



**Assiniboine Park Conservancy Invites the Public to
Meet and Name Orphaned Polar Bear Cub**

For immediate release: Winnipeg, October 8, 2026 – The Assiniboine Park Conservancy is inviting the public to meet the orphaned polar bear cub who arrived at the Zoo from Churchill, Manitoba, this August. Following weeks of dedicated care and a carefully managed transition to his new home, the young bear can now be visited at the Zoo's Leatherdale International Polar Bear Conservation Centre.

The public is also being asked to help name the cub. The Town of Churchill and students from the Duke of Marlborough School in Churchill were invited to lead the naming process, selecting a shortlist of names that reflect the cub's northern heritage. The public can now vote for their favourite name from the following list:

- **Duke:** Honours Duke of Marlborough School, a source of pride for the students.
- **Marly:** Like Duke, this name honours the school and its students.
- **Fletcher:** In honour of Fletcher Lake, a subarctic lake located in Wapusk National Park.
- **Mantayo:** Represents the Cree name for a large river in Churchill, River of Strangers (Mantayo = Strangers, Seepee/sîpî = River)

“As this young bear continues to settle into his new home, it’s important to honour and celebrate his connection to Churchill,” said Laura Cabak, Senior Director of Marketing & Communications, Assiniboine Park Conservancy. “We are proud to partner with the Town of Churchill and students of the Duke of Marlborough School, whose thoughtful name selections reflect the love and care the community has shown for this bear since the very beginning.”

Voting is open online and will close on Tuesday, October 13 at 11:59 p.m. Visit <https://www.assiniboinepark.ca/polarbearname> to cast your vote.

Since he arrived at the Zoo in August, a team of animal care, veterinary, and conservation experts has supported the cub through a transition plan designed to prioritize his well-being and comfort. During this time, he has been building trust with his caregivers and adjusting to his new home at his own pace in preparation for his public debut

Assiniboine Park Zoo is home to seven rescued polar bears: Storm, Nanuq, York, Kaska, Willow, Star, and the young cub. Together, these bears help connect hundreds of thousands of visitors from Manitoba and around the world with Churchill and the Arctic each year, fostering greater understanding of the region and inspiring action to protect the environment.

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Media Availability: Media interviews and photo opportunities are available at Assiniboine Park Zoo from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Additional requests will be subject to availability.

For interviews and information requests, please contact:

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