



Public Statement on Behalf of Interim Mayor and Council The Willingness Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee

January 9, 2024, Ignace ON.

Over the past few days, Council for the Township of Ignace has made some important decisions with respect to the **temporary** suspension of the Willingness Committee's activities. The move comes as a recommendation of various stakeholders, collectively working together to ensure a transparent and accountable process is in place to gather, disseminate and analyze information for a community decision-making process later in 2024.

These decisions have, in fact, also been made to improve the quality, depth and skillset of the committee's representation and to improve, align and clarify the roles and responsibilities of this very important community vehicle through a better-defined Terms of Reference. We are making every effort to ensure that we are indeed being inclusive and diverse about the committee's representation. The **temporary** suspension also allows Council the opportunity to re-align the mandate of the committee with the efforts of other stakeholders engaged with the community on this matter and allows for the facilitation and delivery of training to all committee members.

As we continue to actively participate in the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's (NWMO) process of willingness to potentially host a Deep Geological Repository (DGR) in this area, we are making every effort to ensure the inclusiveness of all of the residents of Ignace in this important decision. NO decisions have been made and NO presumed conclusions have been reached by this Council.

Council, alongside its stakeholders, have also hired With Chela Inc., a community engagement specialist, to undertake a study to determine willingness in the Township, and their efforts continue throughout 2024. We encourage you to participate.

Council's commitment to listening to the community and ensuring that every effort is undertaken to educate and learn more about the DGR project is paramount.

We are also making every effort to ensure that our position along the way as a community toward a final decision on this matter is well understood in the media and throughout Northwestern Ontario.

We continue to urge residents with a keen interest in this project to come forward, learn more about the storage of spent nuclear fuel and the process that we are engaged in with the NWMO. Aside from volunteering on the willingness committee, there will be other opportunities throughout the year in 2024 for our residents to step up and learn, including the Nuclear Conference of Canada in Ottawa in February and a potential site visit to other underground storage facilities in Canada. Please apply to the Township office if you are interested in attending this important conference in Ottawa on behalf of Ignace.

There should be no question that this community is gearing up to make an informed, practical, and sound decision in 2024 about its intention to potentially host a deep geological repository in the area. This Council is representative of all of its residents, their views and opinions and their input into this extremely important step of willingness. As a community we will make a decision that could impact generations to come and as such, we encourage you to get involved and help us move this community professionally and progressively forward.

Happy New Year

Interim Mayor and Council

The Township of Ignace