

# **Congress of Aboriginal Peoples**

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## **Third Interim Report**

July 2005

## **OVERVIEW**

### *Nationally*

- On-going work of a steering committee;
- On-going liaison with NWMO;
- On-going briefing of affiliate leadership and CAP Executive;
- Distribution of information to affiliates;
- Distribution of NWMO publications including the Draft Study Report;
- Research on issues related to the nuclear fuel waste issues;
- Compilation of commentary on the Draft Study Report;
- Collection and analysis of questionnaires; and
- News releases to Aboriginal community newspapers.

### *Regionally*

- On-going liaison with Regional coordinators designated in each CAP affiliate;
- Ongoing briefing of affiliate leadership;
- Review of materials distributed by NWMO;
- Liaison with CAP coordination team; and
- Follow-up to the Regional dialogue meetings

## **REGIONAL DIALOGUES**

- Agreements prepared and signed between CAP and its affiliate organizations;
- Information distributed to CAPs affiliate organizations;
- Attendance at various affiliate dialogue sessions;
- Affiliate organization leadership briefed on the issue;
- Affiliate representatives met with NWMO; and
- CAP executive briefed on the issue.

### **Congress of Aboriginal Peoples Workshop - NWMO Draft Study Report**

On June 17, 2005 CAP held a workshop to discuss NWMO's Draft Study Report. Participants included key informants from all the CAP affiliates. All participants received information relevant to the nuclear fuel waste issue and met face-to-face with Tony Hodge, NWMO official in charge of the Aboriginal dialogue. During the afternoon session, participants heard arguments from Dr. Gordon Edwards of the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility in regard to the Draft Study Report.

### ***Native Council of Prince Edward Island –***

Native Council of Prince Edward Island (NCPEI) signed an agreement with CAP to undertake a dialogue process from December 2004 to May 31, 2005. Issues for discussion included the three technical methods: 1) deep geological disposal in the Canadian Shield; 2) Storage at nuclear reactor sites; and 3) centralized storage, either above or below ground. NCPEI provided key observations regarding NWMO's discussion document #2 *Understanding the Choices*. On February 5, 2005 a dialogue session was held at the University of Prince Edward Island. NWMO official Mike Krizanc attended and met face-to-face with NCPEI participants. During the reporting period, NCPEI was in contact with various media in Atlantic Canada and this attracted interest in the overall agenda. Finally, NCPEI participated in the CAP steering committee meeting and the CAP workshop for key informants on June 17, 2005. During the reporting period, the questionnaire was designed and reviewed by CAP affiliates. This tool assisted in conducting the dialogue and sharing our opinions and views on the critical issue of nuclear fuel waste. Questionnaires were distributed, completed and returned to the CAP national office.

### ***Aboriginal Council of Manitoba –***

During the reporting period, Aboriginal Council of Manitoba (ACM) reached a draft agreement with CAP. No specific funding had been provided for their participation by NWMO to CAP. ACM received funding from CAP and distributed NWMO information to participants. In addition, ACM provided comments on NWMO's publication *Understanding the Choices*. Finally, ACM participated in the CAP steering committee meeting and the CAP workshop for key informants on June 17, 2005. During the reporting period, the questionnaire was designed and reviewed by ACM. This tool assisted in conducting the dialogue and sharing our opinions and views on the critical issue of nuclear fuel waste. Questionnaires were distributed, completed by ACM and returned to the CAP national office.

### ***Labrador Metis Nation –***

Labrador Metis Nation (LMN) signed an agreement with CAP to undertake a dialogue process from December 2004 to May 31, 2005. Issues for discussion included the three technical methods: 1) deep geological disposal in the Canadian Shield; 2) Storage at nuclear reactor sites; and 3) centralized storage, either above or below ground. On February 26, 2005 a dialogue session was held at the LMN Annual General Assembly in Goose Bay, Labrador. NWMO official Tony Hodge attended and met face-to-face with LMN participants. There was a presentation by Daniel LeBlanc from the Atlantic Canada Energy Coalition. Finally, LMN participated in the CAP steering committee meeting and the CAP workshop for key informants on June 17, 2005.

### ***New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council –***

New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council (NBAPC) signed an agreement with CAP to undertake a dialogue process from December 2004 to May 31, 2005. Issues for discussion included the three technical methods: 1) deep geological disposal in the Canadian Shield; 2) Storage at nuclear reactor sites; and 3) centralized storage, either above or below ground. NBAPC provided key observations regarding NWMO's discussion document #2 *Understanding the Choices*. On February 26, 2005 a dialogue session was held at the Lord Beaverbrook Hotel in Fredericton, NB. NWMO official Mike Krizanc attended and met face-to-face with NBAPC participants. During the reporting period, NBAPC was in contact with various media in Atlantic Canada. In addition, NBAPC created a page on their website devoted to the nuclear fuel waste issue. Finally, NBAPC participated in the CAP steering committee meeting and the CAP workshop for key informants on June 17, 2005. During the reporting period, the questionnaire was designed and reviewed by NBAPC. This tool assisted in conducting the dialogue and sharing our opinions and views on the critical issue of nuclear fuel waste. Questionnaires were distributed to NBAPC membership, completed and returned to the CAP national office.

### ***Federation of Newfoundland Indians –***

Federation of Newfoundland Indians (FNI) signed an agreement with CAP to undertake a dialogue process from December 2004 to May 31, 2005. Issues for discussion included the three technical methods: 1) deep geological disposal in the Canadian Shield; 2) Storage at nuclear reactor sites; and 3) centralized storage, either above or below ground. FNI provided key observations regarding NWMO's discussion document #2 *Understanding the Choices*. FNI funded nine Band councils in Newfoundland to undertake distribution of information and dialogue among their membership using the questionnaire prepared by CAP. This process was approved by the Board of Directors as a method to seek input from the membership on the nuclear fuel waste issue. The FNI issued a press release to various media outlets in Newfoundland and Chief Brendan Sheppard undertook an interview with Chris O'Neal Yates on CBC Radio. The issue was also covered in the FNI publication *Mi'Kmak News* which is distributed to membership householders throughout the province. During the reporting period, the questionnaire was designed and reviewed by FNI. This tool assisted in conducting the dialogue and sharing our opinions and views on the critical issue of nuclear fuel waste. Questionnaires were distributed by FNI, completed and returned to the CAP national office.

### ***United Native Nations –***

United Native Nations (UNN) signed an agreement with CAP to undertake a dialogue process from December 2004 to May 31, 2005. Issues for discussion included the three technical methods: 1) deep geological disposal in the Canadian Shield; 2) Storage at nuclear reactor sites; and 3) centralized storage, either above or below ground. UNN

provided key observations regarding NWMO's discussion document #2 *Understanding the Choices*. On March 29, 2005 a dialogue session was held at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre. This session received a presentation from NWMO official Mike Krizanc. A traditional dance from the traditional mother and grandmothers drum group took place. Media were sent information concerning the event and posters were distributed throughout the downtown eastside. Mike Krizanc attended and met face-to-face with UNN participants. UNN participated in both the CAP steering committee meeting and the CAP workshop for key informants on June 17, 2005. During the reporting period, the questionnaire was designed and reviewed by UNN. This tool assisted in conducting the dialogue and sharing our opinions and views on the critical issue of nuclear fuel waste. Questionnaires were distributed by UNN, completed and returned to the CAP national office.

#### ***Native Council of Nova Scotia –***

Native Council of Nova Scotia (NCNS) signed an agreement with CAP to undertake a dialogue process from December 2004 to May 31, 2005. Issues for discussion included the three technical methods: 1) deep geological disposal in the Canadian Shield; 2) Storage at nuclear reactor sites; and 3) centralized storage, either above or below ground. NCPEI provided key observations regarding NWMO's discussion document #2 *Understanding the Choices*. During the reporting period, NCNS was in contact with various media in Atlantic Canada. NCNS produced a special edition of their quarterly newsletter *Taliaq* devoted to the issue of uranium nuclear waste management. The publication contained comprehensive information on the issue from the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act* to the information produced by NWMO. Copies of the newsletter were shipped to CAP's affiliates across Canada to assist them in their dialogue. The CAP questionnaire was attached to the NCNS special edition newsletter. NCNS participated in both the CAP steering committee meeting and the CAP workshop for key informants on June 17, 2005. During the reporting period, the questionnaire was designed and reviewed by NCNS. This tool assisted in conducting the dialogue and sharing our opinions and views on the critical issue of nuclear fuel waste. Questionnaires were distributed by NCNS, completed and returned to the CAP national office.

#### ***CAP Western Office –***

The CAP Western Office signed an agreement with CAP to undertake a dialogue process from December 2004 to May 31, 2005. Issues for discussion included the three technical methods: 1) deep geological disposal in the Canadian Shield; 2) Storage at nuclear reactor sites; and 3) centralized storage, either above or below ground. NCPEI provided key observations regarding NWMO's discussion document #2 *Understanding the Choices*. On January 14, 2005, the CAP Western office hosted a dialogue session at the W.R. Castell Central Library in Calgary. NWMO official Mike Krizanc attended and met face-to-face with participants. Questionnaires were distributed, completed and returned to the CAP national office.

***CAP National Youth Council –***

The CAP National Youth Council (NYC) has taken an active interest in the nuclear fuel waste issue. On April 14, 2005 a special session of the council was devoted to the issue. Our youth heard various presentations and were guided through the issue by an Elder from the Algonquin nation. Questionnaires were distributed and returned to CAP. Communications with various youth representatives were carried out via email.

***Extension of Agreements***

Due to the late arrival of the NWMO Draft Study Report, all agreements with affiliates were extended by 30 days.