

## ARCTIC GATEWAY GROUP

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### Arctic Gateway Group welcomes federal government investment

**August 6, 2021**

The Arctic Gateway Group (AGG) today welcomed the federal government's \$40 million investment through Indigenous Services Canada's Strategic Partnerships Initiative. These funds will allow AGG to improve the Hudson Bay Railway, with a focus on the line between Gillam and Churchill. The federal announcement was made by the Honourable Jim Carr, Minister and Special Representative for the Prairies, the Honourable Daniel Vandal, Minister of Northern Affairs, and the Honourable Omar Alghabra, Minister of Transport.

AGG is wholly-owned by the OneNorth Partnership made up of 29 Indigenous and 12 non-Indigenous communities located along the Hudson Bay Railway and throughout Northern Manitoba. AGG also owns the Port of Churchill and its workforce is more than 70% Indigenous.

"This is good news for the entire region," said Churchill Mayor Mike Spence, co-Chair of the OneNorth partnership. "We need a reliable and safe railway for transportation within the region and to connect with the outside world. This funding is an important step towards that goal, and towards helping Churchill and the region reach their economic potential."

"We have waited a long time for reliable rail transportation and this gets us closer to that goal," added War Lake First Nation Chief Betsy Kennedy, a member of the OneNorth board. "Our communities need the railway to access economic opportunities, health care, and social and cultural opportunities. This investment allows important work to continue and we hope the partnership with the federal government will continue until the job is done."

"This region has immense economic potential, and the way all of our communities have joined together in OneNorth speaks to our determination to build a better future together," said Opaskwayak Cree Nation Onekanew Christian Sinclair, also co-Chair of the OneNorth Board. "We are pleased that the federal government made this investment at a crucial time in our efforts to fix the tracks and build a world class transportation corridor. We look forward to our continued partnership with Canada to achieve our long-term vision for the Arctic Gateway and Northern Manitoba."

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