

# Northern Delegation News Release

August 3, 2016

Northern Delegation holds positive meeting with Federal Minister regarding the future of Canada's Only Arctic Sea Port

WINNIPEG – Today, the Northern Delegation presented a united front in a meeting with federal Minister Jim Carr wherein the group outlined the urgency of the situation and requested the immediate involvement of the federal government.

The Northern Delegation, representing Mayors, Chiefs and supporters of the Bayline and the Port of Churchill, came away believing that the federal government has heard the concerns of the communities, heard the impact the closure of the grain season is having on the Region and the urgent need for a coordinated action plan.

“What we heard in the room today was a sincere willingness to understand the concerns of indigenous and non-indigenous communities, present these to government and create a coordinated strategy amongst government” Mayor Spence stated.

The Northern Delegation seeks a sustainable long term solution and will partner with those who understand the importance and potential of Canada's only Arctic Seaport. We will work with those who share our vision and commitment to growth. We will not give up and know that a bright future awaits us while we work through this process, “Spence stated.

“The Churchill catchment area, which includes a significant portion of northeastern Saskatchewan and parts of Manitoba relies upon Canada's only Arctic Seaport to bring grain to market and we must immediately reverse these actions to save the 2016 grain season,” stated Hudson Bay Route Association President Eldon Boon.

The Northern Delegation is prepared to work with partners to lease the operation from the current owner on an urgent basis and salvage the 2016 season

In order to save the season grain needs to start flowing in the next few weeks and plans set in motion to work with the industry to make that happen and restore confidence in the use of the port. The business case for using Churchill to ship grain and other commodities to Europe and other markets remains very strong.

Support for workers facing immediate layoffs was raised as a priority as was the the urgency to have the federal government come to the table at the highest level possible.

“The Port of Churchill and the Bayline are key assets that can lead to further growth benefitting Canada. The Northern Delegation is a diverse coalition united in its goal to work with governments and the private sector to realize that potential and is pleased to work with others who share this vision and commitment to the North, Spence concluded.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Delegation requested a follow-up meeting within 10 days with key federal officials in Ottawa to continue to resolve solving this critical national issue.

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