Celebrating the Accomplishments of the 2022–2026 Council
A Four-Year Term of Progress, Partnerships and Community Investment

The Township of Ignace would like to recognize and congratulate the outgoing Mayor and Members of Council on the completion of their four-year term, 2022–2026.

Over the past four years, Council has worked together to strengthen our community, encourage economic development, improve municipal infrastructure, build important relationships and position Ignace for future opportunities. Significant progress was also made in bringing the Township's financial reporting up to date, with the audits for the financial years 2019 through 2022 completed and 2023 nearing completion. This was an important undertaking that required considerable time, effort and hard work, helping to restore the Township's financial accountability and establishing a stronger foundation for future financial management.

Through collaboration with Township staff, community organizations, government partners, First Nations and the nuclear industry, many important initiatives, projects and investments have been achieved.

As we reflect on the past four years, we are pleased to highlight some of the accomplishments and milestones achieved during this term.

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1. Economic Development, Housing Initiatives & Community Growth

- Represented Ignace and met with Government Ministers at ROMA, AMO, NOMA and OGRA annual conferences to request support and funding for community development projects.
- Secured $50,000 Rural Ontario Development (ROD) grant funding for economic development initiatives.
- Strengthened local development through the hiring of an Economic Development Generalist.
- Welcomed local business investment, including Evergreen Pharmacy, Home Hardware, Toke House, Snackle Box/Vape House and The Burger Scoop.
- Facilitated development opportunities through surplus property sales and tax sales.
- Negotiated and finalized a subdivision development agreement with Bruno's Contracting.
- Welcomed property developments from Revita/Ignace Cottage Community Inc., North Shore Quality Homes and Benstone Properties.
- Donated land to the Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) for the Seniors' Housing Project.
- Received a development proposal and approved negotiation for an abandoned commercial property on the north side of Highway 17.
- Vested ownership of the abandoned motel property and authorized a commercial real estate appraisal in preparation for posting for sale in the future.
- Took action to address derelict and neglected properties.
- Completed an Aerodrome Study and Housing Study through Loomex.

2. NWMO, Nuclear Industry & Global Recognition

- In partnership with Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (WLON), selected as host community for Canada's first deep geological repository (DGR) for used nuclear fuel.
- Signed an 81-year, $180M+ Hosting Agreement with NWMO, establishing an important milestone in Ignace's future relationship with the nuclear industry and NWMO and ensuring community sustainability for generations to come.
- Began receiving NWMO Hosting Payments and Milestone Payments.
- Represented Ignace at international nuclear industry events and engagements, including:
    - Finland
    - Toronto, Ajax and Pickering
    - Northern Saskatchewan Uranium Mill Tour with Cameco
    - Vienna
    - Korea
    - Calgary Small Modular Reactor (SMR) Conference
    - Learn More Tours
- Maintained annual attendance at the Canadian Nuclear Association (CNA) Conference.
- Engaged Hardy Stevenson and Associates Limited as Peer Review Specialists to assist with the regulatory process, and supported the Government of Canada's proposal to designate the DGR as a project of national interest under the *Building Canada Act*.
- Approved property rezoning for the NWMO Centre of Expertise, a 55,000 sq. ft. facility which will bring 160-200 jobs to Ignace and serve as an international nuclear-industry tourist destination.
- Celebrated the unveiling of the Centre of Expertise design and billboard.
- Achieved international media recognition, including coverage in Japan and Mexico.
- Organized a Nuclear Youth Symposium, welcoming approximately 100 youth from the region.

3. Infrastructure, Public Works & Municipal Improvements

- Completed the Pine Street culvert project with $1.4M in emergency grant funding.
- Initiated key wastewater treatment plant upgrades and awarded $4.8M+ in MHIP – Health and Safety Water Stream (HSWS) grant funding.
- Secured $53K Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program (FHIMP) grant funding to update community floodplain mapping.
- Received $38K Pothole Prevention and Repair Program grant for 2025-2026.
- Completed improvements to Davy Lake Road.
- Repaired fire hydrants and streetlights throughout the community.
- Invested in new Public Works equipment, including:
    - Plow truck/grader and loader
    - Multipurpose sidewalk machine
    - New Public Works pickup trucks
- Completed the 2025 Asset Management Plan to drive long-term maintenance planning.
- Introduced a new electronic sign and implemented an accompanying policy.

4. Financial Management, Funding & Investments

- Achieved a significant turnaround in the Township's financial position.
- Caught up on four years of outstanding audits and Financial Information Returns (FIR) and Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) reporting within the past two years.

- Received 2022 to 2025 Ontario Municipal Partnership Funds (OMPF) from the Province.
- Received Northern Ontario Resource Development Support (NORDS) and Ontario Community Infrastructure Funds (OCIF) from the Province.
- Received Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF)/Build Communities Strong Fund (BCSF) support from the federal government.
- Secured payment of the $10M Discretionary Benefit for infrastructure projects from NWMO.
- Passed a Prudent Investment By-law to facilitate joining the ONE Joint Investment Board.
- Secured Canada Summer Jobs Grant funding to hire four summer students in 2026.
- Facilitated community investments through the Community Well Being Fund and distribution of Near-Term Investment Funds.
- Secured $25K community partnership funding with Hydro One for emergency equipment and launched the Voyent Alert! app for communication with local residents.

5. Community Services, Recreation & Well-Being

- Received $935K Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF) grant for arena roof repairs.
- Awarded $4.8M Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) grant for improvements to the arena exterior, insulation, and ice plant.
- Purchased a tent for community celebrations and events and secured $15K NOHFC event grant for 2026 White Otter Days.
- Expanded White Otter Days celebrations, including a baseball tournament, hockey tournament, street party, Canada Day celebrations, beach bonfire, and activities for families and children.
- Installed new playground equipment at Agimak Beach.
- Funded a new virtual play table, 3D printer and furniture upgrades at Ignace Public Library.
- Supported community groups through the Community Well Being Fund program.
- Hosted joint community celebrations with NWMO.
- Offered three free landfill days per year and welcomed recycling pickup starting in fall 2026.

6. Emergency Services & Public Safety

- Secured $50K in Community Emergency Preparedness Grant (CEPG) funding for fire department.
- Awarded $8K in Fire Protection Grant funding for 2024-2025 and $17K for 2025-2026 for fire department equipment.
- Updated the Emergency Response Plan and facilitated communication during the 2026 wildfire.
- Purchased a new fire truck valued at approximately $840,000.
- In partnership with the OPP, received Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) grant funding.
- Established the Ignace/Ojibway Nation of Saugeen OPP Detachment Board.
- Initiated traffic and crosswalk studies in partnership with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO).
- Improved road safety and traffic management through municipal and MTO initiatives.

7. Governance, Administration & Organizational Improvements

- Completed a reorganization of Council, including two new appointments to fill vacant seats.
- Reviewed and revised Council's committee structure and willingness to serve.
- Developed and implemented a Cyber-Bullying Policy.
- Completed a Municipal Engagement Report and Resolution in partnership with Chela Inc.
- Updated Council and Staff Travel Policy and Remuneration Policy.

- Established a Government Relations Plan and strengthened relationships with Ministers and provincial ministries.
- Recruited and hired key municipal leadership and staff positions, including:
    - Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
    - Clerk/Treasurer
    - Public Works Manager
    - Economic Development Generalist
- Negotiated and implemented a new collective bargaining agreement for 2025-2028.
- Maintained positive labour relations, with no union grievances since 2023.
- Invested in professional development and training opportunities for Township employees.
- Provided media training for all members of Council.
- Launched a new website home page design.

8. Community Engagement, Partnerships & Indigenous Relations

- Established a Community Engagement Committee.
- Strengthened relationships and partnerships with KDMA and KDSB.
- Strengthened the Township's relationship with Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (WLON).
- Developed an Indigenous Reconciliation Policy and implemented Indigenous Awareness Training for all Township staff.
- Hosted the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAAC) and Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) in Ignace on multiple occasions for public engagement.
- Hosted the 2026 KDMA Conference.
- Introduced the INFO IGNACE community newsletter to improve communication with residents.
- Expanded communication through the Corporation of the Township of Ignace Facebook page.
- Continued community engagement through nuclear information sessions, a 2026 Town Hall, and public engagement opportunities.

Looking Ahead

The accomplishments and initiatives highlighted above reflect four years of commitment, collaboration and dedication to the Township of Ignace.

While there is always more work ahead, the progress made during the 2022–2026 term has helped establish important foundations for continued community growth, investment and opportunity.

On behalf of the Township of Ignace, we extend our sincere appreciation to Mayor Baigrie and Councillors Jodie Defeo, John Taddeo, Janet Lett and Wayne Minnear for their time, leadership, hard work and commitment to our community.

Congratulations on a successful four-year term!