




# Community Conversations on Partnership

Setting the Groundwork for Exploring Next Steps



**nwmo**

NUCLEAR WASTE  
MANAGEMENT  
ORGANIZATION

SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION  
DES DÉCHETS  
NUCLÉAIRES



**MANITOWADGE**  
ONTARIO • CANADA

What are the values and principles that should guide these more detailed discussions about the project?

Manitouwadge is one of several communities in Ontario exploring the possibility of hosting the deep geological repository, Centre of Expertise, and other facilities that are part of Canada's plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. The project is referred to as Adaptive Phased Management (APM).

Since 2012, Manitouwadge 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 Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO).

Preliminary studies conducted to date suggest the APM project can be implemented safely in the Manitouwadge area, and the project has the potential to align with the long-term objectives of the community.

Manitouwadge and the NWMO are now at the point of beginning collaborative discussions to look at the project in more detail, to understand more clearly what it would mean if the project were implemented in the area, and how the project might be configured to fit with community and area's priorities and objectives. Ultimately, the project will only proceed with the involvement of Manitouwadge, First Nation and Métis communities in the area, and surrounding communities working in partnership to implement it.

The community conversations we are starting today are intended to help set the groundwork for these discussions. Values and principles are important because they will guide the way Manitouwadge and the NWMO work with each other during more detailed conversations about the project.

*What are the values and principles that should guide these more detailed discussions between Manitouwadge and the NWMO?* For example, values and principles might include the commitment to all ideas being considered, the need to report regularly to community members to ensure transparency, treating benefit to the community as paramount, and engaging in the spirit of mutual respect.

Once we establish the values and principles to guide the partnership discussion, the next step would be to explore in detail:

- the various components of the project and how these components might fit within the community or be distributed in a broader area;
- the involvement of neighbours and partners in the implementation of this large project and how to engage them;
- the investments in the area that would be needed to support the project; and
- coming together finally in the development of a plan for how the project would be implemented if the area was selected to host the project and it decided to do so.

Throughout, we will develop a clear picture of the benefits for the community and area and any challenges or risks. We have time to consider this carefully over the next several years.

To help get the conversations started, we have identified a few discussion questions.

## **Background Information:**

### **A. Our Shared Responsibility**

Canada has been generating electricity from nuclear power for more than half a century. Nuclear power has been a significant source of Ontario's electricity for several decades and is currently responsible for more than 60 per cent of Ontario's power. One of the legacies of this electricity production is used nuclear fuel, which is a compact, solid material that needs to be contained and isolated from people and the environment, essentially indefinitely.

Canada, like many other countries around the world, has a plan for the safe, long-term management of used nuclear fuel. It will ensure the used fuel can be kept separate from people and the environment without needing anyone to actively take care of it. The plan uses the best science and learnings from nature and natural systems. It is recognized internationally as the best approach.

There are currently just under 2.7 million used nuclear fuel bundles safely stored in interim storage facilities that require long-term management.

Canada's plan was developed in dialogue with a broad cross-section of Canadians and Indigenous peoples across the country (2002-2005). The Government of Canada selected APM as Canada's plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. The starting point for this plan is that this generation is taking responsibility for the management of the waste it has created and is not leaving it as a burden to future generations.

### **B. The Plan**

APM has as its end point a deep geological repository that will safely contain and isolate Canada's used nuclear fuel. An extended monitoring period and a repository design that allows retrievability are key components. APM also includes a management system that is based on phased and adaptive decision-making supported by sustained engagement of people and communities throughout implementation. It also includes continuous learning to ensure we are responsive to advances in technology, research, Indigenous Knowledge, and societal values.

The project consists of surface facilities as well as the repository, which must be located in a suitable rock formation. Some of the surface facilities could be located directly above the repository or dispersed within the region, depending on the communities' desires and preferences.

A national Centre of Expertise will be an important part of the project. The Centre of Expertise will be located in or near the area selected to host the deep geological repository. The centre's key purpose initially will be to support the multi-year program of technical testing and verification, and to support ongoing planning and discussion with community members. It would later be expanded to support construction and operation of the deep geological repository. Important aspects of the centre will be developed collaboratively with the community. The Centre of Expertise will be home to active technical and social research, and a technology demonstration program. It will involve scientists

and other specialists in a wide variety of disciplines, including geoscience, engineering, and environmental, socio-economic, and cultural impact assessment. The centre will become a hub for knowledge sharing across Canada and internationally. The high level of international collaboration will be expanded as the centre welcomes scientists and visitors from other countries who wish to benefit from the work being led at Canada's national facility.

This national infrastructure project involves an expenditure of approximately \$23.6 billion (2015 \$). It will be an engine for economic activity across an area involving sustained employment and investment over many decades.

### C. The Site Selection Process

Since 2010, the NWMO has been working collaboratively with interested communities to identify a single site where Canada's used nuclear fuel can be safely and securely contained and isolated over the long term. The initiative to begin to explore the suitability of areas has come from communities that expressed interest in learning more about the project. Their expressions of interest began a process of technical studies that identified potentially suitable study areas within and around those communities. Engagement and outreach are now broadening to include First Nation and Métis communities, as well as neighbouring municipalities in learning more about the project and becoming involved in decision-making.

Twenty-two communities initially came forward to learn about the project and explore the potential to host it in their area. A series of increasingly detailed studies to assess potential to meet the project's robust technical safety and social requirements have informed a gradual narrowing-down process. Preliminary assessment studies are now focused in and around five of these communities. At this stage of the process, none of these communities, including Manitouwadge, have decided to host the project.

#### For More Information

Description of a Deep Geological Repository and Centre of Expertise for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel

Available at [nwm0.ca](http://nwm0.ca)

## Findings from Earlier Studies

Studies conducted to date suggest the APM project could potentially be a fit for Manitowadge. The project has the potential to enable the aspirations of the community as laid out in plans and, through this, foster well-being as the community defines it. The project would provide economic growth, stabilize and grow the population and provide the Township with the human and fiscal resources necessary to shape its future and well-being.

The project can be developed in a manner that protects people and the environment. Effective mitigation would ensure the quality of the natural environment that makes up the parks and protected areas near the community is maintained. Where desired, municipal revenues from the project could be used to fund environmental, recreational and tourism initiatives in the area.

## For More Information:

### **NWMO Studies**

Available at [nwmo.ca](http://nwmo.ca)

- Community Profile
- Community Well-Being Assessment
- Project Economics: Employment

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# Community Conversations on Partnership: Setting the Groundwork for Exploring Next Steps

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Manitouwadge is one of several communities exploring the possibility of hosting the deep geological repository and Centre of Expertise that are part of Canada's plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. At this stage of the process, none of these communities, including Manitouwadge, have decided whether or not they wish to host the project.

Preliminary studies suggest this national infrastructure project can be implemented safely in Manitouwadge, and the project has potential to align with Manitouwadge's future vision. Manitouwadge and the NWMO are beginning detailed discussions to explore what it would mean if the project were implemented in Manitouwadge.

This community conversation on guiding values and principles will help set the groundwork for these more detailed conversations about the project.

Please provide your contact information, so we can continue to involve you.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_









# Community conversations on partnership

Reviewing draft principles

The Township of Manitowadge is one of several communities exploring the possibility of hosting the deep geological repository and Centre of Expertise that are part of Canada's plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. None of these communities, including Manitowadge, have decided whether or not they wish to host the project.

Preliminary studies suggest this national infrastructure project can be implemented safely in Manitowadge and that the project has potential to align with the long-term objectives of the community.

Manitowadge and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) are beginning detailed discussions to explore what it would mean if the project were implemented in the area. Engagement was conducted to develop guiding values and principles to set the groundwork for these more detailed conversations about the project. A set of principles emerged from these activities.

We need your input. Please review the draft principles, and share your thoughts!

Please provide your contact information so we can continue to involve you.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel.: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for sharing your thoughts and being involved in the discussion.**

# Review the draft principles

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## »» Community well-being

**The changes associated with hosting the project, and how to optimize benefits and mitigate challenges, must be understood.**

Fulsome discussion is needed of the long-term changes that would come to the community and surrounding area with the project – both benefits and challenges. There are many dimensions to explore, including economics, community character, the shift from mining/forestry/tourism and potential competition for workers, housing, education and training, services and infrastructure, and more. Planning is needed to successfully capture opportunities, reach our potential, and prevent or mitigate potential impacts. Creativity and innovation will be essential to balance community well-being with safety and environmental considerations.

## »» Effective communication

**Maximize the effectiveness of mutual open communication and learning with a range of audiences in a variety of settings.**

Proactively engage with individuals and organizations, and encourage ongoing learning with clear and accessible information that maintains momentum in the discussions, increases understanding, and keeps it “fresh.” Maximize regular, timely and effective communication using both “tried and true” and innovative approaches to reach a range of community members with different perspectives. Those involved in discussions need to ensure effective two-way communication with community members and interested parties. Continue to expand the audience by reaching out to people, in addition to inviting them to meetings or open houses. Enhance understanding of the interests of Indigenous neighbours, traditional knowledge and land uses to inform the future discussions about the project.

## »» Environment

**Protect or enhance the environment that is so important to our quality of life.**

Important values that are central to the community’s quality of life, including outdoor activities in the natural environment, must be protected or enhanced. Project planning should seek to complement or reflect the surrounding environment.

## » Involving neighbours

**Regional communities must learn about the project and be involved.**

Surrounding communities, including First Nation and Métis communities, need to be involved in discussions related to planning and implementation of a project that has the potential to transform the area. Service providers at the regional level also need to be engaged.

## » Respect and transparency

**In order to succeed, there must be mutual respect and transparency.**

To achieve pride of ownership in the process and project, there must be a clear process and decision-making structure that will demonstrate progress. Respect, transparency and accountability are essential. Periodically reflect together on the process – evaluate the plan/next steps, and what worked well or did not. Constructive criticism and respectful disagreement should be welcomed. Where the responses to questions are not fully known or understood, acknowledge uncertainty, follow up and seek the answers. All parties must keep the commitments that they make.

## » Safety

**Confidence in safety is essential.**

It is important for people to continue to learn about nuclear waste, safety, and the approaches to the management of used nuclear fuel in Canada and other countries.

## » Strong relationships

**Strong relationships are necessary to effectively engage in productive future discussions.**

The key players – those responsible for planning and decision-making – must be at the table in positions of equality, working together to achieve common goals and focus on solutions. Relationships will need to be built and maintained over the longer term. Strong professional relationships are guided by important values such as effective communication, respect and transparency. An inclusive process must welcome different sectors of the community to be engaged – e.g., the Nuclear Waste Community Liaison Committee, agencies, services, students/youth, community organizations, seniors, and others. Relationships must be built with Indigenous neighbours.



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 **Question 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?**

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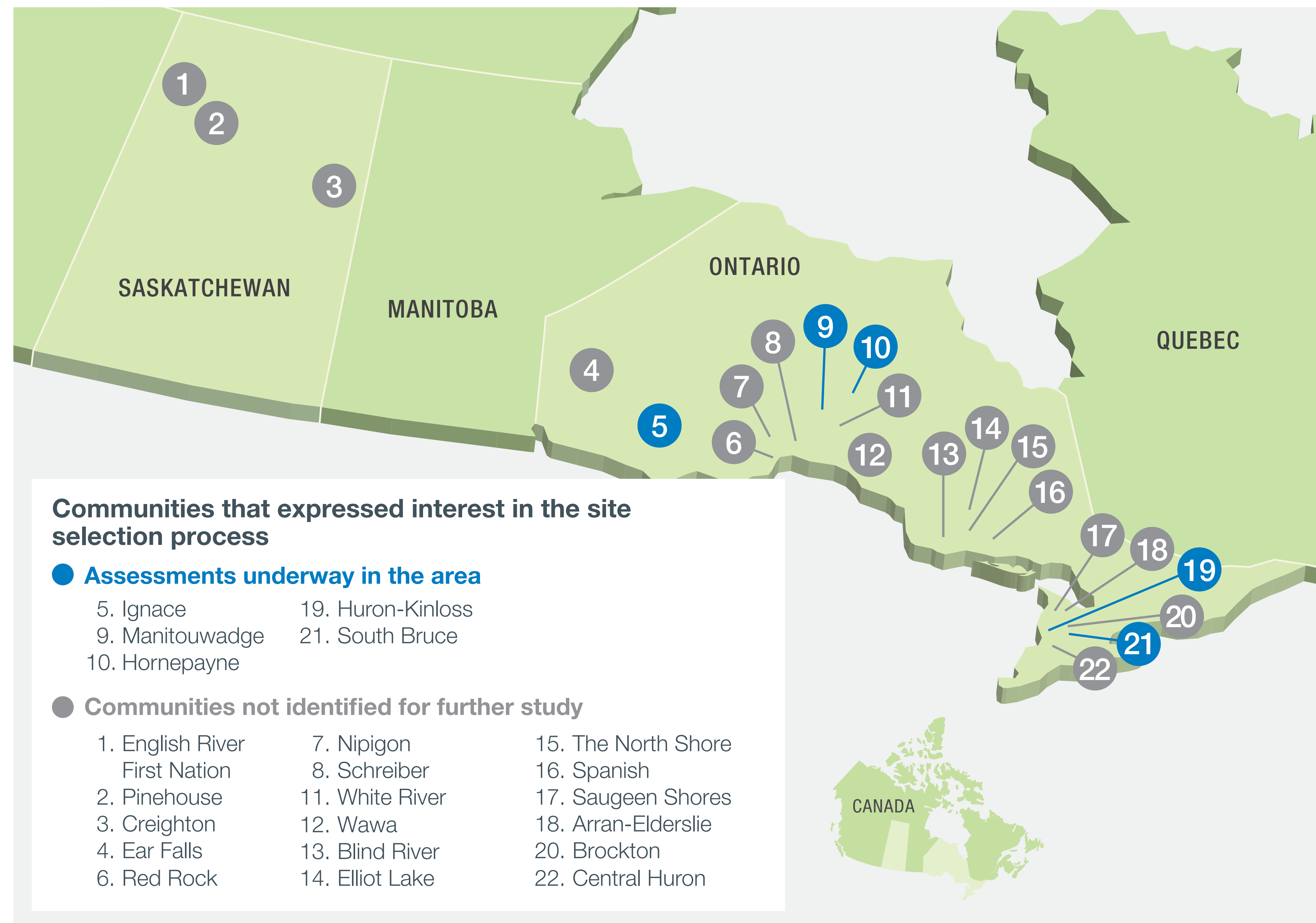




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**Poster boards for community workshops**

# Status of the site selection process

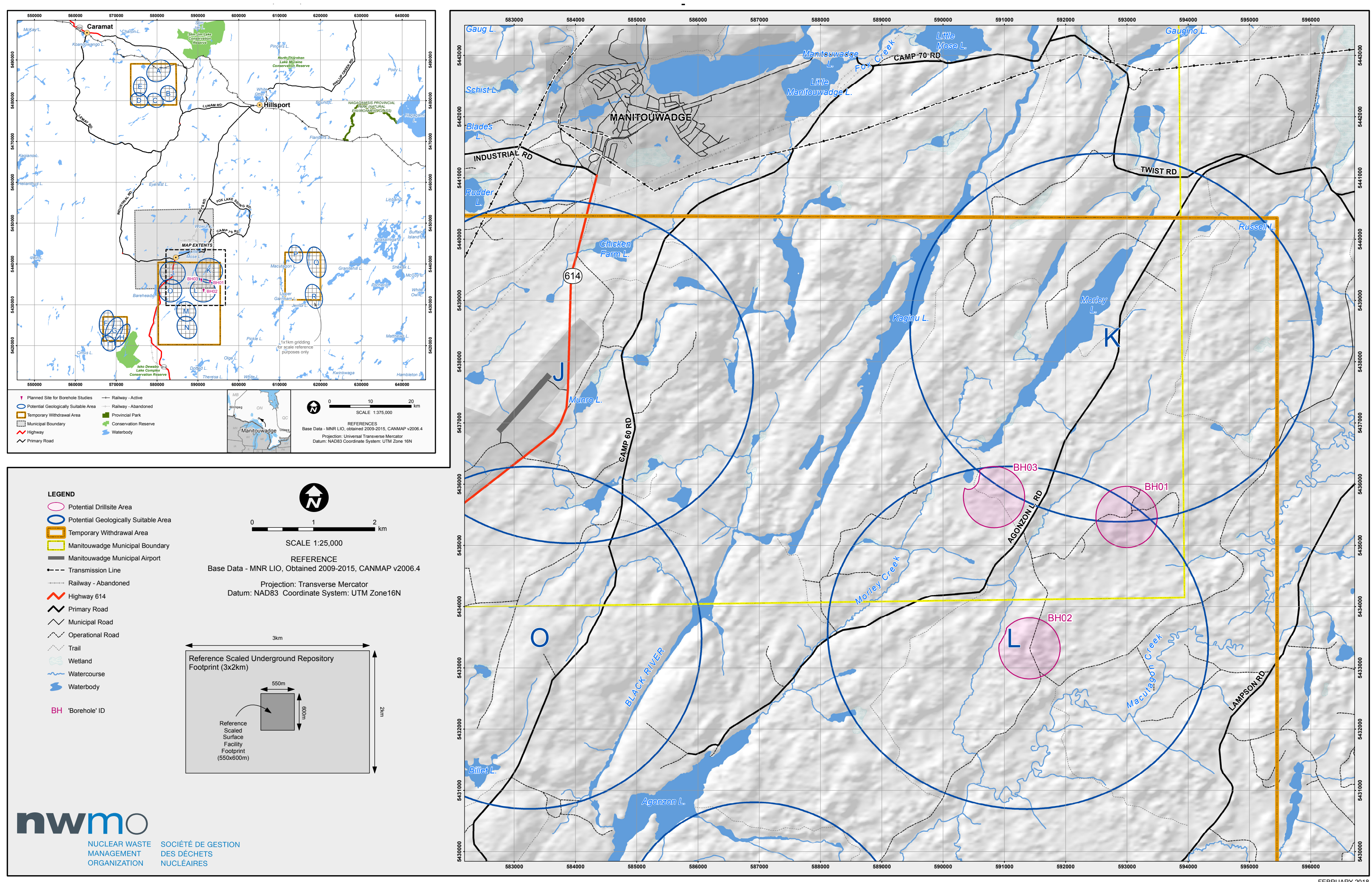


# Looking ahead...

- 2018**      **»»** Preliminary assessment of areas and sites
- Airborne surveys (complete)
  - Observing general geological features (complete)
  - Detailed geophysical mapping (complete)
  - Borehole studies
- »»** Based on learning from preliminary assessment, narrowing process continues with removal of siting areas
- Five large areas in Ontario are currently the focus of study. The Manitouwadge area is one of these five areas
- 2023**      **»»** Preferred site is selected
- 2024**      **»»** Detailed characterization begins at site
- »»** Centre of Expertise construction
- 2028**      **»»** EA/licence application
- 2030's**     **»»** Construction of the repository begins
- 2043**      **»»** Repository operation begins

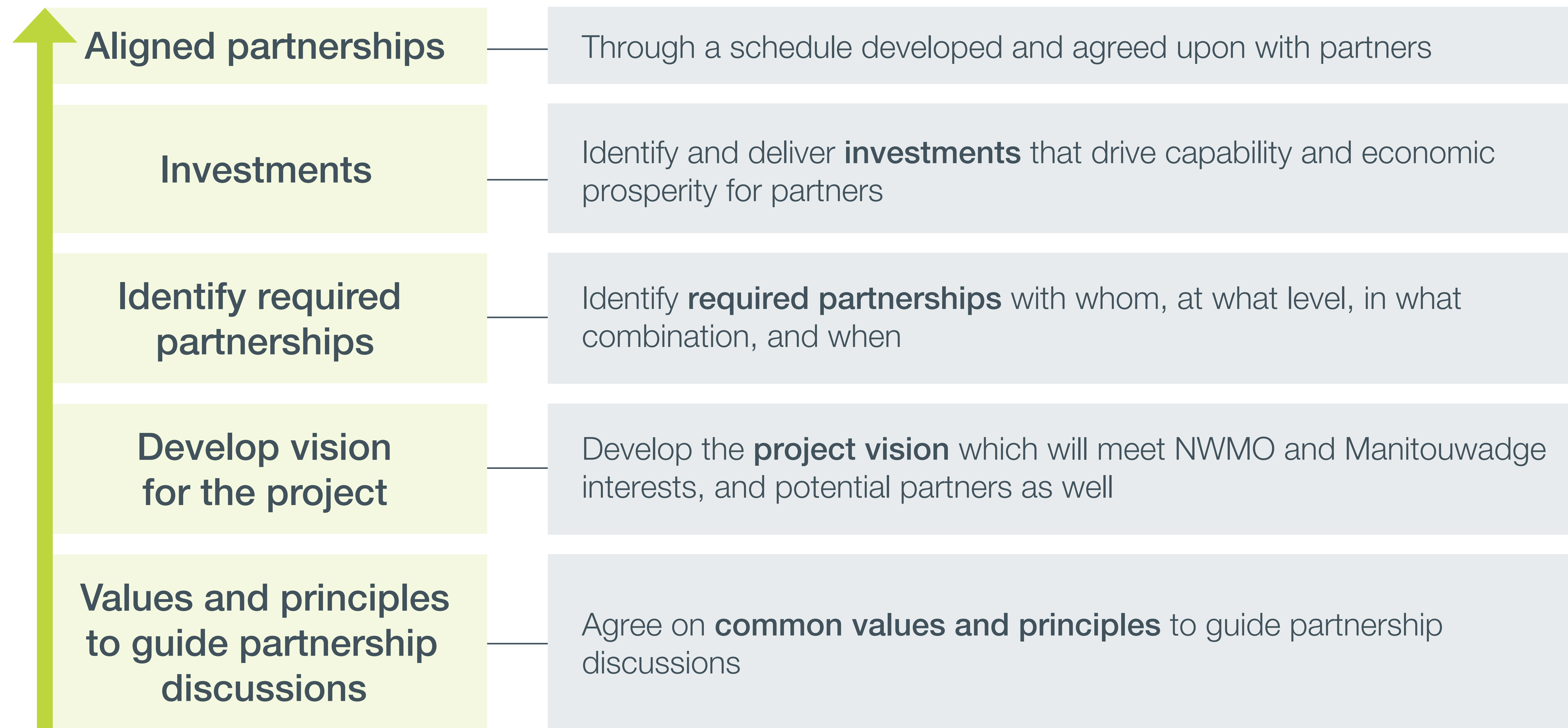
# Advancing technical studies

- » Continuing information sharing and engagement with community members and people in the area, including First Nation and Métis communities.
- » In order to be in a position to proceed with initial boreholes in the area, should a decision be made to do so:
  - NWMO will need to seek permission from government to drill initial boreholes. This would initiate formal consultation with Indigenous communities.
  - NWMO has conducted environmental mapping to establish baseline conditions.



Potential location of borehole sites – Manitowadge

# Roadmap to partnership (2018-2022)



# Exploring partnership – values and principles

Manitouwadge 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 implemented in the area.

Recently, preliminary conversations were held to develop guiding values and principles, to set the groundwork for more detailed conversations.

The values and principles that emerged from community conversations, to guide discussions and future decision-making between Manitouwadge and the NWMO, are outlined on the following boards.



# Draft values and principles emerging to date as of October 2018

## Community well-being

The changes associated with hosting the project and how to optimize benefits and mitigate challenges, must be understood.

- » Fulsome discussion is needed of the long-term changes that would come to the community and surrounding area with the project – both benefits and challenges. There are many dimensions to explore including: economics, community character, the shift from mining/forestry/tourism and potential competition for workers, housing, education and training, services and infrastructure and more.
- » Planning is needed to successfully capture opportunities, reach our potential and to prevent or mitigate potential impacts.

## Effective communication

Maximize the effectiveness of mutual open communication and learning with a range of audiences.

- » Proactively engage with individuals and organizations and encourage ongoing learning with clear and accessible information that maintains momentum in the discussions, increases understanding, and keeps it “fresh”.
- » Maximize timely and effective communication using both “tried and true” and innovative approaches to reach a range of community members with different perspectives.
- » Those involved in discussions need to ensure effective two-way communication with community members and interested parties.
- » Enhance understanding of the interests of Indigenous neighbours, traditional knowledge and land uses, to inform the future discussions about the project.

## Environment

Protect the environment that is so important to our quality of life.

- » Important values that are central to the community’s quality of life, including outdoor activities in the natural environment, must be protected.

## Involving neighbours

Regional communities must learn about the project and be involved.

- » Surrounding communities, including First Nation and Métis communities need to be involved in discussions related to planning and implementation.
- » Service providers at the regional level also need to be engaged.

# Draft values and principles emerging to date as of October 2018 (continued)

## Respect and transparency

**In order to succeed, there must be mutual respect and transparency.**

- » To achieve pride of ownership in the process and project, there must be a clear decision-making structure that will demonstrate progress.
- » Respect, transparency and accountability are essential.
- » Periodically reflect together on the process – evaluate the plan/next steps and what worked well or did not. Constructive criticism and respectful disagreement should be welcomed.

## Safety

**Confidence in safety is essential.**

- » It is important for people to continue to learn about nuclear waste, safety, and the approaches to management of used nuclear fuel in Canada and other countries.

## Strong relationships

**Strong relationships are necessary to effectively engage in productive future discussions.**

- » The key players must be at the table in positions of equality.
- » Strong professional relationships are guided by important values such as effective communication, respect and transparency.
- » An inclusive process must welcome different sectors of the community to be engaged – e.g. the Nuclear Waste Community Liaison Committee, agencies, services, seniors and others.
- » Relationships must be built with Indigenous neighbours.

We need your input

**Question 1**

Have we covered what is most important? Are there important values and principles that should be added?

**Question 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?

**Question 3**

Do you have other suggestions on next steps?

# Values and principles activities: Manitouwadge

- » NWMO presented the “Partnership - Roadmap for Discussions” at February 2018 Manitouwadge Nuclear Waste Community Liaison Committee (NWCLC) meeting.
- » NWCLC working session to discuss values and principles for exploring partnership at March 15 2018 meeting.
- » Preliminary conversations with residents through summer 2018.
- » Draft values and principles emerging from conversations introduced at the October 2018 NWCLC meeting.
- » Workbook and questions available in the community office from mid-October to November 2 for people to add their perspective. NWMO continued to reach out to community members in October 2018.
- » November 15 2018 “Community Drop-in”/NWCLC discussion on emerging values and principles.
- » With the guiding values and principles as a foundation, the next step would involve more detailed discussions to further explore the project, its facilities and components and whether it would be a good fit for 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.