



DECEMBER
2025

TOWNSHIP OF IGNACE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating Progress and Partnership with NWMO and the Community



MESSAGE FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

As we close out 2025 and welcome the new year, the Township of Ignace's Mayor, Council and staff extend warm wishes to all residents and visitors in our beautiful community. This season is a time for reflection, gratitude, and community spirit. But it is also a time to look ahead at the bright future we are all creating for this Township. We are proud of the progress we've made together this year—from infrastructure improvements, major announcements, recreation hall upgrades, and significant progress towards both the establishment of the Centre of Expertise and the Deep Geological Repository for our area. As such, we want to end the year by providing a brief recap of the wonderful work and contributions that have come to Ignace and thank so many folks who have contributed to the well being of our community.

On behalf of Council and staff, we thank you for your ongoing support and engagement. Your ideas and participation make Ignace a wonderful place to live, work, and play. May your holidays be filled with joy, and may the new year bring health, happiness, and prosperity.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!



TOWNSHIP OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY
TO FRIDAY
9:00 - 4:30

CONTENT

MESSAGE
FROM
MAYOR AND
COUNCIL

NWMO
FUNDING
SUMMARY

CENTRE OF
EXPERTISE
LOCATION

NUCLEAR
YOUTH
SYMPOSIUM

Free Public Skating

Monday, December 22, 2025

4:00-6:00 p.m. *Sponsored by MCCY*

Making Connections for Children and Youth

Monday, December 29, 2025

5:00-6:30 p.m. *Township of Ignace*

Friday, January 2, 2026

1:00-3:00 p.m. *Sponsored by MCCY*

FRIDAY EVENINGS

January 9 to April 3, 2026

6:30-7:30 p.m. *Sponsored by NWMO*

7:30-8:30 p.m. *Stick & Puck*

Provided by the Township of Ignace



nwmO

NUCLEAR WASTE
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION

SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION
DES DÉCHETS
NUCLÉAIRES

TOWN OFFICE CLOSED DEC. 24 - JAN. 4

INFO IGNACE



LANDFILL HOURS

**CLOSED
MONDAYS**
After Nov. 1

WEDNESDAY
12 - 4 PM
All year

SATURDAY
12 - 4 PM
All year



Supporting Ignace's Growth: The NWMO Multi-Year Funding Agreement and Community Well Being Fund

The Township of Ignace is pleased to share that its ongoing partnership with the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) over the course of the past seven years has helped build strong community support and that past investments made by previous and current Mayors and Councils have paid off. Through a multi-year funding agreement, NWMO has provided significant financial support that has helped Ignace invest in essential infrastructure, donations, local clubs and community projects. A brief summary of the Community Well Being Fund below highlights the investments made each year:

2019	\$23,500 Charitable donations and local support \$220,000 Arena equipment and waste disposal trucks
2020	\$36,200 Charitable donations to Silver Tops and other organizations \$77,000 Arena upgrades, humidifiers and spreader/cutters
2021	\$6,500 Church and Lions Club upgrades \$375,530 Capital assets, library computers and other Township equipment
2022	\$7,500 Local donations and support \$65,500 Local landfill compactors and other Township equipment
2023	\$2,500 Local donations and festivals \$184,000 Trucks, plows, loader, arena equipment
2024	\$12,500 Local charitable donations, events and festival support \$170,000 Playground equipment, electronic sign, Silver Tops equipment
2025	\$88,500 Snowmobile trail groomers, figure skating equipment, charitable donations, Ignace Youth Club trailer, ski equipment, etc.

**These are estimates and summaries. Detailed information is available at the Township office.*

This agreement has already delivered tangible benefits. Recent funding cycles enabled the purchase of critical municipal assets, including a new fire truck valued at nearly \$800,000, a \$54,000 pickup truck, and other equipment upgrades for public works and emergency services. Additional investments have supported improvements to the arena, our library, and other community facilities—projects that enhance quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

Mayor Kim Baigrie emphasized that these funds allowed Ignace to complete high-priority projects without placing an additional burden on taxpayers. The funds have helped leverage new monies from both levels of government. The partnership reflects NWMO's commitment to supporting host communities during Canada's deep geological repository selection process, and other key projects moving forward in the community.

As we move forward, this multi-year funding framework will convert to the Municipal Hosting Agreement but will continue to strengthen Ignace's capacity to grow sustainably and maintain vital services. Council looks forward to working closely with NWMO to ensure these investments benefit the entire community through proper operational and reserve funding accounts. Whether it included the Community Well Being Fund or the Near-Term Investment Fund, the Township of Ignace has spearheaded many local improvements that contributed to a better Ignace.

Looking ahead to 2026, our focus remains on building a vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive Ignace. We will continue working on initiatives that strengthen local services, support economic development, and enhance the quality of life for everyone in our township.

INFO IGNACE

Announcing the NWMO Centre of Expertise



The NWMO Centre of Expertise, which is expected to open in 2028, will be a multimillion-dollar investment and an important landmark and international destination in northwestern Ontario, serving as a hub for collaboration, community engagement and knowledge sharing. The Centre will be located on an approximately 67-acre piece of land directly west of the current Ignace municipal office on Highway 17. The Centre of Expertise was a significant, negotiated commitment that the Township of Ignace included in the hosting agreement that was signed in 2024 to ensure the investments made in association with Canada's used fuel repository support the community in achieving its aspirations for the future.

The Centre for Expertise will be a place for world-class science and innovation and will be home to new high-value jobs in the community, including scientists and experts from a wide variety of disciplines for generations to come. The selection process for a site for the Centre of Expertise was built on criteria that people in the community told us was important. This includes:

- Located within the Township of Ignace limits
- Blends into nature and has strong natural elements
- Located along the main Highway 17 corridor
- Connectivity to other community amenities
- Accessibility and parking



The Centre of Expertise will be developed with input from people in Ignace and Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation. This large property will offer a location for the facility, and NWMO will work collaboratively with Ignace to support the long-term vision for the community to determine what other functions this property could serve.

The announcement of the NWMO Centre of Expertise is a milestone domino that will trigger incredible new advancements and economic prosperity for Ignace starting in 2026.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Regular Meetings - 2nd & 4th Mondays *(No meetings in December)*

Monday, January 12 @ 6:00 p.m. – Multi-Purpose Room & Zoom

Monday, January 26 @ 6:00 p.m. – Multi-Purpose Room & Zoom

Monday, February 9 @ 6:00 p.m. – Multi-Purpose Room & Zoom

Monday, February 23 @ 6:00 p.m. – Multi-Purpose Room & Zoom

Monday, March 9 @ 6:00 p.m. – Multi-Purpose Room & Zoom

Monday, March 23 @ 6:00 p.m. – Multi-Purpose Room & Zoom



INFO IGNACE

New Public Works Equipment

The Township of Ignace is pleased to announce the purchase of a MacLean Municipal Vehicle through Cubex Equipment via their Manitoba office. As a Canadian municipality choosing to buy from a Canadian company, this partnership is especially meaningful.

"Designed and engineered in North America, the MacLean MV6 is a versatile, high horsepower municipal tractor. Designed with simplicity in mind, the MV6 is easy to operate, easy to maintain and overbuilt for durability and longevity," according to the MacLean Engineering website. Further to this, "The MV6 has a quiet cab that offers incredible operator comfort, visibility and ergonomics. The ride is smooth, comfortable and balanced. The 90" turning radius allows for excellent maneuverability in tight areas."



Various attachments are available for the MacLean MV6. The Township of Ignace purchased a 50" snow blower, an angled snow plow blade, a sand spreader, and a rotary brush for sweeping sidewalks. The acquisition of this capital asset was approved with Resolution #2025.01.27.027, using surplus funds from the 2024 budget, and supports the Township's strategic priorities by improving infrastructure maintenance and safety, enhancing beautification and creating civic pride.



January 2026 - Upcoming Engagement Sessions

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) in Ignace

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) will be visiting and engaging with community citizens and residents in January 2026. The Township of Ignace will be planning a Town Hall in early January for the IAAC to visit the community and provide updates and information on the ongoing assessment of the Deep Geological Repository project being planned for the Revell Site west of town. Please keep an eye on the Township website and Facebook page to learn more about these upcoming sessions.

Community Engagement Committee (CEC) of Council 2026

The Community Engagement Committee (CEC) will be meeting early in 2026 to plan and determine community engagement sessions, information sessions, lunches and other local interaction activities throughout the next year. The CEC will be hosting a variety of events throughout the year to ensure that local residents have an opportunity to engage with the committee, provide thoughts and ideas to move forward and are able to provide valuable feedback to Council in 2026 regarding a variety of economic development projects and information flow around the regulatory framework for the Deep Geological Repository and the advancement of the Centre of Expertise.

KDMA 2026 Conference to be held in Ignace

The Kenora District Municipal Association 2026 Conference will be held in Ignace on February 19-21, 2026 at the Recreation Centre. The Township anticipates hosting over 100 municipal officials from the Kenora District and surrounding communities. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Please email clerk@ignace.ca for details.



MAYOR KIM BAIGRIE
(third from left) poses
with representatives
from IAAC and the
Canadian Nuclear Safety
Commission (CNSC) at
the Youth Symposium in
November 2025.

INFO IGNACE

Ignace's First Nuclear Youth Symposium a Huge Success

The Township of Ignace's Community Engagement Committee, alongside Skills Ontario and the Keewatin Patricia District School Board, hosted its inaugural Nuclear Youth Symposium at the Ignace Recreation Hall from November 18-20, 2025.

Approximately 100 grade 9-12 students from Ignace, Pickle Lake and Dryden High School (Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation) assembled in Ignace for three full days of skills development, engagement and learning about future careers in skilled trades and the nuclear industry. This dynamic event was designed to engage, educate, guide and empower youth across the region and in Northwestern Ontario. It spotlighted future job opportunities in the rapidly evolving field of nuclear science and technology as it relates directly to the future construction of the Deep Geological Repository, and created awareness of both direct and indirect job opportunities associated with the construction and operation of the Centre of Expertise in Ignace.

In hosting the Nuclear Youth Symposium 2025, Township leaders underlined the municipality's dedication to fostering the next generation of skilled professionals and ensuring the region's youth are prepared for the opportunities of tomorrow within the Township and throughout the region. The Nuclear Youth Symposium was also supported by the Keewatin Patricia District School Board, which dedicated student time and resources toward moving this very important initiative forward.



Through interactive workshops, panel discussions, and hands-on demonstrations, student participants explored the latest advancements in used nuclear technology, transportation, skilled trades and their critical role in Canada's clean energy transition. The symposium also guided participants in an exercise to create a Youth Development Plan, which will be presented to Township Council as a component of the ongoing assembly of its Strategic Plan. A full report will be provided to Township Council, and the Youth Strategy will be presented by a local teenage delegate in late January 2026.



INFO IGNACE

Celebrating the Season of Holiday Giving

The NWMO was proud to contribute to the season of giving, supporting a wide range of holiday initiatives that brought joy and connection to communities across Northwestern Ontario:



- Turkey Drive (Ignace)
- Stuff a Cruiser Event
- Upsala Home Support Annual Seniors Christmas Social
- Dryden Library Holiday Tree Donation
- 2nd Annual Jingle & Mingle Meat Draw (Royal Canadian Legion, Dryden)
- Christmas Cheer Packages (Patricia Region Senior Services)
- Dryden Festival of Trees
- Grade 7 & 8 Holiday Family Dance (Ignace School)
- Community Christmas Hamper Delivery (Ignace)
- Atikokan Christmas Cheer Fund
- Community Support Centre Northwest (Dryden)
- Machin Area Helping Hands
- Chukuni Christmas Cheer Board (Red Lake)
- Salvation Army Kenora
- Lions Club Gift Giving Program (Pickle Lake)
- Friendly Circle of Wabigoon & Area
- Upsala Fire Department

NWMO Upcoming Education Events

Join NWMO at these upcoming events to learn more about 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.

- January 18-20, 2026 Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference, Toronto
- January 28, 2026 Prosperity Northwest, Thunder Bay

Or visit us at the Ignace Learn More Centre at 304 Main Street, Ignace, Ontario.

INFO IGNACE

NWMO STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Chantelle Gascon

Chantelle Gascon is the **Manager, Municipal Relations** at the Nuclear Waste Management Organization and a lifelong resident of Ignace. She joined the NWMO in 2018 in the role of Community Liaison Manager, after more than eight years at the Corporation of the Township of Ignace, working with the municipality in various roles.

As the Municipal Relations Manager, Chantelle is responsible for leading and planning the NWMO's interactions with the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (WLON) and Ignace communities. With a strong focus on developing positive relationships, she invites opportunities for shared planning with leadership, organizations and residents to help build capacity for the Deep Geological Repository (DGR) project, so we make a positive impact on the community and region together.

Please drop by the Ignace Learn More Centre for a conversation, or reach out to Chantelle at cgascon@nwmo.ca.



TOWNSHIP STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Isabelle Colby

The Township of Ignace is pleased to welcome Isabelle Colby back to the position of **Recreation Programmer**. Isabelle is a lifelong resident of Ignace and is excited to resume planning recreation events and activities for residents of all ages! A big **THANK YOU** to **Junilaine Ponsones-Tronrud**, who filled the Recreation Programmer position for 18 months during Isabelle's leave.

If you are interested in booking the Arena or Recreation Centre halls, need volunteer hours, have ideas for recreation programs, or want more information about the White Otter Days hockey and baseball tournaments, please contact Isabelle at recprogrammer@ignace.ca or call or text her at (807) 938-7749.



CHANTELLE GASCON
Municipal Relations
Manager



ISABELLE COLBY
Recreation Programmer



INFO IGNACE



Holiday Hours

Township of Ignace
Residential & Commercial

Garbage Pickup

NO PICKUP on Statutory Holidays

☒ Thursday, December 25, 2025
Merry Christmas!

☒ Thursday, January 1, 2026
Happy New Year!

Due to the holidays,
residential and
commercial garbage
will be picked up on:

MONDAY
December 29, 2025

FRIDAY
January 2, 2026



Be a Good Neighbour: Shovel Your Snow

This is a friendly reminder that snow is not permitted to be shovelled across the road or onto municipal or private property, even if it is vacant. As per By-law 13.2022, there is a potential fine of \$100 to \$200 for this action. Please push excess snow to the sides of your own driveway.



CONTACT US

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General Inquiries: info@ignace.ca

Visit us online at www.ignace.ca for more information, to see our upcoming Council agendas, and to watch our upcoming Regular Meetings of Council via Zoom.

