

TRUE NORTH RESCUE CHALLENGE

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION



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RESCUE
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DESCRIPTION

The True North Rescue Challenge is the first of its kind technical rope rescue competition to be held in Canada. It will be held in and around Penticton, in the interior of British Columbia, Canada. The goal is to have an event providing more training opportunities, more opportunity for scenario feedback and more public access while maintaining a competitive spirit. The intent of this design is to allow teams to maximize their learning experience, learning from each other in a safe environment that promotes sportsmanship.

GENERAL INFORMATION

This Participant package, the Rules and Regulations as well as the Hazard and Risk Assessment, outlines the rules and operational parameters that must be complied with, by the participating teams, observers as well as by the competition staff. These documents require that the teams operate their systems correctly, safely and professionally as they would on an actual rescue call with their organizations.

The True North Rescue Challenge reserves the right to stop the activities of any participating team and/or member if:

- a) The required safety measures are not in place for the tasks being performed.
- b) They fail to comply with any rules and regulations set out by the competition.
- c) There is evidence of gross negligence.

ORGANIZATION

The True North Rescue Challenge has an organizing committee formed and consisting of the following positions:

- Operations Lead
- Administrative Lead
- Technical Director
- Judges A Group and B Group

PARTICIPANTS

It is required that all participants complete the sworn declarations provided by The True North Rescue Challenge, confirming that the team and team members are not suffering from any illness, pathology, etc. that poses a risk to anyone's health (including bystanders) in the completion of any scenario. Also, that all members possess sufficient technical capacity in the rescue and rope access techniques to perform these rescue operations.

In addition to the requirements of the previous paragraph, each member must sign a liability waiver

COSTS

The competition registration costs: \$2500 CDN per team. This is due by November 15, 2025 and is non-refundable. This does not include accommodation, transportation, disbursements, or meals. However, lunch will be provided on the days of the competition (September 24, 25, 26) and dinner will be provided on September 22 and September 26.

The payment can be sent via PayPal (Ronin Rescue), credit card (1-800-594-1355 / +1-604-636-3640) or bank transfer. Bank transfer info is as follows:

WIRE PAYMENT SERVICES AT BANK OF MONTREAL

General CAD instructions for Incoming Wire Payments

Payments Routing Instructions

- INCOMING CAD FUNDS

Beneficiary's Name: RONIN SAFETY AND RESCUE INC.

Beneficiary's Address: Unit 102, 1500 HARTLEY AVENUE, COQUITLAM, BC V3K 7A1

Beneficiary's Bank: BANK OF MONTREAL

SWIFT CODE: BOFMCAM2

Beneficiary's Bank: 1025 AUSTIN AVENUE, COQUITLAM, BC V3K 3N9

Beneficiary's Account: 001 -07900 -1048927

Number (IBAN) CAD: 3-digit institution number 5-digit transit number and 7-digit account number
If 16th digit required for IBAN, please indicate 0001 as institution number

(Some financial institutions specifically require BMO's beneficiary bank information in the format //CC0001NNNNN where the last 5 digits (N) is the branch transit number including region code)

THE ADMIN

PENTICTON OVERVIEW

Penticton (and area) is a small town of approximately 47,000 people. It is situated in a valley between Okanagan Lake (North) and Skaha Lake (South) and in-between the Okanagan Highlands (and Monashee Mountains) to the East and the Thompson Plateau (and Coast Mountains) to the West. Penticton has a semi-arid climate, meaning low precipitation, hot summers and moderately cool winters. It is the 4th driest city in Canada.

Penticton is located approximately a 4-to-5-hour drive (traffic dependent) from Vancouver, BC (airport code YVR) and Seattle, WA (SEA) and an 8-hour drive from Calgary, AB (YYC).

WEATHER

This is Canada, however the weather in Penticton is notoriously dry (fingers crossed). At the end of September competitors can expect highs of 18 – 25 Celsius and lows of 10 overnight (in town). Some of the scenarios will be in the mountains (approximately 1700m in elevation). At the end of September temperatures on the mountain vary from highs of 15 – 20 Celsius and overnight lows at or below 0. We are not competing at night however, teams will be there at first and last light.

FLIGHTS

There is an international airport approximately 1.5 hours north of Penticton in Kelowna, BC (YLW) and a regional airport in Penticton (YYF). Other international airports are located at Vancouver, BC (airport code YVR), Seattle, WA (SEA) and Calgary, AB (YYC).

Airlines servicing Penticton (YYF) include West Jet and Pacific Coastal Airlines.

Airlines servicing Kelowna (YLW) include West Jet, Air Canada, Pacific Coastal Airlines and Alaska Airlines. This includes direct flights to SEATAC (Seattle/Tacoma), Vancouver (YVR), Calgary (YYC) and Toronto (YYZ).

Airlines servicing Vancouver, Calgary and Seattle/Tacoma include all major air carriers.

ACCOMMODATIONS

There are two hotels that we have secured a deal with. It is not mandatory to stay in these hotels. They are:

Booking Info:

Balcom, A Ramada by Wyndham

1050 Eckhardt Avenue West
Penticton, BC, V2A 2C3

Rooms Available: 40 Rooms

Dates: September 22nd – 26th, 2026

Name of Group: True North Rescue Challenge

Group Block Code: 092226TRU

To book online [CLICK HERE](#).

Reservations can also be made by phone at **250-492-8926 Ext 0 (Speak with the front desk)**. Please make sure to quote the group code when making the reservation in order to receive the discounted pricing.

Room Rates: September 22nd – 26th, 2026

Two Queen – Upper Level Back Courtyard with Balcony	\$265.00 / night plus 16% taxes	15 Available
Two Queen – Ground Level Back Courtyard with Patio	\$285.00 / night plus 16% taxes	15 Available
Courtyard One King	\$285.00 / night plus 16% taxes	5 Available
One Bedroom Kitchen Suite	\$355.00 / night plus 16% taxes	5 Available

- * Rates are based on double adult occupancy. An additional \$20.00 will be charged starting at the third adult (18+). Maximum of 4 people per room.
- * Cancellations / changes can be made up until 24 hours in advance of the arrival date without penalty.
- * A deposit for your first night's room and taxes is required at the time of booking.
- * Please note check-in time is 3:00pm.

We can hold these rooms until end of day on Wednesday, July 22nd, 2026. The above group rates are exclusive to your group and are discounted due to the volume of rooms booked along with the advance timeline. Any reservation for the group made after the cut-off date noted above will be sold at the regular rate of the day and is subject to availability.

Balcomo – A Ramada by Wyndham

- Hot Tub
- Outdoor Pool
- Sauna
- Cold Plunge
- Salt Walled Yoga Studio
- Relaxation Room
- 2 Outdoor Firepits
- Local Public Eatery Restaurant (open year-round for Lunch & Dinner and Brunch on the weekends)
- 2 Acre Courtyard with Playground and BBQ's
- Complimentary WIFI

Four Points by Sheraton Penticton at the Convention Centre

903 Vernon Avenue

Penticton, BC, V2A 1P8

(236)-422-2425 / <https://www.marriott.com/yyffp>

Group Name: **True North Rescue Challenge**

Group Code: **TNR**

Rates start at: \$219 plus applicable taxes, based on single/double occupancy. Additional adults **18+ are an additional \$25.00 per night plus applicable taxes.**

To make reservations call: (888) 236-2427– a credit card is required for all reservations or by clicking the following link [True North Rescue Challenge Guest Room Booking Link - Four Points by Sheraton Penticton](#)

Four Points by Sheraton Penticton at the Convention Centre

Block Cut-off Date: 08/09/2026; reservations must be completed by this time to receive the discounted rates; after this time, our daily rate applies.

Inclusion:

- Complimentary wireless internet access in all guest rooms and public areas
- Complimentary parking for all registered guests
- Complimentary fitness center and pool access
- Complimentary local and 800 calling

MEALS

Dinner will be provided on Tuesday, September 22 and Saturday September 26. Lunch will be provided on Thursday, Friday and Saturday (September 24, 25, 26). All other meals are the responsibility of the participants.

VEHICLE RENTALS

All teams will require a vehicle to move between scenarios. Vehicles can be rented:

- In Penticton at Budget and Enterprise Car Rentals. They both have a rental location in town and at the airport.
- In Kelowna at both the airport and in town. Kelowna has rentals from all major rental companies.
- Vancouver, Seattle and Calgary have all major rental companies.

SAFETY BRIEF

There will be a mandatory safety briefing on Tuesday September 22, 2026, at 2000 hours. This briefing is for all teams and team members including team leader, rescuers, patients and evaluators.

VENDORS

There will be equipment and rescue vendors on site on September 22 (evening) and September 23 (all day) for participants and the public to meet with. Vendors are an important part of the event, and we encourage all participants to meet with the vendors and see the equipment and services offered.

NEEDS AROUND TOWN

Major grocery stores in town: Save On Foods, IGA, Safeway and Super Store.

Regional Hospital: Penticton Regional Hospital, 550 Carmi Avenue, TEL - 250.492.4000.

Small outdoor store: Eskala Mountain Sports, 210 Main Street, TEL - 236.422.3733.

Numerous pharmacies: Shoppers Drug Mart, Save On Foods, Safeway, London Drugs

Larger shops and shopping areas are in Kelowna, about an hour's drive North of Penticton on HWY97. This includes a Mountain Equipment Coop (if outdoor gear is required).

SHIPPING

If you are shipping gear to Penticton for the competition, please reach out to Mark at +1-604-313-2845 and he will provide an address that you can ship gear to.

SPECTATORS

Most of the sites for the scenarios are open to the public. There may be spectators (both associated with the team and public) at the sites. Event staff will ensure they do not conflict with the scenarios.

THE OP'S

MUST DO's

All teams must complete the scenarios in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the True North Rescue Challenge. Teams, specifically the team leaders, are responsible for the safety of their teams and have the final say as to whether they will or will not complete a scenario. Teams must use appropriate PPE for the hazards they are being exposed to.

RESCUE OF PARTICIPANTS

In case of a real incident the words "NO DUFF, NO DUFF, NO DUFF" will be used. These words will first be broadcast by the team in trouble and then repeated on the radio by the Lane Lead / Scenario Lead. This is to be used for emergencies only. There is a competition rescue plan in place for each scenario. Upon a NO DUFF Situation, all teams in the vicinity of an incident may be asked to stop their scenario, in which case the team leader will report to the Scenario Lead how many members they have available for immediate deployment to assist in the rescue operation.

FACILITIES

It is forbidden to make any modifications to the facilities that the organization has made to ensure safety. If anomalies are discovered in the facilities, the members of the organization shall be informed, and the scenario may not be used until repairs are completed.

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

Choice of Personal Protective Equipment 'PPE'

Participants are free to choose their own fall protection and safety equipment, as long as it complies with the current regulations/legislation in force with the authority having jurisdiction in the team's home location as well as the True North Rescue Challenge Rules and Regulations.

Teams using small diameter or other rated prototype equipment will require prior authorization from the Technical Director, prior to the competition commencing.

Adaptations of personal protective equipment

The use of unrated prototypes and adaptations of rescue and personal protective equipment which are not authorized by the manufacturer or their representative is prohibited.

Personal Protective Equipment Conditions

Personal protective equipment and rescue equipment components and/or accessories, as well as safety equipment/components for rescue systems that do not comply with The True North Rescue Competition Rules and Regulations cannot and will not be used.

The organizers may request documentation from the participating teams if necessary.

Clothing

Competition clothing must be appropriate for the activity to be carried out. Teams must wear clothing that identifies them as part of their team. Political, racist or other degrading slogans on uniforms are forbidden.

Suitable closed toe and laced footwear is required. Helmets must have a chinstrap. Hair must be tied back if it is long.

The use of gloves is recommended to protect against burns caused by friction or mechanical aggressions, knocks, etc.

GENERAL RULES FOR RESCUE TECHNIQUES

1. The competing teams are free to choose the rope rescue system and rescue techniques they wish to use; however the use of at least two ropes is mandatory, except:
 - a) Progression on structure; use of the fall arrest system or fall arrest subsystems are acceptable.
 - b) Restraint or retention system as long as there is no potential for a free fall, otherwise, there shall be an additional safety system.
 - c) Use of a single rope (guiding line) for the evacuation of a stretcher, provided that the difference in level to be overcome does not exceed 15° on traverse or inclined plane. Otherwise, it is necessary for the stretcher to be rigged redundantly (for instance two ropes or one rope and an ASAP).
2. The ropes must be protected if there is a risk of abrasion, rubbing or breakage on a rough or sharp surface and or between two ropes.
3. The tensioning of tensioned lines with toothed cam rope clamps with a stretcher under load must be limited to 4kn. If a team is unable to guarantee a maximum 4kn force, they shall not use toothed devices for this application.

4. The victim shall be properly secured inside the stretcher and connect by means of a lanyard to the dorsal or ventral ring of the victim's harness, which will go directly to the MAP. This is in addition to the stretcher securing system.
5. The victim shall always be reached by a minimum of two rescuers and attended by at least one rescuer, paying attention to the treatment of the victim.
6. Smoking and/or vaping is forbidden during the event for both the participants and the staff.
7. The consumption of alcohol and drugs is strictly forbidden during the competition or during the training day. The True North Rescue Challenge staff will stop the work of any participant who shows signs or symptoms of impairment.
8. All anchors/anchorage must be evaluated by the Team Leader prior to use and be deemed reliable and appropriate to rig to. The Scenario and Lane Leads will stop the team if the anchor or anchorage selected is poor.
9. The Fall Factor shall be as close to 0 as possible and any safety ropes (belays) shall be operated as tight as possible.
10. In each scenario, the Scenario Lead will inform the team leader of any rules specific to that scenario. In addition, the scenario lead shall give information about any specific hazards and risks, in the scenario.
11. All knots shall be properly tied, easily recognizable, dressed and pre-loaded.
12. Teams need to be familiar with the rules and regulations of the competition.

This is not a complete list of rules, however a reminder of some of the major ones. Please see the Rules and Regulation Document for the rules in their entirety.

RISK ANALYSIS

During the competition, the competing teams must analyze, evaluate and minimize the existing risks both in the completion of the scenarios and during movement between scenarios. These risks include but are not limited to:

- Falls from height,
- Trips, falls, slips,
- Cuts, burns, bruises,
- Musculoskeletal disorders due to inadequate posture, prolonged effort, etc.,
- Lifting heavy objects,
- Sharp or protruding objects,
- Suspension trauma,
- Traffic accidents,
- Human wildlife interactions,
- Contagion of diseases, COVID19 and variants, hepatitis, influenza, etc.,
- Fatigue due to physical stress,
- Weather conditions: heat, cold, rain, thunderstorm, wind,
- Heat stroke or hypothermia,
- Low visibility.

LIGHTNING

All scenarios will stop and competitors will vacate the course in the event of lightning within 5km of the scenario location. This will be verified by the "Lightning App".

ROAD SAFETY RULES

Moving between scenarios may require the use of a vehicle. Teams will be driving through towns, on highways as well as on forest service roads (FSR's). There is also a high risk of vehicle/animal interactions around the Penticton Area. Teams travelling by vehicle must:

- Be properly seated,
- Wear seat belts,
- The driver shall not use electronic devices or mobile phones while driving,
- The driver may not consume drugs or alcohol,
- Respect the rules, such as speed limits, pedestrian crossings, horizontal and vertical signs (follow the rules and laws of the roads in British Columbia),
- Be insured.

AUTHORIZATION TO COMPETE

To participate in the True North Rescue Competition, the competing teams must:

- Register for the competition,
- Read and understand this participation Information Package,
- Read and understand the Rules and Regulations,
- Read and understand the Hazard and Risk Assessment,
- Attend the training day,
- Attend the safety briefing,
- Sign the affidavits provided by the organization.

OUTLINE

The True North Rescue Challenge will take place between the City of Penticton and surrounding areas between September 22 – 26, 2026.

Tuesday September 22, 2026 – 18:00 hrs.

Dinner, vendor meeting, team registrations, safety briefing for everyone.

Location – Salon at the Penticton Trade and Convention Center (PTCC - 273 Power Street).

Wednesday September 23, 2026 – 07:00 hrs. (we have 12 hours daylight at the end of September, basically 7-7).

Patients and evaluators – separate training for the day. (7-5)

Teams - training and familiarity with specific items for some of the scenarios. (7-5)

There will also be two "fun events" for points on Wednesday. Teams will be assigned times for the training and "fun events".

Continuation of registration and safety briefing for any late teams.

Location - Convention Center and around the area.

The training on Wednesday is mandatory in order to meet the insurance requirements of two of the sites we are using for the scenarios.

Wednesday September 23, 2026 – 18:00 hrs. – Team leader briefs.

Location – Penticton SAR Hall (251 Dawson Ave).

Thursday September 24 - Saturday September 26, 2026 – 07:00-19:00 hrs. – Up to 10 scenarios

Scenario Days

Location – Penticton and surrounding area.

Saturday September 26, 2026 – 20:00 hrs.

Awards dinner, awards ceremony.

Location – Convention Center.

WHATSAPP

There will be a WhatsApp group started with all of the Team Leaders for urgent or last-minute communications.

EMERGENCY AND EVACUATION PLAN

There will be a written hazard/risk assessment and a first aid / rescue plan for the competition. In order to ensure everyone's safety there will be:

- Enforced compliance with the Rules and Regulations for participants and spectators,
- Pre-planned and coordinated emergency response if required,
- Trained personnel available to provide rescue and first aid services.

Useful telephone numbers:

- o Fire Department – 911
- o Ambulance – 911
- o Police – 911
- o True North Rescue Challenge Safety Contact Number – 604.313.2845 (MARK)

DRONES

Any person using a drone to take images must comply with current legislation and must request authorization from the relevant authorities (Transport Canada) if required, as well as from the True North Rescue Challenge. The True North Rescue Challenge declines all responsibility for any damage or injury that may result from drone use.

ANNEX II – UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE PARTICIPANT INFORMATION PACKAGE

The understanding and acceptance of the Participant Information Package must be signed and handed in by the Team Leader as a pre-requisite to compete.

Name of participating team:

Name of Team Leader or person in charge:

Date:

Signature: