



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Public Attitude Survey shows local awareness of the PHAI continues to increase**

Port Hope, ON (February 28, 2017) – The 2016 Port Granby Project Public Attitude Survey results show a continued increase in local awareness of the Port Granby Project, with 92 per cent of respondents reporting they have heard about the project, compared to 87 per cent in 2014. More than four out of five respondents (84 per cent) reported that they are aware that the new Port Granby long-term waste management facility is currently under construction.

Conducted in November 2016 by CCI Research Inc. on behalf of the Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI), the independent survey questionnaire was mailed to approximately 800 property owners within a 10-kilometer radius of the Port Granby Project area. In response, 171 property owners shared their opinions and attitudes about the project.

Public attitude research is a key tool in gathering community input, said Marty Kapitan, Manager, Legal Agreement Programs. “The survey enables us to gather information on resident concerns, assess our community outreach approaches, and adjust our efforts accordingly,” Kapitan said. “We thank everyone who completed the survey; input from the community is invaluable as we continue with construction and remediation activities.”

Other survey findings include:

- Since 2007, familiarity with the Port Granby Project has increased from about half (51 per cent) to about three-quarters of respondents, with 73 per cent indicating they are “very familiar” or “somewhat familiar” with the project
- Confidence that the waste can be safely managed at the new long-term waste management facility increased from 58 per cent in the 2014 survey to 64 per cent in 2016
- With respect to PHAI communications, about four out of five respondents (81 per cent) reported being satisfied overall with the PHAI’s efforts to provide information about the Port Granby Project, while about two-thirds (65 per cent) expressed confidence that the PHAI would respond to any concerns they may have
- Brochures/newsletters through the mail were the top choice of respondents for receiving information about the Port Granby Project (65 per cent), and just over half of respondents (53 per cent) indicated that they “always” read the Port Granby Project Newsletter
- Four out of five respondents (80 per cent) felt that the Port Granby Project Citizen Liaison Group is important in helping with communication
- Overall satisfaction with living in the community has remained high over time, with 93 per cent of respondents indicating they are “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied”
- When asked to identify the benefits of the Port Granby Project, more than half of the survey respondents (57 per cent) identified one or more benefits, with the most common responses being “the cleanup and containment of the radioactive waste” and “a cleaner environment”

The confidence interval for the overall Port Granby sample is +/-6.5%, 19 times out of 20. An executive summary of the survey is posted at [www.phai.ca](http://www.phai.ca), and copies of the survey report are available at the PHAI Project Information Exchange at 115 Toronto Road, Port Hope or upon request.

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#### **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.

#### **ABOUT THE PHAI**

The Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) is a federal environmental clean-up program for the remediation and local, long-term, safe management of historic low-level radioactive waste in Port Hope and the Port Granby area of Southeast Clarington.

Through its Historic Waste Program Management Office (HWP MO), Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) implements the PHAI, on behalf of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, a federal Crown corporation.

For further information, please contact:

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