



Media Release

September 1, 2022

## **Walk Against Nuclear Waste Leaves Ignace Heading Towards Candidate Nuclear Waste Burial Site**

Ignace, ON – Walkers converged in Ignace today, joining Head walker Darlene Necan in her peaceful walk to raise awareness about plans to construct a series of caverns deep underground in the heart of Treaty 3 territory, to be filled with all of Canada's high level nuclear waste.

The fourth annual Walk Against Nuclear Waste left the plaza in front of the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's offices on Highway 17 in Ignace shortly after 10 a.m., heading west towards the candidate nuclear waste burial site, which is approximately half way between Ignace and Dryden. The site is just south of Highway 17 where it runs parallel to the Revell River, a few kilometres west of the Revell River picnic area.

The candidate site is at the headwaters of the Wabigoon and the Turtle River watersheds, which flow west into Wabigoon Lake and the Lake of the Woods.

"The Ojibways of Saugeen #258 have spoken – by Band Council Resolution we have stated that we stand firm against the storage of nuclear waste in Treaty #3 territory and do not give our consent to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's nuclear waste project", said Darlene Necan, in remarks just before the Walk commenced.

Ms. Necan, an elder and Headman with the Ojibway Nation of Saugeen No. 258, has led the walk on three previous years and is committed to raising awareness about the threat nuclear waste coming to Treaty 3 lands would pose for the water and for future generations.

A small group of people joined Ms. Necan for the start of the walk, and more walkers are expected to join for sections of the walk throughout the weekend.

Those who want to support the walk or join the walkers for some portion of the journey are encouraged to follow "[No Nuclear Waste on Treaty Lands](#)" on Facebook for Walk updates.

The Walk will travel west on Highway 17 from Ignace towards Dryden. The

walkers covered 14 kilometres in their first day.

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## Contacts

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**REGARDING THE NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONAL PROPOSAL TO TRANSPORT, BURY AND ABANDON HIGH LEVEL NUCLEAR WASTE IN A DEEP GEOLOGICAL REPOSITORY IN TREATY #3 TERRITORY**

**WHEREAS** the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) is an association of the owners of approximately 60, 000 tonnes of highly radioactive nuclear waste which was generated by nuclear reactors in southern Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick;

**WHEREAS** the NWMO released a plan into 2005 to transport these wastes to a single location where the wastes would be transferred, buried in a "deep geological repository" and abandoned;

**WHEREAS** the NWMO is studying an area known as the Revell area as one of two candidate sites for their proposed deep geological repository, and this site is in the heart of Treaty #3 territory and is within territories that are part of the traditional and contemporary land use areas of members of the Ojibway Nation of Saugeen No. 258;

**WHEREAS** the NWMO plan includes transporting these radioactive wastes through several Treaty areas, including Treaty #3, and the transportation would involve 2-3 transport truck shipments per day for more than fifty years and these shipments would emit radiation;

**WHEREAS** at the site selected for a deep geological repository the NWMO would also construct a Used Fuel Packaging Plant in which would also have radioactive releases;

**WHEREAS** there is no other approved or operating deep geological repository for high level nuclear waste anywhere in the world;

**WHEREAS** NWMO acknowledges that over time there would be radioactive releases from the deep geological repository;

**WHEREAS** Treaty #3 informed the NWMO in writing in September 2010 that their medicines, ceremonies and sacred relationship with the land would be altered by the long-term storage of nuclear waste in Treaty #3 territory, and that, having deliberated and done ceremony. Treaty #3 would stand firm against the long-term storage of nuclear waste in Treaty #3 territory;

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**WHEREAS** Canada has committed to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People and the Declaration includes Article 29 which specifies that "States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent";

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Ojibway Nation of Saugeen No. 258 affirm the statement sent in writing to the NWMO by Grand Council Treaty #3 in 2010 stating that Treaty #3 would stand firm against long-term storage of nuclear waste in Treaty #3 territory, and

**FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Ojibway Nation of Saugeen No. 258 do not consent to the NWMO's plan to construct a deep geological repository for nuclear waste in Treaty #3 territory.

Moved by

Darlene Mecan

Seconded by

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CARRIED

Signature

[Signature] se.

NAME AND POSITION

CHIEF RON WACHIMITZ se

