



Science and Research Highlights

International Meetings

Impact of this work: By exchanging information on polar bears with scientists from the five polar bear nations, we can work together to set conservation and research priorities.

- At the recent [International Bear Association](#) (IBA) conference in Alberta, Canada, our team convened a meeting of polar bear researchers.
- Polar Bears International (PBI) Research Fellow Louise Archer presented some of her latest work around energetics modeling, and PBI Postdoc Ruth Rivkin presented posters on her genetics research.
- The PBI team also presented posters on our bear-safety education, remote bear viewing, and a safer new live bear-trap design that included a technical drawing for free download. The new traps will increase capacity in communities to safely relocate bears that approach human settlements.

Maternal Den Studies

Impact of this work: Our den studies are helping us understand important aspects of denning behavior while also monitoring the condition of moms and cubs.

- A manuscript detailing our maternal den monitoring findings has been submitted to a scientific journal for peer review.
- Our team is working with partners on hardware and software upgrades in preparation for our 2025 [den study fieldwork](#) in Svalbard, Norway.

Traditional Knowledge

Impact of this work: By partnering with Elders and Indigenous Traditional Knowledge Keepers, we can gain insights on polar bears and community coexistence.

- Researcher Kt Miller and Polar Bears International Board Advisor Georgina Berg, a Cree Elder, presented their work on [Indigenous Knowledge of human-polar bear coexistence](#) at the IBA meeting. They also helped lead a workshop on including Indigenous Knowledge in polar bear research in Canada's North.

Emerging Scientific Techniques

Impact of this work: By supporting these efforts, we're expanding our understanding of polar bears and Arctic ecology while also mentoring the next generation.

- **Genetics** - Dr. Ruth Rivkin published two scientific papers on polar bear genetics, one on [polar bear-grizzly hybrids](#) and another showing that polar bears in Canada's high Arctic are [poorly equipped to adapt to climate change](#).
- **Energetics** - [Dr. Louise Archer](#) started her new role as a four-year Research Fellow at Polar Bears International in collaboration with the U.S. Geological Survey, with a focus on the polar bears' energy needs.
- **Feeding Ecology** - We launched a new postdoctoral position for Dr. Chloe Rodrigues in collaboration with the University of Manitoba and University of Alberta centered on feeding ecology and the application of stable isotope tools.

External Research Support

Impact of this work: adding to our knowledge of polar bears, with impacts on their conservation, by supporting critical research.

- We were deeply saddened by the loss of longtime scientific advisor [Dr. Ian Stirling](#). His final lead-authored paper was submitted posthumously. We will continue to support ongoing analysis of the unique data set that Ian and his team compiled from years of direct observations of polar bear behavior.
- Research partner Alexander Langweider just returned from successful field efforts in both Southern Hudson Bay and a new start in Foxe Basin based on community-led hair-trapping efforts for population studies and genetics research.

Management, Policy, and Advocacy Highlights

Southern Hudson Bay Coexistence (Ontario, Canada)

Impact of this work: By helping communities live safely with polar bears, we'll allow both to thrive.

- Working with partners, we continue to expand our collaborative efforts with the Mushkegowuk Council in northern Ontario, including inviting representatives from [Cree communities](#) to Churchill this fall to exchange information on coexisting with polar bears.

Churchill Coexistence (Manitoba, Canada)

Impact of this work: By supporting the efforts of the Churchill Bear Smart Working Group, we can help develop a model for others to follow.

- After a devastating fire at the town's secure waste management facility, we worked with the [Churchill Bear Safe Working Group](#) (CBSWG) to secure emergency resources, from shipping additional bear-safe waste bins to assisting in securing the landfill with improved electric fencing.
- As the annual bear migration begins, we are working with the CBSWG to distribute printed materials around bear safety, including QR codes directing visitors to a [safety video](#).

Svalbard, Norway

Impact of this work: By helping communities live safely with polar bears, we'll allow both to thrive.

- We are working with corporate partners to ship samples of deterrence tools to partners in Norway, showcasing alternatives to the rifles currently issued to researchers doing fieldwork on Svalbard.
- We are finalizing [bear safety posters and brochures](#) for use in the community of Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard.
- We have invited representatives from Svalbard to Churchill this fall to exchange information on how to live safely with polar bears.

Early-Detection Radar ("Bear-dar")

Impact of this work: By developing an early-warning technology that can detect approaching bears, we can help reduce conflict between polar bears and people.

- After successful training of the ["bear-dar's" AI](#) with a zoo partner this summer, we've moved the tower to Churchill for a final field-testing season there, with plans to support our partners with fine-tuning through tests in other Arctic regions.

Policy and Advocacy

Impact of this work: By encouraging policies that support polar bear conservation and engaging the public in advocacy, we can help sustain the polar bears' future.

- The team is finalizing the launch of a Civic Engagement Campaign, including a video series about the importance of voting up and down the ballot and new web tools to help people get involved in polar bear conservation from around the world.

Education and Outreach Highlights

Education and Awareness

Impact of this work: Our outreach highlights the issues facing polar bears and inspires people to take climate action.

- In honor of the 20th anniversary of our Arctic Ambassador Network, we released a [video](#) showcasing the myriad ways our collaborators have inspired their communities to act and made a real difference for polar bear conservation.
- We compiled and shared [impact stories from our AACs](#) on social media and are compiling data on the collective impact this network makes.
- Our outreach staff completed another successful [summer of engaging visitors](#) at the Polar Bears International House in Churchill, Manitoba, and our Ice House in Svalbard, Norway.
- For the second year, we hosted [summer camps](#) for kids of different age groups in Churchill that were fun, educational, and well-received by the community.

Media Coverage

Impact of this work: By sharing accurate information on polar bears and the threats they face with a global audience, we help combat misinformation and inspire action.

- Coverage this past quarter largely focused on a new study, coauthored by our senior director of research and policy, that forecasts a sober outlook for Hudson Bay's polar bears. Other topics included our genetics research, Burr on Fur tracking devices, Beluga Cams, and more. Key publications included the [New York Times](#), [BBC](#), [Sierra Club](#), [Associated Press](#), [CBC](#), [National Geographic](#), and [Popular Science](#).

To view previous quarterly impact reports, visit the [Our Impact page](#) of our website.