



PUBLIC STATEMENT

Public Statement of Support from Mayor and Council of the Township of Ignace for the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation

Ignace, ON November 18, 2024 - We, the undersigned, express our respect and appreciation for the membership of the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation in their decision to say “yes” regarding their participation in the willingness decision of the potential siting to host a deep geological repository (DGR) within their traditional territory.

We understand that their decision comes after thoughtful and thorough consultation with their community membership, careful consideration of the long-term environmental and social impacts to the lands, and a deep commitment to securing a sustainable future for generations of the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation peoples. The Ojibway Nation has demonstrated an unwavering dedication to responsible stewardship of the land, water and resources, and this decision represents their dedication in determining what is best for their people and the environment.

The proposed DGR, designed to safely store Canada’s used nuclear fuel, presents a unique opportunity for both the Township of Ignace and Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation to exercise self-determination while addressing the pressing environmental stewardship and economic challenges of today for both our community and the land we all live on. We know that the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation and the Township of Ignace have both carefully weighed the potential benefits—including job creation, economic development, and the responsible management of waste, under the strict guidelines, licensing and future regulatory requirements that the NWMO must adhere to —against any possible risks, and they have taken all necessary precautions to ensure the project’s integrity and safety for both our communities and the broader Northwestern region.

It is vital to acknowledge that the Township understands that the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation is its own sovereign Nation with a deep cultural and spiritual connection to the land but also a host, a partner and rightsholder in finding innovative solutions to the challenges of our time. We know that both communities have followed a process that demonstrates our commitment to transparency, engagement with our residents, and the protection of our natural heritage. Our collective decision to engage with nuclear industry leaders, scientists, and the broader public throughout this process further exemplifies our own responsible leadership.

We stand in solidarity with the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation as they take this very important step forward in securing the future of their members and the land while safeguarding the environment for all Canadians. We are confident that this decision reflects the values of integrity, resilience, courage and leadership that define the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation people and community, and we trust that it will be carried out with the highest level of care and respect for the land, water, culture, and for future generations.

The Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation's choice to proceed with this project is a powerful statement of self-determination and sovereignty. We offer our full respect and support, as a Township, as they continue to navigate this important process, and we remain committed to standing with them every step of the way towards the delivery of a successful outcome for both our communities and people.

Signed,

Mayor Kim Baigrie and Members of the Council of the Township of Ignace

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