

Northern Delegation NewsRelease

July 26, 2016

Northern Delegation Committed to Re-Open the Port of Churchill for 2016 Grain Season

WINNIPEG - Today, a broad regional consortium consisting of representatives from the Town of Churchill, Opaskwayak Cree Nation, the Town of The Pas and the City of Thompson, War Lake First Nation, the Hudson Bay Route Association and The Pas Chamber of Commerce met with officials from the Provincial and Federal Governments regarding the recent closure of the Port of Churchill for the 2016 grain season prior to any grain being shipped.

On Monday July 25, 2016 OmniTRAX Canada issued lay-off notices to employees of the Port of Churchill advising that due to unforeseen circumstances the 2016 grain season would be ending earlier than expected. The end result is the loss of approximately 200 direct and indirect jobs affecting all communities along the Bayline.

Representing the Northern Delegation, Churchill Mayor Spence stated "this is an emergency situation for our community, our region and indeed our country. We've been told by farmers that there is a bumper crop and as an export country we can't be shutting down Ports if we are to keep people employed and grow our economy".

Both levels of government have important roles in ensuring the port re-opens as soon as possible. It is imperative that the federal government declare the Port of Churchill in the National interest and take immediate steps so that this vital piece of national infrastructure remains open this season.

Opaskwayak Cree Nation Chief Michael Constant added "we have all come together to find a workable long term solution and we are prepared to advance a northern regional ownership model that we feel is the best approach going forward".

The Northern Delegation has offered its unequivocal support to both levels of government in these actions and expressed its wish to be part of the long term solution and plans to have further meetings with the federal and provincial governments to advance our objectives.

For further information, please contact:

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