

Comments on community hosting willingness as measured by a vote, versus Eagle Lake FN lawsuit without any community vote.

Jaro Franta, 31 January 2026

Thanks to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission for inviting comments on the Initial Project Description for the Deep Geological Repository for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel Project, proposed by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (the NWMO), per Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference number 88774.

As stated in NWMO's Initial Project Description: Deep Geological Repository (DGR) for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel Project,

*On November 16, 2024, WLON held a community referendum; **87.4% of participating Members expressed a willingness to proceed into regulatory phases of the project.** This decision emerged from more than a decade of learning, Ceremony, and community leadership.*

Meanwhile Eagle Lake FN band leadership chose to launch a lawsuit against NWMO's DGR site selection process, without ever having held a vote for ELFN band members.

In other words, ELFN leadership acted without knowing the position of their membership, one way or the other.

APM-REP-05000-0210-R000

Initial Project Description: Deep Geological Repository (DGR) for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel Project
December 2025

A Community Decision

On November 16, 2024, WLON held a community referendum; 87.4% of participating Members expressed a willingness to proceed into regulatory phases of the project. This decision emerged from more than a decade of learning, Ceremony, and community leadership.

Currently, ELFN leadership is pursuing their campaign against the DGR site selection by posting a series of comments to the IAAC website.

Comments on Initial Project Description (Full Report) **Deep Geological Repository (DGR) for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel Project**

Author: Eagle Lake First Nation

Reference Number: 202

Submitted: 2026-01-30 - 2:54 PM

Project Phase: Planning

Participation Notice: Public Notice - Comments invited on the summary of the Initial Project Description and funding available

Eagle Lake First Nation is submitting comments on the Initial Project Description.

Attachment Included

ELFN leadership campaign against the DGR site selection is also well documented in the media.

Eagle Lake has a bone to pick with the NWMO

Eagle Lake First Nation has applied for a judicial review of the NWMO's site selection for a proposed nuclear waste repository; its chief says 'this fight isn't against our neighbouring First Nation.'



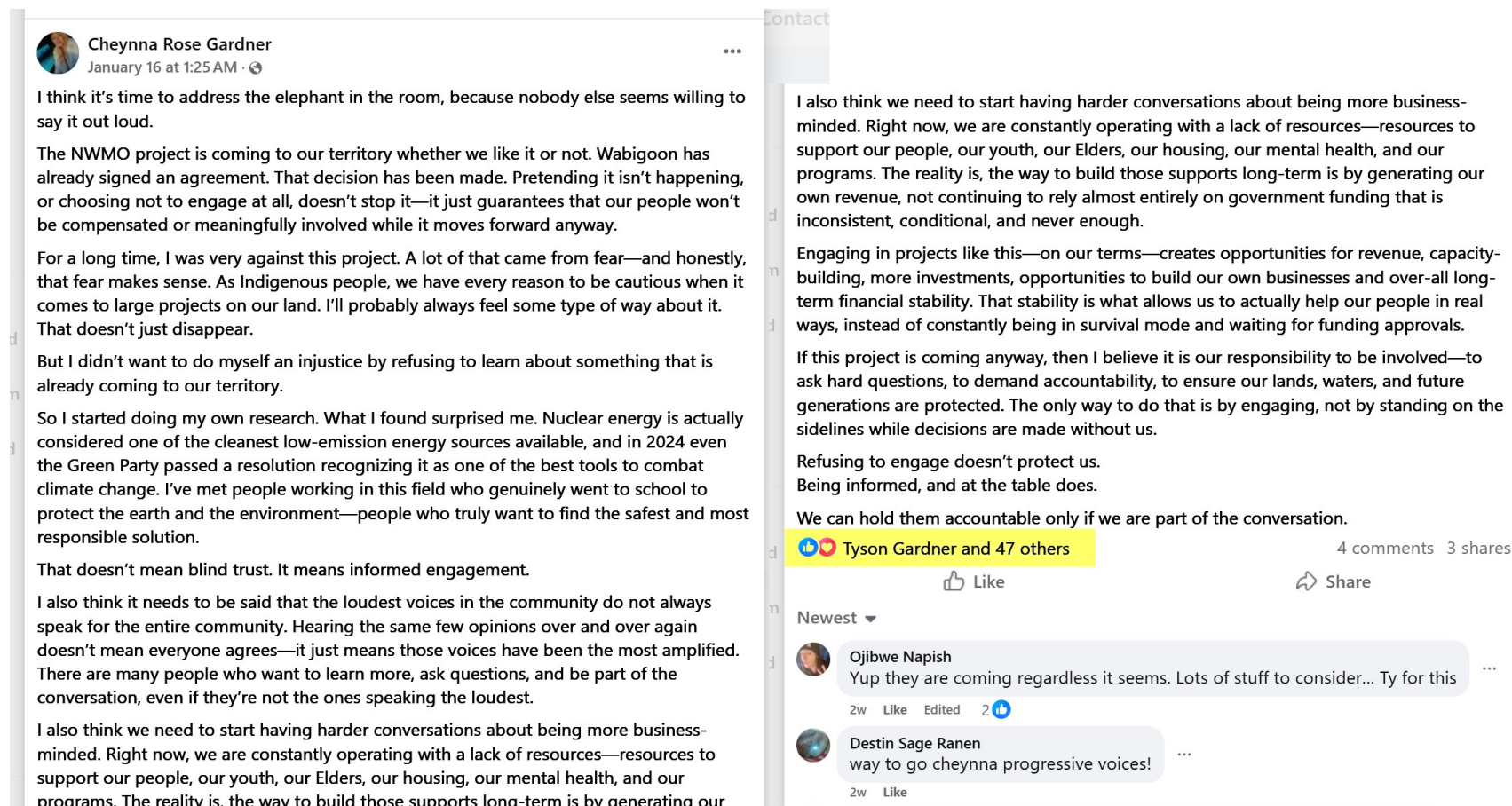
[Mike Stimpson](#), Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
22 minutes ago



Eagle Lake Chief Bernadette Wabange, right, signs a memorandum of understanding with SLFNA's Sonia Isaac-Mann on June 26, 2024. SLFNHA

However, what is perhaps less well known is that ELFN band members have in fact expressed strong disagreement with their leaders, and in a public way, on social media.

Again, ELFN leaders' opposition campaign cannot be based on band member opinions, in the absence of any sort of poll or referendum vote, as was done by WLON.



Cheynna Rose Gardner
January 16 at 1:25 AM · 🌐

I think it's time to address the elephant in the room, because nobody else seems willing to say it out loud.

The NWMO project is coming to our territory whether we like it or not. Wabigoon has already signed an agreement. That decision has been made. Pretending it isn't happening, or choosing not to engage at all, doesn't stop it—it just guarantees that our people won't be compensated or meaningfully involved while it moves forward anyway.

For a long time, I was very against this project. A lot of that came from fear—and honestly, that fear makes sense. As Indigenous people, we have every reason to be cautious when it comes to large projects on our land. I'll probably always feel some type of way about it. That doesn't just disappear.

But I didn't want to do myself an injustice by refusing to learn about something that is already coming to our territory.

So I started doing my own research. What I found surprised me. Nuclear energy is actually considered one of the cleanest low-emission energy sources available, and in 2024 even the Green Party passed a resolution recognizing it as one of the best tools to combat climate change. I've met people working in this field who genuinely went to school to protect the earth and the environment—people who truly want to find the safest and most responsible solution.

That doesn't mean blind trust. It means informed engagement.

I also think it needs to be said that the loudest voices in the community do not always speak for the entire community. Hearing the same few opinions over and over again doesn't mean everyone agrees—it just means those voices have been the most amplified. There are many people who want to learn more, ask questions, and be part of the conversation, even if they're not the ones speaking the loudest.

I also think we need to start having harder conversations about being more business-minded. Right now, we are constantly operating with a lack of resources—resources to support our people, our youth, our Elders, our housing, our mental health, and our programs. The reality is, the way to build those supports long-term is by generating our own revenue, not continuing to rely almost entirely on government funding that is inconsistent, conditional, and never enough.

Engaging in projects like this—on our terms—creates opportunities for revenue, capacity-building, more investments, opportunities to build our own businesses and over-all long-term financial stability. That stability is what allows us to actually help our people in real ways, instead of constantly being in survival mode and waiting for funding approvals.

If this project is coming anyway, then I believe it is our responsibility to be involved—to ask hard questions, to demand accountability, to ensure our lands, waters, and future generations are protected. The only way to do that is by engaging, not by standing on the sidelines while decisions are made without us.

Refusing to engage doesn't protect us.
Being informed, and at the table does.

We can hold them accountable only if we are part of the conversation.

👍👍 Tyson Gardner and 47 others · 4 comments · 3 shares

👍 Like · 🔄 Share

















































Newest ▾

Ojibwe Napish
Yup they are coming regardless it seems. Lots of stuff to consider... Ty for this ...
2w · Like · Edited · 2 👍

Destin Sage Ranen
way to go cheynna progressive voices! ...
2w · Like

Note that the preceding commentary, by an ELFN band member, received considerable support, as seen in the number of 'likes':

All 👍 39 ❤️ 7 😡 2

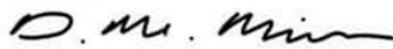
 Tyson Gardner	 Murray Cook	 Ojibwe Napish	 Lori Perkins
 Elysia Claire	 Deanna Pea	 Kerr Rose	 Chris Tom
 Chelsea Pateman	 Crystal Shaw	 Trevor Kavanaugh	 Jasmine Adams
 Kurtis Rottler	 Patricia Dawn Wilson	 Andrea Tardiff	 Paule Whyte
 Kyla Lapointe	 Natasha Hanson	 Rob Wetelainen	 Clarissa Sky
 Deanna Henry	 Angela Bazinet-Eddison	 Marlene Landon	 Kyla Calvert
 Brittany Norris	 Lila Norris Duffy	 Bobbie Stevenson	 Keely Newstead
 Jamie Lee	 Kari Comegan	 Shannon Gardner	 Teresa Parenteau
 Jody McRae	 Demi Magnusson	 Anne Patricia Berrey	 Terrilynne Leonard
 Kathy McConnachie	 Kelsey Brianne	 Destin Sage Ranen	 Ron Stansfield
 Chelsey Elaine	 Angelica Van Bastelaere	 Sheila Kowal	 Jessica Shabaquay
 Shannon Doudiet	 Precious C Adams	 Candace Wetelainen	
 Lance Fugate			

It's also worth noting that the council to ELFN leadership evidently doesn't even know where the proposed DGR site is: Their claim that it's at Revell Lake is patently false, because in reality the site is about 16 kilometers to the west of Revell Lake, on the opposite side of highway 622.

In response to recent comments/concerns around Eagle Lake First Nations dealings with the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) and a rumored agreement that has been signed by the Nation, I wanted to take a few minutes to provide a brief update and information to help alleviate community concerns.

Eagle Lake First Nation does not have an agreement with the NWMO. **As you may be aware, the NWMO is currently looking into the Revell Lake area for a potential deep geological repository for nuclear waste.** This is an area that has long been used by Eagle Lake community members for traditional activities and the practicing of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights. Our current in with NWMO is to ensure we receive information and updates about the work they are that we can be properly informed. Our Land Declaration, provided by community Elder Maanachi Totaa-aki, dictates that it is our responsibility to protect the land and ensure generations to come have access to a healthy land so that they can continue to practice Aboriginal and Treaty Rights as our previous generations have done since time immen us to do this, we need to engage with the NWMO to get information on the potential p hope this update reduces the concern of community members to the potential rumors t currently be going around. Rest assured, you will continue to be updated and consulted more information becomes available.

Miigwech,



Daniel Morriseau, M.Sc.

Lands and Resources Consultation Manager

Eagle Lake First Nation, Lands and Resources

landsandresources2@migisi.ca

As you can see, Eagle Lake FN is about 64 kilometers west of the potential DGR site, and about 40 kilometers west of WLON. The Revell Lake area cited in the letter is about another 16½ kilometers EAST from the potential DGR site. ELFN does NOT get to negotiate a hosting agreement, nor have they voted on the project, as WLON has.

