



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Awareness and Confidence in Port Hope Area Initiative Remain High

Port Hope, Ontario (January 28, 2010) – A strong majority of Port Hope residents are satisfied with their community, aware of the presence of historic low-level radioactive waste, yet hardly ever think about the issue. These results are among the findings of an independent public attitude survey conducted by Intellipulse Inc. in November 2009.

The telephone survey, which was conducted for the Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office (PHAI MO), polled 350 people in Port Hope (250 in Ward 1 and 100 in Ward 2) to find out how knowledgeable residents are about efforts to clean up and manage the historic low-level radioactive waste and if they are confident that this work can be done safely. This was the eighth consecutive year that the survey was conducted in Port Hope.

Over three-quarters of the residents polled continue to express confidence that the waste can be safely managed at the proposed new facility – rising from 65 percent in 2002 to 78 percent in 2009. As in previous surveys, residents expressed a high level of satisfaction with life in Port Hope, with over 90 percent saying they like living in the community. At the same time, 75 percent of respondents say they think about low-level radioactive waste in the community “not very often” or “never.”

Thirty-three percent of those surveyed indicated that “radioactive waste” (which includes “relocation of the waste,” “radioactive waste in general” and “groups or people complaining about the waste”) was the most important issue facing the community, with “unemployment and lack of economic growth” named by 25 percent of respondents. Eighty-nine percent of respondents identified the clean-up of low-level radioactive waste in Port Hope as either “very important” or “somewhat important.”

Awareness of the Port Hope Area Initiative is at its highest ever at 87 percent and most respondents are satisfied with accessibility of information and their opportunities to provide input to the Port Hope Project. Twenty percent of respondents identify PHAI MO staff as the source for the most accurate and complete information about the Project, with independent, qualified scientists and the Municipality of Port Hope ranking slightly lower.

The Port Hope Area Initiative also offers the Property Value Protection (PVP) Program, which protects residents from losses on the sale, mortgaging or rental of property as it relates to the conduct of the Port Hope Project. Forty-one percent of all respondents said they were familiar with the PVP Program, while 49 percent of those with property in the area covered by the PVP Program indicated familiarity with the Program.

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A summary of the results of this survey, as well as the previous annual surveys can be found on the PHAI Web site at www.phai.ca or by visiting the Project Information Exchange at 5 Mill Street South in downtown Port Hope.

The Port Hope Area Initiative is dedicated to the clean up and long term management of historic low-level radioactive waste in the municipalities of Port Hope and Clarington. The PHAI MO is a joint effort led by Natural Resources Canada in partnership with Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd and Public Works and Government Services Canada.

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ABOUT THE PHAI MO

The Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office (PHAI MO) is responsible to carry out 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.

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