



Press Release

Northwest Nuclear Exploration Event 2024 a Tremendous Success Story in Ignace, Ontario

Approximately 500, residents, community and First Nation leaders, students, panelists, and nuclear industry representatives from all of over Canada attended event in Ignace this past weekend!

Ignace ON April 15, 2024 – Mayor, Council and organizers were tremendously pleased to have over 500 local and out of town visitors attend this year’s Northwest Nuclear Exploration Event in their community. The Township of Ignace Mayor and Council, event planning personnel and Township staff, including members of the Willingness Ad Hoc Committee prepared for weeks to promote and host this special learning event that took place in Ignace on April 12th and 13th, 2024 at the Ignace Recreational Centre.

“Words alone cannot explain the excitement and joy we had as a Township to host one of the most important nuclear learning events that this community has ever witnessed. Watching over 500 people attend this event from all over Canada to learn, become educated in the transportation and storage of used nuclear fuel was amazing to me as the Mayor. I want to thank those communities, Mayors and leaders around Northwestern Ontario who attended including our First Nation and Metis partners, and those who presented and spoke about the nuclear industry. The organizers at the Township should be very proud and as Mayor and Council, we want to commend them and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization for their dedication, commitment, and execution of this incredible event for the Township of Ignace and their residents. We not only learned, dialogued, and discussed our collective thoughts along our journey to willingness, but we now know that, as a community, we are also able to host and meet with large groups of individuals who want to use the Township and its arena for bigger-scale events and activities” stated Mayor Kim Baigrie.

“Congratulations to our business community for their amazing support.”

“Over the next few weeks, the With Chela Inc. willingness and engagement process of residents will continue full force, including registering for a vote and increased personal engagement tactics to ensure everyone in the community’s voice is heard. They attended this weekend and I know a lot of local residents learned more about that process and how to get involved”, stated Councillor Defeo, who is also on the Willingness Ad Hoc Committee.

“The event this weekend, was yet another amazing and successful opportunity for those who attended and took the time to speak with the exhibitors, presenters and listened to the panel presentations. As a Council member, I know that we are moving diligently towards an extremely important and historical timeframe within the Township of Ignace to indicate our willingness to host this deep geological repository in the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway/Ignace area, and I feel that we have been provided with many educational opportunities and well-informed materials to make a decision in the very near future,” Councillor Defeo went on to say.

“We also want to thank Daila Delescaille and Andy Davenport, our youth representatives for the Township of Ignace, for their educational presentation at the Nuclear Exploration Event this weekend. Their thoughtful and meaningful presentation on the potential environmental and economic impact of this project to their generation was delightful and left community members with some very important information and a sense of responsibility for the future,” stated Mayor Baigrie.

On March 18th, 2024 Mayor and Council passed a unanimous resolution to sign an historic potential hosting agreement with the NWMO. The signing of this historic agreement allowed the Township, the Willingness Ad Hoc Committee, its residents, stakeholders, and other interested parties to consider the legal, financial, and regulatory implications as critical data points in moving forward with the willingness process and the determination of a final decision by Council in mid 2024. The Township will now continue to ensure that local residents have access to and understand the agreement and are well informed on the many benefits for generations to come for the community.

Pictures attached below:

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Media Inquiries:

Jake Pastore

jakepastore@summitpcg.ca

Summit PCG

416-508-4389

Presentations and Panels were well attended this Weekend at the Northwest Nuclear Exploration Event.



Mayor Baigrie, Township of Ignace flanked by Mayor's Adrian Foster and Mayor Blair Skinner

Left to right – Mayor Adrian Foster (Clarington Ontario), Mayor Kim Baigrie and Mayor Blair Skinner (Pinawa, Manitoba)

