

**Questions from No Nuclear Waste in Northwestern Ontario, posed to the Dryden City Mayoral Candidates, September 2022.**

**Question #1**

**What do you believe are the top issues that Dryden residents are concerned about and what is your plan to address these issues?**

**Shayne MacKinnon**

At this time the number one issue is the prospect of nuclear waste being deposited in our region. This issue is very high on the minds of our residents and their opinion needs to be heard and respected by any new City Council when discussing all things concerning the DGR.

Secondly would be the issues related to homelessness including mental health and addictions. This issue is also closely linked to the lack of housing and specifically affordable housing in our region.

The third issue in my campaign is the utilization of tax dollars and tax reserves in the community. Our infrastructure, specifically water distribution and waste water collection systems need much attention.

There are many more issues that are important to our municipality but these are the priorities.

**Jack Harrison**

- Fiscal responsibility of your tax dollars and ensure they are used wisely for the benefit of our citizens. We need to ensure our taxes are reasonable so that it is affordable to live and operate a business in Dryden.

- Focus on core city business which is the maintenance and upgrading of our infrastructure such as sewer, water, roads and existing facilities such as our arena and fitness center. This means prioritizing the work on our aging assets and ensuring we are reserving capital to replace in a timely manner without affecting the daily lives of our citizens.
- Improving our quality of life with projects such as waterfront development to encourage folks to spend time outdoors. I will seek to find funding/partnerships to move forward on these projects as funding becomes available.
- Increase the long-term care availability in Dryden. Our hospital is home to many seniors waiting for long term care, which affects our health care system. With Bill 7 passing which could see our loved ones sent out of our community we need to focus on expanding the availability of long-term care in Dryden. This will require persistent effort to develop a workable funding model to make this happen in a fiscally responsible manner.
- The potential Nuclear Waste Repository site being chosen in our area. See below for more details.

## **Question #2.**

**If you are elected, what role would you support for the City of Dryden to perform in relation to the plan proposed by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO)?**

### **Shayne MacKinnon**

As a member of the City's Dryden Nuclear Education and Engagement Committee I feel that it is my responsibility that all voices are heard in the discussion. The goal of the DNEEC is to engage and educate the public through events such as the seminar being held in Dryden on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of September.

Dryden can and must play a substantial role in deciding whether the DGR is located in our area. Dryden City Council cannot lose sight of the fact that we are closely aligned with our rural and indigenous community neighbours. The information that we share and the conclusions that we come to affect more people that those inside our boundaries. Many have stated that this decision will exclude any choice made by the City of Dryden. I disagree and believe that the will of the residents of Dryden must be advocated for by Council.

### **Jack Harrison**

- The decision to develop the Revell site between Ignace and Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (WLON) has been deferred until the fall of 2024. According to NWMO, as Ignace is the host community, they will have the vote, however WLON will need to be supportive for the site development to go ahead. Dryden is considered "a potential Significant Neighbouring Community". The Dryden Council needs to understand what this role is and to be fully involved. I am also prepared to challenge NWMO's process if the City does not have a significant say

in the decision of the site selection. It seems to me it would be patently unfair for the people living downstream to not have an important part of the process that may put us at environmental risk.

- I believe the right course of action is for the City to be as involved as possible and understand fully the cost/benefits through learning from experts who are in favour and in opposition to this proposal. There are many questions and concerns that need to be addressed before a decision needs to be made. We need to think long term on this issue. I like how the First Nations think – How will this project affect our community 7 generations from now? After the election I will engage with the Council to ensure we have a balanced understanding of the pros and cons and lead a delegation to engage with Ignace and WLON leadership to understand their position and share our thoughts and concerns before they make their decision.

### **Question #3.**

**Many Dryden residents feel their voices have not been heard and the previous city council was not transparent in its relationship with NWMO. What would you do to ensure residents have a voice and are well-informed about NWMO interactions and plans with Dryden City Council?**

#### **Shayne MacKinnon**

As a member of the current council I made every effort to ensure that the relationship between NWMO and the City was made public. I am confident that all meetings and agreements with NWMO were documented and made available to the public either by documentation or through archived video meeting recordings. This is not to say that meetings between individual council members and NWMO did not take place but I am not aware of those meetings.

As to the voice of the residents; if elected I will propose an agreement with other council members that the education supplied by the DNEEC committee and other sources should culminate in a referendum to take place no later than December 31 2023. The actual question to be posed and the details of the referendum would be agreed upon by council after submissions by the various stakeholders.

#### **Jack Harrison**

3. Many Dryden residents feel their voices have not been heard and the previous city council was not transparent in its relationship with NWMO. What would you do to ensure residents have a voice and are well-informed about NWMO interactions and plans with Dryden City Council?

- In mid-2020 the City of Dryden created a Dryden Nuclear Education and Engagement Plan as well as set up a Dryden Nuclear Education & Engagement Committee. On paper the Terms of Reference of the engagement plan is balanced and well thought out and if implemented properly will give an opportunity for Dryden residents to have their voices heard. City Councils

responsibility is to ensure the Committee is following the plan.

- I am not sure about what you mean when you refer to a lack of transparency with City Council and its relationship with the NWMO. There are financial commitments to the City of Dryden from NWMO which I see in the online City budget in various categories. These appear to mainly offset the cost of the City has to do to be involved in the site selection process.

- I believe that the Council needs to be fully transparent in its actions and decisions. I would be interested in your organization's views about how Dryden City Council could be more transparent.

**Question #4.**

**What do you know about NWMO's plan to bury high-level nuclear waste in a deep geological repository outside of Dryden and what is your stance concerning the plan?**

**Shayne MacKinnon**

I have been following the DGR plan since 2012 and I have tried to keep pace with the information supplied and the arguments for and against its existence just 40 km from our municipality.

As stated in #3 I am very concerned with the lack of public input on this issue. A project such as this will change the fabric of our community forever and will be inherited by generations yet unborn. Some proponents of the plan feel that it will be the economic salvation of the region even though the economic impact will only be felt for a twenty-to-thirty-year period.

My questions about this project have not been answered fully but I will look forward to casting my vote in a referendum.

**Jack Harrison**

- I have begun a detailed review and started learning about NWMO's plans for a Deep Geological Repository (DGR) in Ontario. I have been on the Dryden Nuclear Education & Engagement Committee website and have view some of their posted material. In addition, I have collected a lot of information from both the NWMO

sites in Dryden and Ignace which I am reading through, so at this point I have a good basic understanding of what they are trying to accomplish. I attended your rally in Wabigoon in August and met some of your leadership. I have started to gather information regarding what the experts who are opposing the DGR are saying and I will continue developing this information base. I would welcome any suggestions you have that would be a good learning opportunity for me.

- As you may surmise at this point I am in the learning phase so that I can make an informed decision on whether or not I will support the plan. In order to do that I am keeping an open mind. There are many facets of life from which this project needs to be looked at. I am science-based by nature (H.B.Sc in Forestry) so I will be following the science and facts about this project. I am also looking at this project from a business perspective as I have worked in the forest industry almost my entire career and I would like to understand what the business case is. I am also an avid outdoors person who has a love of being on the water and in the forest so I am considering how this project impacts our area from that perspective.