



Township of Ignace
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Is Ignace a Willing Community?

Talking and learning are really good things. Everyone has an opinion, and everyone needs to have their say. The community of Ignace, as well as others across the country, have been talking a lot on social media about the proposed deep geological repository (DGR) and whether Ignace should host this project and how willingness will be determined.

We have been learning about this project for over a decade. A decision by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) will be made at the end of 2023. Even if Ignace is willing to host the project, it does not necessarily mean that the project will come here. NWMO must also weigh other protocols relating to safety and transportation.

Moving forward, our willingness journey will help us decide and let NWMO know if Ignace wants to be a host community. The residents of Ignace can only make a decision for Ignace.

Willingness in the form of a referendum will not take place because that is not what the people of Ignace indicated during our initial willingness plan that took place. Over a six-month period last year (May to November 2021), Ignace residents were asked to provide input through many public engagement venues (i.e. events, community “pop-ups”, interviews, and surveys) about how they would like to see willingness proceed. Based on this public input, many community residents felt that not only further learning is needed to make an informed decision about the proposed DGR, but it should also include several public engagement activities to allow residents in having their say.

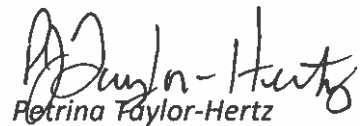
In December 2021, Council approved the next stage of our willingness journey which will involve a series of public engagement activities that will be proposed and undertaken by a third-party consultant – not by NWMO nor the Township of Ignace. In addition, the process undertaken for willingness over the next year will also be evaluated through a peer review committee with members who will be objective (having no ties to this project or community) and have expertise in environmental stewardship, community development, economics, safety, and public engagement/willingness. The Township, through a Working Committee, is presently looking for a consultant and peer review members and hope to have this in place by the end of June 2022.

Starting this summer, we anticipate a series of engagement activities (e.g. door to door surveys, debates, public forums, community surveys) to be undertaken. The community studies that

look at the economic, social, and environmental considerations of the DGR for Ignace and surrounding areas will be finished and presented to the community over the summer and early fall - These studies will help each of us learn about potential community changes, transportation, and safety considerations from the proposed DGR – learning and understanding will help us better in making an informed decision.

Over the next year, the Township of Ignace will advertise the engagement activities both through social media, websites, community bulletins, and posters. Your involvement is important because it is how your say will be recorded (whether you are willing to support the DGR project or not). This is how we come to a collective decision.

It is important that we hear from every resident of Ignace. Whether Ignace Council members are in favour or not in favour of the project, they are required to listen and support OUR collective voice and decision of Ignace residents. Their resolution is based on the residents' voices not their personal views. We look forward in hearing from residents over the next year about this very important decision for our community.



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