

Resources to support learning and exploring the potential for partnerships – communities involved in advanced studies

Canada's plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel is called Adaptive Phased Management (APM). The ultimate goal of the APM program is to safely contain and isolate Canada's used nuclear fuel in a deep geological repository at a site with an informed and willing host.



Purpose

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) has been working collaboratively with a number of municipalities and Indigenous communities to explore the potential to host the project in their area. In recognition of the effort required by communities to fully participate in the site selection process, and to ensure they are not out-of-pocket, the NWMO provides resources to support learning and exploring the potential for partnerships. Additional funding is also offered for capacity-building activities, early investments in education and skills, and community well-being.

Communities eligible for this funding program are in the immediate vicinity of the sites under study, and are actively working with the NWMO to lead learning activities in the area to explore the potential for partnership should the community be willing to host the project.

Working together, the community and the NWMO will develop a work plan and funding agreement identifying the activities and the resources that will be needed by the community to support those activities, as well as define outcomes to be achieved.

The work plan and funding agreement outline the terms and conditions of funding and define mutual expectations in terms of ongoing communications and the exchange of information as work is initiated and completed and shared milestones are achieved. As flexibility will be necessary, funding agreements will provide a means of setting annual budgets and adjusting the annual funding amounts to align with planned work activities.

Expenses associated with working with the NWMO will continue to be reimbursed at cost, consistent with the NWMO's and/or community's expense policy.



Rachelle Davenport, NWMO Relationship Manager, and residents of Ignace examine the model of the surface facilities of the NWMO's deep geological repository

Learn More and capacity-building activities

To help communities understand the types of activities that might be included in a collaborative work plan and funding agreement, the following overview is provided.

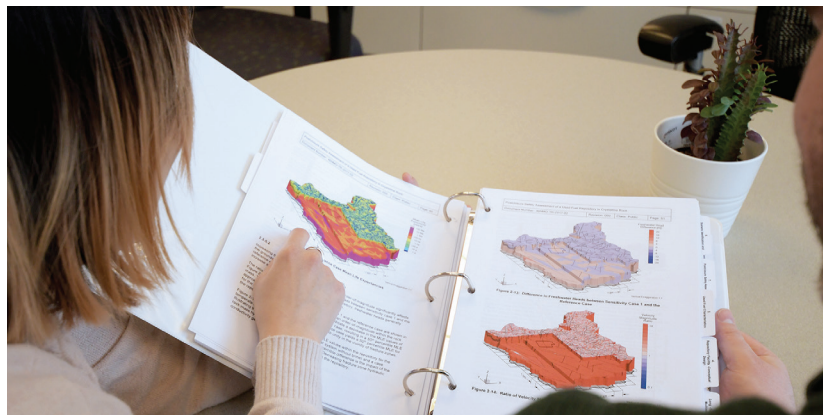
ADMINISTRATION

Administrative activities may include those associated with dedicated full-time/part-time support staff, including summer students and management oversight. Costs related to administrative expenses of a community working group and its regular meetings may be covered. Also, overhead costs related to participation in the NWMO process (including utilities, mileage, payroll, phone, printing or small asset purchases) and communications and travel-related expenses for meetings with municipal and Indigenous neighbours in the surrounding area may also be covered.

LEARNING

A variety of learning and capacity-building activities may be included in the funding agreements. This includes activities that will support building understanding on key topics such as radiation, geoscience, environmental protection, and project safety. Communities may be interested in seeing how used nuclear fuel is currently managed on an interim basis or in learning about the regulatory framework that governs the NWMO project by meeting with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). Industry-related conference attendance may also be a learning opportunity of interest.

Funding is available to support building a better understanding on key topics such as radiation, geoscience, environmental protection, and project safety.





ASSESSMENTS

An important aspect to learning about the project is the assessment by the community together with the NWMO of the potential social, economic and cultural effects associated with the project. These assessments may include for example: economic modelling, community infrastructure or other long-term impact studies. The community may also wish to enhance or augment an existing long-term vision or strategic plan for community sustainability during this process.

The NWMO may fund activities such as marketing/research studies to determine the needs and opportunities arising from implementation of the APM project. Examples may include: relocating trades/professionals to the communities and area, tourism development, and business expansion/retention in the affected areas. Resources may also be available to sponsor economic development seminars and workshops, if communities or groups want to better understand and communicate the impacts of the project.

The NWMO may also fund other potential community driven environmental technical studies and assessments such as wildlife habitat studies, sensitive species studies or general ecosystem monitoring. These studies and assessments may include direct involvement of community members in establishing the scope of such programs and in-field sample collection and monitoring.

PLANNING AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

The NWMO will also provide funding to support activities related to future community decision-making, including access to independent third-party legal, accounting, advisory or consulting advice to represent community interests in discussions with the NWMO. Funding may also be available for an economic development position. The NWMO will also support training/skills development in areas such as project planning/management, running effective committees or boards/meetings, facilitation and conflict resolution skills or communication training.



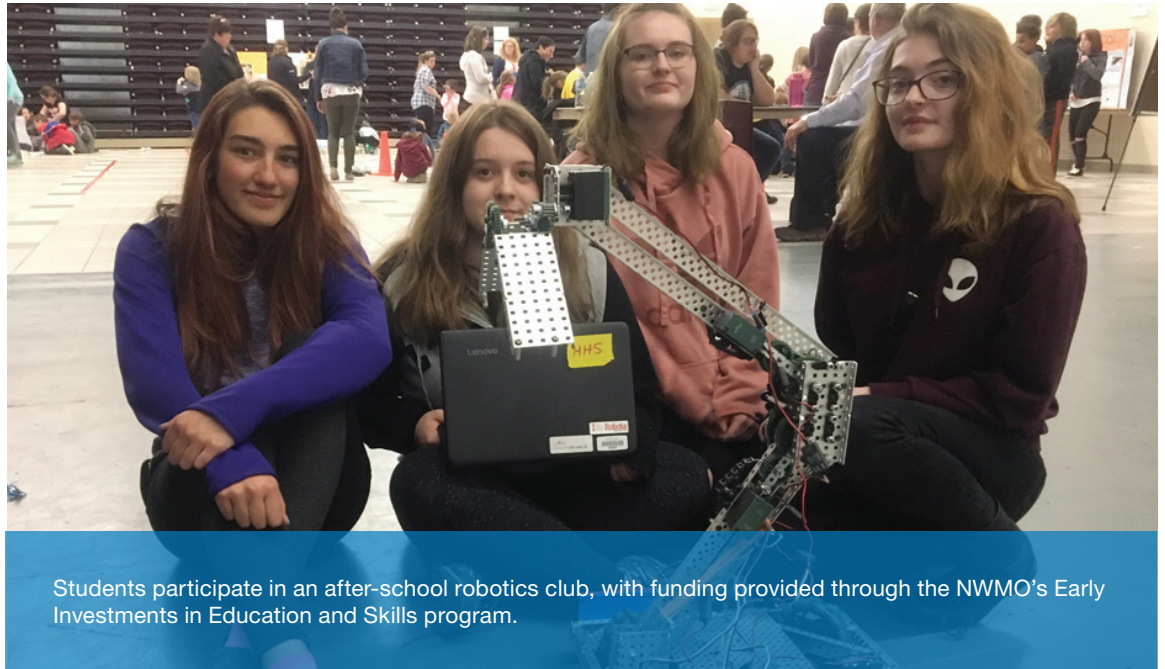
Youth receive hands-on experience about what is required in the skilled trades, as they participate in interactive learning exercises at a Skills Opportunities Showcase.

YOUTH

The involvement of youth in community learning and decision-making is a goal of both the community and project. Funding is available to encourage youth involvement in community-learning and decision-making related to the project. Examples may include youth-focused community-based workshops, trips for youth enrichment, before/after school, and intermural or summer programs that contribute to youth learning. Additionally, small grants or honoraria may be available for graduating students going to university, college or work. Furthermore, the NWMO offers youth program sponsorships for individual community members to attend a science/technology/environment/arts/math (STEAM) camp or workshop of their choice and student internships at the NWMO or in a municipality.

BUILDING AWARENESS AND FOSTERING SHARED PLANNING IN THE BROADER AREA

Resources may be used to help lead a dialogue in the siting area, which may include regional engagement activities and studies. This category may also include funding for regional strategic/economic development planning initiatives to explore the project. Funding may also be used to facilitate speakers in the area, and Learn More tours for area opinion leaders, organizations and a cross-section of surrounding communities.



Students participate in an after-school robotics club, with funding provided through the NWMO's Early Investments in Education and Skills program.

Early investments in education and skills

The NWMO is working with communities to build capacity for participation in the APM project, should it come to the community. This includes investments in training and education to equip community members, including youth, to work at the Centre of Expertise, and in subsequent site preparation, construction and operation activities. These investments are intended to include transferable skills that could be applied to other projects or workplaces as well.

The NWMO continues to work with individual communities to understand how to support capacity building, education and skills development in a manner that best suits their needs. We also understand that these needs may evolve over time and as the siting process advances in an area.

Resources may support capacity-building, education and skills development related to the project. Expenses in this category may include: Traditional Knowledge-related education, work experience in a community-minded endeavor, local/regional job fairs to support students in understanding opportunities for post-secondary/trades, workshops for general skills development on topics such as computer literacy, business planning, proposal writing, bookkeeping, first aid training, project planning, conflict resolution skills, communication training, and grants for skills training programs.

Community well-being funding

The NWMO is committed to implementing the project in a manner that will enhance community well-being, consistent with the objectives and aspirations of the communities involved in the site selection process.

To support communities' ongoing efforts to enhance well-being as they explore the project and move into more intensive phases of study in the site selection process, the NWMO established two community well-being programs: a contribution to Community Well-Being Reserve Funds, and Near-Term Investments in Social and Physical Community Infrastructure Projects.

The NWMO has established funding under these programs for each of the two siting areas remaining in the site selection process. Eligible communities are the municipality and the First Nation community in the immediate vicinity of the area where borehole drilling activities are planned and that are helping to lead these activities.

Contribution to Community Well-Being Reserve Funds

The NWMO makes an annual financial contribution to the Community Well-being Reserve Funds. Administered by the community, these funds are intended to: support the community's continuing efforts to build community sustainability and well-being, support capacity-building to participate in discussions to explore partnership with the NWMO, and to host the project in the future through the development of transferrable skills.

The financial contribution is made to the community's well-being reserve fund established for this purpose or to a similar mechanism. Each community will provide a report to the NWMO on use of the funds on an annual basis. This reporting will be accessible to community members upon request and to the municipality or First Nation community. This approach is consistent with the NWMO's commitment to ensuring transparency and good governance.

In 2020, the value of this contribution is \$300,000 for each eligible community. The NWMO will review and may refine this program as we continue to learn and work with communities and as discussions about potential partnerships advance.

Near-Term Investments in Community Social and Physical Infrastructure Projects

The Near-Term Investments in Community Social and Physical Infrastructure Projects program complements existing Learn More resource programs that provide funding to support community learning, discussion and reflection about the project, and the engagement of neighbouring communities, including regional planning activities related to the project. The NWMO offers funding to communities for eligible near-term social and physical infrastructure investment projects as they move into more intensive phases of study in the site selection process.

Eligible First Nation communities and municipalities that are interested in participating in this program are invited to submit a business case for near-term investment projects they want to implement. The NWMO will review individual proposals based on the following considerations:

- 1. Broad benefit:** The community or municipality has demonstrated how the proposed project will benefit the community or area at large, and not just one group within it;
- 2. Sustainability:** The community or municipality has demonstrated how the proposed project will benefit the long-term sustainability of the community or area;
- 3. Benefits are clear and reasonable:** The expected benefits to the community or area have been clearly articulated, and quantified where appropriate, and there is a reasonable expectation they will be delivered should the proposed project proceed;
- 4. Project is achievable:** The community or municipality has demonstrated that the project can be successfully implemented, taking into account: the extent to which the project's planning and implementation are well-defined and understood, the adequacy of the financial resources and capacity required to implement the project, supported by detailed cost estimates developed by subject matter experts, and the schedule for project completion;
- 5. Alternative funding:** The community has explored additional sources of funding and partnerships to leverage funding provided by the NWMO; and
- 6. Future costs are managed:** The advancement of the project will not create an unreasonable future burden on the community, such as commitment to unfunded stages of work, ongoing costs of operation and/or costs of continued financing.

Decisions to provide funding are based on the extent to which an application meets the considerations set out above and are made solely by the NWMO. The NWMO may ask for additional information to reasonably assist in our review of the application.

If the NWMO accepts the application, the community and the NWMO will enter into a project-specific Near-Term Investments Agreement.

The Near-Term Investment Program's duration is 2020 to 2022.



NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION DES DÉCHETS NUCLÉAIRES

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