

Press Release

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) and the [Centre of Expertise](#) design team presented information and unveiled the conceptual designs for the major construction project in Ignace.

Two open house events on October 21 gave residents the opportunity to learn more about this state-of-the-art centre and give their feedback. Representatives from the NWMO, supported by CIMA+, Unity Architecture, Warrior Engineering, I4A Architecture, Woodland Heritage Northwest and Scatliff + Miller + Murray discussed the progress of the project and showed the conceptual designs of the approximately 65,000 square foot building. The conceptual designs outlined the current thinking, based on community feedback received over the years, and will evolve based on input from the community in these open house sessions. The engagement kicked off with a presentation to Ignace's Community Engagement Committee, Mayor and township staff.

"Engaging with the community in Ignace and collaborating together on the design is an important step in progressing the development of this exciting opportunity," said Justin Wallbott, Manager of Real Estate Services, NWMO. "The Centre of Expertise will be a multimillion-dollar investment in the area, sparking economic development and new partnerships."

The NWMO has been in discussions with the Township of Ignace since 2019 about the design and use of the centre. A place for world-class science and innovation, the Centre of Expertise will be home to technical and social research and demonstration programs, public viewing galleries, and interactive displays.

As an architectural gem, the Centre of Expertise will be a tourist attraction and a hub for economic development in the area. It will bring new high-value jobs to the community for scientists and experts from a wide variety of disciplines for generations to come.

"The design, development and eventual construction of the NWMO Centre of Expertise in Ignace will be one of the most significant milestones this community has ever seen," said Ignace Mayor Kim Baigre. "We anticipate that over the next two years there will be many new jobs, construction, and overall economic prosperity for both this generation and many more to come. We appreciate the close working relationship with our stakeholders, the input, engagement, and overall contributions to this very significant project and we anticipate many great things for Ignace"

The specific location of the Centre of Expertise is expected to be announced later this year, with construction beginning in 2026, and the grand opening in 2028.

[\[read about the announcement of the Centre of Expertise designers here\]](#)

About the NWMO

Founded in 2002, the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) is a not-for-profit organization tasked with the safe, long-term management of Canada's intermediate- and high-level radioactive waste, in a manner that protects people and the environment for generations to come.

The NWMO has been guided for more than 20 years by a dedicated team of world-class scientists, engineers and Indigenous Knowledge Holders that are developing innovative and collaborative solutions for nuclear waste management.

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