

## Minister's Statement on NWMO 2009 Annual Report

Natural Resources Canada  
June 23, 2010

On March 25, 2010, I received the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's (NWMO) 2009 annual report, entitled *Moving Forward Together*, as required by the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act* (NFWA). The Act sets out specific requirements for both the Government of Canada and the NWMO to ensure the safe and secure long-term containment and management of nuclear fuel waste in Canada.

One of the key expectations of this Government is that the NWMO will conduct its work in an open, transparent and inclusive manner at all stages of this project. I believe that the involvement of community leaders, decision-makers and citizens is crucial to the success of this project, which is of national importance.

The NWMO reached an important milestone in 2009 with the conclusion of a two-year public engagement program on the design of a site selection process. The engagement program involved hundreds of Canadians, including interested individuals; organizations and Aboriginal groups; and municipal, provincial and federal government representatives.

I fully anticipate that the NWMO will continue to address opportunities to increase awareness about its activities and promote greater understanding of this project.

Since the passage of the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act* in 2002, the NWMO member companies (Ontario Power Generation, New Brunswick Power, Hydro-Québec) and Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) have been contributing to individual trust funds that will be used to pay for the full costs of the long-term waste management solution. As of December 2009, the total value of these funds, including investment income, was approximately \$1.8 billion. It is important to note that these funds can only be accessed once a construction or site licence for a waste management facility is issued by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

In 2010 the NWMO takes its first step in the process to find a volunteer community with a suitable site to become the home for all of the nuclear fuel waste that is generated in Canada. Communities are welcome to come forward to learn more about the NWMO, its important work ahead, and to determine how they might wish to participate in this project.

I can assure you that the Government of Canada is committed to monitoring the activities of the NWMO with great care and attention to ensure that the organization fulfils its responsibilities under the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act*.

The Honourable Christian Paradis  
Minister of Natural Resources