



PRESS RELEASE
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Kebaowek First Nation Suspends Participation in Renewed Consultation Process for Nuclear Waste Dump after Crown and Proponent Fail to Fulfill Critical Commitments

Kebaowek, September 29, 2026 — Kebaowek First Nation was forced to suspend consultations on the proposed nuclear waste dump, the Near Surface Disposal Facility (NSDF), at Chalk River, including the implementation of its precedent-setting Indigenous-led Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) process, after the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) and Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) failed to fulfill critical commitments.

In 2025, the Federal Court ordered the CNSC and CNL to renew and resume consultation with Kebaowek in accordance with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) and the FPIC standard, and to develop a consent-based process for the NSDF project by September 30, 2026.

With only weeks remaining before the court-ordered deadline, Kebaowek was forced to suspend all consultation and FPIC-implementation activities after the CNSC and CNL advised Kebaowek that they would no longer fund the Nation's participation costs as previously understood. The CNSC and CNL also informed Kebaowek that they would end their participation in the co-development of a consent-based agreement to support the process. Without funding or a partner in developing a consent-based process, Kebaowek is unable to continue consultations or finalize its FPIC process for the NSDF project.

Kebaowek remains willing to resume consultations and its FPIC process if conditions for a credible process are restored.

"The Court upheld what Kebaowek has been saying for years—no decision about the siting of nuclear waste on our territory can be made without our free, prior and informed consent. It should never be Kebaowek's burden to fix the Crown's mistake," said Chief Lance Haymond of Kebaowek First Nation. "Yet, that is exactly where we find ourselves—being asked to carry the time, cost, and responsibility of making right a process that Canada got wrong. That is not reconciliation, and it is certainly not honourable."

For more information on Kebaowek First Nation's efforts concerning the NSDF project, visit [Stop Nuclear Waste](#).

To support Kebaowek First Nation's legal and advocacy efforts, visit the [Kebaowek First Nation campaign with RAVEN](#).



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Media Briefing Note:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fo_krOkjinLWwdq4KTEZRHX2RgLZwpSR?usp=sharing

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