

DECLARATION OF THE KEEPERS OF THE LAND

What will we do today to protect Mother Earth and our people?

We, the Council of Elders and Youth of the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO), acknowledge the Laws of Life of the Creator as sacred supreme Spiritual Law, universal for all humanity and aligned with the Laws of the Natural World.

The homelands of Turtle Island are gifted to us by the Creator in oral traditions and songs and codified in the Original Instructions called our Sacred Laws.

The land formations of our territories and purposeful usage throughout time, the archaeological evidence within the depth of the ground, the markings on the land thousands of years old, and the bones of our Ancestors ground into the soil under our feet signify our land rights and denote each Nation's responsibilities to care for their traditional territories.

We, the autonomous Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island, are the Peoples of vision, spiritual in nature, the Keepers of the Land, responsible for stewarding and supporting Creation in all its magnificence.

Every day, we give thanks and ask, *"What can we do today to protect Mother Earth and our people?"*

We declare that:

We take our seats at the Council of Elders and Youth of the NWMO, as independent advisors, to carry out these sacred, inherent obligations for the care of Mother Earth and all Beings within Creation.

We respect and accept the diversity of Indigenous representation on the Council and use a consensual approach to reach a common understanding of traditional knowledge and science.

We are concerned with the effects and storage of used nuclear fuel in Canada and as a collective problem for humanity on a global scale.

We are questioning scientists to learn about their current knowledge and scientific findings on used nuclear fuel.

We are seeking answers, in our way, through ceremonies and by requesting the help of Elders of many Nations, as well as our traditional scientists, in order to seek options for the management of used nuclear fuel.

We will not back away from our responsibilities to protect Mother Earth, Her Laws and the Beings in Creation.

The question of how to manage used nuclear fuel by burying it in deep geological repositories within Mother Earth is a divisive and volatile issue.

Together, we will find answers by Standing Shoulder to Shoulder.

Help Us To Help Mother Earth.