



### **PHAI Public Attitude Survey reveals overall satisfaction with living in Port Hope**

**Port Hope, ON** (March 5, 2019) – Port Hope residents have indicated a high level of satisfaction with living in the community in the latest Public Attitude Survey undertaken by Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL). Respondents also continued to report confidence that historic low-level radioactive waste can be safely managed through the Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) cleanup.

The survey was conducted in November 2018 by CCI Research Inc., and administered by telephone to both urban and rural ward residents of Port Hope, 18 years of age or older. In response, 488 residents shared their opinions and attitudes about the project to clean up and safely store historic low-level radioactive waste in a new engineered aboveground mound within the Municipality of Port Hope. CNL is implementing the PHAI on behalf of the Federal Crown Corporation, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited.

“Public input 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, Communications & Stakeholder Relations. “The survey gives us valuable insight into how the community feels about this project and our efforts to keep residents informed.”

While respondents identified the relocation of historic waste to the long-term waste management facility as their top concern, 83 per cent reported ongoing confidence in CNL’s ability to safely manage the waste. In addition, 95 per cent of respondents are aware of the PHAI and the plans to clean up and restore public and private properties in Port Hope.

Overall, respondents identified safe containment of the waste and improving the municipality’s image as the most important benefits of the PHAI, both of which were reported more often in 2018 than in 2016. The impact of the project on the natural environment was listed among the respondents’ top concerns.

“Each time we conduct this survey we learn something new. Our spring newsletter, which is distributed to every address in Port Hope, will focus on the results of the public attitude survey and describe how we will use the feedback to enhance our communications approach,” added Mahabir. “Our primary goal is to provide the project information residents have told us they find the most useful.”

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 HOPE PROJECT**

The Port Hope Project involves the construction of an engineered aboveground mound and supporting infrastructure for the safe, long-term management of approximately 1.2 million cubic metres of historic low-level radioactive waste, cleanup of the waste from various sites in Port Hope and its transportation to the waste management facility, located south of Highway 401 and west of Baulch Road. Ongoing maintenance and monitoring will continue for hundreds of years after the facility is capped and closed.

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The historic waste resulted from radium and uranium refining operations of the former Crown corporation Eldorado Nuclear and its private sector predecessors, which 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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