



# Chiefs and Councils Saugeen Ojibway Nation

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## Community Update

Aanii Boozhoo,

G'chi miigwech. Congratulations to all Community members on being part of our historic vote on Ontario Power Generation's proposed Deep Geologic Repository (DGR). The vote resulted in a strong NO from our Community. The numbers are as follows: 1,058 no, 170 yes, and 4 spoiled ballots for a total of 1,232 votes. The Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON) Community Process has brought us to this vote. A report on the Community Process will be available to Community Members in the coming months.

We should take a moment to acknowledge the significance of what transpired and celebrate this momentous victory for our Nation and those who supported our decision from around the world. And yet, we also must look to the future and prepare ourselves for the work that lies ahead. The DGR project will not proceed but the waste issue has yet to be resolved. There is still a large amount of nuclear waste being stored above-ground in our Territory, as well as nuclear waste being transported into our Territory.

We also have long-standing Legacy Issues that must be resolved. Legacy Issues are defined as the historic and ongoing impacts of nuclear power on Saugeen Ojibway Nation Communities and Territory, including impacts to cultural and spiritual connections and use of the Territory (lands, waters, wildlife), the health of the Territory and the People, and the economy. This includes the fact that the nuclear industry began development in our Territory in the 1960s and has grown into the world's largest nuclear operating facility without our consent. We also have the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) continuing its next phase of a site-selection process for a high-level waste (used fuel) DGR, with one of the two remaining candidate sites located in our Territory (municipality of South Bruce).

We, as a SON Joint Council, are working to develop strategic plans to move forward on these important issues. We held a strategic planning session in Collingwood on February 3rd and 4th, 2020 and will continue with at least one more in-depth session before we can present our vision to the Communities and get your input.

This key outcome of our strategic planning session was a commitment from the Joint Council to have SON members lead in this process to address and resolve Legacy Issues and dedication to ensuring that as we move forward, our operations and processes are more transparent and accessible. We will continue to exercise our treaty and stewardship responsibilities as Anishnaabe, and reclaim our jurisdiction in our Territory. We will be inviting all Community members to attend a meeting and feast with the SON Joint Council, so that we can share more about our strategic plan going forward and how Community can become more involved. We also want input and feedback from those who wish to share, so that together, we can move forward in a good way in consideration of the past, present, and the future of our People and Territory.

Miigwetch,



Ogimaa Lester Anoquot

Saugeen First Nation



Ogimaa Greg Nadjiwon

Nawash Unceded First Nation