

## Introduction to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO)

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*This is the first of six columns.*

Before I begin, I'd like to thank the Aamjiwnaang leadership for inviting us to share information with readers. Over the next 12 weeks, I will be talking about nuclear energy and Canada's plan for the management of used nuclear fuel. I'll describe the NWMO's unique Indigenous Knowledge policy and how it came to be. I welcome your comments and questions. Let's turn this into a dialogue!



First, the background. Many people are surprised to learn that nuclear energy is a major source of Ontario's power, often accounting for about 60% of the province's electricity production\*. Nuclear power has been used to generate electricity for decades, not only in Ontario, but also in Quebec and New Brunswick.

A by-product of this process is used nuclear fuel. There are currently about 2.7 million used nuclear fuel bundles in Canada. They are safely stored at seven licenced facilities. But this is not a long-term solution. Used nuclear fuel must be safely contained and isolated from people and the environment, more or less indefinitely, as it will remain radioactive for many thousands of years.

That's where the NWMO comes in. It was formed in 2002 under an Act of Parliament (the Nuclear Fuel Waste Act) to develop and implement a safe and socially acceptable plan for the long-term care of Canada's used nuclear fuel. By law, Canada's nuclear energy corporations must fund the NWMO.

In my next column, I'll introduce you to Canada's plan for the management of used nuclear fuel. You can always get more information at [www.nwmo.ca](http://www.nwmo.ca), or by contacting us at [askthenwmo@nwmo.ca](mailto:askthenwmo@nwmo.ca).

\* You can track this at Ontario Energy Report: <https://www.ontarioenergyreport.ca/>