



Press Release

Mayor and Council of the Township of Ignace Honoured to be Chosen by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) to Host Canada's First Deep Geological Repository Project (DGR)

The First of its Kind in Canada.

Ignace ON November 28, 2024 – Today, the Mayor, Council and Senior Officials with the Township of Ignace were informed that the Nuclear Waste Management Organization has indeed **chosen the Township of Ignace/Wabigoon Lake Area to host Canada's first ever Deep Geological Repository** to store used nuclear fuel, a potential \$26 Billion dollar project. Today the Township's Mayor, Council and Staff, the Chief and members of the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation, and Members of both Provincial and Federal Government finally heard the news/decision that has been over fourteen years in the making, a decision that has the potential to alter the future trajectory and landscape of this small community and the entire region.

"We are honoured, we are humbled, and we are so proud to be part of the the first communities, alongside our First Nation partners – Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation- to have been selected by the NWMO to host the DGR project in this area. The residents of the Township of Ignace spoke loudly and clearly this year and strongly indicated our overall support through a very strong mandate and an official resolution to the NWMO. As such, we want to thank the Chief and Members of the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation, who also strongly supported this process and collectively today and into the future, we stand side-by-side to hear this extremely positive news for both of our communities and the entire region", stated Mayor Kim Baigrie.

"Through a constructive process, with integrity, accountability and transparency as our guiding principles, this Township learned, educated ourselves and became an integral component of today's decision by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. In fact, we were also the first community to put up our hand to be considered for this project over fourteen years ago and we should all be proud of our collective success. We appreciate the hard work and municipal engagement at a grass roots level that was undertaken by many volunteers, Council members and staff at the

Township over the course of many years and that got us to this successful point in our history”, Mayor Kim Baigrie went on to state.

“Following more than a decade of engagement and significant community participation, we are pleased that the Township of Ignace was chosen to host the deep geological repository for used nuclear fuel,” said Councillor, Jodie Defeo. “We congratulate the competent and professional staff at the Nuclear Waste Management Organization and of course our team at the Township for reaching this important milestone decision for our area. We admire the leadership, thought and care that has gone into the process to shaping what this project could accomplish in our communities”.

Laurie Swami, President and CEO of the Nuclear Waste Management Organization stated, “Thanks to the thoughtful leadership of Ignace residents, Canada’s used nuclear fuel now has a home. It is not only a safe place to put a repository, but also a location with informed and willing hosts. In considering the future of its community, the Township of Ignace is driving a wide range of benefits for people here and Canada as a whole. We are excited to continue our collaboration with the community as the project moves forward.”

There are of course many benefits to hosting the DGR in the area and these included the direct benefits as outlined on the March 18, 2024, Agreement signed between the Township and NWMO and the indirect benefits that will exceed the community’s economic expectations. Now that the Township of Ignace has been selected by the NWMO to host the DGR in this area, the March 18, 2024, agreement will be immediately 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 renegotiated each year. As well the agreement provides a sustainable and balanced approach to planning for the Township for years to come.

“We would be remiss if we, as a community, didn’t acknowledge and thank the Municipality of South Bruce, their Mayor and Council and the Saugeen Ojibway Nation who participated in this process to be a potential host. We admire your courage and appreciate your support moving forward,” stated Mayor Baigrie.

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All Media Interviews and Inquiries should be directed to:

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