



NEWS RELEASE

New Billboard Unveiling the Future Home of the NWMO Centre of Expertise Unveiled This Week

“The Township of Ignace applauds NWMO Centre of Expertise billboard unveiling”

September 29, 2026 IGNACE, Ont. — The Township of Ignace is pleased to congratulate the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) on the unveiling of its new billboard at the future site of the Centre of Expertise in the community.

The billboard marks an important milestone in the development of the Centre of Expertise and offers residents and visitors a visible reminder of the work upcoming and underway to establish Ignace as a centre for knowledge, collaboration and innovation related to Canada’s long-term used nuclear fuel management program including the establishment of the Deep Geological Repository. A request for proposals for the construction of the Centre was released on Aug. 11, and the successful firm is expected to be named in the new year, with construction beginning in 2027.

“The Township of Ignace is proud to see the future Centre of Expertise taking shape in our community,” said]. CAO Aaron Gullins. “This new billboard is a positive and highly visible step forward. We congratulate the NWMO on this unveiling and look forward to continuing our collaborative work for the benefit of Ignace and the region.”

The Township recognizes the importance of keeping the community informed as this initiative progresses and welcomes opportunities for residents to learn more about the Centre of Expertise and its potential to support local partnerships, research and economic development. Designed at approximately 55,000 square feet, the centre will accommodate 160 to 200 NWMO employees. It will include flexible multi-purpose and educational spaces, a design that blends into the natural environment, and an accessible location connected to community amenities.

“The unveiling of this NWMO billboard is much more than the installation of a sign. It represents a visible commitment to Ignace’s future and marks another important step in the development of the NWMO Centre of Expertise, a transformational investment,” said Ignace Mayor Kim Baigrie. “This project will create opportunities, attract talent and innovation, and reinforce Ignace’s role as a leader in nuclear waste stewardship and community partnership.”

In December 2025, the NWMO purchased property just west of the Ignace township offices that is approximately 67 acres, and the centre will occupy about 20 acres of that land.

“We are proud to see this billboard marking the site of our Centre of Expertise,” said Sarah Hirschorn, Vice-President of Projects at the NWMO. “This building will be an NWMO corporate office for a century or more, which is incredible to think about, and we are eager to see this beautiful building in operation with our staff working here.”

The Township of Ignace extends its congratulations to the NWMO and everyone involved in bringing this new community landmark to the site of the future Centre of Expertise. The landscape of Ignace will soon be changing, and this Centre will begin to define new opportunities associated with such an important and vital project to Canada.

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Township of Ignace Mayor Kim Baigrie, Senior Township Staff and NWMO Executive at the site of the Billboard for the Centre of Expertise

