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## **MEDIA RELEASE: DECEMBER 6, 2019**

### **OJIBWAY NATION OF SAUGEEN SIGNS “LEARNING MORE AGREEMENT” WITH THE NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION (NWMO) TO EXPLORE IMPACTS OF A POSSIBLE FACILITY IN IGNACE**

The Ojibway Nation of Saugeen takes this opportunity to clarify the extent to which our First Nation is involved in exploring whether a nuclear waste disposal site should be considered for the Ignace area.

Our First Nation has signed a “Learning More Agreement” with the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO).

The only purpose of this Agreement is to enable the members of our First Nation to *learn more* about a proposed site in Ignace for the storage of used nuclear fuel. By signing the Agreement we will have access to all geological and technical studies on safety issues and what risks there may be if there was such a facility constructed. In addition, we will have the opportunity to conduct our own due diligence.

We are informed by the NWMO that the Site Selection Process has recently reduced the site options from 22 possible locations to 3 locations, which includes Ignace, and that the final selection shall be made by the year 2023.

At no time has our First Nation agreed to a nuclear waste disposal site being located in Ignace. In fact, at this point in time, we are very skeptical and would not agree to the Ignace site. Our membership needs to be fully informed and convinced that there is no short or long term safety or health concerns if there

were to be such a facility in Ignace. That is the purpose of the Learning More Agreement, to educate our members on all of the studies that have been done and for us to conduct our own research on any possible health or safety issues that could arise. It is only after all of the external studies and our own studies have been undertaken that our community members shall decide whether we are in agreement or not in agreement that it proceed at the Ignace site.

The Agreement specifically states and acknowledges that by signing the agreement, this does not constitute community consultation or consent to the site selection.

Also, nothing in the Agreement is to be construed as abrogating, limiting or derogating in any way from the Ojibway Nation of Saugeen's constitutionally protected Aboriginal or Treaty rights within sections 25 and 35 of the *Constitution Act*.

We are pleased to announce that Wilfred Machimity, a member of our First Nation, has been selected and employed to be our Community Liaison to assist with identifying issues, undertake workshops and reporting relating to the proposed project.