

Dear Fellow Manitoban,

I am writing to inform you of an **Indigenous-led Arctic Crossroads Public Education & Listening Tour** taking place across Manitoba this fall.

My name is Clayton Thomas-Muller, a member of Pukatawagan Cree Nation, and I serve as the Arctic & Hudson Bay Campaigner with Climate Reality Canada, leading this initiative. As someone from one of the First Nations directly connected to the proposed Trade and Energy Corridor to the Port of Churchill, I believe it is important that elected officials, municipalities, Indigenous leadership, and the public are aware of this tour and the conversations it seeks to facilitate.

Northern Manitoba stands at a crossroads.

The One Canadian Economy Act (Bill C-5) has accelerated conversations around major infrastructure development, including proposed transportation corridors, energy infrastructure, Arctic shipping, and critical mineral supply chains. These decisions have the potential to shape the future of our region for generations.

The purpose of the Arctic Crossroads Tour is to support informed public dialogue by bringing together Indigenous leaders, Indigenous knowledge holders, researchers, and experts to examine the environmental, economic, legal, cultural, and geopolitical dimensions of these developments.

The conversation will include the proposed expansion of northern trade infrastructure connected to the Port of Churchill, including discussions around fossil fuel export infrastructure, LNG development, pipelines, increased marine shipping through Hudson Bay, and critical mineral transportation connected to projects, such as Ontario's Ring of Fire.

These issues must be examined together.

As climate change intensifies, the Central Arctic and Hudson Bay region is incredibly vulnerable; increased industrial activity brings important questions about free, prior and informed consent, cumulative impacts, emergency preparedness, Indigenous jurisdiction, Aboriginal & treaty rights, and the protection of sensitive ecosystems.

The Churchill River estuary and western Hudson Bay beluga habitat represent one of the world's most significant marine ecosystems. For Indigenous peoples, these waters are not simply shipping routes or economic corridors—they are living territories connected to culture, food systems, spiritual responsibilities, and relationships with future generations.

Any future development must consider the impacts of increased industrial activity on:

- Beluga populations and marine biodiversity
- Indigenous harvesting rights and cultural practices
- Treaty relationships and Indigenous jurisdiction
- Aboriginal and Treaty Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Climate change impacts in northern ecosystems
- The climate and economic implications of fossil fuel exports
- The long-term sustainability of Hudson Bay communities
- Militarization, Geopolitics, Fossil Fuel, Critical Minerals and Climate Conflict.

The tour will also explore the broader global context driving resource development in the North.

Critical minerals have become central to global economic and geopolitical competition. Minerals such as nickel, copper, cobalt, graphite, lithium, and rare earth elements are essential to renewable energy technologies, advanced manufacturing, telecommunications, artificial intelligence, and defence industries.

At the same time, Arctic sovereignty, shipping routes, and global supply chains are increasingly influencing decisions in a landscape facing the most rapid warming globally, which will be exacerbated by this development, while also creating instability for the project with shifting, unforeseeable, and unpredictable environmental and social outcomes as climate change continues to affect northern infrastructure.

Communities deserve the opportunity to understand how these global forces intersect with local realities, Indigenous rights, environmental responsibilities, and the future of northern Manitoba.

The Arctic Crossroads Public Education & Listening Tour will visit:

- Churchill
- Thompson
- York Landing
- Brandon
- Winnipeg — University of Manitoba Final Public Forum

This initiative is not intended to replace government processes or prevent economic conversations. Rather, it is an effort to strengthen democracy by ensuring communities have access to independent information and meaningful opportunities for dialogue before decisions of lasting consequence are made.

For Indigenous peoples, the question is not whether northern communities deserve economic futures. The question is how those futures can be built while respecting science, traditional Indigenous knowledge, Indigenous rights, protecting the lands and waters that sustain us, and honouring responsibilities to future generations.

We welcome elected officials, Indigenous knowledge keepers, public servants, Indigenous leadership, municipalities, students, and community members to participate in these conversations.

Thank you for your attention and for your service to the people of Manitoba. I look forward to sharing more information as the tour develops.

Respectfully,

Clayton Thomas-Müller
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