



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

President

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April 23, 2026

Chief Whitecloud
1100 Memorial Ave, Suite 328
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Chief Whitecloud:

Thank you for your letter of April 8, 2026, concerning the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's (NWMO) account of engagement with Lac Des Mille Lacs First Nation (LDMLFN) to date, as described in their Initial Project Description for the Deep Geological Repository for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel Project (the Project). As requested, your letter has been posted publicly on the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry webpage](#) for the Project.

I appreciate you bringing the concerns of LDMLFN to my attention, regarding NWMO's engagement to date. Proponent-led engagement with Indigenous Nations and communities will be a foundational part of the integrated assessment for this project. The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) provides [guidance for proponents](#) on early and meaningful engagement with potentially impacted Indigenous Nations and communities. As planning for the integrated assessment proceeds, IAAC and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) will be directing the NWMO to carry out Indigenous engagement in good faith in a manner that is attentive to each Nations concerns and consistent with the Government of Canada's commitment to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the UN Declaration). This direction will be laid out in the Integrated Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (TISGs), and I encourage LDMLFN's input on the draft TISGs currently posted for comment (Section 3 details the proponents Indigenous engagement requirements).

.../2

Your letter also spoke to meaningful consultation with the Crown in the integrated assessment of the project and Crown obligations regarding the UN Declaration. IAAC and the CNSC are committed to aligning with the principles, objectives, and spirit of the UN Declaration, and to ensure that the rights of Indigenous Peoples are respected throughout the integrated assessment. This will include seeking the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Nations and communities whose rights may be adversely impacted by the Project. IAAC and the CNSC welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with LDMLFN to ensure that our approach to consultation and implementation of the UN Declaration aligns with the laws, knowledge, protocols and practises of the LDMLFN.

I understand that IAAC and CNSC staff are currently working with LDMLFN to seek alignment on a meaningful consultation approach and comprehensive assessment of LDMLFN's concerns regarding the project.

I encourage you to continue this important work with IAAC and CNSC staff who look forward to LDMLFN's input on the [draft Integrated Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines](#) and the [draft Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan](#) currently posted for comment.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Terence Hubbard (he/him, il)

c.c.: Laurie Swami, President and Chief Executive Officer, Nuclear Waste Management Organization
Pierre Tremblay, President and Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission