

News Release

Northern communities encourage province-wide support for Port of Churchill

November 22, 2016 - Mayors and Councillors from Manitoba's northern municipalities came together today during the AMM Annual Convention in Winnipeg to pledge support to one of their own: the Town of Churchill.

On July 25, news broke that the Port of Churchill OmniTrax Canada was shutting the port down and would not ship any grain for the foreseeable future. The abrupt cancellation of the port's grain season resulted in more than 100 grain elevator, port and railway employees being laid off throughout Manitoba.

Mayor Mike Spence and his council have submitted an [emergency resolution](#) that will be the first resolution debated by the over 900 elected officials at the RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg this week for the AMM Annual Convention. The resolution calls for the AMM to lobby the Province of Manitoba and the Government of Canada to "jointly act to ensure that the Port of Churchill re-opens for the 2017 grain season."

AMM President Chris Goertzen emphasized that what happens in Manitoba's north affects all AMM members. "The potential loss of the port and rail line would be a setback to all municipalities in the province. The development of Canada's North benefits us all," he said.

Mayor Spence says much work has been done to try to resolve the issue. "We've had meetings with the federal government and the province in terms of a way forward. We are working with a Northern Delegation made up of communities from Churchill to the Pas, as well as with First Nations communities, Northern Affairs communities, the communities of the Kivalliq Region of Nunavut, the Kivalliq Inuit Association, the AMM, and the Hudson Bay Route Association. But so far, nothing has changed."

The resolution also calls for the new Northern Economic Development Strategy Task Force to make revitalizing the Port and railway their number one priority by convening a meeting with the Northern Delegation and the AMM.

This emergency resolution will be debated by the delegates at 3:00 p.m. today, in the York Ballroom, RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg.