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Annex I

Service Category:	Cross-country ski trail maintenance, grooming, repairs, conditioning and track-setting.	Updated:	August 2006
Purpose of service: Provide optimum ski conditions during each day of the ski season by providing a range of mechanical treatments on the surfaces (snow-covered, compact, icy) of the cross-country ski network trails. The network includes more than forty (40) trails covering a total distance of approximately 190 km.			
Time of Season and Snow Conditions	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Start of season. Preparing trails for use.	Begin preparing base once 10 cm of snow has accumulated on the ground. Time required: 48 hours.	Begin preparing base once 10 cm-20 cm of snow has accumulated on the ground. Time required: 48 hours.	Begin preparing base once 30 cm of snow has accumulated on the ground. Time required: 72 hours.
New snowfall - 5 cm or more.	At all times (business hours), not more than 5 cm of powder snow must accumulate on the trail service. Elapsed time: less than 12 hours.	All powder accumulations over 5 cm must be groomed within 24 hours of reconditioning of the Priority 1 trails.	New snow accumulation must exceed 10 cm to complete a full series of treatments. Work must begin immediately after the snowfall and within 48 hours.
No new snowfall but base is deteriorated.	Trails should receive a full range of treatment (renovating, grooming, track-setting) twice during the week and once on Saturday and Sunday mornings.	Trails should receive a full range of treatment (renovating, grooming, track-setting) once during the week and once on Saturday and Sunday mornings.	Trails should be conditioned, levelled and track-set at least once every 7-day cycle.

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Time of Season and Snow Conditions	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Icy conditions and extreme cold.	Use grooming machines to restore, condition and track-set between 10 and 50 km of trail daily so offer a minimum number of skiable surfaces on a continuous basis.	No intervention required on these trails under such conditions.	No intervention required on these trails under such conditions.
Spring skiing. Alternate thaw (day) and freeze (night).	Perform some or all treatments on all of these trails to produce level, smooth, track-set surfaces.	Perform some or all of the treatments on these trails at two-day intervals to produce level, smooth, track-set surfaces.	Renovate and track-set these trails at three-day intervals to prevent icy surfaces.

Specifications:

- **Timetable and business hours:** Depending upon snow accumulation, the ski season may extend from early November until mid-April. The trail maintenance period is identified as November 15 to April 15 each year. Although skiers use the trails until late at night, in order to organize maintenance work, business hours are considered to be from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. daily. This is the time of day when trail condition is expected to be at its best.
- **Machinery movement:** Unless there is new snow, grooming equipment should not be present on the trails between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. In exceptional cases, the Contractor may obtain permission to work on the trail if he can demonstrate the real benefits of doing so during business hours. Trails groomed with light equipment (i.e. backcountry trails) may be treated mechanically until noon (12:00).
- **Base and width:** The purpose of preparing the base at the beginning of the season is to create a firm surface that covers all obstacles and imperfections on the ground and is ready to receive later accumulations of snow. Trails should be mechanically groomed across their full width, whose border is defined by the start of vegetation or by an abrupt change in elevation.
- **Equipment:** The Contractor should have available specially designed machinery to build and maintain cross-country ski trails. The equipment fleet should contain a range of grooming machine to provide optimum performance to complete the work on each type

of trail. The fleet must also include snowmobiles equipped with specialized equipment to groom, repair and track-set backcountry trails. The Contractor will not be released from liability in the event of equipment breakdown, repairs or for any other reason.

Standards and configurations: Gatineau Park is considered a leading North American cross-country ski destination. More than 200,000 skier/days each winter are registered. Maintenance standards must be equal to this reputation and performed according to industry standard. Trail configuration is detailed in the Maintenance Report (See Annex 2). Track-set lanes on shared trails will be located to either side of the freestyle lane.

- Monitoring weather changes: Variations in temperature will be monitored on a daily basis to predict possible impact on ski conditions and adequately plan work sequence and timing. For example, accumulations may vary from location to location around the Park or freezing rain may follow a snowfall. Therefore, to begin work, the Contractor must monitor conditions in the three distinct Park sectors, i.e. Hull (south of the Mackenzie King Estate), Camp Fortune area (First-Aid station) and Lac Philippe sector. Work in any of these sectors will begin independently of expectations for the network as a whole. Where conditions indicate that work should be postponed, the plan must be submitted to the NCC for approval.
- Modifications to the network: During the term of this Contract, the total distance covered by the network may vary up to 15 km depending upon the addition of new segments or the removal of old ones, without affecting the Contract price (rate paid to the Contractor).

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