

# Report of NWMO's Elders' Forum 4

**NWMO DR-2008-01**

**June 3-6, 2008**

**Joanne Barnaby**

**nwmo**

NUCLEAR WASTE  
MANAGEMENT  
ORGANIZATION

SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION  
DES DÉCHETS  
NUCLÉAIRES



**Nuclear Waste Management Organization**  
22 St. Clair Avenue East, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4T 2S3  
Canada

Tel: 416-934-9814  
Web: [www.nwmo.ca](http://www.nwmo.ca)

## **Nuclear Waste Management Organization**

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) was established in 2002 by Ontario Power Generation Inc., Hydro- Québec and New Brunswick Power Corporation in accordance with the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act (NFWA)* to assume responsibility for the long-term management of Canada's used nuclear fuel.

NWMO's first mandate was to study options for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. On June 14, 2007, the Government of Canada selected the NWMO's recommendation for Adaptive Phased Management (APM). The NWMO now has the mandate to implement the Government's decision.

Technically, Adaptive Phased Management (APM) has as its end-point the isolation and containment of used nuclear fuel in a deep repository constructed in a suitable rock formation. Collaboration, continuous learning and adaptability will underpin our implementation of the plan which will unfold over many decades, subject to extensive oversight and regulatory approvals.

## **NWMO Dialogue Reports**

The work of the NWMO is premised on the understanding that citizens have the right to know about and participate in discussions and decisions that affect their quality of life, including the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. Citizens bring special insight and expertise which result in better decisions. Decisions about safety and risk are properly societal decisions and for this reason the priorities and concerns of a broad diversity of citizens, particularly those most affected, need to be taken into account throughout the process. A critical component of APM is the inclusive and collaborative process of dialogue and decision-making through the phases of implementation.

In order to ensure that the implementation of APM reflects the values, concerns and expectations of citizens at each step along the way, the NWMO plans to initiate a broad range of activities. For each of these activities, reports are prepared by those who designed and conducted the work. This document is one such report. The nature and conduct of our activities is expected to change over time, as best practices evolve and the needs and preferences of citizens with respect to dialogue on nuclear waste management questions is better understood. The NWMO expects to engage citizens in a variety of ways, including:

- Workshops, roundtables and multi-party dialogues
- Public attitude research
- E-Dialogues
- Public information and discussion sessions.

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### Disclaimer:

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*Report of*

*Elders' Forum 4*

*Waskesiu (Prince Albert National Park),  
Saskatchewan*

*June 4-6, 2008*

*Convened by*

*The Nuclear Waste Management Organization*

Prepared by  
Joanne Barnaby,  
Forum Facilitator and  
Rapporteur

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## *NWMO Elders' Forum 4*

### **1. Introduction**

The NWMO Aboriginal dialogue regarding the long-term care of Canada's used nuclear fuel began in 2003. Since then NWMO has hosted a series of meetings and dialogues with Aboriginal people at various levels and supported the development of an 'Elder's Forum'. The 2008 Elder's Forum was the fourth meeting of this group which is composed of elders from across Canada, these elders are accompanied by youth of their choice (see Participant list – Appendix 1).

Following the selection in June 2007 by the Government of Canada of the NWMO recommendation, Adaptive Phased Management, the Elders' Forum Working Group, Niigani, has focused its efforts on its advice to the NWMO as it lays the foundation for implementing the approach. Niigani has prepared a Mission Statement, Principles, and Objectives that would provide clarity for the role of the Elder's Forum and Niigani in their work with the NWMO. Niigani also assisted the NWMO in enhancing its understanding and sensitivity to Aboriginal concerns and perspectives in the development of its work with Aboriginal peoples as it implements Adaptive Phased Management. The Mission Statement, Principles and Objectives were brought to the 2008 Forum and were accepted (see Appendix 3). It was recognized as providing a starting point from which the NWMO Aboriginal policy discussion could move forward.

The primary objectives of the 2008 Forum were:

1. To finalize the Niigani Mission Statement, Principles and Objectives;
2. To provide direction on the guiding protocols in the development of a NWMO Aboriginal policy;
3. To provide a training opportunity on the nuclear fuel cycle at the request of the 2007 Forum;
4. To provide feedback to participants on work the NWMO has implemented on advice from the Elders' Forum.

NWMO had a strong presence at the meeting which included President Ken Nash, Board Chair Gary Kugler, Board Members Ron Jamieson and Deborah Poff, and Advisory Council Members Donald Obonsawin and Marlyn Cook, together with 6 staff members. This presence was viewed by Forum members as a good indication of the commitment of the NWMO to Aboriginal issues.

This report highlights key Forum recommendations flowing from an in-camera session for the development of an Aboriginal Policy and outlines some of the questions and concerns raised by participants regarding the work and mandate of NWMO. The report is not

presented as minutes but rather highlights the key messages, decisions and recommendations.

### **Format of the Forum**

The opening welcome included special guests Gary Arcand, who spoke on behalf of Chief Lawrence Joseph of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and Robert Doucette – who brought greetings as President of the Métis Nation Saskatchewan. Other guests included Mike Natomagan, Mayor, Pinehouse, and Councillors Vince Natomagan and Greg Ross and Secretary, Max Morin, Métis Nation Saskatchewan.

The evening before the Forum started, a Sweat Lodge Ceremony was offered by local elder Henry Felix. Henry together with his son Albert and his brother Jake continued to ensure that local cultural protocols were followed by providing four Pipe ceremonies throughout the week. The Forum clearly benefited from these prayers offered during the various ceremonies that were conducted.

The youth delegates met and discussed their role in the Forum. This meeting provided members with the opportunity to share their experience with new comers and to identify the benefits of learning from the Elders as well as learning about the challenges associated with nuclear waste management.

At the request of the Elders' Forum 3 in 2007, a training session was held (see Appendix 4) and participants were given the opportunity to ask both technical and policy questions.

Presentations on the Traditional Knowledge of the Prince Albert Territory and on Treaties were made by Elder Bill Ermine. Bill challenged Canada to honour its commitments to Indigenous peoples and was able to demonstrate effectively through his oral presentation, the lack of integrity in this historic relationship. Métis leader and Forum member Allan Morin provided an historic overview of their struggles and spoke about the importance of unity and respect between aboriginal peoples.

Niigani Chair, Gordon Williams reported on the work of Niigani, (the Elder's Forum Working Group) which highlighted the final preparations of the Mission Statement; the cross-cultural educational program conducted by members of Niigani for NWMO Board and staff; the ongoing assistance and advice Niigani members provide the NWMO; and the meetings held in 2007 with the Board and Advisory Committee.

Following an *in-camera* session during which Forum participants developed their advice to the NWMO on guiding protocols for an Aboriginal Policy and an open discussion on this advice with the NWMO, the final Forum session was lead by Dr. Marlyn Cook who shared her experience with the challenges of blending traditional healing practices with western medicine. Her presentation and presence on the Advisory Council demonstrates a major challenge shared by all Forum participants who recognize both the benefits and challenges of bringing traditional knowledge and western science together in a constructive manner.



## 2. NWMO Update

President Ken Nash reported on the work of the NWMO since the last Elders' Forum and the assistance that Niigani has provided. Part of the capacity building of the organization is in building relationships with indigenous people. The NWMO, with the help of Donna Augustine and Mary Richard (Niigani members), held a training session for 35 NWMO staff on Aboriginal culture and Governance.

The NWMO is also working toward a better understanding of interweaving Western Science with Traditional Knowledge. This year, NWMO technical staff has been invited to participate in a traditional fish camp in the North and a workshop on this topic will be held in the Fall.

Building relationships at all levels is important and the NWMO has been working to do this with national and provincial Aboriginal organizations. Agreements have been made or are in the process of being discussed between the NWMO and Aboriginal groups. These agreements are designed to help them support their members as they become involved with the NWMO and to build their internal capacities to continue their support. In addition the NWMO provides information meetings with communities and groups when requested.

Work is proceeding on the development of culturally appropriate communication material. Ken Nash noted that in the work of the NWMO it is a given that the Deep Geological Repository must be safe for people and the environment and it must be built in a willing, informed host community. The NWMO will respect all treaties, rights and land claims. The protection of traditional knowledge is raised by all Aboriginal groups and is an area in which the NWMO will continue to respect the holders of this knowledge and will learn more about how it can be protected as Adaptive Phased Management is implemented. The President concluded by inviting the Elders' Forum to give the NWMO advice on protocols to help guide the NWMO Aboriginal Policy in development this year.

## 3. Developing an Aboriginal Policy

While previous Forums provided guidance and general recommendations, the 2008 Forum was the first to focus on the challenge of developing a formal policy to guide NWMO in its relationships with Aboriginal communities. This report draws from the results of this focused discussion. While acknowledging that NWMO must go through its own governing procedures to establish policy, Forum members emphasized the importance of continued Aboriginal engagement in the process. Through an *in camera session* followed by a presentation to NWMO, the Elders' Forum developed their thoughts on the key elements and principles for the NWMO Aboriginal Policy. Through this session they brought

together the elements of their mission statement and the unique viewpoint of Aboriginal peoples in providing advice to the NWMO. These elements and principles are summarized in the following sections.

## **Key Elements of a Policy**

### **Respectful Relationships with First Nations, Inuit and Métis of Canada**

- The Forum recommends that NWMO recognize that Aboriginal peoples have existing governments that work in partnership with other levels of government and commits to dealing with these governments in a co-operative and respectful manner. NWMO should respect and honour the protocols established by these governments while ensuring that the 'whole' community has the opportunity to be involved in any decisions affecting them and should make special efforts to ensure that elders, youth and women have been provided effective opportunities to deliberate.
- NWMO has established the Elder's Forum and should commit to an ongoing program that ensures the continued opportunity for existing and future members to advise them through all phases of planning and implementation of the nuclear waste management process.

### **Duty to Consult**

- The 'Duty to Consult' must be defined and the NWMO should commit to negotiating framework agreements with Aboriginal communities actively engaged in the consideration of waste management sites which sets out the specific consultation procedures to be followed in that community.
- In addition, similar agreements on consultation need to be struck with regional and national Aboriginal organizations which ensure that consideration of impacts beyond individual communities are addressed.
- Timelines must be reasonable to allow Aboriginal people to review terms and assess them against their own needs.
- Consultation and engagement has to be at the community level as well as at the political level.
- Once a site has been selected the agreement should clearly set out the role of the local community(s) affected. The Forum recommends that the role of aboriginal

governments and a group such as the Elder's Forum in monitoring and management should be considered in these agreements.

## **Dispute Resolution**

- NWMO should ensure that fair and equitable dispute resolution mechanisms are part of any agreements reached with Aboriginal peoples dealing with the site selection process or the management of sites into the future.

## **Different Circumstances - Different Needs**

- Canada's Aboriginal population is diverse; there are different cultural communities, political groups and organizations -each with unique needs and perspectives. The NWMO will need to recognize this diversity and the need for flexibility in order to work effectively within each of these areas.
- The Forum recommends the continuation of the cultural education program for NWMO board and staff which should increase and be more specific as site selection proceeds.

## **Aboriginal and Treaty Rights**

- NWMO has acknowledged that it will respect Aboriginal and treaty rights protected by Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, and should commit to ensuring that it does not impede or derogate from these rights.
- Compensation for storage of waste on Aboriginal lands should be included in NWMO's agreements with communities in the future. This may take the form of examples such as shared resource revenue or royalties.
- The rights of harvesters and trappers must be recognized and accommodation made for any use of their traditional areas.

## **Traditional Knowledge**

- NWMO must commit to respect and honour the traditional knowledge of Aboriginal peoples that it interacts with. The Elder's Forum recognizes that traditional knowledge encompasses knowledge that is derived from experience passed on from generation to generation but also that another level of knowledge is derived from spiritual sources. NWMO should develop a comprehensive policy that sets out how

each source of knowledge will be respected through consent procedures, guidelines for honouring, interpreting and using traditional knowledge.

- Ethical guidelines are required to ensure research is conducted in a respectful manner.
- NWMO should continue to expand its' traditional knowledge educational program to develop the capacity to communicate effectively across western science and traditional knowledge.

## **Traditional Ceremonies and Spiritual Practices**

- Recognizing that people have different spiritual beliefs and practices, NWMO should continue to honour Aboriginal spiritual practices and ceremonies that may be offered from time to time through the site selection and management phases. The NWMO will also need to acknowledge and honour the diversity of spiritual beliefs and practices of people within communities.

## **Capacity Building**

- NWMO is committed to communities making informed decisions and recognizes that Aboriginal peoples require significant capacity building to achieve a high level of confidence in the choices they will need to make regarding nuclear waste management. The Elder's Forum recommends significant investment in educational programs that are proven effective in Aboriginal communities.
- The Forum recommends that funding support for independent research be made available for those communities considering storage on or near their traditional lands
- Steps should be taken now to prepare for Aboriginal participation in an ongoing monitoring program

## **Recommended Principles**

That the NWMO commit to:

- ✓ *meaningful aboriginal involvement in NWMO decisions affecting aboriginal peoples*
- ✓ *education and capacity building to ensure informed choices can be made by aboriginal communities*
- ✓ *honouring the special relationship aboriginal peoples have with the natural environment and the stewardship responsibilities that go with it*

- ✓ *sharing the aboriginal values and practices that actively consider future generations, their safety and needs*
- ✓ *an open and honest relationship with Aboriginal peoples and will not withhold any information associated with any aspects of nuclear waste management including health and environmental risks, state of the art knowledge and limitations of science and technology, and employment and business opportunities*

#### **4. General Comments and Concerns**

Throughout the Forum, discussion covered a number of topics. The record of these Forum discussions has been organized into the following themes.

##### **Knowledge**

Elders reiterated the importance of extensive research and sound knowledge in addressing this potentially risky challenge. Such research needs to be focused on safeguarding people and the environment.

They view the very differences between traditional knowledge and western science as a source of strength, the challenge is to communicate effectively between the two knowledge systems. Forum members encourage science to learn from nature and those who value nature.

##### **Accountability and Transparency**

Participants were concerned that the political interference recently experienced at Chalk River, where the federal government overruled the safety regulator and re-opened the facility, might be a precedent with the NWMO. They counselled taking steps to ensure that this will not happen.

To ensure that there is full transparency, the Elders Forum members recommend that they be informed of all agreements made with Aboriginal organizations.

##### **Organizational Development**

There was a suggestion that more women need to be involved in Niigani as they have a particular perspective and set of responsibilities that are unique. In some First Nations, women have specific responsibility to consider the impacts on future generations, in others; they have the authority to screen leadership candidates.

There is a need for a greater presence of the NWMO in the provinces, 'storefront offices' should be planned to increase access to information and engagement.

### **Technical Training and Capacity Building**

There was interest in understanding how global warming may affect a repository, and the possible impact of increasing temperature of the earth as you go deeper underground.

The decommissioning and sealing process needs to be better understood and Forum members are interested in visiting waste facilities in other countries to understand the development of a deep geological repository.

People are confused about how heavy water is neutralized and suggest this to be presented in a way people can relate to.

### **Management Challenges**

Members recognize that a big challenge to managing nuclear waste is fear; people are scared of the unknown. They emphasized the importance of public education as well as culturally relevant education in Aboriginal communities. Some encouraged the use of the alternatives to nuclear energy however they noted the problems involved in such energy sources as the tar sands, in order to help put the risks and environmental dangers in perspective.

Comments about Adaptive Phased Management included the recognition that this employs the recommendations of the Forum, based on the traditional practice of taking precautionary steps when there is uncertainty about outcomes and focusing on creating certainty through research and development.

### **Spirituality**

The discomfort of one member who was raised with Christianity brought out the importance of recognizing that there are different beliefs and ways of praying and that all should be respected.

Several Elders shared their beliefs including visions that had meaning for the work of the Forum and the use of specific ceremonies to consult with the spirit world on important matters.

## **5. Conclusion**

The forum achieved all of the objectives set out. Participants were provided an update and with reports on progress made regarding prior recommendations of the Forum. They were able to discuss the future of the NWMO with the President and the Board Chair and continue the work of building a relationship with the Board and Advisory Council.

They were able to finalize the Mission Statement and provide Niigani with the clarity required to move forward. Forum members participated fully in the training sessions and had very relevant questions about the nuclear fuel management cycle. And significantly, they provided the advice and recommendations for the development of a NWMO Aboriginal policy as requested. Participation in the traditional ceremonies was particularly strong.

## Appendix 1

**NWMO ELDERS' FORUM 4  
PARTICIPANT LIST**

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Community</b>
Lindsay	Amahoose	Bonnyville, AB
<b>Donna</b>	<b>Augustine</b>	<b>Rexton, NB</b>
Ozzy	Claire	Rexton, NB
<b>Gwen</b>	<b>Bear</b>	<b>Fredericton, NB</b>
Roy	Bois	Eabametoong First Nation, ON
<b>John</b>	<b>Boyce</b>	<b>Eabametoong First Nation, ON</b>
<b>Elmer</b>	<b>Courchene</b>	<b>Pine Falls, MB</b>
<b>Francis</b>	<b>Dumais</b>	<b>Bonnyville, AB</b>
Jim	Favel, Jr.	Ile-a-la-Crosse, SK
<b>Angus</b>	<b>Gardiner</b>	<b>Ile-a-la-Crosse, SK</b>
Helen	Jacob	Eabametoong First Nation, ON
Chris	Lafontaine	Regina, SK
<b>Vianney</b>	<b>Laliberte</b>	<b>Ile-a-la-Crosse, SK</b>
Amber	Laliberte	Ile-a-la-Crosse, SK
<b>Tom</b>	<b>Mattinas Sr.</b>	<b>Calstock, ON</b>
Travis	Mattinas	Calstock, ON
<b>Micheal</b>	<b>McGuire</b>	<b>Thunder Bay, ON</b>
Veronica	McGuire	Thunder Bay, ON
<b>Madeline</b>	<b>Meeseetawageesic</b>	<b>Eabametoong First Nation, ON</b>
<b>Allan</b>	<b>Morin</b>	<b>Ile-a-la-Crosse, SK</b>
Melanie	Nepinak	Winnipeg, MB
Krista	Peterson	Fredericton, NB
<b>Mary</b>	<b>Richard</b>	<b>Winnipeg, MB</b>
<b>Jim</b>	<b>Sinclair</b>	<b>Regina Beach, SK</b>
<b>Billy</b>	<b>Two Rivers</b>	<b>Kahnawake, QC</b>
<b>Gordon</b>	<b>Williams</b>	<b>Ottawa, ON</b>
<b>NWMO</b>		
Gary	Kugler	Chair, NWMO Board of Directors
Ron	Jamieson	NWMO Board of Directors
Deborah	Poff	NWMO Board of Directors
Ken	Nash	President, NWMO
Marlyn	Cook	NWMO Advisory Council
Donald	Obonsawin	NWMO Advisory Council
Pat	Patton	Manager, Engagement & Aboriginal Relations
Paul	Gierszewski	Manager, Repository Safety
Cynthia	Jourdain	Engagement & Communications
Jessica	Cornelius	Trainee, Engagement & Communications
Brian	Gillingham	Summer Project staff
Mahogany	McGuire	Summer Project staff
<b>Facilitator</b>		
Joanne	Barnaby	Joanne Barnaby Consulting

\*Elders' names are in Bold

**Regrets:**

<b>Eli Angiyou, Akulivik, QC</b>	<b>Margaret LaBillois, Eel River Bar, NB</b>
Simon Aliqu, Akulivik, QC	Holly LaBillois, Eel River Bar, NB
<b>Jim Favel, Ile-a-la Cross, SK</b>	Mary Magiskan, Thunder Bay, ON
<b>Bill Flett, Winnipeg, MB</b>	<b>Josephine Mandamin, Thunder Bay, ON</b>
Tasha Kaye, Winnipeg, MB	

## Appendix 2

### NWMO Elders' Forum 4

## AGENDA

### Development of Guiding Protocols in NWMO Engagement with Aboriginal Peoples

June 4, 5, 6, 2008

Waskesiu, SK (Prince Albert National Park)

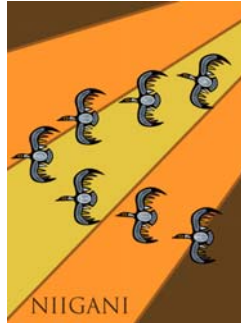
Time	Agenda Item	Speaker/Lead	Notes on Agenda Item
<b>TUESDAY, JUNE 3<sup>rd</sup></b>			
<b>Arrival in afternoon</b>			
3:00 pm	Depart Waskesiu for the Sweat Lodge Ceremony		The Sweat Lodge Ceremony is an optional activity
4:00 pm	Sweat Lodge Ceremony	Henry Felix	
7:30 pm	Dinner		
<b>DAY 1 – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4<sup>th</sup></b>			
<b>Breakfast</b>			
9:00 am	Pipe Ceremony	Henry Felix	
<b>12:00 Lunch</b>			
1:00 – 2:00	Training Session The Nuclear Fuel Cycle, NWMO and Adaptive Phased Management	Paul Gierszewski & Pat Patton	Topics based on areas of interest identified by Elders & youth
<b>2:00 Break</b>			
2:15-3:15	Training Session – The Nuclear Fuel Cycle, NWMO and Adaptive Phased Management (Continued)	Paul Gierszewski & Pat Patton	
<b>3:15 Break</b>			
3:30 – 4:00	Training Session – The Nuclear Fuel Cycle, NWMO and Adaptive Phased Management (Continued)	Paul Gierszewski & Pat Patton	
4:30 – 5:30	Youth Meeting	Pat Patton	



<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Dinner – BBQ</b>		
7:30 pm	Opening Ceremonies Welcome and Opening Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ken Nash, President, NWMO</li> <li>Gary Kugler, Chair, NWMO Board of Directors</li> <li>Gary Arcand, Elders' Advisor, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations</li> <li>Robert Doucette, President, Métis Nation-Saskatchewan</li> <li>Gordon Williams, Chair, Niigani</li> </ul>	
	Social Evening		
<b>DAY 2 – THURSDAY, JUNE 5<sup>th</sup></b>			
<b>7:00am</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>		
8:00	Pipe Ceremony	Henry Felix	
9:00	Traditional Knowledge of Prince Albert Territory	Bill Ermine Sr.	
9:30	Treaties of Prince Albert Area	Bill Ermine Sr.	
<b>10:00</b>	<b>Break</b>		
10:15	Niigani report to Elders' Forum on activities since August 2007	Gordon Williams & Niigani members	
11:15	NWMO invites guidance for development of NWMO Aboriginal Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Circle – Comments and Questions</li> </ul>	Ken Nash	Ken Nash will provide background information and invite Elders' Forum advice on protocols to guide the development of NWMO Aboriginal Policy
<b>12:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>		
1:30-3:00	Elders and Youth <i>in camera</i>	Gordon Williams	Discussion for advice for NWMO on Guiding Protocols for NWMO's Aboriginal Policy
<b>3:00</b>	<b>Break</b>		
3:30 – 4:30	Advice on Guiding Protocols - Discussion with NWMO	Gordon Williams	Report from the <i>In Camera</i> meeting
5:00	Pipe Ceremony	Henry Felix	
<b>6:30</b>	<b>Dinner and Social Evening</b>		
<b>DAY 3 – FRIDAY, JUNE 6<sup>th</sup></b>			
<b>7:30am</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>		
8:30	Hand Drum Song	Henry Felix & Jake Felix	
9:00	Traditional Healing & Western Medicine	Dr. Marlyn Cook	Family Physician with Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Department of Health  Member of NWMO Advisory Council
10:20	Closing Remarks		
10:30	Closing Pipe Ceremony	Henry Felix	
11:00	Departure		

## Appendix 3 Elder's Forum Mission Statement

### **NIIGANI**



#### **Mission Statement**

*“Protect and preserve all creation: air, land, water, plants, medicines, animals and human kind – guided by the seven universal teachings of love, trust, sharing, honesty, humility, respect and wisdom.”*

#### **Principles**

- 1) **Niigani will advise the NWMO on Aboriginal protocols to allow the NWMO to work with and consult Aboriginal communities.** Aboriginal rights and treaties are protected by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. The Supreme Court of Canada has affirmed that the honour of the Crown requires consultation with Aboriginal people whenever any of the Crown's actions are likely to interfere with Aboriginal or Treaty rights.

Niigani will advise the NWMO on Aboriginal protocols that will allow the NWMO to work with and consult with Aboriginal communities. The advice of Niigani will not be viewed by NWMO as meeting the requirement of the duty to consult\*. The NWMO will respect Aboriginal rights, treaties and land claims in its work with Aboriginal peoples.

- 2) **Work to develop long-term partnership.** The primary role of Niigani is to develop a process to assist the creation of a partnership between Aboriginal communities and the NWMO for the long-term management of nuclear fuel.
- 3) **Work is wholistic/holistic.** Niigani will follow a wholistic/holistic approach of respecting Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal protocols .

- 4) **Membership of Niigani is based on individual knowledge and experience; this relationship will work to develop the capacity of both the NWMO and the members of Niigani.** Niigani is a non-political group of people that speak as individuals bringing Aboriginal collective knowledge to the NWMO.
- 5) **Capacity building.** Niigani will function to benefit the work of NWMO and Aboriginal communities.

*\*It is understood that the interpretation of the duty to consult will evolve over time as a result of cases decided through the court system, for example, Mikesew Cree Nation v Canada, November 2005.*

### **Objectives**

- 1) To assist NWMO and Aboriginal people's preparedness for the approach indicated in Adaptive Phased Management that was approved by the Federal Government
- 2) To enhance NWMO understanding and sensitivity to Aboriginal cultural ways of thinking and practices (world view) and to develop cross-cultural thinking between NWMO and Aboriginal communities in the long-term management of used nuclear fuel and to develop knowledge and understanding among members of Niigani of the long-term management of used nuclear fuel;
- 3) To enhance NWMO understanding of the goals and aspirations of Aboriginal peoples with respect to the long term management of used nuclear fuel;
- 4) To provide advice on interweaving and balancing Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge into NWMO's scientific reasoning and processes; and
- 5) To advise NWMO on how to communicate and engage with Aboriginal people at national, regional and community levels.
- 6) To advise the NWMO on promoting opportunities for Aboriginal youth to pursue careers that will make it possible to participate in the work of the NWMO. .

## Appendix 4

# Training Presentation Outline

1. The Nuclear Fuel Cycle
2. Safe Management of Radioactive Waste
3. NWMO and Adaptive Phased Management
4. Repository Development
5. International Program