



PUBLIC STATEMENT – INVITATION TO IGNACE RESIDENTS

Ignace Council Once Again Looking for Local Delegates to Head to Cameco Saskatchewan Uranium Mine

February 1, 2024, Ignace, ON Township Council is once again looking for local delegates who will take part as participants in a tour of a Cameco uranium mine, located in northern Saskatchewan. The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) is hosting a different group of local Ignace participants to learn more about the underground uranium mine located in Saskatchewan and is working closely with Township Council to send its elected officials, community staff and other local residents to the mine on March 11, 2024 for three days and three nights. The delegation is expected to meet with community officials while in northern Saskatchewan and learn more about both regulatory and safety standards associated to the mines and communities that surround their location. McArthur River/Key Lake, located in northern Saskatchewan, are the world's largest high-grade uranium mine and mill.

“These opportunities to view and learn more about the DGR project that is being proposed for our own community are invaluable to us. At the end of the day when we collectively must make a final decision about our willingness to participate in such a project, it will be these types of experiences and educational opportunities that will ultimately guide our discussions and decisions at the local level,” stated Mayor Kim Baigrie. “I am certainly looking forward to attending and having Council and members of the public attend this particular tour and it is important to us, as the Mayor, alongside my Councillor delegates, to have a first-hand experience in understanding uranium mining, the initial stage of the nuclear fuel cycle, as well as learning more about safety and community mitigation at that level,” Baigrie went on to state.

Joanne Jacyk, Site Director, NWMO, understands that there is a lot that can be learned from uranium mining in Saskatchewan that is relevant to the deep geological repository project. “The Cigar Lake uranium deposit has many features, including clay deposits, that parallel those in the proposed DGR,” Jacyk said. “The natural structures and processes have been studied internationally for decades, and the main feature is that there is no indication of the uranium at surface, proving that radionuclides can be contained within favourable geological formations for up to billions of years.”

Cathy Cyr, the new Interim CAO will also be attending this important visit to Cameco’s McArthur River Mine. “As the new Interim CAO for the Township of Ignace, it is so important for me to understand and have firsthand knowledge of this proposed project for Ignace, and this visit to northern Saskatchewan will certainly be enlightening for me in order that I can answer questions for local residents as we move through our willingness process”, stated Ms. Cyr.

The process to select more participants will mirror that undertaken recently for the delegation that travelled to Finland. The Township would like to invite those interested individuals with a keen interest in the Deep Geological Repository project for this area to submit a “letter of interest” to the Township Office to Keith Roseborough at [cgs@ignace.ca](mailto:cds@ignace.ca) no later than **3 pm on Wednesday February 7, 2024**. Or alternatively, those interested individuals can hand-deliver a written “letter of interest” to the Township office within that same timeframe.

The “letter” should include, aside from articulating your objective interest in this mission, answers to the following three questions:

- Why do you believe that you should be selected to join the Ignace delegation to a Cameco mine in Saskatchewan?
- How will you share your experiences from this trip with the community, your neighbours, your family, and friends?
- Do you agree to participate in a public information forum and other events when you return from Saskatchewan?

Once submitted and reviewed by senior staff, a ranked list will be submitted to Ignace Council for review and approval. That decision is expected to be made by February 20, 2024.

In the interim, the willingness process in Ignace continues, with the consultation process by With Chela Inc. and community residents. If you haven’t already, please take time to register for the study, learn more about the willingness process and have your voice heard.

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