

# Council of Elders and Youth Record of Discussion #20

**APM-REP-00676-0212**

**April 2018**

**Jessica Perritt**

**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, ON M4T 2S3  
Canada

Tel.: 416.934.9814  
Website: [www.nwmo.ca](http://www.nwmo.ca)

# **Council of Elders and Youth Record of Discussion #20**

**APM-REP-00676-0212**

April 2018

Jessica Perritt  
NWMO

**Record of Discussion**  
**NWMO Council of Elders and Youth**  
**Kingbridge Conference Centre, King City, ON**  
**April 19-20, 2018**

**Attendees:**

**NWMO Council of Elders and Youth**

**Chair:** Donna Augustine and Rayanna Seymour

**Members:** Angus Gardiner, Diane Longboat, Grace Manitowabi, Dorothy Parenteau, Billie Schibler, Roland St. Germain, Debbie Plain, Theresa Hall, Verna Porter-Brunelle, Shavonne Custer, Brandon Petahtegoose, Norman Stagg, Madison Levi, Jeff Kinew, Rebekah Wilson

**Advisors:** Joanne Barnaby, Fred Kelly, Melanie Hadley

**NWMO:**

Staff: Laurie Swami, Bob Watts, Ben Belfadhel, Jessica Perritt, Joe Gaboury, Arthur Moore, Greg Plain, Kevin Muloin, James Wager, Jack Falkins

**Guests:**

Ron Jamieson, Brittany Jones, Emily Mansur, Joanne Keeshig

---

**Thursday April 19, 2017**

**Opening Ceremony and Welcoming Remarks**

---

Elder Fred Kelly conducted a ceremony to begin the meeting which included a Pipe ceremony and a female Elder to speak to the water. The ceremony also included a Honour song done by one of the female Elders.

President and CEO, Laurie Swami recognized the traditional territory in which the meeting was held, expressed her gratitude for the opening ceremony and for being able to meet with the Council of Elders and Youth again. She shared with the Council how NWMO was measuring up against the corporate score card. She also shared some photos from her most recent community visits to Ignace and Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation. The community visit in Ignace included an informal open house at the Ignace office as well as a visit to the school to talk about their STEM program. The community visit to Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation was rescheduled for July due to unforeseen circumstances but she was able to attend an ice fishing event and also meet the Chief over dinner. Another exciting event of the trip was that she was a visit the first borehole location. She also expressed the pride she has for her

staff and was fortunate to attend the Canadian Nuclear Association Conference in February. She closed her remarks by saying she looks forward to the next two days with the Elders and Youth.

Bob Watts acknowledged the traditional territory in which the meeting was being held. He also recognized Ron Jamieson from the Board of Directors and the other guests attending the meeting. He closed his comments by expressing his gratitude for the continued advice from the Council of Elders and Youth.

### **Partnership Roadmap**

---

Bob Watts and Ben Belfadhel made a presentation regarding the NWMO partnership roadmap. The presentation reviewed partnership millstones from 2017 – 2013. This year NWMO is focused on working with communities to jointly develop common values and principles that can guide them to project vision and future partnership. They also shared some feedback received from communities involved in the site selection process. One key comment received from Indigenous communities is that the word “partnership” may be a bit too presumptuous for NWMO and Indigenous communities to be using. NWMO is open to exploring new language with Indigenous communities that may be more appropriate.

#### **Questions/Comments:**

- The presentation should have more Indigenous perspectives
- Recommendation to incorporate the safety of the environment and culture of the people for the life of the project
- Recommendation to think about the protection of Mother Earth beyond specific boundaries of the project
- Re-think how Mother Earth fits into the partnership model – Will Mother Earth be considered a partner?
- Nature of the partnership discussion is going to be sensitive and NWMO will have to walk carefully on Mother Earth as the project moves forward
- NWMO to continue to keep in mind TRC #92 – Call for the Corporations to work better with First Nations.
- Partnership and reconciliation are closely related

### **Draft Reconciliation Statement**

---

Bob Watts re-introduced a draft Reconciliation Statement and strategy to the Council for feedback. Bob shared the statement with the Council and outlined the changes that were made to the statement based on the advice that was received from the November Council of Elders and Youth meeting. The idea is that the statement will be finalized through ceremony jointly with the Board of Directors at the next meeting scheduled for July. A internal committee has been put together to work on this initiative and Elder Diane Longboat sits on this committee on behalf of the Council of Elders and Youth. Bob

read the statement aloud and opened the circle for discussion and comments. Bob commits that all the Council's comments will be brought to the working group.

**Questions/Comments:**

- The Council liked the language of co-creating
- Thought to include "Indigenous people of Canada" to capture an international audience
- The Council preferred the word "historical" before "wrongs of Canada's past"

**Indigenous Engagement Team Update**

---

The Indigenous Engagement team shared an overview of the work they have been doing in the field with First Nation and Metis communities involved in the site selection process. The Council requested a map of the communities so they can visually see where the Indigenous Engagement team is working.

**Friday April 20, 2018**

**Update from IAEA Workshop**

---

Jessica Perritt and Brandon Petahtegoose provided a slide presentation on their trip to Vienna, Austria for the IAEA workshop. The workshop was 5 days and consisted of 21 nations coming together to share their experience on how local people have been involved in the management of radioactive waste. On the first day 8 countries provided an overview of their respective programs which included Canada's approach. What became clear, very early in the workshop was how the governance of a country influences the local involvement of communities in Radioactive Waste Management. Because of this, a majority of the participants were implementers and Canada was one of the few countries that provided a local voice. Additionally, what also became clear was that this is not a just Canadian problem and this may be something NWMO could utilize more effectively. Participants connected to the incorporation of Indigenous knowledge and seeking guidance from Elders. Overall, Canada's story was very well received from all nations in attendance.

**NWMO Social Media Strategy Presentation**

---

Asif Hossain (Digital Communications Program Lead) provided a presentation on NWMO's social media strategy. This presentation is a follow up from a request made from the Council at the November 2017 meeting. The presentation included social media penetration breakdown based on region, the state of digital media in Canada and a summary of NWMO's social media plan to "engage and listen". To date NWMO is using Facebook and LinkedIn and working towards Instagram and Twitter. NWMO's social media plan is made up of:

- Authority – to position the NWMO digital properties as the primary source for information about Canada's Plan

- Narrative – Tell NWMO’s story in a way that engages the public
- Dialogue – Meaningful conversation with the public

This presentation was very well received from the Council.

### **Next Meeting**

---

- The next meeting will be July 16-18, 2018 at the Kingbridge Conference Centre
- The next meeting will consist of a joint meeting with the Board of Directors
- The Council would like the Declaration of the Keepers of the Land included in the workbooks
- A revised draft Reconciliation Statement will brought for discussion to the next meeting

### **Closing Ceremony**

---

Fred Kelly led ceremonies to close the meeting which included a farewell ceremony for three of the Youth and the closing invocation.

*Date notes taken: April 19-20, 2018*

*This note was prepared by staff and has not been approved and/or reviewed for accuracy by other meeting participants.*