



NUCLEAR WASTE
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION

SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION
DES DÉCHETS
NUCLÉAIRES



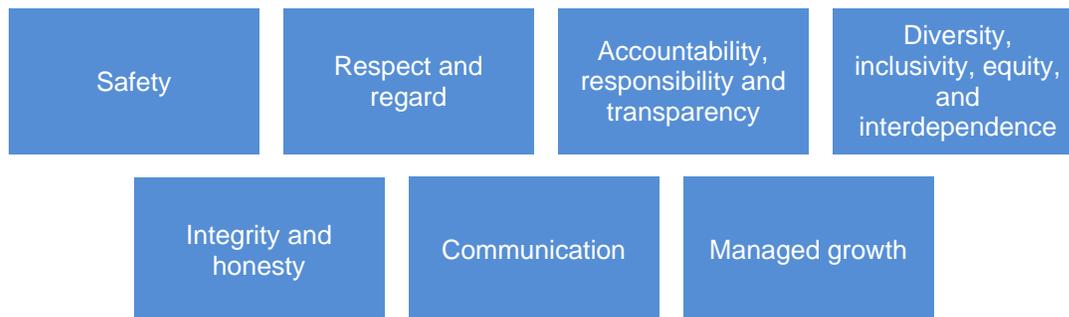
June 2018

Guiding principles for exploring partnership – Community conversations update

Over the past several months, a series of engagement activities were conducted in Ignace. Their focus was to develop a set of principles that will guide the way we talk together and further explore the Adaptive Phased Management project. This is important as we begin a new phase of more detailed exploration of the project.

The principles will help guide community and NWMO discussions to explore what it would mean if the Adaptive Phased Management project were implemented in Ignace, including how we might come together in a partnership to implement the project. Over time, these discussions will also need to involve First Nation and Métis communities, as well as others in the area.

Values and principles to guide discussions



Summary of activities and community discussions about principles

Purpose of these community discussions

Ignace is one of several communities in Ontario learning about Canada's plan for the safe, long-term management of used nuclear fuel (Adaptive Phased Management), and exploring the possibility of hosting the associated deep geological repository, Centre of Expertise and other project components.

Since 2010, Ignace has been involved in a process of learning about the project and assessing whether it could be a good fit for the community, as part of the site selection process led by the NWMO. Preliminary studies conducted to date suggest the project has the potential to be implemented safely in the Ignace area, and align with Ignace's future plans – including vision, mission, guiding principles, and goals for the community – as outlined in the Township of Ignace 2015-2019 Strategic Plan.

Ignace and the NWMO are working together to begin more detailed discussions to explore, over the next several years, what it would mean if the project were to be implemented in the community.

The purpose of these recently completed community engagement activities was to develop guiding values and principles to set the groundwork for these more detailed conversations. These values and principles will set the foundation for the way in which Ignace and the NWMO will talk and work with each other during more detailed conversations about the project.

Exploring the potential for partnership

The project will only be implemented at a site that meets robust safety criteria. Once safety criteria have been met, the ability to develop a supportive partnership is an important consideration in selecting a preferred location for the project. This partnership would need to begin with Ignace, and also seek involvement of First Nation and Métis communities and others in the area.

In order to explore the potential for partnership, this next phase of more detailed discussions will consider how the project might be configured in order to align with Ignace's priorities and objectives. It will also explore the investments that could be made in the near term and the longer term associated with the project, and how the broader area would be involved.

Ultimately, the project will only be implemented in the area if a safe site for the repository can be identified, if Ignace is willing, and if a supportive partnership can be developed.

Engaging the community

Over the past several months, the NWMO and the community of Ignace have worked together to develop draft values and principles to guide discussions and future decision-making between Ignace and the NWMO as we continue to explore the project. To do this, the Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee (ICNLC) set up a subgroup that was made up of the economic development manager, acting clerk/administrator, chair of the ICNLC, coordinator of the ICNLC, mayor, and NWMO staff. Over two meetings in fall 2017, the subgroup developed a work plan that called for the establishment of a working group made up of the subgroup, and community members from health care, education, protection services, spiritual/faith, business, tourism, seniors, youth, and recreation. The working group was brought together to develop an initial set of values and principles, and propose a list of engagement activities that would provide the community with a variety of opportunities to review and provide input. Through two meetings in early 2018, the working group developed a set of draft values and principles on which to seek community input.

An open house at the Learn More Centre started the feedback process, and was publicly advertised through the Ignace Driftwood newspaper, online through Facebook, and through a community mail out sent via direct mail to all property owners in the township. Members of the public were invited to attend the open house where they could meet with NWMO staff and learn about the project in general. A workbook on the draft values and principles was offered to everyone. People were invited to provide their immediate feedback verbally, and/or written feedback and leave it at the Learn More Centre or email it to the NWMO by May 1.

In addition to the open house, NWMO staff met with several small local groups and organizations to provide an opportunity to give input on the values and principles. By reaching out across the community, including seniors and school children, the feedback includes perspectives from a wide range of groups. During meetings, NWMO staff provided a brief project overview and presented a summary of the township's involvement in the project to date. Working group members and NWMO staff collaboratively explained the importance of partnership for selecting a preferred site for the project and outlined the nature of discussions that are planned over the next several years.

Following the presentations, some groups reflected on the values and principles as a whole, using the workbook and question sheet as tools. This material was collaboratively developed in advance by the working group and NWMO staff. Feedback was taken throughout the group discussions, including comments and priorities that emerged during the group's review of the values and principles. Note takers were present to record the comments and suggestions. In addition to the community meetings, some residents shared their comments by sending in comments and questions via email.

A third working group meeting was held to discuss the public feedback and finalization of the values and principles.

Focus of discussion

The values and principles emerged from community discussions around the following questions:

1. Values and principles are important because they will guide the way Ignace and the NWMO talk and work with each other during more detailed conversations about the project. What values or principles – i.e., rules or requirements – should guide discussions and future decision-making between Ignace and the NWMO? Why are these values and principles important?
2. What should we avoid doing while having partnership discussions?
3. Other suggestions or rules that should be considered?

The values and principles that first emerged were then the focus of further discussion at a community open house using the following queries:

1. Have we covered what is most important? Are there important values and principles that should be added?
2. Each value and principle has a short description. Can you suggest refinements to these descriptions that would make them clearer or the principles stronger?
3. Do you have any other comments or suggestions?

Initiatives for gathering community input took place on the following dates:

Sept. 27, 2017 Partnership planning subgroup meeting #1
Oct. 30, 2017 Partnership planning subgroup meeting #2
Jan. 15, 2018 Partnership planning subgroup meeting #3
Feb. 15, 2018 Partnership working group meeting #1
March 27, 2018 Partnership working group meeting #2
April 18, 2018 Publicly advertised community open house
April 19, 2018 Badminton Club breakfast, Silver Tops luncheon,
Ignace Area Business Association meeting
April 24, 2018 Ignace healthy working group meeting
April 27, 2018 Loonie Lunch Ladies
May 1, 2018 Grades 7 and 8 class at Ignace School
May 1, 2018 Ignace Recreation Committee meeting
May 16, 2018 Partnership working group meeting #3

Values and principles identified by the community

The following values and principles emerged from these community conversations to guide discussions and future decision-making between Ignace and the NWMO as we continue to explore the project.

Safety	Respect and regard	Accountability, responsibility and transparency	Diversity, inclusivity, equity, and interdependence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on nuclear safety needs to be backed by science. • Safety is an all-encompassing parameter for the project and community. • Safety messaging must be ongoing; people still need to learn and be comfortable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community must be acknowledged, and its well-being respected. • Ignace as a community should be recognized for its leadership on this project. • Community residents are encouraged to learn, be informed, and be open to change and new ideas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountability among partners is essential for a strong partnership. • Communication among partners must be open, upfront and informative. • The NWMO needs to hear and acknowledge community aspirations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The engagement of community members, and in particular youth, is essential to prepare them for future employment opportunities. • The social, economic and cultural aspirations of Ignace are fundamentally intertwined with the surrounding region. • Community hospitality is a defining characteristic and huge strength of Ignace.

Integrity and honesty	Communication	Managed growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trust requires honest information. • Trust, honesty and respect are essential for sustainable relationships. • Commitments will be honoured. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping people informed must be ongoing, and we should use a variety of media and social media platforms. • Project information must be distributed evenly across the community. • The community must have the information necessary to enable informed decisions. • Communication needs to be clear, concise and easily understood by everyone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ignace requires assistance to build capacity through training and physical infrastructure. • Ignace has a family feel; the community is gentle and generous – these qualities should not be lost. • The community needs to be sustainable.

Next steps

With these guiding values and principles as a foundation, next steps involve getting into the details of the individual facilities and components associated with the project. This will help build community understanding of the project and its various components. It will also pave the way for reflecting on where facilities might be located in the area, investments that would be required in the near and longer term to support implementation of the project, and how others in the area might be involved if the project were implemented in the area.

Ongoing engagement, discussions and learning may suggest refinements to these principles over time. These principles will be reviewed and refined as needed through these detailed discussions.

Other comments

During the engagement activities, people also shared suggestions on next steps, and how to get more people involved in learning and discussions.

- Increase the accessibility of information through graphics and easy-to-understand literature, and through Frequently Asked Questions style documents. Tailor messaging to various audiences such as seniors and youth.
- Build understanding of the project and the environment, especially relating to groundwater and fishing.
- Increase availability of information related to borehole drilling and updates.
- Build understanding of the role and opportunities related to the Centre of Expertise, and how social and economic sustainability can be addressed through project facilities/components and investments.
- Increase proactive engagement to foster community understanding of, and involvement in, the project. Reach out to community groups and individuals; do not wait for them to come to the NWMO.
- Build understanding of the needs of the community, including the unique circumstances of seniors and youth.
- Build understanding of the need for the project and why the interim storage of today is not a long-term solution.
- Build understanding of the project steps that lie ahead, including regional engagement, agreement making, nature of agreements and the persons involved, project implications for property values, and potential uses for the supporting project facilities and manufacturing plants after closure.

Learn more

Review the history of Ignace's involvement in the site selection process:
www.nwmo.ca/en/Site-selection/Study-Areas/Ignace-and-Area

Review the Township of Ignace 2015-2019 Strategic Plan:
<http://town.ignace.on.ca/content/public-notice>

Review the activities of the Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee:
<http://clcinfo.ca/ignace>

Read about the NWMO, Canada's plan and the site selection process: www.nwmo.ca