

### MANITOBANS FAVOUR NATIONALIZING OMNITRAX

*Majority support government ownership of Churchill's port,  
northern rail line*

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Winnipeg** – More than two-thirds of Manitobans agree the federal government should take ownership of the Port of Churchill and the Hudson Bay Railway.

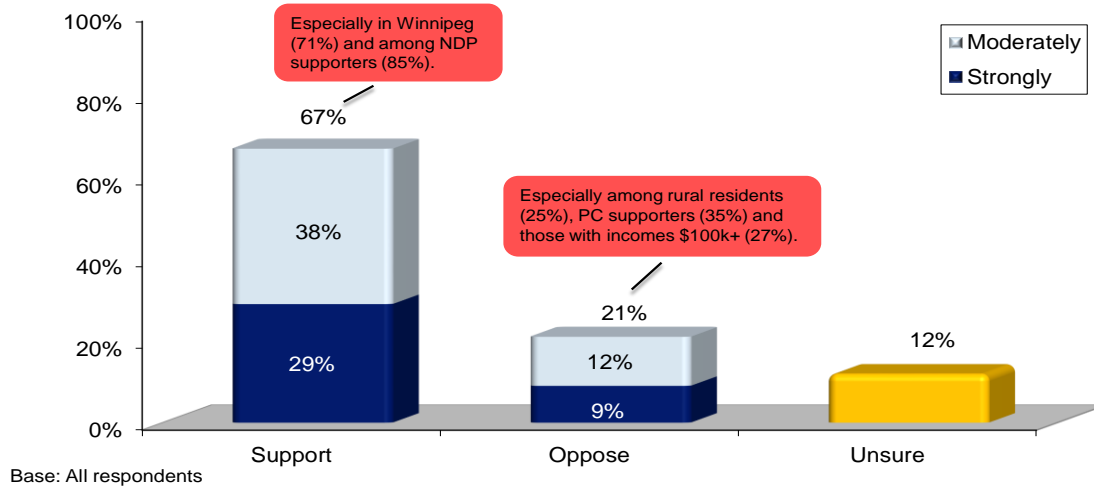
The Denver-based company OmniTrax announced this summer it had closed the Port of Churchill and was scaling back rail service through the north, prompting calls to nationalize both operations. According to a Probe Research Inc. survey taken exclusively for the *Winnipeg Free Press*, 67 per cent of Manitobans support this idea, while 21 per cent oppose it.

Support for nationalizing OmniTrax's Manitoba operations is higher among Winnipeg residents (71%) and NDP supporters (85%). Opposition to the idea of government ownership of the port and rail line is higher among rural residents (25%), those with annual household incomes above \$100,000 (27%) and PC supporters (35%). There was no statistical difference in the views of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal respondents.

These results emerged from a province-wide telephone survey of 1,000 adults conducted by Probe Research Inc. for the *Winnipeg Free Press* this month.

# Views on Government Ownership of OmniTrax's Manitoba Operations

**Q1.** "OmniTrax, a Denver-based company that owns and operates the Port of Churchill and the railway connecting Churchill to southern Manitoba, recently closed the port and scaled back rail service through the north. It has been suggested that the Government of Canada should now step in and take over ownership of these operations. All things considered, do you personally strongly support, moderately support, moderately oppose or strongly oppose the Government of Canada taking ownership of this port and railway?" (n=1,000)



# Views Across Demographic Sub-Groups

"All things considered, do you personally strongly support, moderately support, moderately oppose or strongly oppose the Government of Canada taking ownership of this port and railway?"

|         | Total<br>(n=1,000)<br>(%) | Region                     |                           | Gender                 |                          | Age                     |                         |                       |
|---------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
|         |                           | Winnipeg<br>(n=600)<br>(%) | Rural<br>(n=400)<br>(%)   | Male<br>(n=484)<br>(%) | Female<br>(n=516)<br>(%) | 18-34<br>(n=324)<br>(%) | 35-54<br>(n=366)<br>(%) | 55+<br>(n=289)<br>(%) |
| Support | 67                        | 71                         | 62                        | 64                     | 71                       | 66                      | 67                      | 70                    |
| Oppose  | 21                        | 17                         | 25                        | 26                     | 16                       | 14                      | 24                      | 25                    |
| Unsure  | 12                        | 12                         | 12                        | 10                     | 14                       | 20                      | 9                       | 6                     |
|         | Voting Intention          |                            |                           |                        | Aboriginal               |                         |                         |                       |
|         | PC<br>(n=367)<br>(%)      | NDP<br>(n=155)<br>(%)      | Liberal<br>(n=197)<br>(%) | Green<br>(n=41)<br>(%) | Yes<br>(n=130)<br>(%)    | No<br>(n=852)<br>(%)    |                         |                       |
| Support | 56                        | 85                         | 77                        | 72                     | 69                       | 67                      |                         |                       |
| Oppose  | 35                        | 10                         | 11                        | 14                     | 20                       | 21                      |                         |                       |
| Unsure  | 9                         | 6                          | 12                        | 14                     | 11                       | 12                      |                         |                       |

*This province-wide survey was designed and conducted by Probe Research Inc. via telephone interviews conducted between Sept. 13, 2016 and Sept 26, 2016 among a random and representative sampling of 1,000 Manitoba adults. With a sample of 1,000, one can say with 95 per cent certainty that the results are within +/- 3.1 percentage points of what they would have been if the entire adult population of Manitoba had been interviewed. The margin-of-error is higher within each of the survey's population sub-groups. Modified random-digit dialing was used to ensure that all Manitoba adults would have an equal opportunity to participate in this Probe Research survey. Minor statistical weighting has been applied to this sample to ensure that the age and gender balance correspond with the province as a whole.*

For more information on this survey, please contact:

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