
Fort Kent Outdoor Center
theriaultcarl@hotmail.com
