

2023 James Bay Expedition

The Research Vessel (R/V) William Kennedy is returning to James Bay and southern Hudson Bay for another exciting summer expedition! During August 2021 and August 2022, many samples and measurements were taken which made a start to better understanding James Bay – one of the least studied water bodies in Canada. This year, a team of university researchers including the Mushkegowuk Council's Knowledge and Research Manager will collect data to see how James Bay waters influence the Belcher Islands region. Samples will be taken at the mouths of the Winisk River and Moose River where fresh river water flows into and mixes with the saltier bay waters. These are important areas for circulation and carbon cycling and provide habitat for fishes, birds, whales, seals and much more. Community members and youth have been invited to come onboard to engage to exchange cultural and scientific knowledge. Very little is known about how the rivers have responded to pressures from hydroelectric development and climate change and how they can best be monitored in the future. There is much to learn. Stay tuned!

The R/V William Kennedy is named after Captain William Kennedy (1814-1890), an explorer and first Métis captain to lead sea-going ships in the Arctic. It is operated by the Arctic Research Foundation, a non-profit organization that creates research infrastructure for the Canadian Arctic in partnership with the University of Manitoba and the Churchill Marine Observatory and operated by . It is equipped with many scientific instruments to capture underwater video, collect samples and measure temperature, depth, pH of water and more. If you see this ship near your community, please wave!

Two inflatables
for shallow waters.

Average speed:
8 knots (15 km/hr)

65 feet (19.8 m)
long x 28 feet (8.5 m)
wide

Hull is 2 ft (0.6m)
thick Kevlar

Draft of 13.5 ft
(4 m)

Contact: A Working Group with representatives of Mushkegowuk Council and Cree Nation Government is helping to plan the Expedition.
Co-principal Investigators: Drs. CJ Mundy and Z Kuzyk, Associate Professors, University of Manitoba



Peawanuck

Whapmagoostui

Chisasibi

Wemindji

Attawapiskat

Kashechewan

Fort Albany

Eastmain

Waskaganish

Moosonee

Moose Factory