

## **Cruise Tourism in the Arctic: Navigating a Warming Climate**

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Compounding the environmental change currently taking place in Arctic regions, including rising mean temperature and decreased sea ice extent, is an unprecedented increase in development interest due to the region's relatively abundant – and now accessible – renewable and non-renewable resources, geographically strategic location for international shipping, and natural assets attractive to tourism. The emergence of new development opportunities is both promising and concerning for local residents considering the economic possibilities and the potential environmental and cultural impacts. In addition to community-based risks and opportunities, the rapid emergence of a cruise economy in Arctic Canada also has significant regional and federal implications considering issues of sovereignty and security and because the current regulatory and policy environments are not sufficient to deal with recent changes. This paper presents the results of the 'Cruise Tourism in Arctic Canada (C-TAC) research project – a study that examined the environmental, cultural, and policy implications of a rapidly emerging cruise tourism economy in the Canadian Arctic. Between 2009 and 2011, over 450 interviews and five workshops were conducted with local residents of Canadian Arctic communities (Ulukhaktok, Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Pond Inlet, Kujjuuaq, and Nain), cruise operators, and relevant government officials. Comparison with cruise tourism in Svalbard will also be provided.