

island lake
resort group**Joint Press Release from:****Island Lake Lodge
Fernie Alpine Resorts**

February 15, 2001

Mid-afternoon on February 13th, an avalanche occurred in the backcountry, location: 5 km away from both, Island Lake Lodge and Fernie Alpine Resort on the south and west facing slope of the Lizard Range. It involved a group of 13 people, on their own in the backcountry.

Fernie Search and Rescue and the RCMP were notified @ 5:20 pm and as a result, mobilized a helicopter with an emergency medical person and rescue person. They had time for one landing (due too diminishing daylight) to extract two people (one injured) and left the rescue person there with the remaining 9 plus the 2 fatalities.

Island Lake Lodge and Fernie Alpine Resort supplied resources to help with the rescue. Four guides from Island Lake Lodge ski-toured in with overnight gear to help assist the group through the night. Other staff remained on standby to assist in the morning as Plan "B". Fortunately, good weather allowed two helicopters to have everyone out by 9:15 am Wednesday, February 14, 2001.

For further information, please contact the RCMP at 423-4404.

1466