The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) implemented Acknowledgement and Community Well-Being funding programs to recognize community leadership in advancing Canada’s plan for the safe, long-term management of used nuclear fuel. Administered by communities, the funding is intended to support continuing community efforts to build community sustainability and well-being. Since inception, nine First Nations and 25 municipalities have benefitted from the programs.

**Acknowledgement Funding**

Since 2013, the NWMO has been using funding programs to acknowledge the contribution of communities at each point of narrowing-down the number of siting areas in the site selection process. These funding programs were designed to acknowledge the community’s contribution to the implementation of Canada’s plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel, and to ensure that communities removed from the process are better off for their involvement in the siting process.

The acknowledgement funding program has focussed on Municipal and Indigenous communities that initially entered the site selection process and neighbouring communities actively involved in the learning process in each siting area. Funding levels have been distributed in a manner that is sensitive to levels of participation and role of each community. The funding levels gradually increased at each point of narrowing-down over the years to acknowledge the greater contribution and time spent by the community to advance Canada’s plan on behalf of all Canadians. Initial and neighbouring communities exiting the siting process have received acknowledgement investments between $100,000 and $700,000.
Community Well-Being Funding

In 2017, the NWMO implemented a program of annual funding to support investments in community sustainability and well-being for Municipal and Indigenous communities that continued in the siting process and were involved in advanced studies. These funds are intended to support community efforts to build sustainability and well-being during the siting process. These investments began at $200,000 and have since increased to $300,000 annually.

Examples of Community Investments

Communities have been investing the acknowledgement and community well-being funding in wide range of initiatives involving community well-being, youth, seniors, the environment and economic development initiatives. The listing below provides selected examples of community expenditures to date.

The NWMO plans to continue to provide community well-being funding as communities in the two remaining siting areas advance in the site selection process.

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

» Community garden
» Traditional Powwow grounds
» Fire Department acquisition of rescue equipment
» Community food bank program & Christmas cheer program
» Hospital CT scan
» Soup kitchen and breakfast program
» Costs associated with study of a new Aqua Centre
» Improvements to the hospital Emergency Room
» Lawn tractor
» Annual community Christmas party donation
» Shore Health Network
» Improvements to a district medical centre
» Contribution to the new construction of a community beach concession stand
» 90th anniversary celebrations

ENVIRONMENT

» Energy audit
» Purchase of a municipal waste truck
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
» Contribution towards the creation of Asset Management Plan
» Business opportunities assessment
» Waste management strategic plan
» Municipal-run inter-city bus service
» Establishment of a Planning and Development Reserve Fund
» Grant program for local community groups with projects related to arts, culture and heritage, sports and recreation, social and health, and environment

YOUTH EDUCATION, ACADEMICS AND RECREATION
» Nursery school
» Early ON Child and Family Centre initiatives
» Academic bursary
» Contributing to the new construction of a community day care
» Provision of summer experience for community youths
» Contributing to the new construction of a youth center
» Public school loonie lunch program
» Blessings in a backpack program
» Contribution towards the costs of a new community arena
» Ski club
» Contributing to renovation of an outdoor rink
» Skate park development

SENIORS
» Renovations to a nursing home
» Lions Club building accessibility ramps for seniors