



## Staff Report

**Report Title: NWMO – 2023 Community Initiatives and Site Selection Year End Report**

**Prepared By: Mike Bartlett, Administrative Coordinator**

**Department: CAO**

**Date: Jan. 9, 2024**

**Report Number: CAO-2024-01-2**

**File Number: C11 CAO 24**

**Attachments: None**

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### **Recommendation:**

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report CAO-2024-01-2, prepared by Mike Bartlett, Administrative Coordinator

### **Background:**

#### **Community Well-Being Program (CWBP)**

The Community Well-Being Program was developed in 2018 through programs offered by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) when Huron-Kinloss was in the site-selection process and learning more about Canada's Long-Term Plan for Used Nuclear Fuel. To date, the Township of Huron-Kinloss has invested \$400,000 into the community through this grant. In March 2023, Council approved the program for 2023 & 2024.

#### **Early Investment in Education and Skills Program (EIES)**

The Early Investment in Education and Skills Program (EIES) provides funding for local businesses and Huron-Kinloss residents looking to advance their skill sets. For additional information on the Early Investment in Education and Skills program, please visit the Huron-Kinloss website - <https://www.huronkinloss.com/live-here/canadas-plan-for-used-nuclear-fuel/funding-programs/>

#### **Deep Geological Repository Site Selection**

The process to select a site for Canada's plan to safely manage used nuclear fuel long-term started in 2010, with 22 communities proactively expressing interest by 2012. Today, following a gradual process of narrowing down, two areas remain as potential hosts for

Canada's deep geological repository — the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (WLON)-Ignace area and the Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON)-South Bruce area, both in Ontario.

Canada's plan will only move forward at a site with informed and willing hosts. That means the people living there need to understand what it means to host a project like this and support having it located in the area.

## **Discussion:**

### **Community Well-Being Program (CWBP)**

The 2023 Community Well-Being Program has been completed. All Final Reports (except for one extension that was granted by the committee) have been submitted, reviewed and final cheques have been issued. The Administrative Coordinator will work with the Communications Coordinator to create and schedule messaging to help the public understand the impact of these projects and can now focus on the 2024 CWBP marketing and messaging.

### **Early Investment in Education and Skills Program (EIES)**

The 2023 EIES program has been completed, with \$55,000 dispersed to local organizations, residents, and businesses. The Administrative Coordinator will now work with the Treasurer to ensure the budget reporting requirements are met and the necessary information is submitted to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO), before our January 31<sup>st</sup> deadline, this information will also be provided in a future COW report. The Administrative Coordinator can also report that \$30,000 of initial funding has been approved for the 2024 EIES program. The Administrative Coordinator can now begin marketing efforts for the 2024 program. The first EIES committee meeting of 2024 will be held on January 16<sup>th</sup>, with the committee discussing the 2024 budget and programming options.

### **Deep Geological Repository Site Selection – South Bruce Update**

South Bruce is one of two potential sites being considered by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) for the future storage of the nation's used nuclear fuel. Part of the NWMO's mandate is to ensure the site they eventually select is both willing and informed. A hosting agreement spells out in detail the conditions the Municipality is agreeing to if South Bruce becomes the site of the DGR project. South Bruce Mayor Mark Goetz said he's hoping to finalize the municipality's hosting agreement for the proposed deep geological repository (DGR) by the end of February at the latest, with Council approval in March/April. The document will then be made public and can be reviewed ahead of a planned referendum to determine the willingness of the community to host the proposed Deep Geological Repository. South Bruce is hoping to hold the referendum in

September. The Administrative Coordinator will monitor this process and provide updates in future reports.

**Financial Impacts:**

\$155,000 from NWMO initiatives used to support Huron-Kinloss residents, businesses, and Community Well-Being.

**Strategic Alignment / Link:**

The information provided in this report is consistent with and in keeping with the Municipality's Vision & Mission and to the goals in achieving a prosperous community and an accessible community.

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

Mike Bartlett, Administrative Coordinator

**Report Approved By:**

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer