

MEDIA RELEASE

NUCLEAR FREE THUNDER BAY

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Walk to Oppose Nuclear Waste Burial in Northwestern Ontario – Sept. 17

Sept. 17, 2022 – Thunder Bay – Approximately [number] walkers took to the streets of Thunder Bay today oppose the proposed burial of all of Canada’s nuclear fuel waste in the bedrock of Northwestern Ontario. The group walked from Patty Hajdu’s (MP Thunder Bay-Superior North and Minister of Indigenous Services) constituency office to Lise Vaugeois’ (MPP – Thunder Bay-Superior North) constituency office.

The Walk was organized by local group Nuclear Free Thunder Bay, in solidarity with a similar event earlier in September: Ojibway Nation of Saugeen member Darlene Necan’s “Peaceful Walk Against Nuclear Waste on Treaty 3 Lands,” which stretched from Ignace to Sioux Lookout.

“Darlene Necan has done her Walk three years in a row,” said [name], Nuclear Free Thunder Bay member. “The idea of this project going forward deeply disturbs our group. Northwestern Ontario is not an empty land – it is home to many people, and is the traditional territory of our Anishinaabe friends and neighbours. It is also one of the least spoiled natural areas in the world.”

Nuclear Free Thunder Bay, part of the We the Nuclear Free North alliance, opposes the Nuclear Waste Management Organization’s (NWMO’s) proposed plan to bury all of Canada’s nuclear fuel waste – more than 3 million fuel bundles – in a deep geological repository (DGR) between Ignace and Dryden. There is no operating DGR for nuclear fuel waste anywhere in the world.

The group favours the alternative of maintaining the waste in permanent, hardened and secure facilities close to the nuclear reactors where it was produced, but not directly adjacent to the Great Lakes. Such an approach would eliminate the dangers of transporting the waste up to 2,400 km by road or rail, into Northwestern Ontario.

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