CAA Avalanche Operations Level 1 Training and CAC Bursary Program-TIME SENSITIVE DOCUMENT

In 2011, Emergency Management BC (EMBC) was successful in acquiring funding from the National Search and Rescue Secretariat New Initiatives Fund for the three-year ***Mountain Snowmobiling Avalanche Incident Prevention Project***. The Canadian Avalanche Centre (CAC) is working closely with EMBC in the delivery of this project.

As part of this project, the CAC is working to develop technical avalanche expertise within the snowmobiling community by use of a 'train the trainer' approach. Helping key members of this community increase their knowledge and experience enhances the distribution of avalanche awareness through peer messaging, training, and outreach activities. To achieve this, the CAC has implemented a bursary program that will help to cover the tuition costs of the ***CAA Avalanche Operations Level 1 (snowmobile based)*** course for a select number of exceptional candidates.

What is the CAA Avalanche Operations Level 1 course?
This is a seven- day professional training course and involves examination components. Participants must be advanced snowmobilers with considerable backcountry travel experience. This is not recreational avalanche awareness training. This course is the first step for people entering the field of avalanche safety and is one of the prerequisites to become an AST (Avalanche Skills Training) instructor.

For more information on CAA training: www.avalanche.ca/caa/training/avalanche-operations
For more information on qualifications for teaching AST courses: www.avalanche.ca/caa/training/teachingAST.

Who can apply for a bursary?
Applicants must:

- Be at least 19 years of age.
- Have an AST 1 or similar recreational avalanche training.
- Have strong abilities in powder riding and side-hill riding through mountainous terrain.

To apply for a bursary, please include the following:

- Evidence of a completed AST 1 or similar recreational safety training.
- A summary of experience in mountain snowmobiling (number of seasons and locations).
- A summary of contributions made to public safety and/or avalanche safety (preference will be given to applicants with experience in public avalanche safety but other public safety contributions will be considered as well).
- Involvement with snowmobile clubs, SAR organizations, or any other experience the candidate feels is relevant.
- An explanation of why they are interested in furthering their avalanche training.
- A description of what benefit the course will bring and how this training will be utilized.
- One or more letters of reference (ideally, these should come from snowmobile club executive, SAR leaders, CAA members, or an employer).

Candidates must submit their application by email to Carole Savage, CAC Snowmobile Program Coordinator at csavage@avalanche.ca no later than **November 15, 2012.**

Additional Notes:

- Bursary winners who are unable to attend the snowmobile-based Level 1 course will be considered for an alternative CAA Level 1 Avalanche Operations course.
- Acceptance into a CAA Avalanche Operations Level 1 course does not imply automatic bursary assistance to candidates.

- Candidates must pay in full when registering for the CAA Avalanche Operations Level 1 course. Bursaries will be awarded after the course is complete.
- Bursary amounts and recipients will be decided by the project Steering Committee by November 26, 2012. All bursary applicants will be notified of the decision at that time.
- The bursary program is being offered for this year only.

Inquiries regarding the bursary program and the Mountain Snowmobiling Avalanche Incident Prevention project may be sent to Carole Savage at the email below.

Thank you for your interest!

Carole Savage
Canadian Avalanche Centre
Snowmobile Program Coordinator
Email: csavage@avalanche.ca