



February 20<sup>th</sup> 2018

Hon. Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., M.P.  
Minister, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
200 Kent Street  
Station 15N100  
Ottawa ON K1A 0E6

Dear Minister:

**RE Tour operations at Churchill, Manitoba, and Beluga Whales**

In follow-up to my letter of November 30<sup>th</sup> 2017 as owner-operator of Lazy Bear Expeditions, I write to you, now, as Chair of the Churchill Beluga Whale Tour Operator Association (<http://cbwtoa.ca>) to raise the same matters of concern. Enclosed please find a letter from the Wildlife and Fisheries Branch of Manitoba Sustainable Development supporting our concerns.

This letter summarizes the concerns of tourism businesses who offer customers the opportunity to view the Beluga Whale population near the Churchill shore of Hudson Bay. These include:

1. Clarity as to differences between Beluga Whale populations in the St. Lawrence Seaway, marine mammal and killer whale populations off Canada's west coast, and Beluga Whale populations, here, near Churchill in Hudson Bay;
2. The role of Churchill-based tourism businesses in protecting the Beluga Whale population in Hudson Bay, and in providing badly needed jobs, especially now in light of the Hudson Bay Railway wash-out, last year;
3. The facilitation of tourism at Churchill, Manitoba, that promotes public awareness of the Hudson Bay Beluga Whale population and the Belugas' thriving; and
4. Clarity as to any regulations which could affect Churchill-based tourism businesses that operate Beluga Whale tours.

In respect of the concerns outlined above, I ask to meet with you, your departmental officials and/or your ministerial office staff at the earliest opportunity to make a more complete presentation of concerns and research, and to answer any questions which might arise. I would be pleased to make myself available as convenient.

Sincerely,

**COPY**

Wally Daudrich

Enclosure: one (1)

Copy: Hon. Jim Carr, P.C., M.P.

Hon. Bardish Chagger, P.C., M.P.

Mike Riemer, Churchill Wild

John Gunter, Frontiers North Adventures

Hon. Rochelle Squires, M.L.A.

Michael Spence, Mayor of Churchill

Colin Ferguson, President, Travel Manitoba

Dwight Allen, Sea North Tours