



Press Release

Township of Ignace Begins to Reap the Rewards of Willingness from NWMO

Ignace Officially Receives First Payment Related to Historic March 2024 Hosting Agreement from NWMO!

Ignace ON August 15, 2024 – The Township of Ignace is proudly reporting that it has now received its **\$1.5 Million-dollar** first payment from the Nuclear Waste Management Organization with respect to the obligations set out from the March 18, 2024 Municipal Hosting Agreement. Section 1.1.a of the March 18th agreement outlines that the municipality will be paid \$1,500,000, upon NWMO’s receipt of written confirmation that the Municipality has completed its Willingness Process.

At a Special Meeting of Ignace Council on the afternoon of Wednesday July 10, 2024, Council unanimously endorsed a set of recommendations from the Willingness Ad Hoc Committee and then immediately passed a resolution addressed to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization that indicates that the Township of Ignace is **indeed a willing host community** for their potential siting of a deep geological repository in Northwestern Ontario. This is the first community in Canada that has officially completed its willingness process and has indicated that it will continue in the process to becoming a host to storing Canada’s used nuclear fuel.

The endorsement by Township Council of this recommendation from the Willingness Ad Hoc Committee in no way, either guarantees that the Township will host a deep geological repository for used nuclear fuel, or that a final decision by the NWMO has been made on the actual siting of this multi-billion-dollar project. It simply indicates, through an official resolution to NWMO, that the community of Ignace has undertaken a fulsome willingness process and has now agreed to continue to be a potential willing host towards the decision from NWMO slated for later this year.

“We are proudly the first community in Canada to have indicated our official support and our willingness to continue in the selection process by the NWMO in the potential siting of the DGR project in this area. The residents of the Township of Ignace have spoken loud and clear and we fully respect their direction as a Council, and we clearly have indicated our support through an official resolution to the NWMO,” stated Mayor Kim Baigrie. “This payment, also the first of its kind in Canada, to the Township will no doubt assist the community with both its financial and future planning obligations, but also with the potential to begin leveraging critical provincial and federal dollars for other important infrastructure improvements, housing studies and other Council priorities,” she went on to state.

“We have reached yet another significant milestone with the Township of Ignace,” said Lise Morton, Vice-President of Site Selection at the NWMO. “We congratulate the Township and residents for their official endorsement on July 10, 2024, and the resolution from Council which we have received and as such we are happy to make this important payment to them.”

There are of course many other benefits to potentially hosting the DGR in the area and these included the direct benefits of the March 18, 2024, Agreement between the Township and NWMO and indirectly those that will exceed the community’s economic expectations. If finally selected by the NWMO to host the DGR in this area, the March 18, 2024, agreement will be fully initiated and will provide more benefits to the community of Ignace for generations through the complete life cycle of the DGR project. That agreement is similar to and will replace the current Multi-Year Funding Agreement that is in now in place between the Township and NWMO and will not have to be negotiated each year as well as provides a sustainable and balanced approach to planning for the Township.

In the northwest region, Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (WLON) will also have its own willingness process and the Township of Ignace respects that their decision will also be required to proceed if Northwestern Ontario is selected to host the DGR.

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