

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Public Attitude Survey reveals increased confidence  
in Port Granby Project safety**

Port Hope, ON (February 28, 2019) – The most recent Public Attitude Survey undertaken for Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) indicates that the majority – 76 per cent – of all respondents in the Port Granby area are confident that historic low-level radioactive waste can be safely managed at the new long-term waste management facility. That number represents a marked increase from previous surveys, with responses from those living in the near vicinity of the project site showing a 20 per cent increase in confidence since 2014.

Conducted in November 2018 by CCI Research Inc., the independent survey was mailed to approximately 800 property owners in the Port Granby area. In response, 117 residents shared their opinions and attitudes about the Port Granby Project, which CNL is implementing as part of the Port Hope Area Initiative. The project is relocating more than 450,000 cubic metres of historic low-level radioactive waste from a legacy site on the Lake Ontario shoreline to a new engineered facility being built about 700 metres to the north. The waste is the result of past practices of the former Crown corporation, Eldorado Nuclear Limited.

With the project now well underway, over 80 per cent of respondents reported awareness that the new long-term waste management facility is currently under construction. The most important aspects of the project listed by respondents include protecting and cleaning up the environment, long-term monitoring, and open and transparent public communication.

When asked about CNL's efforts to provide information to the community, 72 per cent said that they are satisfied and more than four out of five respondents (85 per cent) felt the Port Granby Project Citizen Liaison Group is important in helping share project information with the community.

"Feedback from the public is vital to the success of our Public Information Program, and we appreciate the respondents taking the time to share their thoughts with us," said Alex Mahabir, Director of Communications & Stakeholder Relations. "The survey gives us valuable insight into how the community feels about this project and our efforts to keep them informed. Each time we conduct this survey, we learn something new and are able to use the feedback to enhance our communications with the public."

Other survey findings include:

- Since 2007, knowledge of the Port Granby Project continues to increase with 80 per cent indicating they are "very knowledgeable" or "somewhat knowledgeable."
- Overall satisfaction with living in the community remains high; almost all respondents (98 per cent) indicate they are "very satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied."
- Overall, respondents indicated that the "cleanup and containment of the radioactive waste" and "a cleaner environment" are the most important benefits of the project.



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, Canadian Nuclear Laboratories implements the PHAI, on behalf of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, a federal Crown corporation.

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