



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Public Attitude Survey shows increased local awareness of the PHAI

**Port Hope, ON (March 11, 2015)** – Key findings from the 2014 Port Granby Project Public Attitude Survey reveal increased local awareness of the Port Granby Project, with 87 per cent of respondents reporting they have heard about the project. Additionally, the findings show a high level of awareness of the existing waste management facility (85 per cent) and of the future facility for the long-term, safe management of historic low-level radioactive waste in Southeast Clarington (75 per cent).

The independent survey was conducted this past November by CCI Research Inc. on behalf of the Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI). Over 200 property owners shared their opinions and attitudes about the project, representing a 56 per cent increase in responses over the 2011 survey. The survey questionnaire was mailed to approximately 800 property owners within a 10 km radius of the Port Granby Project area.

Marty Kapitan, PHAI manager Legal Agreement Programs, said public attitude research becomes increasingly important as the Port Granby Project moves forward and construction activities advance. “The information residents provide helps us identify areas of concern, assess the effectiveness of our communication efforts and improve dialogue with the public,” Kapitan said. “Community input is valuable to the project, and we thank everyone who took the time to fill out the survey.”

Other survey findings include:

- 65 per cent of respondents reported being “somewhat” or “very satisfied” with the PHAI’s efforts to provide project information, consistent with 2011 results
- Confidence in the PHAI’s ability to safely manage the waste has increased progressively since 2007 to 58 per cent
- Three out of four respondents identified mailed newsletters and brochures as their preferred method for receiving project information
- 79 per cent of respondents rated the Port Granby Project Citizen Liaison Group as “somewhat” to “very” important
- Resident satisfaction with living in the community remains strong with 95 per cent indicating they are “very” or “somewhat” satisfied
- Asked what they feel the benefits of the Port Granby Project are, respondents identified “getting rid of the waste” and “having it cleaned up and contained.”

The confidence interval for the overall Port Granby survey sample of 215 returned surveys is approximately +/-5.7%, 19 times out of 20. An executive summary of the survey is posted at [www.phai.ca](http://www.phai.ca). Copies of the survey report are available at the PHAI Project Information Exchange at 115 Toronto Road, Port Hope or upon request.

## **ABOUT THE PORT GRANBY PROJECT**

The Port Granby Project involves the relocation of approximately 450,000 cubic metres of historic low-level radioactive waste, located at an existing site on the shoreline of Lake Ontario in Southeast Clarington, to a new, engineered aboveground mound. The historic waste resulted from radium and uranium refining operations of the former Crown Corporation, Eldorado Nuclear, which, with its private sector predecessors, operated from the 1930s to 1988.

Construction of the new waste water treatment plant for the Port Granby Project was completed in early 2015. The publicly posted tender for the contract to build the Port Granby Project long-term waste management facility and remediate the waste closed March 10, 2015 with an award anticipated this summer.

## **ABOUT THE PHAI**

The Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) is a federal environmental clean-up program. Its mandate is the remediation and local, long-term, safe management of historic low-level radioactive waste in Port Hope and Port Granby. The Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office (PHAI MO), a federal partnership between Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Nuclear Laboratories and Public Works and Government Services Canada, was created to carry out these projects.

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