



# *Sagamok Anishnawbek*

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## MEMORANDUM

To: Sagamok Community Members  
From: Chief Paul Eshkakogan  
Date: December 6, 2017  
Re: **NWMO Concludes Studies in north shore of Lake Huron region**

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The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) announced today that they will be concluding studies of any areas in the north of Huron region, identifying a number of factors that would pose challenges in siting a deep geological repository (DGR) that would store the nation's used nuclear fuel, including:

- complexities associated with the geology,
- limited access and rugged terrain characterizing the area of study and
- a "low potential to develop the breadth of partnerships needed to implement the project."

In their judgment, there is greater potential to find a storage site in another region of the province that better meets their project's scientific and technical requirements (sound geology) and potential to be willingly accepted by people in a region (sound, enduring partnerships).

As Chief, I am pleased that nuclear waste will not be stored anywhere near our territory and will not pose a threat to our people, our lands or the living ecosystems and beings in our territories now or in the future.

When we began coming together as a community to respond to the NWMO project in the region, our members came together with a clear position that a nuclear waste repository is not right for our people or its lands.

We entered into a Learning Agreement with the NWMO so that we could receive information from the NWMO about their site investigation activity. We used the time to learn about all aspects of the NWMO's project from both the scientific perspective but also from our own unique indigenous worldview. Our people took it upon themselves to inform themselves of the proposed project and how it might impact their lives, their community and extended relations.

We brought it to our community members and our leadership, and we tasked our Sagamok organization, to build up their capacity so that they would at some point be able to effectively

respond when those who are responsible for approving the NWMO's project asks if Sagamok is willing to play host to a nuclear waste repository.

The exercise of learning about the NWMO project at the community level stimulated our collective consciousness, renewing talk of our sacred responsibilities given to us by Creator over our lands and territories. It's forced us to look inward as Anishnawbek people to renew our relationships with our lands, waters and air, to strengthen our appreciation of our connections and interdependencies we have to each other and all of Creation. It is clear that our role as stewards of our lands is not taken lightly. Coming together as a community to respond to this project gave us an opportunity to apply our indigenous worldview towards responding to current issues facing our community.

Sagamok Anishnawbek has shown itself to be capable and willing to rise to the occasion when presented with an opportunity to assert its control over a potential threat to its traditional territories and its people. We came together as members of a community and a nation to meet the NWMO project, willing to respond with a warrior spirit protecting our lands in a modern arena.

That we came together as a community to learn and develop a plan of response demonstrates our resilience as a people. It speaks to the importance of our teachings and ceremonies that guided our work. It speaks to the strength of our relationships that allowed us to come together to meet a threat and walk away better for having done so. It speaks to how we've evolved as a people to meet the challenges that history put in our paths but from which we've nevertheless emerged stronger from having endured it. It speaks to our experience with community development that saw us renew our commitments to the relationships we maintain amongst ourselves.

On behalf of the Sagamok Council, I'd like to thank the Sagamok community for involving themselves in the work we've done.

I'd also like to thank the NWMO for living up to its commitments under our Memorandum of Understanding, ensuring that our active learning about their conceptual project would not be construed as consultation and consent.aged" in any approval processes of the Crown and that we retain control over the information collected about our community as well as rights to use any and

I invite our community members to go to our website at [www.sagamok.ca](http://www.sagamok.ca) to view the NWMO's announcement, Reports of their Findings and other supporting documents as they become available.

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