



Media Statement

Northern Saskatchewan Visit a Tremendous Success for Ignace Representatives

Learning and educational components of the tour and meetings make big impressions on Ignace officials!

March 14, 2024, Ignace, ON Over the past few days, the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) hosted a group of local Ignace representatives in Northern Saskatchewan to learn more about the underground uranium mine located in McArthur River and the group also met with community and First Nation officials that are impacted by the mine's operations. The overlying objective was to learn more about both regulatory and safety standards associated to the mines and communities that surround their location as well as understand the engagement and public support components of the process undertaken by the nuclear industry in Saskatchewan. McArthur River/Key Lake, which are located in northern Saskatchewan, are the world's largest high-grade uranium mine and mill.

"These past few days in Northern Saskatchewan were incredibly eye-opening for all of our Ignace delegation, as we not only had the opportunity of visiting and touring the underground Cameco uranium mine but had an opportunity to sit and meet with the municipality of Pinehouse, the English River First Nation and SaskPower officials. The information and stories we listened to and learned from our colleagues in this province are important components that directly apply in our process to continue educating our own community in Ignace. The attention that is applied to the safety of the employees and the mines, the regulatory components that have to be addressed by the industry and the overall importance to the well-being of the communities that surround these facilities is overwhelming," stated Mayor Kim Baigrie. "Our ability to meet with and address both the challenges and economic opportunities that arise from the nuclear industry were definite takeaways for the Ignace group, one's that we as a community must also consider and potentially capture, if we indeed become a willing host community for the DGR project in our area", the Mayor went on to state.

The tour of the Cameco Uranium mine at McArthur River lead by their senior officials was an incredible underground experience, whereby the Ignace delegation had the opportunity to witness firsthand the underground mining process of uranium, view the operational monitoring rooms of the facility and walk through the underground catacombs. The tour was preceded by an informative presentation on the uranium ore mining process, the safety and regulatory regulations framework in place, a mine safety review process, and a tour of the employee camp facilities at site.

Over the course of the next two days, the Ignace delegation was provided the opportunity to meet with the Mayor of Pinehouse, one of the closest communities to McArthur River, as well as listened to presentations from SaskPower officials and English River First Nations. The importance of community engagement, public support, duty to consult with First Nations, willingness, and the on-going and consistent communications about upcoming nuclear development in the province of Saskatchewan were paramount to its successful implementation.

The Mayor and Ignace delegation were able to recognize very similar components that continue to be important steps in the willingness process taking place in the community throughout the next few months. It remains critical that opportunities be provided for Ignace residents to be engaged in this process including the upcoming Nuclear Exploration Event on April 12 & 13, as well as the on-going work being conducted locally by With Chela Inc. and the Willingness Ad Hoc Committee.

“Overall, this experience provided all of us with a firsthand overview of the nuclear cycle beginning with the mining operations for high-grade uranium, the safety standards and regulations around the process, and the potential of clean energy utilization, as well as the future requirement for the storage of used nuclear fuel”, stated Councillor Defeo who participated in this visit. “We were also able to gauge the importance of the social and economic impacts of the nuclear industry working with both communities and First Nation partners in a cohesive and collaborative manner”, Defeo went on to state. “The impact/benefit agreements in place with the nuclear industry partners and their host communities is a demonstration of the important balance between social, economic and environmental stewardship”.

The Township of Ignace would like to also formally thank the officials of the Nuclear Waste Management Organization who attended, organized, and facilitated these important learning opportunities for members of our community.

-30-

Media Inquiries:

Jake Pastore,

jakepastore@summitpcg.ca

SUMMIT PCG

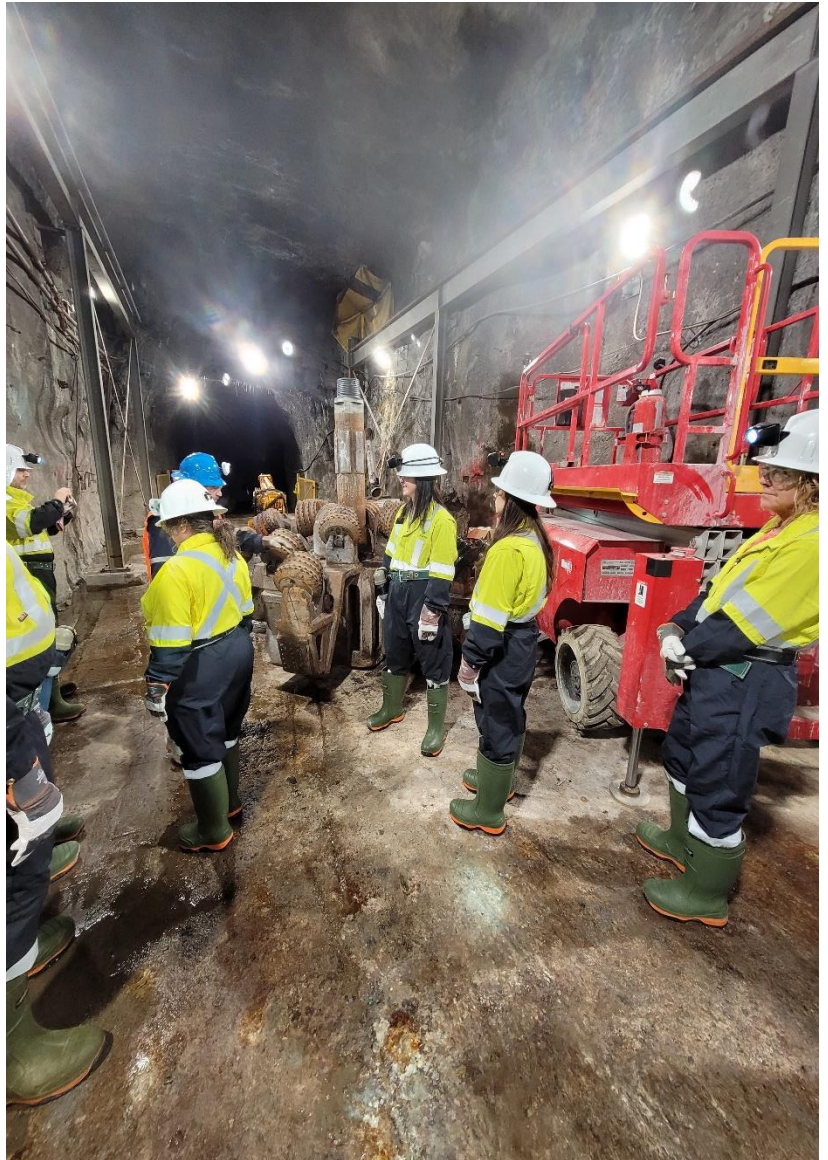
416-508-4389

Members of NWMO, Ignace Township Representatives and Cameco Mine Officials at the 640m level of the McArthur River Uranium Mine



Cameco Mine Officials explain both equipment and mine safety regulations for employees and the environment surrounding the facility.

Ignace Officials meet with members of the English River First Nations



Mayor Mike Natomagam of Pinehouse presents his community story of opportunities and challenges in Northern Saskatchewan to Mayor and the Ignace delegation

