UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA TRANSPORT INSTITUTE
SPEAKERS’ SERIES

LIFE WITHOUT RAILWAY IN CHURCHILL: THE IMPACT OF
RAILWAY DISRUPTION ON A REMOTE COMMUNITY

Yufeng (Travis) LIN

Department of Supply Chain Management, Transport Institute, Asper School of Business, University of Manitoba, Canada

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**Abstract:** Ports and other coastal infrastructure along the Arctic shorelines are still extremely scarce (and of poor quality), while professional know-how in the construction, maintenance, and operation of such facilities is in short supply. Indeed, hitherto, much attention has been paid to the ‘marine’ side of Arctic shipping while the ‘land’ side has been largely overlooked. An illustrative example is the damage of the only rail line connecting to the town of Churchill, MB, Canada by a major flood in May 2017. This has disrupted land connections to Churchill, curtailing all import and export of cargoes (e.g., wheat) via Hudson Bay and inflicting hardship on local residents through a substantial increase of expenditures on food and other commodities, as most supplies relied on aviation throughout much of 2017. Based on an in-depth case study on the port and town of Churchill, MB, Canada, we focus on the overall impressions of Arctic shipping development; the fluctuation of price index; employment structure and rate; the shock to tourism; the place’s vulnerabilities to Arctic shipping routes; and the establishment of adaptation and resilience strategies. This study can cause a paradigm shift in the research approach in the study of Arctic and generate vital information on how transportation disruption influences remote community and thus damage intermodal transportation development in the Arctic.

**Speaker’s Biography:** Yufeng (Travis) Lin is a master student of Supply Chain Management working under the supervision of Dr. Adolf K.Y. Ng. His research interest lies in the area of climate change and Arctic shipping route. He aims to investigate the relationship between environment and society in the Arctic. He joins the University of Manitoba Transport Institute as a Student Associate in May 2017.

**For further enquiries, please contact:** umti@umanitoba.ca

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