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RESIDENTS SATISFIED WITH LIFE IN PORT HOPE

Survey reveals highest-ever level of confidence in PHAI cleanup

Port Hope, ON. (January 11, 2012) - The 10th annual Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) Public Attitude Survey, conducted by IntelliPulse Marketing, reveals that overall satisfaction with life in Port Hope remains very high, while residents' confidence in the ability of the PHAI Management Office (MO) to safely manage the low-level radioactive waste for the long term is at its highest level ever.

Satisfaction with life in Port Hope increased to 95 per cent, from 93 per cent in 2010, while 84 per cent of respondents – up three per cent from last year, and up 19 per cent compared to the first public-attitude survey in 2002 – expressed confidence in the ability of the PHAI MO to safely manage the waste for the long term.

“It’s encouraging to know that the residents of Port Hope continue to increase their confidence in our ability to safely move the waste while minimizing community impact,” said Christine Fahey, PHAI project director. “We’ve asked the community to tell us what is important to them and how we are doing, and we will continue to engage and listen as we move into Phase 2.”

With the Port Hope Project set to move into Phase 2, which will start with construction of a new wastewater treatment plant and a new long-term waste management facility at the current Welcome site, 87 per cent of residents identified the cleanup as an important topic. Nevertheless, nearly three-quarters said they “never” or “not very often” think about living in a community dealing with radioactive waste.

Overall, awareness of the Project has improved significantly – increasing to 94 per cent from 88 per cent last year – while almost three quarters of respondents said they have had adequate opportunities to provide input to the Port Hope Project.

Additional findings from the 2011 survey include:

- 88 per cent of residents are aware of plans to transport contaminated soil along designated routes to the new long-term waste management facility;
- 79 per cent are confident the PHAI MO will be able to minimize the effects of project-related traffic;
- 73 per cent are confident the PHAI MO will be able to minimize the effects of project-related dust; and
- For the first time ever, PHAI MO staff was identified as the number one source for the most accurate and complete information about the clean-up project.

An executive summary of the survey will be posted at www.phai.ca. Copies of the complete survey will be available at the Project Information Exchange at 115 Toronto Road, Port Hope.

ABOUT THE PHAI

The Port Hope Area Initiative is dedicated to the safe cleanup, transportation and long-term management of historic low-level radioactive waste in the municipalities of Port Hope and Clarington. The PHAI MO is a partnership of Natural Resources Canada, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, and Public Works and Government Services Canada.

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The IntelliPulse Marketing survey was an independent, random telephone survey of Port Hope Ward 1 and 2 residents conducted between November 23 and December 4, 2011, on behalf of the Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office. Responses were tabulated from 350 adult Ward 1 residents and 100 Ward 2 residents. The weighted sample of 350 for the Municipality of Port Hope yields results that are accurate within +5.4%, 19 out of 20 times.

For more information, please contact:

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