



PRESS RELEASE AND PUBLIC STATEMENT

Your Voice, Your Choice!

April 22, 2024, Ignace, ON Mayor and Council of the Township of Ignace today are reinforcing the importance of ensuring that every resident register their choice during the willingness process for the potential hosting of a deep geological repository in the Ignace area. With Chela Inc. is currently working hard to engage as many residents as possible from the Township of Ignace to register and make your voice heard.

Council cannot stress enough the significance of this project to this community. “We as a Mayor and Council for the Township of Ignace want the community, its residents, and ratepayers to fully understand the official position of this Council as we approach the end of our willingness process for the potential siting of a deep geological repository for the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO). As an elected and representative body of the people of the Township of Ignace, we are obligated and dedicated to move forward on this project at the will of the people. This means that if the majority of this community wants to move forward as a willing potential host community, **this Council will honour that decision**, as it will if the majority of the community does not”, stated Mayor Kim Baigrie.

Council expects that the study that is being completed by With Chela Inc., as well as other critical data points and information will be assessed by the Willingness Ad Hoc Committee in the very near future. That committee is expected to provide Township Council with both a recommendation and guidance on the direction of the community with respect to the willingness process. Once Council has officially received all of the pertinent data, results, and information, it will deliberate and make its final decision on the community’s willingness to potentially host the DGR project. There are many points to consider, critical information to assess and results to interpret for Council to make its final decision.

The potential hosting agreement that was signed on **March 18, 2024**, will NOT come into effect until the Township has indicated its willingness, the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway First Nation has indicated its willingness, and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization has chosen Northwest Ontario as their final decision for the licencing and construction of a deep geological repository. That final decision will not be made until the end of 2024 by NWMO. A few points to consider about this agreement:

- The objective and purpose of the agreement will allow the Township to facilitate the DGR project by building capacities through, but not limited to, infrastructure growth, economic development, social and cultural enrichment, governance as well as accommodate the required tasks assigned to the Township through the regulatory process to host this project.
- There are of course many benefits to hosting the DGR in the area and these benefits will exceed the \$170 Million monetary value of this agreement plus the cost of the Centre of Expertise, and thousands of dollars in housing, infrastructure, and capacity building studies to build the Township over the course of many years.

- The Agreement is indexed and will continue to be paid out to the Township of Ignace alongside a Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustment - increases each year. This new agreement provides more direct benefits to the community for generations through the complete life cycle of the DGR project – more than 150 years.

This past week, hundreds from Ignace and all over Canada gathered in the community at the Nuclear Exploration Event. Many voices were heard, but two particular voices stood out. Daila Delescaille and Andi Davenport, two Ignace youth representatives, presented an outstanding position for the youth of Ignace. They articulated and illustrated that this project would not only provide opportunities for the youth in Ignace and surrounding communities, but this type of sustainable growth would enhance the possibilities of new business ventures, eco-tourism, and educational tourism opportunities with the creation of the Centre of Expertise. They stressed the fact that without these types of opportunities, the future of Ignace, its youth, and the community itself could be jeopardized. They continued to present the facts that the trajectory of the community could change dramatically in a positive direction with the influx of opportunities around the DGR project, and it is incumbent upon their generation to ensure sustainable growth under the environmental stewardship of those that will inherit the project in the future.

Council for the Township of Ignace is now poised to make one of the most important and critical decisions of its historical roots in Northwestern Ontario and it is only with the voice of the community that it will either proceed or not.

Regardless of the outcome, Mayor and Council are proud of the participation, engagement, educational processes and interest this community has illustrated in ensuring that they are making an informed based decision on the future of Ignace towards this proposed project. To ensure and enhance opportunities for local residents to further ask any questions, **the NWMO Learn More Centre will be extending their hours of operation from April 26-30, 2024, and will have subject matter experts on hand from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm each of those days.** We are encouraging those with any further questions to drop in, have a coffee and donut or other light refreshments with the specialists and subject matter experts that will be on hand at the office.

Every Ignace resident should remember that they are making this decision for the benefit of their own community, their own family, their own future, and generations yet unborn. They should not be swayed either for or against this project by those who do not live in this community. It is your community, and it is your choice!

Building a stronger tomorrow, by working together as a community today. Let's continue to explore our possibilities!

Mayor Kim Baigrie and Members of Township Council

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