



IGNACE

Willingness Engagement Team

Dear Resident,

As you may have heard, the Township Council has arrived at a milestone after more than ten years of interaction with the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) for the potential siting of a Deep Geological Repository (DGR) of used nuclear fuel near Ignace Ontario..

The Township has hired us, a specialized team of community engagement professionals, to conduct a Willingness Study, so that the residents of Ignace can have their say about the siting project and the opportunity to explain why. Council committed to the willingness process and followed through when they asked us, an Eastern Ontario-based firm, With Chéla Inc, to take the lead.

What is a Willingness Study?

The Willingness Study is a formal and structured process that will capture the voice and choice of residents about continuing to progress with the NWMO and potential site-selection.

When will it take place?

The study will be carried out between November 2023 and June 2024, with local opportunities offered in November 2023, January and March 2024.

Why would we do it?

The Township Council is dedicated to learning what the community thinks about the proposed DGR project and is committed to a process of transparent and open communication with residents as facilitated by our team.

Who will choose, and how?

The Township Council will make the final decision about the willingness to host the DGR near Ignace in the end.

Council's decision will be supported by the data-driven reports from our team that will clearly outline the community position regarding willingness.

The Ignace Community Liaison Committee will bring forth the recommendation from our team to Ignace Town Council.

“There is nothing more important to me and the team than to offer every resident an opportunity to be heard, their voice captured, and their reasons understood. That’s why we chose our slogan - Your Voice, Your Choice. It says it all. We are here to be that neutral party who can bring clarity to the leaders because the resident perspective was deeply honoured.”

- Chéla Breckon, Engagement Team Lead

What will be offered?

Residents will have the opportunity to engage with us and the study in three specific ways;

- Informal interactions - Community events, access support to navigate the study, or social gatherings
- Facilitated interactions - Discussion groups, panels, or focus groups
- Formal interactions - Digital tool to log your choice and provide input

We are taking steps to ensure all residents can participate in each of these opportunities in ways that are most accessible to them.

What’s next?

During the first weeks of November 2023, residents will receive an email and/or letter from us to let them know that they are Willingness Study Resident Participants. That email and/or letter will contain clear instructions on how to register and participate.

The Engagement Team will be in town November 24th - 27th offering opportunities to engage and support residents to navigate the study.

Check out the pages of our website yourchoiceignace.ca to learn more and expect to receive updates each month.

We are working for the residents of Ignace and look forward to the community conversations where Ignace residents can clearly state their voice and their choice.

We’re all ears!

Our best,

The Engagement Team
With Chéla Inc.

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