

# Resident Ad Hoc Committee WILLINGNESS SUMMARY

JULY 10, 2024

PRESENTED BY THE WILLINGNESS AD HOC COMMITTEE

ORIGINAL

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## Introduction

The Willingness Ad Hoc Committee would like to recognize and thank the contributions of the groups and predecessors to this Committee who began this work in 2010.

The Willingness Ad Hoc Committee (hereafter Committee) was established on February 20, 2024, as a Committee of Council to determine Ignace residents' willingness to proceed in the process on the possible siting of a deep geological repository (hereafter DGR) for nuclear waste near the community. The Committee was tasked to carry out this role in an unbiased, engaging, and community-minded manner to ensure that all residents had the ability to make an informed decision and express their will towards the possible siting of the DGR. This report, with the Committee's formal recommendation, fulfills the mandate of the Committee as outlined in the Terms of Reference.

## Community Engagement Data Reporting

It was evident that the community was engaged in a variety of ways, including but not limited to, social events, door knocking, phone calls, exploration events, emails, website, and social media. In reviewing and analyzing the numerous tables and graphs in the Community Engagement Data Reporting section, we the Committee have confidence that With Chéla Inc. was inclusive with their process to engage the community.

## Deliberative Democracy in Action and Engagement Event Observations

With Chéla Inc. designed their process based on the Toward a Decision study conducted by Hardy, Stevenson, and Associates in 2021, which was the study that gathered the voices of Ignace residents to determine how they would want the willingness decision to occur. It was clear within "Toward a Decision" that Ignace wanted a deliberative democracy process, that is, for each resident to have the opportunity to voice their choice in the decision-making process through a ballot and, as importantly, by capturing the wide range of viewpoints through interviews, social events, door knocking, phone calls, exploration events, emails, website, and social media. The Committee concluded that the community had the opportunity to be fully engaged based on the evidence presented in the report.

## Qualitative Report

Key words were analyzed in the interviews for patterns and themes that emerged through open ended conversational questions. The qualitative report was a summary of these themes and patterns that arose. Of the Ignace residents who chose to participate in the interviews, there were opinions in favour and opposed to the DGR that were evident. Overall, the committee has established that the qualitative findings in the report are representative of the voices of residents in the Ignace Community.

## Readiness to Choose and Feeling Informed

An important part of the process was determining Ignace residents' ongoing readiness to choose. The report demonstrated a continuous increase in readiness from November of 2023 to the end of April 2024. Of those involved in the process, only 18 residents indicated that they were not ready to choose by the end of the study and 8 of those residents voted during the voting period.

## Voting Process

The residents of Ignace had the opportunity to log a vote online, or in person, between April 26th and April 30th, 2024. With Chéla Inc. went above and beyond to ensure all residents had the opportunity to vote by providing a variety of voting accommodations, such as curbside voting, access translation services, and home visit voting.

## Results

From the **interview results, a majority indicated that they were willing** to continue to participate in the process and to proceed as a potential host community, and **a minority of voices indicated to stop participating in the process** and to opt-out as a potential host community.

From the voting results, where there were an estimated 1035 possible eligible voters, 660 people registered to vote, and 640 people cast a vote as detailed below:

- **495 residents (77.3% voted Yes)** indicated that they were willing to continue to participate in the process and to proceed as a potential host community
- **133 residents (20.8% voted No)** indicated to stop participating in the process and to opt-out as a potential host community
- **12 residents (1.9% Abstained)** indicated that they were indifferent to participating in the process as a potential host community

It is clear from the qualitative and voting results, that the majority of Ignace residents, that participated in the study, are willing to continue to participate in the process and to proceed as a potential host community.

## Recommendations

The Resident Willingness Ad Hoc Committee recommends the following to the Township of Ignace Council:

- To make public and accessible in its entirety, the Ignace Willingness Study Final Report prepared by With Chéla Inc.
- To continue to advocate for socio-economic growth and carefully monitor, enhance and strengthen this aspect of the Host Agreement with NWMO, and actively engage the residents of Ignace in fostering ownership.
- To pass a resolution to continue to participate in the process and to proceed as a potential host community.

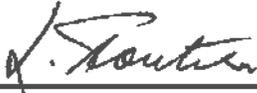
Signatures



Korenia Allison  
Resident Committee Member



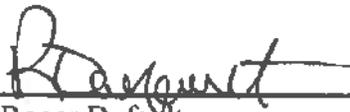
Diana Baril  
Resident Committee Member



Lionel Cloutier  
Resident Committee Member



Paul Dufault  
Resident Committee Member



Roger Dufault  
Ad Hoc Resident Chair



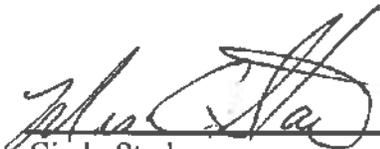
Roy Fuller  
Resident Committee Member



Yvonne Dungey  
Resident Committee Member



Chantal Moore  
Resident Committee Member



Cindy Stark  
Resident Committee Member