



NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION DES DÉCHETS NUCLÉAIRES

Aboriginal Communities Enhanced Resources Funding Program

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT OF INTERESTED COMMUNITIES IN ADVANCED STUDIES



OCTOBER 2016

I. About This Program

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) has begun discussions with Aboriginal communities about building capacity to participate in the Adaptive Phased Management (APM) Project were it to come to the community. This includes more intensive grassroots support for engagement and to promote learning in First Nation communities in the vicinity of the areas in the NWMO APM site selection process.

Understanding that decisions about the project and where it will be located are some years away, the NWMO has heard from Aboriginal communities that early capacity-building activities should have a broad focus.

II. Potential Activities

A range of potential eligible activities have been identified for inclusion in proposals for accessing program funding as outlined below.

1. **Funding for administrative expenses associated with co-ordinating community activities to expand understanding of the project and engage the community in reflection on the project**

This includes costs associated with:

- Dedicated full-time/part-time support staff, including summer students
- Management oversight
- Expenses to support communications, and/or travel associated with community or regional activities
- Financial reporting

Note: Costs associated with expenses of part-time staff and communications among the community and Council typically include payroll, accounts payable, tracking receipts, phone, fax, email, and travel expenses for meetings directly related to the APM Project.

2. **Support for community engagement**

Activities in this category include opportunities for dialogue and workshops in order to work together with the community. These studies will be conducted in close collaboration with the First Nation community, and will include discussion and consideration of potential economic and educational opportunities as APM progresses.

Community information sessions will be planned to support:

- Youth engagement
- Elders and knowledge keepers engagement and ceremonies
- Women engagement
- Chief and Council meetings

Expenses in this category will typically include rental of meeting space, meals and refreshments, Elder travel and participation and meeting preparation with the community, and translation and communication expenses required for community understanding.

3. **Funding for training and capacity building for future decision-making**

Funding for education/training/skills development for community members and elected and non-elected community leadership:

- Planning/management
- Participating in/running effective committees or boards/meetings
- Facilitation and/or conflict resolution skills (e.g., for processes/meetings)
- Media training
- Information Technology and Geographic Information Systems (IT/GIS) training
- Preparing plain language versions of NWMO documentation
- Other relevant training as determined by the NWMO

4. **Tools for building partnership**

Funding to support partnership building between First Nation community(ies) and their neighbours. Examples include:

- Learning and sharing gathering: the core community shares its perspective on participation in APM with the regional tribal council(s), treaty organization(s), neighbouring First Nation communities, Métis groups, and municipalities
- “State of the region” updates
- Facilitate collaborative workshop(s) in the candidate siting communities and key neighbouring communities to understand the opportunities before them, and the social, economic, organizational, and political capacities needed to be successful in planning for and implementing the project

5. **Professional and legal fees (consultants, advisors, lawyers, accountants)**

- Support for creating work plans, budgeting, developing strategy, management and conduct of negotiations, and research
 - Analysis of case law; analysis of relevant policy, statutes and legislation; protection of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights
 - Analysis of environmental potential impacts and benefits, and valuation of impacts
 - Internal and external communications
 - Advice to Chief and Council
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6. Application of Indigenous Knowledge to the NWMO's work

- Community-driven engagement to honour Indigenous Knowledge protocols or practices (e.g., in the NWMO's technical studies/assessments*). These may include:
 - Traditional ceremonies in support of shared learning and to allow for progress in the NWMO's work
 - Integration of Aboriginal values in Study Terms of Reference
 - Direct involvement of core community members in the technical studies
 - NWMO studies for which monies for the aforementioned activities can be accessed

In instances where a community has not accessed monies from the Indigenous Knowledge Resources Funding Program, funding available under this category can be used for expenses associated with interweaving Indigenous Knowledge in the relevant NWMO technical studies/assessment.

* Preliminary environmental studies: e.g., "significant" (criteria-based) wildlife habitat studies, ecological land classifications, sensitive species specific studies, physical and biological sampling (baseline studies), meteorological studies, hydrological studies, and thermal regime studies.

7. Visit an interim storage facility

Community members may be interested in seeing how used nuclear fuel is currently managed on an interim basis. The NWMO will cover travel expenses for a small delegation of community representatives to visit an interim nuclear waste storage facility in Ontario or other nearby facility.

8. Meet with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC)

Community members may be interested in learning about the regulatory framework that governs the NWMO project.

The NWMO will cover travel expenses for a small delegation of community representatives to learn more about the regulatory framework governing the long-term management of used nuclear fuel by meeting with the CNSC.

The timing and agenda for the meeting is established directly by the CNSC.

9. **Understanding the international perspective – Speakers**

The NWMO encourages communities to keep abreast of international programs and best practices.

The NWMO will facilitate opportunities for community representatives to learn from those involved in the implementation of used fuel management programs in other countries by organizing a series of workshops which will bring together community representatives and these international leaders.

Modest participant expenses will be covered by the NWMO for community representatives to participate in these workshops.

10. **Understanding key topics such as radiation, geoscience studies, environmental protection, and multiple barriers**

The NWMO acknowledges the importance to communities of developing a deep understanding of key topics from NWMO specialists and academics working in the field by organizing a series of learning events and workshops which will bring community representatives and these academics and specialists together.

Modest participant expenses will be covered by the NWMO for community representatives to participate in these learning events and workshops.

11. **Open houses**

A regular schedule of open houses will be planned and organized with the First Nation community to seek community involvement in the conduct of the studies and to share study findings as they become available.

III. Working Collaboratively With Communities

The NWMO is learning from Aboriginal communities about how to support capacity building. It also understands that these needs may evolve over time and as the siting process advances in an area. With the list of potential Phase 2 activities in mind, the NWMO will work with the First Nation community leadership to develop and then implement mutually agreeable learning and assessment activities. The NWMO would be pleased to discuss eligibility for this enhanced capacity-building program with interested communities.

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