

Secretariat Office
468 Queen St E., Suite 400
Toronto, ON M5A 1T7
Phone: (416) 597 1266
Fax: (416) 597 8365
www.chiefs-of-ontario.org



Head Office
1 Migizii Miikan, PO Box 711
Nipissing First Nation
North Bay, ON P1B 8J8
Phone: (705) 476 0999
Fax: (416) 597 8365
1 877 517 6527

January 26, 2026

Laurie Swami
President and CEO, Nuclear Waste Management Organization
22 St. Clair Avenue East Fourth Floor
Toronto, ON, M4T 2S3

RE: Chiefs of Ontario Resolution Regarding Nuclear Waste and Transportation

Wa'tkwanonwera:ton / Greetings, Ms. Swami:

I write to you in my capacity as the Ontario Regional Chief of the Chiefs of Ontario, representing 133 First Nations in Ontario. As Regional Chief, it is my responsibility to inform you that the Chiefs of Ontario passed a resolution at the 2025 Fall Chiefs Assembly regarding the transportation and storage of nuclear waste. The resolution is as follows:

Be it resolved that we, the Chiefs in Assembly:

- 1. Are opposed to the transportation and burial of radioactive wastes in First Nations territory without free, prior, and informed consent of all the impacted First Nations, including the transportation of high-level nuclear fuel waste in Ontario.*
- 2. Call upon the responsible federal Ministries to meet with the Nations that are and remain opposed.*
- 3. Call upon the federal Crown and its agents, including the IAAC, to ensure that First Nations along potential transportation routes are adequately resourced and supported to participate in all stages of the Impact Assessment and licensing membership, technical experts, and the Crown and its agencies.*

As you are well aware, NWMO's own Reconciliation Policy clearly commits the organization to seek the free, prior, and informed consent of impacted Indigenous Peoples before proceeding with the development of a deep geological repository. To date, neither the NWMO nor the Crown has sought or received the consent of First Nations along the transportation route for the shipment of nuclear fuel waste through their territory—a clear violation of your organization's Reconciliation Policy.

Ontario First Nations have serious concerns about the long-term health risks associated with the transportation of nuclear fuel waste, and as stewards of their lands, First Nations are crucial partners who must be engaged in all aspects of the transportation and storage of nuclear fuel waste. They rightfully deserve a voice in these important conversations.

As mandated by this resolution, I will be advocating for the inclusion of Ontario First Nations in the impact assessment process. The Chiefs of Ontario and I are calling on you and your partners to adhere to your own policies by upholding the duty to consult and by working to gain the free, prior, and informed consent of all impacted First Nations before carrying out the transportation of high-level nuclear waste in the province. These consultations must be supported by adequate funding to meaningfully consider the perspectives of First Nations community members.

I welcome the opportunity to meet with you as soon as possible to discuss how we can ensure that all obligations to Ontario First Nations are met.

Sken:nen / In peace,

<Original signed by>

Abram Benedict
Ontario Regional Chief, Chiefs of Ontario

CC: Hon. Tim Hodgson, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada