

## **Orphaned Polar Bear Cub Arrives at Leatherdale International Polar Bear Conservation Centre**

**For immediate release:** Winnipeg, November 23, 2016 – An orphaned polar bear cub has arrived at the Leatherdale International Polar Bear Conservation Centre at the Assiniboine Park Zoo. The female cub, who is approximately one year old and weighs 100 lbs., arrived yesterday evening after being identified as in need of intervention and transfer to the Centre by Manitoba Sustainable Development.

Members of the Assiniboine Park Conservancy's Polar Bear Rescue Team, Sr. Director of Animal Management & Conservation, Gary Lunsford, and Head of Veterinary Services, Dr. Chris Enright, and Curator Johanna Soto traveled to Churchill to supervise the cubs' trip to Winnipeg.

"This is a very unfortunate situation as it appeared we would make it through the 2016 polar bear season without a bear needing our help. Luckily we have an excellent facility and a team of professionals in Churchill and at Assiniboine Park Zoo that are equipped to deal with situations like this" said Dr. Chris Enright. "We are happy to report that the cub is in good health and is doing well in her new surroundings."

The young cub was observed alone in the Churchill area without its mother for some time before wandering near the town of Churchill. Cubs of this age need to stay with their mothers for at least one winter, or freeze up of the Western Hudson Bay to learn how to hunt and to have her protection from other bears. Wildlife experts agree cubs this young are not able to survive on their own.

Now that the cub has arrived at the Leatherdale International Polar Bear Conservation Centre, she will undergo the standard 30 day quarantine period and will not be visible to the general public or media during that time. A date when the bear will be introduced to the public will be announced at a later date.

The Assiniboine Park Zoo's Journey to Churchill exhibit focuses visitors' attention on the species, people and issues important to the Arctic while educating them about the significance of action against climate change. The 10-acre exhibit is currently home to seven polar bears; Storm, Aurora, Kaska, Blizzard, Star, York and Eli, as well as other Arctic species.

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For interviews and information requests, please contact:  
Laura Cabak, Marketing & Communications Specialist  
Office: 204-927-6077 Cell: 204-771-4784, [lcabak@assiniboinepark.ca](mailto:lcabak@assiniboinepark.ca)