Quarterly Conservation Impact Report Q3 2026

Curious about the work you made possible in the third quarter? This update highlights a few projects from our science, advocacy, education, and outreach teams. Thank you for being such an integral part of these efforts!

Science and Research Highlights

Conserving polar bears begins with an in-depth understanding of their life history and needs

Second bear-detecting radar to be deployed before bear season: Earlier this year, our "Bear-dar" bear-detecting radar system successfully prevented a surprise bear encounter in Nunavut, Canada. This early warning of the approaching bear family helped keep the bears and humans safe. Recently, our science and research team has been asked to deploy a second Bear-dar detection system, this time in Churchill, Manitoba.

Bears of the western Hudson Bay will soon begin their annual migration to the shorelines, in anticipation of the freezing sea ice. But because of a warming climate, bears will be forced to wait on land for longer periods. This extended time onshore increases the likelihood that humans and bears could encounter one another. **By launching a second Bear-dar detection system, we are addressing real-world challenges in polar bear safety and coexistence where humans and bears increasingly share their time and space.**

Management, Policy, and Advocacy Highlights

Supporting coexistence efforts in northern communities keeps people and polar bears safe

Waste management talks across the Arctic: This past quarter, our policy and advocacy team facilitated and supported conversations between provincial and territorial representatives from Churchill, Nunavut, and Greenland to evaluate modern waste-to-energy solutions that could help reduce human-polar bear conflicts throughout the North.

Waste management is key for polar bear communities. Human trash can attract curious bears, increasing the risk of potentially dangerous interactions between people and bears. **Supporting relationship-building and knowledge sharing across the Arctic on common bear attractants, such as garbage, is crucial for helping humans and bears coexist.**

A Word From Our Team

Our education and outreach team reports that the work they accomplished in **Q3 can be summarized with one word**: EMPOWERING.

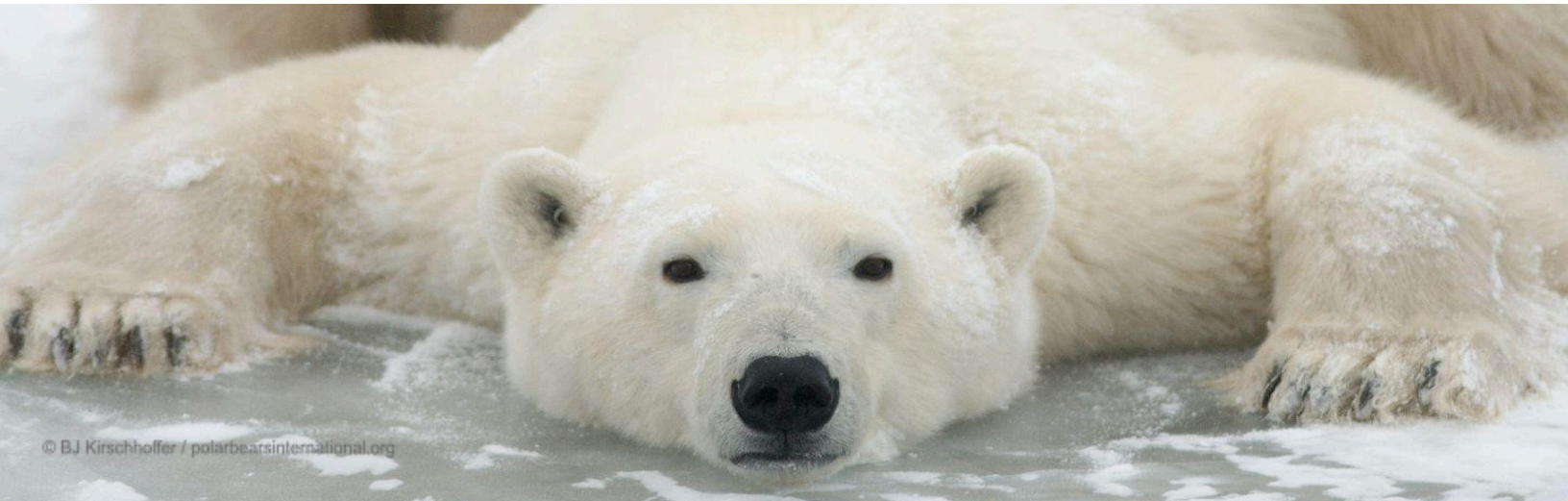
Education and Outreach Highlights

Highlighting the issues facing polar bears today empowers people to take climate action tomorrow

Interpretive centres experience record summer visitation: The summer season was a busy one for our interpretive centres in Churchill, Manitoba, Canada, and Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway. Our field ambassadors connected with **1,671** people in Churchill and **9,212** people in Svalbard through meaningful, in-person interactions that connected people travelling to these remote Arctic places to the polar bear story and the work that we do.

With visitation numbers at an all-time high, it is more important than ever to measure the impact of our Arctic outreach. Throughout Q3, our outreach team piloted an impact evaluation project that will formally launch later this fall. This project aims to evaluate and better understand how visitor attitudes and behaviours change after visiting one of our in-person interpretive centres. **The findings from this project will inform how we communicate to maximize our impact on protecting polar bears and their Arctic sea ice home.**

A Look Ahead

November 1-7, 2026. The first week of November is Polar Bear Week! Each fall, polar bears gather along the shores of Hudson Bay to wait for the sea ice to return. Polar Bears International established Polar Bear Week to share their story and raise awareness of the many threats that polar bears face in a warming climate. **Join us to celebrate these icons of the Arctic and find out how you can help protect their future.**

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