



**Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures  
Resource Stewardship Division / Wildlife Branch**

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February 27, 2025

Wally Daudrich  
Lazy Bear Expeditions  
[info@lazybearexpeditions.com](mailto:info@lazybearexpeditions.com)

Dear Mr. Daudrich:

Please be advised that after careful consideration Manitoba is rescinding the allocation licenses to your business of two tundra vehicles to operate in the Churchill Wildlife Management Area (WMA) for the forthcoming 2025 season.

This decision is intended to align with Manitoba's conservation priorities for polar bears and the protection of the sensitive tundra ecosystem. The 2013 Churchill WMA management plan set a limit of 18 (subject to limited exceptions) tundra vehicle allocations for tourism within the Coastal Plain (Zone 2), a limit that remains important in light of the continued decline in the Western Hudson Bay polar bear population. Additionally, concerns about the potential habituation of polar bears to vehicles, which poses safety risks, further underscore the necessity of this limit.

As you are aware, up to 20 tundra vehicle allocations were authorized in 2020. In 2021, the Government of Nunavut conducted an aerial survey of the entire Western Hudson Bay polar bear subpopulation. The results of this survey, along with the demographic and body condition data collected annually by Environment and Climate Change Canada, indicate that total abundance of polar bears of this subpopulation continues to decline. Furthermore, future projections indicate that polar bears in Western Hudson Bay are among the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change and consequently these bears will be spending longer periods on land culminating in increased stress levels due to lack of food in the ice-free period.

In light of this information, the Province of Manitoba is returning to level of 18 that is in compliance with the 2013 Churchill WMA Management Plan. We are committed to restoring a fair and transparent allocation process for the future. My staff will be contacting you to seek your input.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at [maria.arlt@gov.mb.ca](mailto:maria.arlt@gov.mb.ca) or 204-620-6613.

Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,  
Maria Arlt,  
Director, Wildlife Branch

- c. Honourable Ian Bushie, Minister of Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures  
Bruce Gray, Deputy Minister  
Maria Art, Director Wildlife