

The NWMO's Municipal Forum



The NWMO's Municipal Forum provides vital advice on municipal perspectives and processes to help guide engagement and outreach on Canada's plan

The Municipal Forum makes a vital contribution to implementing Canada's plan and guiding the work of the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO).

» **The NWMO is responsible for implementing Canada's plan for safe, long-term care of Canada's used nuclear fuel. The plan, called Adaptive Phased Management (APM), involves containing the used fuel deep underground in an area that has suitable rock and an informed and willing host.**

In implementing the plan, the NWMO works collaboratively with municipalities and First Nation and Métis communities, respectful of their perspectives, priorities and processes.

The Municipal Forum was established in 2009 in collaboration with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the voice of municipal government across Canada. The forum is an assembly of municipal association representatives with experience and expertise on municipal issues and challenges.

The Municipal Forum helps the NWMO to:

- » Incorporate best practices when communicating with local governments and associations,
- » Broaden its awareness-building activities and municipal outreach both in the nuclear provinces and nationally, and
- » Understand the needs and practices of municipalities that are considering hosting this national infrastructure project.

These are essential components of implementing APM.



Important Contributions

Since its inception, the Municipal Forum has taken a critical role in helping the NWMO develop processes and programs to support municipal participation. The Forum's contributions include:

- » Advising on outreach and engagement programs to facilitate municipal learning about Canada's plan
- » Helping design the site-selection process
- » Helping with capacity-building
- » Contributing to information and learning materials, including pamphlets, brochures, newsletters, updates and videos
- » Helping develop and review resource programs
- » Advising on the NWMO's Early Skills and Education program
- » Guiding the roadmap for early transportation planning

Municipal Forum members have given their own time in order to learn about Canada's plan for used nuclear fuel and the context in which it exists. They have toured an interim waste management facility and the NWMO's Oakville proof test facility. They have also attended conferences, where a broad range of experts have gathered to discuss used fuel management both in Canada and internationally. Examples include the International Conference on Geological Repositories in 2012 and the Canadian Nuclear Society conference in 2016.

These contributions have been invaluable in enabling the NWMO to continue to engage municipalities as the site selection process proceeds.

Advancing Municipal Outreach

As municipal association leaders in provinces in the nuclear fuel cycle, the Forum facilitates a link to hundreds of municipal governments, including:

- » The Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities
- » The Cities of New Brunswick Association
- » The Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- » The Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association
- » The Ontario Small Urban Municipalities
- » The Rural Ontario Municipal Association
- » The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities
- » The Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association
- » The Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick

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