



Township of Ignace

P.O. Box 248, 34 Hwy 17 West

Ignace, Ontario P0T 1T0

Phone: 807-934-2202 Fax: 807-934-2864

Website: ignace.ca

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RE: Township of Ignace advocacy for residents affected by Domtar sawmill shutdown

Dear Residents of Ignace,

We hope this message finds you well. We are reaching out to address ongoing concerns and provide an update regarding the indefinite closure of the Domtar Ignace sawmill, which has unfortunately displaced between 19 to 25 of our local community members. As you are aware, as a Township we have no control over softwood lumber price points, U.S. tariffs, or the decisions of private corporations, but we can advocate for our community and for the Northwestern Ontario forestry industry.

Our administration is actively working to mitigate the impact of this closure on our affected residents. We understand the gravity of this situation and its potential ramifications and impact on the livelihood of those involved and the broader community. We are exploring all possible avenues and collaborating with various government stakeholders to find viable solutions.

The Township of Ignace is committed to providing access to contacts, support and resources to those displaced during this challenging time, through advocacy with both levels of government. Our team is coordinating with the Ministry of Northern Economic Development and Growth, Skills Training Ontario, and Domtar management. Township officials are at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference this week and are raising this issue with the Ministers they are meeting, including the Honourable Greg Rickford, Minister Responsible for Ring of Fire Economic and Community Partnerships and our MPP for Kenora-Rainy River constituency.

Although we are experiencing this local setback, there are many exciting opportunities on the horizon for Ignace, including the upcoming construction of the multimillion-dollar NWMO Centre of Expertise, the construction of new homes in partnership with Bruno's Contracting, the launch of the official DGR project, and ongoing growth and development of our service industry.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate this current complex situation. We will continue to keep you informed about our progress and any new developments. Your support and resilience are invaluable as we work together to overcome this hurdle.

Sincerely,

Kimberley Baigrie
Mayor, Township of Ignace

Questions? Contact Jake Pastore, Outreach and Communication Lead, at (416) 508-4389 or outreach@ignace.ca.