

Social Programs and Vulnerable Populations Study

Cover Page

Part I

DPRA

Part II

Peer Review Report by

GHD

Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies Report

Southwestern Ontario Community Study

September 12, 2022

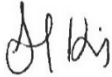
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Appendix A.	List of Socio-Economic Community Studies
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List of Acronyms

APM	Adaptive Phased Management
BGDISC	Bruce Grey Data Information Sharing Collaborative
CMSM	Consolidated Municipal Service Managers
CNSC	Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
CSR.....	Corporate Social Responsibility
CSWB Plan ..	Community Safety and Well-being Plan
DPRA	DPRA Canada Inc.
IA.....	Impact Assessment
LGBTQ2+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Two Spirited
MCR Project..	Major Component Replacement Project (Bruce Power)
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSB	Municipality of South Bruce
NGO	Non-Government Organizations
NWMO	Nuclear Waste Management Organization
OMAFRA.....	Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
PWLE.....	Persons With Lived Experience
ROI.....	Rural Ontario Institute
STEM.....	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
VAW.....	Violence Against Women

1 Introduction

1.1 Background and Context

Since 2012, the Municipality of South Bruce (MSB) has been involved in a process of learning about the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's (NWMO) Adaptive Phased Management (APM) Project ('the Project') for the long-term management of Canada's used nuclear fuel. The two remaining siting areas in the process are the South Bruce Area and Ignace Area. The NWMO plans to complete all preliminary assessment work and to select one community/area to host the Project by 2023. Preliminary studies suggest that the Project can be implemented safely in the South Bruce Area for a repository that will contain, and isolate, used nuclear fuel from people and the environment for the long timeframes required.

Further detailed studies are required to fully assess the potential impacts of the Project in the community and regionally. Building on previous work, engagement completed to-date, and the MSB's 36 Guiding Principles, the NWMO and the MSB are working together to prepare a suite of community studies which will be shared broadly with the community. The list of socio-economic community studies is included in **Appendix A**. These studies were undertaken by the NWMO or MSB, with some being joint efforts. The MSB has retained consultants (the GHD team) to develop a number of studies and to peer review others developed by the NWMO and their consultants (the DPRA Canada Inc. (DPRA) team). The information acquired through these studies is expected to help MSB leadership and residents make informed decisions about whether the APM Project is a good fit for their community, and if they are willing to consider hosting it and under what circumstances and terms.

The *Vulnerable Populations Study* and the *Social Programs Study* are two of the community studies being prepared. Given the significant overlap in the subject matter of the two studies, a decision was made to combine the two study reports. The rationale for this decision is as follows:

- Both studies involve identifying and assessing the potential effects of the Project on programs and services available to targeted population groups.
- The programs and services targeted at vulnerable populations can be classified as social programs and many of the programs and services that support children, adults, seniors, and families are also applicable to vulnerable populations.
- Social programs are inherently intertwined with, and exist to serve, the vulnerable members of society.
- The analysis of potential effects of the Project, as well as options to address these potential effects, share many similarities across the two studies.

This study is organized as follows:

- Purpose and Scope (**Section 1.3**)
- Methodology (**Section 2**)
- Existing Conditions (**Section 3**)
- Relevant Adaptive Phased Management Project Characteristics (**Section 4**)
- Preliminary Analysis/Effects Assessment (**Section 5**)
- Options Assessment (**Section 6**)
- Summary (**Section 7**)
- References (**Section 8**)

Note to Reader:

This and other community studies are preliminary and strategic in nature, all intended to identify possible consequences (e.g., to social programs and programs and services used by vulnerable populations) in the South Bruce Area based on our current level of understanding of the APM Project. Using information known at this point in time, these community studies will describe a range of possible consequences that are the subject of specific and separate studies. For each possible consequence, potential options are offered to leverage opportunities and/or mitigate possible negative consequences/effects.

It is important to note that these community studies (developed collaboratively by the NWMO and the MSB) being investigated at this time are not the formal or final baseline or effects studies that will be part of the Impact Assessment (IA). Those studies will be completed at a later date if the Project is located in the area. However, these current studies will inform the effects studies that will be initiated at a later date.

These community studies are intended to support current dialogue between the MSB and the NWMO regarding a potential hosting agreement by:

- a) Exploring in more detail the questions, aspirations and topics of interest expressed by the community through the Guiding Principles approved by the MSB following the project visioning process completed in the community;
- b) Assisting the NWMO and the MSB in developing a deeper understanding of the community aspirations/values and to work with the MSB in identifying possible programs and commitments which ensure that the Project will be implemented in a manner that fosters the well-being of the community and area;
- c) Advancing learning and understanding on topics of interest to the neighboring areas; and
- d) Providing the community with information it has requested to help them make an informed decision in 2023.

The NWMO is committed to collaboratively working with the communities to ensure questions, concerns and aspirations are captured and addressed through continuous engagement and dialogue.

The NWMO will independently engage with the Saugeen Ojibway Nation to understand how they wish to evaluate the potential negative effects and benefits that the Project may bring to their communities.

1.2 Land Acknowledgement

It is acknowledged that the lands and communities discussed in this report are situated on the Traditional Territory of the Anishinabek Nation: The People of the Three Fires known as Ojibwe, Odawa and Pottawatomie Nations. The Chippewas of Saugeen and the Chippewas of Neyaashiinigmiing (Nawash), now known as the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, are the traditional keepers of this land and water. It is also recognized that the ancestors of the Historic Saugeen Métis and Georgian Bay Métis communities shared this land and these waters.

1.3 Purpose and Scope

Objectives for these two studies are described in the *Vulnerable Populations Study Work Plan* (DPRA, October 2021a) *Social Programs Study Work Plan* (DPRA, October 2021b).

The overall objective of the *Vulnerable Populations Study* is to identify the vulnerable populations in the Municipality of South Bruce and surrounding region, the effects that they may feel as a result of the project, and steps that could be taken to mitigate those effects.

The specific objectives of the *Vulnerable Populations Study* are to:

1. Identify vulnerable populations (elderly, social assistance program recipients, etc.) within the Municipality of South Bruce and region.
2. Identify the programs and other support that is currently provided to vulnerable populations including subsidies for housing.
3. Evaluate the potential effects of the Project on those programs and other supports needed by vulnerable populations.
4. Identify options to mitigate the potential effects including the potential for those options to continue the current levels of support for vulnerable populations.

The overall objective of the *Social Programs Study* is to assess the effects of the Project on the community programs offered by Bruce County, such as children's programs including assisted daycare and learning programs, plus community programs for adults, seniors and families that are made available to the residents of South Bruce at the commencement of construction and at the commencement of operations.

The specific objectives of the *Social Programs Study* are to:

1. Describe the current social programs and services available to residents of South Bruce,
2. Identify potential increases in both funding and in demand for specific social services and programs as a result of the Project,
3. Identify options to sustain social programs for the projected population with the Project.

Both the *Vulnerable Populations* study and the *Social Programs* study, involve identifying and assessing the impacts of the Project on a variety of programs and services available to targeted population groups within the study area. As such, the *Vulnerable Populations* study objectives include describing and assessing programs and services that support vulnerable populations (e.g., low income, individuals experiencing mental health and addictions), while the *Social Programs* study objectives similarly include describing and assessing programs and services for children, youth, adults, seniors, and families. The programs and services that are targeted towards vulnerable populations can be classified as a sub-set of social programs, and many of the programs and services that support children, adults, seniors, and families would also be applicable to vulnerable populations. In essence, social programs are inherently intertwined with, and often exist to serve, the vulnerable populations. It follows that the analysis of potential effects of the Project, as well as identification of options to address these potential effects, share many similarities across the two studies.

For these reasons, combining the reporting for the two studies streamlines the presentation of relevant information and reduces unnecessary redundancies in report preparation, as well as the associated review and revision processes. Combining these two studies does not compromise the fulfillment of the study objectives, but simply alleviates the need to restate data and analyses common to both studies.

The Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies are relevant to the MSB Guiding Principles (2020) #10, #16, and #32¹:

- #10: “The NWMO will identify the potential for any positive and negative socio-economic impacts of the Project on South Bruce and surrounding communities and what community benefits it will contribute to mitigate any potential risks.”
- #16: “The NWMO will implement the Project in a manner that promotes diversity, equality and inclusion.”
- #32: “The NWMO, in consultation with the Municipality and other local and regional partners, will prepare a strategy to ensure there are sufficient community services and amenities, including health, child-care, educational and recreational facilities, to accommodate the expected population growth associated with hosting the Project in South Bruce.”

The *Vulnerable Populations* and *Social Programs Studies* provide information directly relevant to Principles #16 and #32 and contribute more generally to Principle #10. The *Vulnerable Populations* and *Social Programs* studies provide information that the NWMO and MSB can use to inform agreements and funding arrangements (e.g., as may be needed in addressing Principles #16 and #32) in the future as part of negotiations of a draft hosting agreement and/ or subsequent studies/ discussions if the South Bruce Area is ultimately selected as the Project location. For clarity, development of these types of agreements/arrangements is not part of the objectives / work plan for this study.

The MSB and the NWMO are jointly responsible for the completion of the *Social Programs Study*; the NWMO is responsible for the completion of the *Vulnerable Populations Study*. Both studies have been undertaken by DPRA, the prime consultant to the NWMO on their socio-economic studies.

1.3.1 Peer Review Approach

An earlier draft of this combined *Vulnerable Populations Study and Social Programs Studies* report was reviewed by MSB consultants according to their Peer Review Protocol. The Peer Review Protocol provides for a collaborative approach to conducting the peer review, with peer review activity occurring throughout the execution of the study. The *Social Programs Study* is a Joint Study; the *Vulnerable Populations Study* is an NWMO-led study.

For the *Vulnerable Populations Study*, the NWMO determined the spatial Study Area, developed data and inputs used to establish baseline conditions and conducted the assessment of the forecasted effects resulting from the Project. For the *Social Programs Study*, MSB consultants have jointly participated in developing data inputs and baseline conditions.

¹ It is noted that an initial cross-referencing of Guiding Principles prepared by MSB indicated that #27 (“The NWMO will fund the Municipality’s preparation of a housing plan to ensure that the residents of South Bruce have access to a sufficient supply of safe, secure, affordable and well-maintained homes.”) was applicable to the *Vulnerable Populations Study*. However, it would appear that #27 is more directly relevant to the *Housing Needs and Demand Analysis Study* (Keir Corp., 2022c).

A peer review for the *Vulnerable Populations Study* was carried out on the scope and framing of the study, data inputs, baseline conditions and the effects assessment. For the *Social Programs Study*, peer review has been undertaken on the framing and scope of the study, and the effects assessment. With respect to the preliminary options to address potential effects, initial thoughts were presented to the MSB and their peer review team, and subsequently refined and further discussed. In practice, DPRA and the peer review consultants (GHD) have addressed these two studies concurrently and in parallel.

For both the *Vulnerable Populations* and the *Social Program Studies*, the peer review was led by GHD.

1.3.2 Spatial Boundaries

As shown in Figure 1, the spatial boundaries of the Study Area² for the *Vulnerable Populations* and *Social Programs Studies* are:

- Bruce County:
 - Municipality of South Bruce (including Teeswater, Mildmay and Formosa);
 - Township of Huron-Kinloss (including Ripley and Lucknow);
 - Municipality of Brockton (including Walkerton);
 - Municipality of Kincardine;
- Grey County:
 - Municipality of West Grey;
- Huron County:
 - Township of Howick;
 - Municipality of Morris-Turnberry;
 - Township of North Huron (including Wingham);
 - Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh; and
- Wellington County:
 - Town of Minto.

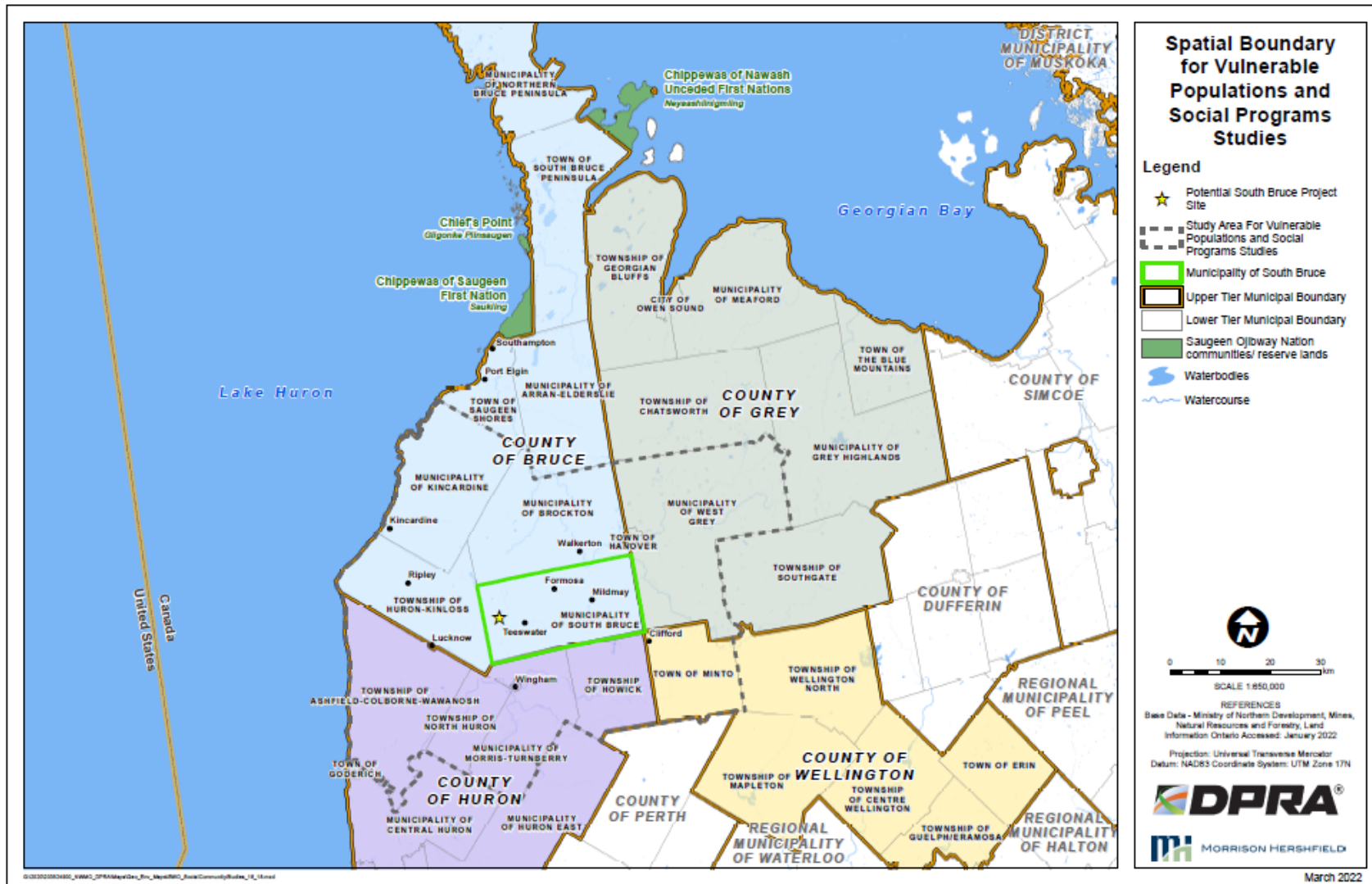
1.3.3 Temporal Boundaries

The temporal boundaries for the *Vulnerable Populations* and *Social Programs Studies* are as follows:

- Current Period (2016/2022)
- Near-term (2023 to 2032)
 - Aligns end of site preparation phase in 2032 and design and construction start 2033
- Mid-term (2033 to 2042)
 - Aligns with construction phase ending in 2042 and operations start 2043
- Long-term (2043 and beyond)
 - Aligns with operations phase (approximately 40 years; does not include monitoring and decommissioning)

² The Study Area is largely dependent on the LSA/CSA from the *Workforce Development and Housing Demand and Needs Analysis* studies. Further, social services / are not typically provided at local municipal level, but rather the county/regional level. Even if located in a lower-tier municipality, an organization or program will also typically serve neighbouring municipalities.

Figure 1: Vulnerable Populations Study and Social Programs Study Spatial Boundaries



2 Methodology

2.1 General Approach

The NWMO and the MSB drafted Statements of Work for each community study in response to the MSB's 36 Guiding Principles. As previously mentioned, the community studies are being undertaken by the NWMO or the MSB, with some being joint efforts.

The socio-economic community studies were categorized into three themes: Economics, Social Cultural, and Infrastructure and Aggregate. For the complete list of the socio-economic community studies, see **Appendix A**. The following general methodology pertains to the 13 community studies solely or jointly led by the NWMO.

Based on the Statements of Work, work plans for each community study were developed. The work plans:

- Outlined the peer review approach with the MSB
- Identified linkages to other studies
- Identified the spatial and temporal boundaries
- Identified key assumptions that will dictate the completion of the study
- Described the tasks associated with the study and schedule for each task
- Identified key information sources and data collection methods

Draft work plans were reviewed by the MSB and its peer review team. Formal peer review team comments on the draft community study work plans were received in September 2021. The peer review of the draft *Vulnerable Populations Study* and the *Social Programs Study* work plans was undertaken by GHD.

DPRA provided Comment Disposition Tables and revised work plans to respond to the peer review comments in October 2021. In a memo dated November 3, 2021, the GHD team provided acknowledgement of comments that were addressed in the revised community study work plans or flagged to be addressed in future work such as the community study reports.

Several consultant consortium meetings and "check-in" meetings with the MSB and its peer review team were held during the development of each study.

In addition, meetings with neighbouring municipalities (i.e., the Township of Huron-Kinloss, Municipality of Brockton and Township of North Huron) are being held to discuss the progress and scope of the community studies. DPRA attended a meeting on February 17, 2022 to discuss the *Vulnerable Populations* and *Social Programs* studies.

2.2 Data Collection / Information Sources

Data and key information for these studies were collected from primary sources such as knowledge holder interviews, and secondary sources such as Project information from the NWMO and data/documents from local and regional organizations as well as publicly available websites. The sections below describe how data and information was collected from these sources.

In addition, relevant information was obtained from the findings/results of the *Labour Baseline Study*, the *Workforce Development Study* and the *Housing Needs and Demand Analysis Study* (Keir Corp., 2022a, 2022b, 2022c).

As per the Statement of Work and work plan, there was no intent to engage with vulnerable populations for the purposes of this community study. Engagement with vulnerable populations may occur in future impact assessment (IA) studies if the Project is located in MSB.

2.2.1 Knowledge Holder Interviews

The selection of knowledge holders was undertaken through an iterative review process between the NWMO and the MSB. Knowledge holders were selected based on their knowledge of and experience with vulnerable populations and/or social programs.³ A representative from NWMO reached out to the potential knowledge holders to determine their interest and availability to take part in the interview process and to schedule interviews. In some instances, those knowledge holders referred NWMO to someone more suited to address the questions. In instances in which knowledge holders were unfamiliar with the Project, links to the Project website were sent to increase their familiarity and understanding. A representative from the NWMO, DPRA, and representatives from the MSB peer review team (GHD) were present during each of the interviews. The knowledge holders were provided with a Generic Interview Guide prior to the interview to provide background information on the Project and a general framework for the interview. At the start of each interview, the NWMO representative presented some high level information about the Project and if requested by the knowledge holder more specific Project details. During the interviews, DPRA and MSB's peer review team representative asked questions identified in the Guide as well as more specific questions relevant to applicable community studies. The NWMO representative took notes during the interviews and distributed the notes and any documents/links received from the knowledge holders to the consultants/peer review team members. DPRA and the peer review team had an opportunity to review and revise the notes as necessary. The interview notes were not shared with the knowledge holders for review. Information received from these interviews was used in the development of the study report(s).

Knowledge holder interviews were undertaken with the following organizations for the two studies:

- Community Living Kincardine & District
- Community Living Walkerton & District
- Women's House
- Bruce County Human Services,
- Bruce County Children's Services
- Bruce County Income & Support Services
- Bruce Grey Child & Family Services
- Huron County Social and Property Services
- Huron County Cultural Services/Library Services
- Grey Bruce Public Health
- Bruce County Long Term Care & Senior Services
- South Bruce Grey Health Centre
- Huron Perth Public Health

While the focus of these interviews was either/both on social programs and vulnerable populations, they also touched upon topics relevant for *Housing Needs and Demand Analysis Study* (e.g., lack of available and affordable housing, particularly rental and supportive) and the *Emergency Services Study* (e.g., designated hospitals for radiological emergencies).

During the interviews, knowledge holders suggested engagement with representatives from the following groups:

- Mennonite Population
- Immigrant Organizations
- Mental Health Agencies/ Organizations (various)
- Seniors Organizations
- Organizations for People with Disabilities

³ For the purposes of the current studies, there was no intent to engage directly with vulnerable populations or individuals. Additional engagement can occur in future studies if the Project is located in the South Bruce Area.

Given the timing of the studies and participant availability, it was not possible to directly engage with these organizations at this time.

Further detail on the knowledge holder interviews is provided in **Appendix C**.

2.2.2 Other Key Information and Data Sources

In order to identify information and data to support findings gathered from key knowledge holders, an iterative online search was conducted, starting with the websites for the Bruce County, Grey County, Huron County, Grey Bruce Public Health, and Huron Perth Public Health. Documents and data regarding vulnerable population characteristics were collected from these sources, as was information on existing social programs, strategies, and relevant partnerships. The content found through these sources also resulted in further research on various additional resources (some of which were also identified by key knowledge holders) such as:

- Information compiled through municipal multi-sectoral partnerships and planning initiatives
- data sets such as the Bruce Grey Data Information Sharing Collaborative (BGDISC),
- 2016 Census data (income, housing, education, family structure)⁴
- Canadian Community Health Survey, and
- Community Wellness Index.

Information collected through this process was then used to inform an understanding of the current state of vulnerable populations and social programs with the Study Area.

Other information and data sources that provided context for this study included:

- *The Labour Baseline, Workforce Development and Housing Needs and Demand Analysis* community study reports (Keir Corp., 2022a, 2022b, 2022c)
- *Community Studies Planning Assumptions* (Confidential) (NWMO, October 2021)
- *South Bruce and Area Growth Expectations Memorandum* (metroeconomics, 2022)
- Data/documents from organizations within the Study Area such as:
 - Bruce & Grey Community Information 211
 - 211 Huron-Perth Community Information
 - Community Safety and Well-being Plans
 - County level/organizational level strategic plans and annual reports

The MSB (metroeconomics, 2022) prepared base case ('without the Project') projections for population, housing and employment for five local municipalities. A corresponding set of incremental 'anticipated Project effects' projections for each of these demographics was also prepared (metroeconomics, 2022) utilizing MSB Project-related growth targets.

2.2.3 Programs and Services Inventory

Programs and services available to the local population were identified using the Bruce & Grey Community Information 211 (Community Connection, 211 Central East Ontario, 2022a) and the Huron-Perth Community Information 211 (Community Connection, 211 Central East Ontario, 2022b) online resources. These websites host information on programs and organizations that provide a variety of social services to specific geographic areas. Given the focus on vulnerable populations and social programs, the following categories and sub-categories of programs and organizations (refer to Table 1 and Table 2) were catalogued in an inventory created by DPRA for the purposes of these two studies.

⁴ 2021 Census data is to be released intermittently in 2022.

Table 1: Inventory Categories for Bruce & Grey Community Information 211 Programs and Organizations

Main Category of Programs/Organizations	Sub-Categories
Abuse/Assault	Child Abuse Services Counselling for Abused Men Counselling for Abused Women Crisis Lines for Abused Men Sexual / Domestic Assault Treatment Centres Shelter for Abused Women Victims of Abuse Support Programs
Child/Family Services	Camps Child Care Children/Youth with Disabilities Parent / Child Programs Perinatal / Pregnancy / Postnatal Recreation for Children / Families
Employment/Training	Career Counselling Job Search Support / Training
Food	Food Banks Free / Low-cost Meals Home Deliveries Meals for Seniors / People with Disabilities
Housing/Shelter	Help to find Housing Mental Health Housing Program Seniors Retirement Homes Supportive Housing Transitional Housing
Income Programs	Financial Assistance Programs Income Programs for Older Adults Social Assistance
Mental Health/Addictions	Addiction Counselling / Treatment Addictions Support Groups Child Mental Health Resources Community Mental Health Distress Phone Lines Geriatric Psychiatry Services In-person Crisis Resources Justice / Mental Health and Addictions Programs Mental Health Employment Programs Psychiatric Hospitals Support Groups Youth Mental Health Services
Older Adults	Home Support Hospice Care Long Term Care Homes Meals for Seniors Recreation for Older Adults Transportation for Older Adults

Table 2: Inventory Categories for Huron-Perth Community Information 211 Programs and Organizations

Main Category of Programs/Organizations	Sub Categories
Basic Needs (Food)	Emergency Food Food Collection and Storage Food Outlets Meals
Basic Needs (Housing/Shelter)	Emergency Shelter Home Improvement/Accessibility Housing Expense Assistance Housing Search and Information Residential Housing Options Subsidized Housing Administrative Organizations Supportive Housing Transitional Housing/Shelter
Basic Needs (Transportation)	Transportation
Domestic Violence	Domestic Violence
Income Support and Employment	Employment Public Assistance Programs Social Insurance Programs Temporary Financial Assistance
Individual and Family Support Services	Adoption Services Case/Care Management Child Care Providers Family Based Services In Home Assistance Placements for Children and Youth Protective Services Respite Care
Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders	Mental Health Care Facilities Mental Health Assessment and Treatment Mental Health Support Services Substance Use Disorder Services
Older Adults	Older Adults

While the search focused on services available to the residents of the MSB, it also included programs and organizations that provide services to Bruce County, Grey County, and Huron County. Although it was possible to catalogue programs and organizations for the other lower tier municipalities within the Study Area for the two studies, there were challenges reporting the results of these searches for a number of reasons:

1. Many programs and organizations that provide services to the MSB service areas beyond the spatial boundaries of the Study Area for these two community studies. In fact, as it relates to counting and cataloging programs offered proximally to the Study Area, the biggest hub for many of the programs and organizations that service the MSB is Owen Sound (in Grey County).
2. Given that programs and organizations may service areas not strictly aligned with the Study Area/exist beyond county or lower tier municipal boundaries, there is very little variation when comparing programs and organizations across different municipalities. For example, the list of programs and organizations that service the MSB is almost identical to the list of those that service Brockton and Huron-Kinloss.
3. Some programs and organizations may provide services across different categories that are identified in Table 1 and Table 2, and thus appear multiple times in the inventory. For example, the Salvation Army can appear under multiple categories such as financial assistance programs, food banks, transportation, and

emergency shelters. Taken together with the high overlap in programs servicing lower tier municipalities, this creates an additional layer of duplication which makes filtering out duplicate entries and counting programs and organizations challenging. This means that presenting counts of organizations and programs that service each municipality individually will inadvertently result in inflated counts due to duplication.

For these reasons, the counts of relevant programs and organizations are provided in relation to programs and organizations servicing MSB specifically, with the assumption that the surrounding municipalities in the Study Area share a similar landscape and distribution of programs and services.

2.3 Assessment

Following completion of the data collection phase, the primary and secondary findings were reviewed to identify key themes. The findings were also analyzed with respect to relevant findings/Project assumptions reported in the *Labour Baseline Study*, *Workforce Development Study* and the *Housing Needs and Demand Analysis Study* (see Section 4, below). The findings were then triangulated to explore convergence, complementarity, and dissonance. This approach enhances the validity of the research by increasing the likelihood that the findings and the interpretations will be found credible and dependable. Three types of triangulation techniques were employed:

- Methodological – involves the use of more than one data collection technique
- Data – involves the use of multiple data sources or respondent groups
- Investigator – entails the involvement of two or more researchers/evaluators in the analysis

Data analysis involved identifying cross-cutting themes and areas of relative importance.

With respect to the effects assessment (see Section 5, below), knowledge holders and DPRA, as subject matter experts, identified a number of potential positive and negative effects that might occur as a result of the Project. The relative importance/priority of these effects was assessed in relation to the existing challenges facing vulnerable populations and the provision of social programs and services, future program and service initiatives, as well as the findings and assessment of the *Workforce Development Study* and the *Housing Needs and Demand Analysis Study* reports.

The options assessment in Section 6 builds on the effects assessment.

2.4 Limitations

There are several limitations that were encountered in conducting the research and analysis for the combined *Vulnerable Populations Study* and *Social Programs Study* report.

1. As described in Section 3.3, there are a large number of social programs available to residents who require additional supports. These supports and services range from social assistance to child care benefits, to food banks, to shelters for women and children experiencing domestic violence. Because of the plethora of services and supports it is not possible to exhaustively comment on the challenges/gaps that each of these organizations currently experience, the plans they have for future programming and/or infrastructure, or to identify what effects (positive and negative) they feel may occur as a result of the Project. As such, the challenges/gaps identified in this report represent feedback provided by knowledge holders (who provide services and supports to priority populations), information gathered from resource materials provided by knowledge holders, strategic/guiding documents that speak to the Study Area as a whole, and DPRA's professional opinions and experience.

2. Data characterizing the vulnerable populations and social programs is limited due to constraints in availability by date and regional specificity.
 - a. Certain data points could not be identified for all areas under review.
 - b. Certain data points can only be obtained for larger administrative regions (i.e., the entire Bruce Grey Health Region).
 - c. Baseline data is presented based on public availability. There is a lack of consistency in the data available across jurisdictions within the Study Area.
3. Municipal partnerships and strategies pertain to upper tier municipalities, with little publicly available information pertaining to specific initiatives within lower tier municipalities.
4. The knowledge holders interviewed for the purposes of the studies do not provide a comprehensive representation of the Study Area or the programs and services under review.
5. Because there are many factors affecting the circumstances of vulnerable populations and social programs, attribution of effects specifically to the Project is challenging and must be carefully considered.

3 Existing Conditions

It is important to understand the existing context in which information for the two studies was collected and analyzed, and that may influence the potential effects of the Project (Section 5) and the potential options put forth for consideration (Section 6).

3.1 Impacts of COVID-19 on Rural Population Growth

The following information is intended to contextualize the effects of COVID-19 on rural populations in general and demonstrates that the Study Area has been impacted by the pandemic in ways similar to its rural counterparts.

A recent posting on the Rural Ontario Institute (ROI) website addresses the impacts of the pandemic on rural population growth. Written by economists from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and based on their research, the posting speaks to the rapid increase in housing prices over the last 18 months and growing concern regarding housing affordability (Anania and Florio, 2021). To further investigate this issue, and other pressures and opportunities arising across rural Ontario due to stronger population growth, OMAFRA and ROI delivered a workshop focused on the implications for housing, human capital, business development, infrastructure, and municipal service delivery. Over 100 municipal and provincial rural economic development and planning practitioners from across the province participated (OMAFRA and ROI, 2021). The majority of participants reported a strong influx of new residents since the start of the pandemic with most thought to be coming from urban areas in Southern Ontario and comprised mainly of young families as well as retirees.

The impacts of this influx noted by workshop participants, which are ongoing and could be expected to continue, include (OMAFRA and ROI, 2021):

- **Impacts on housing:**
 - Significant increases in the value of real estate/housing
 - Increased rental costs
 - Decreased availability of affordable housing, especially for young people and some retirees
 - Students attending local post-secondary institutions are having difficult finding suitable housing
 - Increased rates of homelessness
 - Some employers are having troubles attracting and retaining employees because they cannot find affordable housing
- **Impacts on attraction/retention:**
 - Ability to work from home has attracted human capital to rural communities
 - Newcomers have priced locals out of the housing market (rental and owned)
- **Impacts on business development:**
 - Increased demand for goods and services (e.g., real estate services, groceries, child care, retail stores)
 - Increased demand for local food which results in farmers expanding to capitalize on these opportunities
 - Many employees of small rural businesses cannot afford housing, which has resulted in some small businesses limiting their operations
- **Impacts on rural infrastructure:**
 - Increased pressure to upgrade infrastructure without historic tax base to draw from
 - Increasing population will increase local tax base, which will support infrastructure

- **Impacts on service delivery:**
 - Rural school boards are stressed to accommodate new students⁵
 - Pending school closures are reconsidered
 - Expectations of new residents regarding access and quality of services
 - Long periods of de-population have resulted in lack of readiness for growth, making it a challenge for municipalities to accommodate new residents
 - Municipalities will have more money to spend on public services, making the communities a desirable place to live

In a recent meeting between the Province and small Ontario municipalities (January 22, 2022), the Reeve of Huron-Kinloss noted that the municipality was experiencing unprecedented housing growth principally fueled by persons migrating to the area from the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area and other parts of southern Ontario. This growth was in turn driving up prices in the order of 30% with the result being housing had become largely unaffordable for low wage households, and households dependent on subsidies (Keir Corp., 2022c).

3.2 Vulnerable Populations

The terms “vulnerable populations” and “priority populations” are often used interchangeably by academics and service funders/providers, and refer to groups that experience a disproportionate burden of inequities which result in differences in socio-economic outcomes. According to the National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health, “Vulnerable populations are groups and communities at a higher risk for poor health as a result of the barriers they experience to social, economic, political and environmental resources, as well as limitations due to illness or disability” (National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health, 2022). Social inequality and social disadvantage results when resources and access to opportunities and supports required are not evenly distributed. Equity means that all people can reach their full potential and should not be at a disadvantage from reaching it due to social position or other socially determined circumstance such as ability, age, culture, ethnicity, family characteristics, gender, language, race, religion, sex, social class, or socio-economic status (National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health, 2013). It was noted by one knowledge holder that vulnerability should be defined in the broadest sense. This means that people should be considered vulnerable when they do not have all of their needs met.

Based on information gathered from knowledge holders and documents relevant to the Study Area, the following groups were identified as vulnerable:

- People of low socio-economic status (including seniors, single parents, children and youth)
- People who are homeless or precariously housed
- People without transportation who cannot access services and supports (specifically low socio-economic status)
- People who lack the economic means to further their education and training and cannot take advantage of employment opportunities
- People experiencing mental health and/or addictions challenges
- Victims of domestic violence (specifically women and children)
- Small business owners
- People with physical and cognitive disabilities
- Frail seniors
- Children and youth
- Newcomers, minority populations, culturally and linguistically diverse
- People who are isolated or have limited social networks

⁵See the *Local/Regional Education Study* (DPRA, 2022) for further discussion on the capacity of schools.

- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans/transgender, queer or questioning people and other sexuality and gender diverse people and/or intersex people (LGBTQ2+)

In the context of the Project, and within the parameters of the *Vulnerable Populations Study* and the *Social Programs Study* which are both focused on effects to programs and services, vulnerable populations are considered to be those groups that are at greater risk of adverse effects as a result of the Project and those groups that may not benefit equally from the potential positive effects of the Project. Accordingly, Table 3 identifies those populations considered more vulnerable due to the Project and the rationale for their increased vulnerability as a result of the Project’s effect on the social programs and services they use. It is important to point out that some of the groups listed above are not discrete or mutually exclusive entities (e.g., people who have low socio-economic status, people who are homeless and precariously housed, those who lack transportation to access services and employment, those who lack the money to improve their education and training so they can find higher paying jobs) and as such, have been integrated into the low socio-economic group.

It is important to note that not all groups identified as vulnerable were selected in Table 3. For example, small business owners⁶ may experience additional staffing challenges due to competition from the Project (recruitment and retention) and increasing housing costs could mean that potential employees cannot afford to live in the community. However, small business owners would not be affected by pressures on regional social programs and services and for that reason, are not included in Table 3. There is a substantial Mennonite community located in Huron-Kinloss to the west of the proposed Project (and in the Mildmay area of the Municipality of South Bruce). The Mennonite community is distinct socially/culturally and economically. However, they will not be made more vulnerable as a result of potential effects on social programs and services, since they typically do not access those supports on a regular basis. As such they are not identified in Table 3. However, the Mennonite community has been identified as a community of interest in terms of some other community studies (e.g., with respect to the increased traffic that may occur because of the Project; this has been addressed in the *Local Traffic Study* (Morrison Hershfield, 2022a)).

Table 3: Vulnerable Groups within the Context of the APM

Vulnerable Groups	Rationale
People of low socio-economic status (including seniors, single parents, children and youth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of adequate and affordable housing due to increasing housing costs • More money spent on shelter and less money available to meet other basic needs • Increased cost of living means less spending power • People who are homeless or precariously housed may experience further challenges because of lack of transitional housing because lack of housing stock • People without the means to enhance their education and training levels will be unable to take advantage of possible NWMO employment opportunities because they lack the necessary knowledge and skills • May experience increased transportation challenges if forced to find more affordable housing further away from services and supports and/or employment

⁶ For further consideration on small business owners in relation to the Project, see MSB’s *Local Hiring Effects Study and Strategy* (Deloitte, April 2022) which provides discussion of the potential effects of the Project on small business owners including options for mitigating/enhancing potential effects.

Vulnerable Groups	Rationale
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May experience increased social isolation/decreased social cohesion as a result of increasing divide between “haves” and “have nots” • Increased property costs may limit the ability of service providers to have office spaces or shelters serving this group
People experiencing mental health and/or addictions challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about potential Project accidents/contamination result in increased stress and anxiety • Increased cost of living and increased housing costs may further exacerbate challenges • Concerns about potential accidents/contamination and/or increased cost of living may be experienced by some farmers in the area • Increased property costs may limit the ability of service providers to have office spaces or shelters serving this group
Victims of domestic violence (specifically women and children)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of adequate and affordable housing means women/children spend longer in shelters which results in women/children having to remain in abusive situations because there is nowhere for them to stay • Increased property costs may limit the ability of service providers to have office spaces or shelters serving this group

3.2.1 People of Low Socio-Economic Status

3.2.1.1 Key Statistics

This section presents key data points that illustrate the extent to which the population within the Study Area would be classified as low socio-economic status.⁷

Income & Poverty

Low socio-economic status households may be characterized by one or more factors which impact their standard of living and increase their vulnerability to environmental stress or change. Table 4 shows that while median household incomes in the Study Area are moderate to high(Statistics Canada, 2017), households with lower incomes are still prevalent. Such households in turn, may encounter other concerns related to the cost of living, such as food insecurity and housing challenges (refer to Table 4).

⁷ The data points provided in this section may, in some instances, capture the same individuals across multiple categories. For example, an individual who is part of a low-income household, may also be living in unaffordable housing.

Table 4: Median and Low-Income Statistics

Median and Low-Income Statistics	
Median Income	The median household income in 2015 was: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$71,193 in Bruce County⁸ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$71,270 in MSB • \$62,935 in Grey County • \$65,944 in Huron County (Statistics Canada, 2017, no. 98-316-X2016001)
Low-Income Households	Percentage of households meeting the LIM-AT ⁹ criteria for low income in 2015: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13.3% of Bruce County residents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 13.2% of MSB residents • 15.5% of Grey County residents • 13.7% of Huron County residents (Statistics Canada, 2017, no. 98-316-X2016001)
Food Insecurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Grey Bruce 20% of households are identified as food insecure in 2015-16 (Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force, 2020).

Housing & Homelessness

Table 5 shows the prevalence of housing challenges in the Study Area with a focus on issues of affordability, inadequate housing, unsuitable housing, subsidized housing and homelessness. The findings highlight the high percentage of renters living in unaffordable housing (ranges from 38.9% to 46.5%) as well the considerable proportion of homeowners living in unaffordable housing (ranges from 14.8% to 17.4%) and renters living in subsidized housing (ranges from 13.6% to 17.0%).

⁸ The median household income among Bruce County municipalities in 2015 ranged from \$64,000 to \$88,000. Saugeen Shores and Kincardine occupied the top part of the range, while Huron-Kinloss and South Bruce were towards the middle, and Brockton and Arran-Elderslie were at the lower end.

⁹ Low-income measure, after tax (LIM-AT) - The Low-income measure, after tax, refers to a fixed percentage (50%) of median-adjusted after-tax income of private households. The household after-tax income is adjusted by an equivalence scale to take economies of scale into account. This adjustment for different household sizes reflects the fact that a household's needs increase, but at a decreasing rate, as the number of members increases. Using data from the 2016 Census of Population, the line applicable to a household is defined as half the Canadian median of the adjusted household after-tax income multiplied by the square root of household size. The median is determined based on all persons in private households where low-income concepts are applicable." (Statistics Canada, 2017, no. 98-316-X2016001)

Table 5: Housing and Homelessness Statistics

Housing & Homelessness Statistics	
<p>Unaffordable Housing characterized by a household spending 30% or more of its total income on shelter costs.</p>	<p>Homeowners living in unaffordable housing in 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14.8% of homeowners in Bruce County <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 12.0% of homeowners in MSB • 17.4% of homeowners in Grey County • 14.9% of homeowners in Huron County <p>Renters living in unaffordable housing in 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45.4% of renters in Bruce County <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 38.4% of renters in MSB • 46.5% of renters in Grey County • 38.9% of renters in Huron County <p style="text-align: right;">(Statistics Canada, 2017, no. 98-316-X2016001)</p>
<p>Inadequate Housing characterized by a dwelling being in need of major repairs.</p>	<p>Dwellings in need of major repair in 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7.0% of Bruce County dwellings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 7.3% of MSB dwellings • 7.0% of Grey County dwellings • 6.3% of Huron County dwellings <p style="text-align: right;">(Statistics Canada, 2017, no. 98-316-X2016001)</p>
<p>Unsuitable Housing characterized by a dwelling not having enough bedrooms for a household (crowding).</p>	<p>Households that are not suitable in 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.8% of Bruce County households <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3.2% MSB households • 2.3% of Grey County households • 2.0% of Huron County households <p style="text-align: right;">(Statistics Canada, 2017, no. 98-316-X2016001)</p>
<p>Subsidized Housing characterized by a renter household receiving some form of subsidy to support housing costs, including residing in social/public housing.</p>	<p>Renters residing in subsidized housing in 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16.3% of renters in Bruce County <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 12.3% of renters in MSB • 17.0% of renters in Grey County • 13.6% of renters in Huron County <p style="text-align: right;">(Statistics Canada, 2017, no. 98-316-X2016001)</p>
<p>Homelessness characterized by an individual not having permanent or stable housing, and no immediate prospects of such.</p>	<p>Individuals experiencing homelessness during 2018 enumeration periods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 homeless individuals in Bruce County (Bruce County, 2018) • 33 homeless individuals in Grey County (Grey County, 2018) • 100 homeless individuals in Huron County (Shaw, 2018)

Seniors

As shown in Table 6, seniors represent more than 20% of the population within the Study Area and that more than 10% of this population are considered to be low income. The table also shows that a significant percentage of senior renters are living in unaffordable housing (ranges from 53.9% to 60.0%) and that sizeable proportion of senior homeowners are living in unaffordable housing (ranges from 12.3% to 15.3%) and a considerable percentage of senior renters are living in subsidized housing (13.6% to 20.6%).

Table 6: Seniors Statistics

Seniors	
Population aged 65 Years and Older	<p>Proportion of population aged 65 years and older in 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23.6% of Bruce County residents (N = 16,075) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 16.9% of MSB residents (N = 955) • 24.1% of Grey County residents fell into this category (N = 22,630). • 22.7% of Huron County residents fell into this category (N = 13,455). <p>(Statistics Canada, 2017, no. 98-316-X2016001)</p>
Older adults in Low Income Households	<p>Individuals aged 65 year and older living in households meeting the LIM-AT¹⁰ criteria for low income in 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11.5% of older adult residents in Bruce County <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 15.3% of older adult residents in MSB • 13.4% of older adult residents in Grey County • 12.1% of older adult residents in Grey County <p>(Statistics Canada, 2017, no. 98-316-X2016001)</p>
Unaffordable Housing (primary household maintainer is 65 year of age or older)	<p>Older adult homeowners living in unaffordable housing in 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12.4% of older adult homeowners in Bruce County • 15.3% of older adult homeowners in Grey County • 12.3% of older adult homeowners in Huron County <p>Older adult renters living in unaffordable housing in 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60.0% of renters in Bruce County • 59.2% of renters in Grey County • 53.9% of renters in Huron County <p>(Statistics Canada, 2017, no. 98-400-X2016231)</p>

¹⁰ "Low-income measure, after tax (LIM-AT) - The Low-income measure, after tax, refers to a fixed percentage (50%) of median-adjusted after-tax income of private households. The household after-tax income is adjusted by an equivalence scale to take economies of scale into account. This adjustment for different household sizes reflects the fact that a household's needs increase, but at a decreasing rate, as the number of members increases. Using data from the 2016 Census of Population, the line applicable to a household is defined as half the Canadian median of the adjusted household after-tax income multiplied by the square root of household size. The median is determined based on all persons in private households where low-income concepts are applicable." (Statistics Canada, 2017, no. 98-316-X2016001)

Seniors	
<p>Inadequate Housing (primary household maintainer is 65 year of age or older)</p>	<p>Older adult homeowners living in inadequate housing in 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.7% of older adult homeowners in Bruce County • 3.8% of older adult homeowners in Grey County • 3.0% of older adult homeowners in Huron County <p>Older adult renters living in unaffordable housing in 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.9% of older adult renters in Bruce County • 4.1% of older adult renters in Grey County • 3.3% of older adult renters in Huron County <p style="text-align: right;">(Statistics Canada, 2017, no. 98-400-X2016231)</p>
<p>Unsuitable Housing (primary household maintainer is 65 year of age or older)</p>	<p>Older adult homeowners living in unsuitable housing in 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5% of older adult homeowners in Bruce County • 1.3% of older adult homeowners in Grey County • 0.6% of older adult homeowners in Huron County <p>Older adult renters living in unsuitable housing in 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.3% of older adult renters in Bruce County • 1.6% of older adult renters in Grey County • 0.0% of older adult renter in Huron County <p style="text-align: right;">(Statistics Canada, 2017, no. 98-400-X2016231)</p>
<p>Subsidized Housing (primary household maintainer is 65 year of age or older)</p>	<p>Older adult renters residing in subsidized housing in 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20.6% of older adult renters in Bruce County • 18.8% of older adult renters in Grey County • 13.6% of older adult renters in Huron County <p style="text-align: right;">(Statistics Canada, 2017, no. 98-400-X2016231)</p>

Households with Children and Youth

As shown in Table 7, approximately 20% of the 2016 population within the Study Area is between the ages 0 to 19 years. The table also shows that approximately 20% of children/youth between the ages of 0 and 17 years are living in low income households and that 20-25% of children 0 to 5 years are living in low income households. Table 7 also shows that many children and youth (0 to 14 years) live in lone parent families which are often more susceptible to low income and to the effects associated with low income (e.g., challenges meeting basic needs).

Table 7: Households with Children and Youth Statistics

Households with Children and Youth	
Population aged 0 to 19 Years	<p>Proportion of population aged 0 to 19 years in 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20.8% of Bruce County residents (N = 14,180) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 24.6% of MSB residents (N = 1,385) • 20.3% of Grey County residents fell into this category (N = 19,060). • 22.8% of Huron County residents fell into this category (N = 13,550). <p style="text-align: right;">(Statistics Canada, 2017, no. 98-316-X2016001)</p>
Children in Low Income Households	<p>Children aged 0 to 17 years living in households meeting the LIM-AT criteria for low income in 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17.9% of Bruce County residents aged 0 to 17 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 16.6% of MSB residents aged 0 to 17 years • 20.0% of Grey County residents aged 0 to 17 years • 18.6% of Huron County residents aged 0 to 17 years <p>Children aged 0 to 5 years living in households meeting the LIM-AT criteria for low income in 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19.8% of Bruce County residents aged 0 to 5 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 15.7% of MSB residents aged 0 to 17 years • 24.5% of Grey County residents aged 0 to 5 years • 22.7% of Grey County residents aged 0 to 5 years <p style="text-align: right;">(Statistics Canada, 2017, no. 98-316-X2016001)</p>
Children in Lone Parent Census Families	<p>Children aged 0 to 14 years living in lone parent census families in 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15.3% of Bruce County children aged 0 to 14 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 8.9% of MSB children aged 0 to 14 years • 17.9% of Grey County children aged 0 to 14 years • 14.3% of Huron County children aged 0 to 14 years <p style="text-align: right;">(Statistics Canada, 2017, no. 98-400-X2016041)</p>
Median Annual Child Care Rates	<p>Estimates of median annual child care rates for 2020 in Bruce County:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$11,745 for infants • \$11,223 for toddlers • \$10,440 for preschool children <p style="text-align: right;">(Bruce County, 2020)</p>
Families who have Received Child Care Subsidies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 141 Bruce County families received child care fee subsidies in 2020 (Bruce County, 2020). • It is estimated that 57% of Bruce County families in receiving subsidies in 2018 had a net income below \$30,000 (Bruce County, 2019b)

People with Limited Education/Skills

Table 8 shows that in 2016, between 10-20% of adult residents within the Study Area do not have a certificate, diploma, or degree, and may not have attained a high school diploma and that for 26-28% of adult residents, a high school diploma or equivalency certificate is their highest attained level of education. These individuals may experience challenges securing employment that pays wages that are sufficient to meet their basic needs and

those of their families. Additionally, the of lack of higher-level education limits the ability of these individuals to take advantage of employment opportunities that required advanced knowledge and skills (e.g., the Project).

Table 8: Highest Educational Attainment Statistics

Highest Educational Attainment	
No Certificate Diploma, or Degree	Percentage of population aged 25 to 64 years that has not attained a certificate, diploma, or degree (including a high school diploma) in 2016: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12.3% of Bruce County residents aged 25 to 64 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 16.9% of MSB residents aged 25 to 64 years • 15.3% of Grey County residents aged 25 to 64 years • 17.0% of Huron County residents aged 25 to 64 years (Statistics Canada, 2017, no. 98-316-X2016001)
Secondary (high) School Diploma or Equivalency Certificate	Percentage of population aged 25 to 64 years that has attained a secondary school diploma or equivalency certificate as their highest form of educational attainment in 2016: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26.4% of Bruce County residents aged 25 to 64 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 32.8% of MSB residents aged 25 to 64 years • 28.8% of Grey County residents aged 25 to 64 years • 28.6% of Huron County residents aged 25 to 64 years (Statistics Canada, 2017, no. 98-316-X2016001)
Post-secondary Certificate, Diploma or Degree ¹¹	Percentage of population aged 25 to 64 years that has attained a post secondary certificate diploma, or degree, as their highest form of educational attainment in 2016: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 61.2% of Bruce County residents aged 25 to 64 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 50.1% of MSB residents aged 25 to 64 years • 55.9% of Grey County residents aged 25 to 64 years • 54.4% of Huron County residents aged 25 to 64 years (Statistics Canada, 2017, no. 98-316-X2016001)

3.2.1.2 Challenges Facing Low Income Population

Challenges Identified by Knowledge Holders

Knowledge holders identified a variety of current challenges facing low income populations. These include:

- Increased cost of living due to influx of new residents with spending power
- Lack of available and affordable housing
 - More money spent on housing and less available to meet other basic needs
- Lack of supportive housing (available homes purchased for residential properties so less available for supportive housing)
- Lack of safe housing options (women and children; individuals with mental health issues)
- Limited availability of child care spaces (subsidized child care spaces)
- Lack of transportation to access programs and services not located close by
- Stigma (linked to low income)
 - Lack of social cohesion / social isolation (increasing divide between haves and have nots)
- Low wage jobs for those with limited skills/training
- Lack of ability to take advantage of employment opportunities

¹¹ "Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree" includes 'apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma,' 'college, CEGEP or other non university certificate or diploma' and university certificates, diplomas and degrees." (Statistics Canada, 2017, no. 98-316-X2016001).

- Lack of knowledge and awareness of available programs and services
- Lack of subsidized accommodation in seniors facilities (e.g., seniors apartments or retirement homes)

Challenges Identified in Key Documents

Based on key documents from Grey, Bruce, Huron and Perth counties/organizations (Huron County, 2021; Bruce County and Grey County, 2020; Social Research and Planning Council United Way Perth-Huron, 2019), people living in poverty or trying to exist on a low/fixed income currently encounter a number of challenges including:

- High cost and limited availability of housing, which results in increasing rates of unstable housing, couch surfing and homelessness
- Individuals in subsidized housing may be living in substandard conditions (e.g., mould)
- Limited options for homeless youth and LGBTQ2+
- Limited access to transportation to access more affordable groceries, health and social services and supports, employment opportunities, and social activities
- Food insecurity
 - Prepacked, processed and canned foods are less expensive than fresh food options
 - Adults with children tend to put their food needs ahead of their own, leading to skipped meals and poor diet
- Poorer mental and physical health
 - Lack of healthy food options in concert with chronic stress leads to poor health outcomes
- Unaffordable vision and dental care
- High cost and limited availability of child care linked with transportation limitation may eliminate employment opportunities
- Lack of ability to pay for higher education can limit employment opportunities and keep a person underemployed
- Stigma, which leads to social isolation
- Strained relationships due to the stress of not having enough money

3.2.2 Individuals Experiencing Mental Health and/or Addictions Issues

3.2.2.1 Key Statistics

This section presents key data points which characterize the extent to which the population within the Study Area experiences mental health and addictions issues and the nature of these issues.

Drug and Alcohol Use

Table 9 shows the prevalence and severity of substance abuse within the Study Area, with approximately 23% of residents having engaged in regular heavy drinking (2015-2016) and 64.5/100,00 and 29.5/100,000 having visited an emergency department in 2020 as a result of opioids in Bruce Grey and Huron County, respectively. Individuals who experience severe substance use issues will require a variety of supports provided through both social and health programs.

Table 9: Drug and Alcohol Use Statistics

Drug and Alcohol Use Statistics	
Heavy Alcohol Use	Regular heavy alcohol drinking in 2015-16 was estimated for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23.4 of residents under the Bruce Grey Health Unit • 23.8 of resident under the Huron County Health Unit <p style="text-align: center;">(Public Health Ontario, 2018; Canadian Community Health Survey, 2017).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 57% of ER visits in Grey Bruce from 2002 through 2015 involved alcohol. Hazardous drinking has been found to increase with income (Govier, 2018)
Opioid Use	Opioid-related emergency department visits reported in 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 64.4 per 100,000 population under the Bruce Grey Health Unit • 29.5 per 100,000 population under the Huron Perth Health Unit Opioid-related hospitalizations reported in 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14.9 per 100,000 population under the Bruce Grey Health Unit • 3.6 per 100,000 population under the Huron Perth Health Unit Opioid-related deaths reported in 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15.5 per 100,000 population under the Bruce Grey Health Unit • 5.8 per 100,000 population under the Huron Perth Health Unit <p style="text-align: right;">(Public Health Ontario, 2021)</p>
Other Substance Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was estimated that 11.2% of Grey Bruce residents used illicit drugs in the past year in 2015-16 (Canadian Community Health Survey, 2017).

Mental Health

Table 10 shows the level of mental well being experienced by the population within the study regions. Approximately one half to two thirds of residents in the Study Area rate their mental health as very good and excellent. Those individuals who experience poor mental health may seek out supports provided through both social and health programs.

Table 10: Mental Health Statistics

Mental Health	
Ratings of Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Bruce County it is estimated that 53.9% of residents rate their mental health as very good or excellent in 2018 (prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic). • In Grey County 58% residents rate their mental health as very good or excellent in 2018 (prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic). (Canadian Index of Wellbeing, University of Waterloo, 2019) • In Huron County 69.9% of residents rate their mental health as very good or excellent from 2016 through 2018 (prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic). (Canadian Index of Wellbeing, University of Waterloo, 2020). • There has been a 26% increase of reportable mental health occurrences dealt with by front line officers in Huron year-over-year (from 2020 to 2021) (Huron County, 2021). • Since the COVID-19 pandemic began (after March 1, 2020), there has been 45% decrease in 'excellent' self-assessed mental health in Perth-Huron (Deacon, 2021) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 26% decrease in 'good' self-assessed mental health ○ 57% increase in 'satisfactory' self-assessed mental health ○ 78% increase in 'poor' self-assessed mental health ○ The mental health of individuals between the ages of 18 and 29 have been the most negatively impacted by the pandemic.
Mood Disorders	<p>In 2015-16 it is estimated that 8.8% of Grey Bruce residents had a mood disorder including depression, bipolar disorder, mania, or dysthymia. In turn it is estimated that 5.6% of residents experience moderate to severe depression (Canadian Community Health Survey, 2017).</p>
Service Utilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2019, 1,801 people received counselling to increase their mental health and well-being through Family Services Perth Huron. • In 2019, 97 children were matched with Big Brothers or Big Sisters to foster intellectual, emotional and social well-being. (Social Research and Planning Council United Way Perth-Huron, n.d.) • 24,000 people in Huron Perth could benefit from some level of mental health and addiction services (based on 2018 data) (Cunning and Parsons, 2020 cited in Huron County, 2021).

Farmers have been known to encounter a variety of psychosocial risks and stressors and potentially greater mental health problems. A sample of farmers in Grey County who took part in a recent research study, described their health as connected to the land and to the animals on their farms. Farmers recognized that stressors associated with farming could be both positive and negative. Farmers identified stress as playing a key role in the mental health continuum, from very healthy to clinical disorders that can hinder a farmer's ability to function in a safe and productive manner. Farmers characterized negative, chronic stress as the factor that led to poor mental health. Study participants also noted that family and community connections supported resilience and promoted positive mental health even in the face of stigma (Bondy & Cole, 2020).

3.2.2.2 Challenges Facing Individuals Experiencing Mental Health and/or Addictions Issues

Challenges Identified by Knowledge Holders

Knowledge holders identified current challenges facing individuals experiencing mental health and/or addictions issues. These include:

- Lack of safe housing options
- Stigma and discrimination
- Lack of social cohesion / social isolation
- Limited access to locally available services
- Opioid crisis (public health crisis with devastating consequences including increases in opioid misuse and related overdoses)

Challenges Identified in Key Documents

Based on key documents from Grey, Bruce, Huron and Perth counties/organizations (Govier, 2018; Social Research and Planning Council United Way Perth-Huron, 2021; Huron County, 2021; Bruce County and Grey County, 2020), people experiencing mental health and/or addictions/substance use problems are challenged by the following factors:

- Service Capacity
 - Lack of access to timely mental health and addiction services
 - Personal situations and severity of illness can quickly decline if interventions are not available when needed, resulting in situations such as family breakups, job losses, and residential evictions
- Awareness and Understanding
 - Stigma and discrimination are a barrier to diagnosis, treatment and acceptance in the community.
 - Many patients, families, caregivers, and referring organizations do not know what mental health and/or addiction services and supports exist or where and how to get help
 - Youth
 - Experience communication challenges when trying to speak to adults about their mental health
 - Often lack knowledge and awareness regarding who and where to go for help
 - Have concerns about confidentiality when reaching out to friends or mental health supports
 - Lower rates of health literacy in rural areas
- Crisis Response
 - Individuals often present at hospital emergency departments “in crisis” with expectations of admission to care who do not meet the criteria for inpatient care and treatment (as stipulated in the *Ontario Mental Health Act*)
 - Opioid addiction and overdose have resulted in a significant increase in emergency department visits and fentanyl use accounts for the majority of opioid-related deaths
- Access
 - The suite of mental health and addiction services is less comprehensive, available, and accessible in rural areas (e.g., lack of access to harm reduction strategies)
 - Residents are required to travel to more populated urban areas (Stratford, Listowel, Goderich, Owen Sound) to gain access to mental health and addiction services and may encounter difficulties due to: lack of public transportation; travel distances and times; and weather and road conditions, particularly in winter.
 - Connectivity and limited internet access remain create challenges for the implementation of digital health resources and virtual care offerings

- Service Coordination and System Navigation
 - Many clients, families, caregivers, and providers find the mental health system challenging to navigate – this can lead to fragmented care
 - Poor transitions, specifically between hospital to community, criminal justice to community, and youth to adult systems
- Specialist and Acute Care Services
 - Limited psychiatry and other mental health and addiction specialties (e.g., children, seniors, addiction medicine, trauma counsellors, acquired brain injuries, etc.)
 - Limited local mental health - access to inpatient programs in regional centres (e.g., London) is inconsistent at present
 - Hospitals are not resourced to manage medical detox
- Housing Stability and Homelessness
 - Lack of accessible and affordable and subsidized (rent-geared-to income) housing options
 - Risk of homelessness due to social, economic, and systemic factors
 - Lack of 24/7 permanent supportive housing units for individuals with complex mental health and addiction needs to live independently in the community
- Diversity, Health Equity and Social Inclusion
 - Social isolation and loneliness can have a major impact on those experiencing mental health and addiction problems
 - Pandemic has further exacerbated the mental health and addiction problems of vulnerable groups
 - Lack of culturally appropriate and inclusive mental health and addiction supports
- Health
 - Increase in substance use as a means of coping which negatively impacts physical and mental health

3.2.3 Victims of Domestic Violence

3.2.3.1 Key Statistics

This section presents key data points on the prevalence of domestic violence and associated impacts within the Study Area.

Table 11 shows the prevalence of domestic violence and other forms of violence (e.g., sexual trafficking) within the Study Area, the extent to which children may be exposed to incidents of domestic violence, and the extent to which victims seeks support. For instance, in Grey Bruce there were 791 incidents of domestic violence in 2019-2020 and 680 incidents in Huron County. Knowledge holders noted that rates of domestic abuse had increased significantly since the start of the pandemic and subsequent requirement to self isolate.

Table 11: Victims of Domestic Violence Statistics

Victims of Domestic Violence	
Incidents of Domestic Violence and Other Forms of Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Grey Bruce during 2019-20, 791 domestic violence incidents were reported to police, as well as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 237 sexual violence incidents reported to police ○ 13 human trafficking incidents <div style="text-align: right;">(Violence Prevention Grey Bruce, 2020)</div> • 680 domestic disturbances reported in 2020 in Huron County. • 82.6% of 4,500 victims of violence in Huron County from 2018 through 2020 were in a current or previous relationship with the offender. <div style="text-align: right;">(Lewis, 2021)</div>
Children Exposed to Domestic Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19% of child welfare cases open were for children exposed to domestic violence in 2020 (Violence Prevention Grey Bruce, 2020) • Between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020 Bruce Grey Child and Family Services provided services to 698 families, for which 32% had children and youth who were exposed to partner violence and may suffer emotional harm as a result (Bruce Grey Child and Family Service, 2020).
Need for Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11,836 Violence Against Women (VAW) shelter crisis / helpline calls were made in 2020 • 313 women and children had a shelter stay in 2020 <div style="text-align: right;">(Violence Prevention Grey Bruce, 2020)</div>

3.2.3.2 Challenges Facing Victims of Domestic Violence

Challenges Identified by Knowledge Holders

Knowledge holders identified current challenges facing women and children who are experiencing domestic abuse. These include:

- The requirements for social isolation as a result of COVID-19 have resulted in women and children having to stay in abusive situations longer than they may typically have
 - Resulted in increased rates of abuse and deaths
- Because of the limited number of shelter spaces, women who are ready to leave abusive situations are not able to because there is no where safe for them to stay either on their own or with their children
- Because of the lack of supportive/transitional housing, women and children in shelters are having to stay in the shelters longer meaning that they are not freeing up spaces at the shelter for new women and children to come

Challenges Identified in Key Documents

Based on key documents from Grey, Bruce, Huron and Perth counties/organizations, individuals (women, children, youth and seniors) experiencing domestic abuse face the following challenges (Huron County, 2021; Bruce County and Grey County, 2020; Colleen Purdon, 2018; Violence Prevention Grey Bruce, 2018; Social Research and Planning Council United Way Perth-Huron, n.d.):

- Longer shelter stays
- Lack of safe places
- Waitlists for subsidized housing
- Limited social safety nets for children and youth during the pandemic
- Children and youth exposed to trauma that can affect brain development and negatively impact their ability to learn
- Increasing mental health problems (post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression)
- Increasing substance use
- Lack of self esteem
- Lack of income and employment leading to poverty
- Isolation contributing to additional abuse / Social isolation resulting in limited social networks
- Stigma
- Limited awareness of resources available
- Challenges getting domestic violence resources to the community
- Limited access to available services during the pandemic

3.3 Social Programs and Services

Social programs provide supports for some of Ontario's most vulnerable residents. Social programs funded by the province are designed to provide additional assistance to individuals. There are two types of social programs (Commission on the Reform of Ontario's Public Services, 2012):

- Mandated and entitlement-based programs:
 - These are benefits or service levels set by law and include such things as social assistance and the Ontario Child Benefit (OCB).
 - These benefits and services account for the largest expenditure in the province.
 - When demand for entitlement-based programs rises (for example, when assistance caseloads increase), so too does funding; clients are entitled to those benefits.
- Discretionary programs:
 - These programs are not entitlement-based and so clients who qualify for these services are not guaranteed to receive them right away.
 - These programs include support for child and youth mental health, developmental services, child care subsidies and childhood development programs.
 - When demand outstrips supply, the result is a waiting list.

Social programs and services are funded by the provincial government and implemented at the regional, municipal and community level.

Non-government organizations also provide social programs and services to vulnerable members of society. These organizations (e.g., Salvation Army) are funded through a variety of sources such as government funds, fund raising/charitable donations, investment income, and/or store sales. Examples of programs and services include: shelters (homelessness, domestic violence); food banks; school breakfast program; mental health and addictions supports; after school programs; and life skills programs.

3.3.1 Programs and Services Inventory

As identified in the methodology (see Section 2), the programs and services available to the local population were identified primarily using the Bruce & Grey and Perth-Huron Community Information 211 online resources and catalogued in an inventory created specifically for these two studies. The inventory includes approximately 300 unique programs and organizations that provide services to South Bruce. However, it should be noted that in some cases, a single organization may provide multiple relevant programs, and these programs are identified independently in the inventory. Furthermore, some programs and organizations have multiple locations, and these too are counted as separate entries in the inventory.

Given that the communities addressed in this study are relatively close to one another, individuals from different communities may readily cross jurisdictional boundaries to access programs and services where they are provided. Hence it is not possible to provide a meaningful analysis of the services available within different jurisdictions of the Study Area.

3.3.2 Existing Strategies/Partnerships & Service Areas

The following sections outline relevant municipal-level strategies, partnerships, and associated objectives; provincial frameworks; and a summary of relevant programs and organizations that provide services to each of the three key vulnerable population groups:¹²

- Low Socio-Economic Status (with specific reference to seniors and children, youth and families);
- Mental Health and Addictions, and
- Domestic Violence.

3.3.2.1 Low Socio-Economic Status

Strategies, Partnerships, and Initiatives – Low Socio-economic Status

Table 12 identifies the local strategies and partnerships targeted at addressing the needs of the low socio-economic status population including adults, children, youth and seniors. The key strategies and partnerships include the Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force, Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSM) for Housing Services, Bruce Grey Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan, and the Huron County CSWB Plan. Relevant initiatives associated with each partnership and strategy are also noted.

Table 12: Municipal-Level Strategies, Partnerships, and Initiatives for the Low Socio-economic Status Population

Strategy / Partnership Overview	Relevant Initiatives
<p>Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-sectoral collaboration for poverty reduction. • Leadership: United Way of Bruce Grey, Bruce County, Grey County, Bruce Grey Health Unit 	<p>6 Action Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income Security, Food Security, Housing, Health Equity, Bridges Out of Poverty and Community Voices <p>4 Key Strategic Directions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From Band-Aids to Bridges: moving forward with Community Food Centers • Enough to Thrive On: seeking income security solutions for strong communities

¹² Refer to Section 3.2 for the rationale of why these three groups were selected.

Strategy / Partnership Overview	Relevant Initiatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works with 52 social agencies and other community institutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From Housing to Homes: prioritizing safe and affordable homes to create safe and healthy neighborhoods. We All Live Here: ensuring diversity, inclusion and engagement in Municipal decision-making. (Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force, 2018)
<p>Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSM) for Housing Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bruce County, Grey County, and Huron County each CMSMs for housing services They each develop a 10-year Housing & Homelessness Plan, including 5-year plan reviews and updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim to increase the accessibility of affordable, adequate, and suitable housing. Work in collaboration with community partners such as Public Health units and United Way. <p>Service Manager housing and homelessness plans will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate a system of coordinated housing and homelessness services that assist households to improve their housing stability and prevent homelessness. Include strategies to promote client-centred, coordinated access to housing and homelessness prevention services. Be developed with public consultation and engagement with diverse local communities, including those with lived experience of homelessness. Be coordinated and integrated with all municipalities in the service area. Include local housing policies and short and long-term housing targets. Include strategies to measure and report publicly on progress under the plan. (Bruce County, 2019a; Grey County, 2019a; Huron County, 2019)
<p>Bruce Grey Community CSWB Plan Overarching initiative across Grey Bruce encompassing public institutions and social agencies to address key issues impacting the safety and well-being of community members including poverty and income issues.</p>	<p>Action tables are in the process of developing action plans to respond to issues associated with key indicators for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority Risk Area #4: Housing and Homelessness Priority Risk Area #5: Poverty and Income (The Municipalities of Bruce and Grey CSWBP Advisory Committee, 2020)
<p>Huron County CSWB Plan As above, overarching initiative across Huron County to address key issues impacting the safety and well-being of community members, including housing and homeless</p>	<p>Priority Area #2: Housing Stability and Homelessness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention – Coordinate efforts to reduce homelessness and prevent eviction. Risk Intervention – Public awareness of the housing spectrum and importance of housing for all is increased. (Lewis, 2021)

Associated Provincial Frameworks/Legislation – Low Socio-economic Status

The following provincial frameworks/legislation guide the work being carried out through the social programs, services and supports that support low income children, youth, adults, seniors and families:

- Building a Strong Foundation for Success: Reducing Poverty in Ontario (2020-2025)
- (Government of Canada) Canada's First Poverty Reduction Strategy
- Housing Services Act
- Community Safety and Well-being Planning Framework
- Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative
- Ontario Works (administered at the municipal level)

Selection of Local Services – Low Socio-economic Status

Bruce County is responsible for establishing, administering, and funding housing and homeless programs and services. The Housing Services Division manages the administration and directly provides housing supports and services.

A number of relevant programs and organizations were identified that provide services to the low-socio economic status population. These programs fall into the broad categories of:

- Employment Training Programs
- Food Assistance Programs
- Housing and Shelter
- Income Assistance Programs

Employment training programs include career counselling services as well as job search support and training. This can include agencies that work with job seekers to match their abilities with employer needs, providing one-on-one support that accommodates the unique needs of jobseekers, and supporting entrepreneurship through activities such as:

- Private one-on-one consultations
- Information about financing options
- Help developing a business plan
- Information about permits, licences and government supports
- Business and professional development seminars and networking events
- Information and access to youth entrepreneurship programs
- Access to resource materials and computer workstations

The inventory created for these two studies includes 11 programs and organizations that provide these services to the MSB area.

Food programs and services include food banks, free or low-cost meals, and home delivery services. Some organizations such as the Huron County Food Bank Distribution Centre, source, purchase and receive donations of foods from area producers, businesses and wholesalers and redistribute them to food bank and food-aid agencies. Others provide a safe space where individuals can drop by to receive free or low-cost meals. Still others provide delivery services to seniors and other vulnerable populations. The inventory includes 15 programs, organizations, and/or locations that provide these services.

Housing/Shelter programs and services include shelters, supportive housing, transitional homes, retirement homes, and help to find housing services. These organizations and programs offer a variety of services. Examples include: down payment assistance programs, rent-geared-to-income housing, providing help with securing affordable local housing, assisting low income individuals and families with rent and utility bills, as well as assisted living to individuals that suffer from physical and mental disabilities. The inventory includes 27 programs, organizations and/or locations that provide these services

Income programs include financial assistance programs, income support, and social assistance services. This can include organizations that help individuals in the community through fundraising initiatives, support with household utility and health expenses, support with applications to Federal programs such as Security Programs, Revenue Canada, and Employment Insurance. The inventory includes 33 programs, organizations, and/or locations that provide these services.

3.3.2.1.1 Seniors

As noted in Section 3.1.1, more than 10% of seniors are considered to be low income with a sizeable number of them facing challenges with respect to affordable housing. As such, this subsection identifies the strategies, partnerships, initiatives, frameworks, and a selection of programs and organizations that specifically target seniors.¹³

Strategies, Partnerships, and Initiatives – Seniors

Table 13 identifies the local strategies and partnerships aimed at addressing the needs of seniors, particularly those who are also vulnerable due to low socio-economic status. The key strategies and partnerships include Homes for the Aged in Huron County, Grey County Age-Friendly Community Strategy and Action Plan, Bruce Grey CWSB Plan, and the Huron County CWSB Plan. Relevant initiatives associated with each partnership and strategy are listed.

Table 13: Municipal Level Strategies, Partnerships, and Initiatives Targeted Towards Seniors

Strategy / Partnership Overview	Relevant Initiatives
Huron County, Homes for the Aged <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-term care facilities and seniors apartments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two longer-term care homes are operated in collaboration with the province of Ontario These facilities have attached apartments available for individuals 65 years of age and older <p style="text-align: right;">(Huron County, 2022)</p>
Grey County Age-Friendly Community Strategy and Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports the development of a community environment that is livable for all ages 	<p>The plan will seek to address opportunities for improvements to the World Health Organization’s (WHO) eight dimensions of age-friendly communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor Spaces and Buildings; Transportation; Housing; Social Participation; Respect and Social Inclusion; Communication and Information; Civic Participation and Employment; and Community Support and Health Services. <p style="text-align: right;">(WSP, 2021)</p>
Bruce Grey CSWB Plan	<p>An action table is in the process of developing an action plan to respond to issues associated with key indicators for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority Risk Area #4: Housing and Homelessness Priority Risk Area #5: Poverty and Income <p>(The Municipalities of Bruce and Grey CSWBP Advisory Committee, 2021)</p>
Huron County CSWB Plan	<p>Priority Area #2: Housing Stability and Homelessness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention – Coordinate efforts to reduce homelessness and prevent eviction. Risk Intervention – Public awareness of the housing spectrum and importance of housing for all is increased.

¹³ Please note that the strategies, partnerships, strategies, initiatives, frameworks and programs and organizations service the senior population more generally, not just low income seniors.

Strategy / Partnership Overview	Relevant Initiatives
	(Huron County, 2021)
Bruce, Grey, Huron Housing and Homelessness Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seniors with low or fixed incomes, as well as those who have disabilities or are in need of long term care are among the key demographics targeted by initiatives to increase access to affordable housing. (Bruce County, 2019a; Grey County, 2019a; Huron County, 2019)

Associated Provincial Frameworks/Legislation – Seniors

The following provincial frameworks/legislation guide the work being carried out through the social programs, services and supports that affect seniors:

- Creating a More Inclusive Ontario: Age-Friendly Community Planning Guide
- Housing Services Act
- Community Safety and Well-being Planning Framework

Selection of Local Services - Seniors

There are a number of long term care homes that serve the population within the Study Area. Bruce County operates two Long term Care Homes: Brucelea Haven in Wiarton; and Gateway Haven Home in Walkerton. Grey County operates three long-term care homes: Grey Gables in Markdale; Lee Manor in Owen Sound; and Rockwood Terrace in Durham. Lastly, Huron County operates two homes: Huronview Home for the Aged in Clinton; and Huronlea Home for the Aged in Brussels.

The inventory includes 52 programs, organizations, and/or locations that provide relevant services to the senior population. These programs and organizations provide additional supports in the way of:

- Home support
- Transportation services
- Professional home health care services including nursing care
- Personal care
- Light house cleaning
- Meal preparation
- Rides to appointments both local and out of town
- Help with errands such as groceries, banking, prescription pick ups
- Respite relief
- Companionship
- Accompaniment for outings or vacation

3.3.2.1.2 Children, Youth and Families

As discussed in Section 3.1.1., 20% of children and youth between the ages of 0 and 17 years and 20-25% of children 0 to 5 years are living in low income households within the Study Area. As such, this subsection identifies the strategies, partnerships, initiatives, frameworks, and a selection of programs and organizations that specifically target children, youth and families.¹⁴

¹⁴ Please note that the strategies, partnerships, strategies, initiatives, frameworks and programs and organizations service the senior population more generally, not just low income seniors.

Strategies, Partnerships, and Initiatives – Children, Youth and Families

Table 14 identifies the local strategies, partnerships, and initiatives related to child care in the Study Area. Key strategies and partnerships include the Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSM) for Child Care and Early Years Program with is available through Bruce County, Grey County, and Huron County. Each county develops its own 5-year service system plan. The initiatives of the CMSM are highlighted below.

Table 14: Municipal Level Strategies, Partnerships, and Initiatives Related to Children, Youth and Families

Strategy / Partnership Overview	Relevant Initiatives
<p>Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSM) for Child Care and Early Years Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bruce County, Grey County, and Huron County each CMSMs for child care and early years programs They each develop 5-year Service System Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding categories administered by Bruce County to licensed child care providers: pay equity, administrative funding, special needs resourcing enhancement (SNR), capacity building, repairs and maintenance, wage supports, small water works, play based materials and equipment, general operating grants. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The licensed Home Child Care Program operated by Bruce County Children’s services division contracts Home Child Care Providers Bruce County administers a Child Care Fee Subsidy The county through the Early Learning Coordinator provides professional development and quality enhancement support for providers “In 2020 Bruce County Council approved a new General Operating Expense funding approach based on operator staffing FTE. This will ensure operators are receiving equitable funding to help support the stabilization of child care fees” (Bruce County, 2020). (Bruce County, 2019b; Bruce County, 2020; Grey County, 2019b; Huron County, 2019)

Associated Provincial Framework/Legislation

The following provincial framework/legislation guide the work being carried out through the social programs, services and supports that affect children:

- Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 (CCEYA)
- Ontario’s Renewed Early Years and Child Care Policy Framework (2017)

Selection of Local Services

Child Care Services includes daycare centres, nursery schools, as well as agencies that provide home visits by Registered Early Childhood Educators. The inventory includes 13 programs, organizations, and/or locations that provide these services.

Parent/Child Programs include centres and organizations that provide a space for parents and children to engage in a range of activities, educational and counselling services related to healthy child development, early learning and literacy programs for parents and their children, and specialized health care units. The inventory includes 20 programs, organizations, and/or locations that provide these services.

Programs and organizations focused on **Young Parents** provide free information and services to families needing extra support to help them have and raise healthy children. These include education centres, adolescent medicine units, adoption supports. Specific services in this category include:

- Educational workshops, seminars, and support groups
- Pregnancy and baby discussions with registered health professionals
- Support for mothers get out to appointments, get groceries, go for walks and link with resources in the community
- Parent support groups and training programs
- Life skills training for young families

The inventory includes 10 programs, organizations, and/or locations that provide these services.

3.3.2.2 Mental Health and Addictions

Strategies, Partnerships, and Initiatives – Mental Health and Addictions

Table 15 identifies the local strategies and partnerships targeted at addressing the needs of individuals suffering from mental health and addiction issues. The key strategies and partnerships include the Grey Bruce Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy, Grey Bruce Opioid Response Plan, the Canadian Mental Health Association Grey Bruce: Mental Health and Addiction Services, Social Research and Planning Council, Mental Health and Addictions Subcommittee, Huron Perth Mental Health & Addictions Network, Huron County Substance Misuse Working Group, Bruce Grey CSWB Plan, and the Huron County CSWB Plan. Relevant initiatives associated with each partnership and strategy are listed.

Table 15: Municipal Level Strategies, Partnerships, and Initiatives Related to Mental Health and Addictions

Strategy / Partnership Overview	Relevant Initiatives
<p>Grey Bruce Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy</p> <p>The Community Drug & Alcohol Strategy receives funding from Grey County and Bruce County. CMHA Grey Bruce Mental Health and Addiction Services acts as the host agency and provides in-kind administrative support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide stronger community supports for people experiencing or at risk of experiencing substance-related harms. • Engage people of diverse backgrounds to inform policy and practice. • Promote appropriate practices for rural setting. <p style="text-align: right;">(Govier, 2018)</p>
<p>Grey Bruce Opioid Response Plan</p> <p>The Opioid Working Group of Grey Bruce is a subcommittee of the Grey Bruce Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand Naloxone distribution • Continue to promote public education • Collect regular data from emergency departments • Collect data on Indigenous-specific opioid related events • Strengthen municipal partnerships for emergency response planning • Maintain and circulate updated lists of available resources to support recovery from opioid-related incidents <p style="text-align: right;">(The Grey Bruce Opioid Working Group, 2020)</p>
<p>The Grey Bruce We C.A.R.E Project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publishes mental health research and educational resources. • Provides information and mental health services and crisis supports. <p style="text-align: right;">(The Grey Bruce We C.A.R.E Project, 2022)</p>

Strategy / Partnership Overview	Relevant Initiatives
Social Research and Planning Council, Mental Health and Addictions Subcommittee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published the report “Forward Together: An integrated approach to Mental Health and Addictions in Huron Perth.” (Social Research and Planning Council, 2021)
Huron Perth Mental Health & Addictions Network Comprised of local mental health and addictions services providers, inclusive of the Huron Perth Addiction & Mental Health Alliance (core of the Mental Health and Addictions Network).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engages in collaborative planning to address gaps in the mental health and addictions service system in Huron Perth. (Social Research and Planning Council, 2021)
Huron County Substance Misuse Working Group Partners include the Huron County Health Unit, OPP, first responders, hospitals, physicians, frontline mental health and addiction services, education and local community groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the Opioid Drug Strategy. (Huron County Substance Misuse Working Group, 2019)
Bruce Grey CSWB Plan	An action table is in the process of developing action plans to respond to issues associated with key indicators for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority Risk Area #1: Addictions/Substance Use Priority Risk Area #2: Mental Health (The Municipalities of Bruce and Grey CSWBP Advisory Committee, 2020)
Huron County CSWB Plan	Priority Area #3: Mental Health and Addictions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Development – Improve access to mental health and addiction services in Huron County. Prevention – Support the work of implementing initiatives in the Roadmap to Wellness to reduce barriers to access. Risk Intervention – Increase Mental Health and Addictions literacy/awareness. Incident Response – Optimize emergency response by enhancing supports for mental Health (Lewis, 2021)

Associated Provincial Frameworks – Mental Health and Addictions

The following provincial frameworks guide the work being carried out through the social programs, services and supports that affect individuals experiencing mental health and/or addictions issues:

- Municipal Drug Strategy Coordinator’s Network of Ontario website for knowledge sharing and collaboration
- Roadmap to Wellness: A Plan to Build Ontario’s Mental Health and Addictions System (Ontario Ministry of Health, 2020)
- Huron Perth & Area Ontario Health Team (HPA-OHT)
 - OHTs are being introduced to provide a new way of organizing and delivering more integrated care. Under OHTs, health care providers (including hospitals, physicians, and home and community care providers) work as one coordinated team no matter where they provide care. In

2019, over 60 health partners in Huron Perth jointly submitted a successful application and the area was approved to become one of the 42 OHTs in the province. The HPA-OHT has identified mental health and addictions as one of three priority population groups in its initial operating plan.

- Community Safety & Well-being Planning Framework

Selection of Local Services – Mental Health and Addictions

Several relevant programs and organizations that support individuals suffering from mental health and addiction issues were identified in the inventory. These programs and organizations provide services across a number of different streams:

- Addiction Counseling/Treatment Services
- Addiction/MH Support Groups
- Child/Youth Mental Health Services
- Community Mental Health Services
- Psychiatric Hospital / In-person Crisis Resources

Addiction and Mental Health Support Groups includes groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, and Co-dependents Anonymous. It also includes emergency phone lines that individuals can use to access support and information during distress or crisis. There are further support groups available for a variety of physical and mental conditions, and significant stressful life events. The inventory includes 35 programs, organizations, and/or locations that provide these services.

Child/Youth Mental Health Services provide services, treatments, as well as educational and recreational opportunities for children and youth facing a variety of social, emotional, physical and cognitive challenges. The inventory includes 20 programs, organizations, and/or locations that provide these services.

Community Mental Health Services provides resources, collaboration and consultation to service providers, consumers, families and the legal system regarding information about mental health legislation and community treatment orders. The inventory includes 11 programs, organizations, and/or locations that provide these services.

The inventory includes one **Psychiatric Hospital** that services the MSB/Study Area - the Owen Sound Hospital. The Mental Health Services Department provides a full suite of services for people suffering from serious mental illness. Services include:

- Assessments and diagnosis;
- Inpatient psychiatric unit;
- Mental health nurse practitioner primary care program;
- Prevention and early intervention program for psychosis;
- Rapid access addiction medicine;
- Withdrawal management services; and
- Sexual assault and partner abuse care centre.

3.3.2.3 Domestic Violence

Strategies, Partnerships, and Initiatives – Domestic Violence

Table 16 identifies the local strategies and partnerships targeted at addressing the needs of victims of domestic violence. The key strategies and partnerships include Bruce Grey Child and Family Services, Violence Prevention Grey Bruce, Bruce Grey CSWB Plan, and the Huron County CSWB Plan. Relevant initiatives associated with each partnership and strategy are listed.

Table 16: Municipal Level Strategies, Partnerships, and Initiatives Targeted to Victims of Domestic Violence

Strategy / Partnership Overview	Relevant Initiatives
Bruce Grey Child and Family Services Responsible for protecting children against abuse; established the consolidation of Bruce and Grey Children’s Aid Societies.	Telephone line and intake for reported abuse against children and families, including emergency after hours service. (Bruce Grey Child and Family Services, 2018)
Violence Prevention Grey Bruce Coalition of 30 member organizations to prevent the occurrence of violence in Grey Bruce.	Key initiatives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting and publishing research on violence in the community • Engaging with diverse stakeholders to inform the work of violence prevention • Coordinating community services and developing a common agenda to prevent violence • Providing education and training (Violence Prevention Bruce Grey, 2018)
Bruce Grey CSWB Plan	An action table is in the process of developing action plans to respond to issues associated with key indicators for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Risk Area #3: Crime Prevention (inclusive of partner and domestic violence) (The Municipalities of Bruce and Grey CSWBP Advisory Committee, 2021)
Huron County CSWB Plan	Priority Area #3: Domestic and Family Violence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Development – Increase the understanding and awareness of domestic and family violence as an issue. • Prevention – Goal of having the vision for Child Welfare in Ontario widely accepted in Huron County. • Risk Intervention – Learn from and support domestic and family violence responses during times of disruption, particularly during pandemic and recovery. (Lewis, 2021)

Associated Provincial Framework/Legislation – Domestic Violence

The following provincial framework/legislation guide the work being carried out through the social programs, services and supports that affect victims of domestic violence:

- Child & Family Services Act
- Community Safety and Well-being Planning Framework

Selection of Local Services – Domestic Violence

Several relevant programs and organizations that provide services to victims of violence through counselling and crisis lines, shelters, and victim support programs were identified.

Counselling and Crisis Lines provide crisis telephone and text line, emotional support, medical care and counselling for victims of recent sexual assault, adult survivors of sexual abuse and survivors of partner abuse. The inventory includes 11 programs, organizations, and/or locations that provide these services.

Shelters for abused women provide emergency accommodations and supports for women and children fleeing partner abuse. The inventory includes 3 programs, organizations, and/or locations that provide these services.

Victim Support Programs provide family court support, information to victims and their families, as well as assistance with finding housing, social assistance, medical and legal help. The inventory includes 22 programs, organizations, and/or locations that provide these services.

3.3.3 Key Challenges Facing Programs and Services

Challenges Identified by Knowledge Holders

During the interviews, knowledge holders identified a variety of challenges they currently face with respect to the populations they serve and the programs, services and supports they deliver/fund. Knowledge holders spoke about the impact of COVID-19 on staffing, commenting that it has resulted in staff burnout (e.g., care providers) and a shortage of staffing/volunteers (e.g., non-government organizations (NGOs), long term care, nurses).

- NGOs:
 - Competition for workers from Bruce Power Generating Station and the MCR Project has resulted in a loss of staff for NGOs who are unable to compete with the higher wages.
 - High cost of housing makes it challenging to recruit staff because the wages they are offering are not adequate to meet the needs of potential employees.
 - Interagency competition caused by variations in wages
 - Further staffing/volunteer shortages during COVID-19
 - Lack of capacity to gather data and access information that would support their efforts
- Hospitals:
 - Short staffed (even before COVID-19)
 - Staff burnout as result of COVID-19
 - Staffing shortages have resulted in having to assess each weekend if emergency departments can remain open
 - Closure of Clinton and Listowel obstetrics on weekends (reported November 11, 2021).
- Housing
 - Lack of affordable housing units
 - Employees/contractors for Bruce Power Generating Station and the MCR Project bought up any available housing, but even before the MCR Project was initiated, there was a shortage of affordable rental units
 - These shortages mean that women and children are having to stay in second stage housing/shelters longer
 - This leads to women having to stay in abusive relationships longer because there is no available space for them in the shelters
 - COVID-19 has made things worse with increased rates of domestic violence and death rates of battered women
 - Waitlists for housing are continuing to climb
- Women/Children Experiencing Domestic Violence
 - COVID-19 has had a greater impact on women than men
- Child Care
 - Insufficient number of child care spaces (waitlist is 900 and continues to climb; 800 spaces currently available)
 - Insufficient number of child care providers

- Child and Family Services
 - Difficulty recruiting and retaining staff
 - Often recruited from outside the area and tend to leave after a couple years
 - Do not have a strong sense of belonging to the area
 - Difficult to find foster parents
 - Increase in referrals once children went back to school after the COVID-19 lockdown
 - Seeing long-term impacts of COVID-19 on anxiety and health of children
 - Greatest percentage of referrals are linked to substance abuse and mental health related issues – There is a lot of binge drinking and meth addiction which leads to criminal behaviour and child neglect
 - While domestic violence generates the most investigations, it is not the primary reason for ongoing services
 - All social service providers are currently struggling with case loads
- Income Assistance
 - Increasing demand for assistance
 - Increasing pressure for additional mental health and addictions supports by clients receiving income assistance
- Addictions
 - Opioid crisis resulting in increase in overdoses and death
 - Lack of community inclusivity and belonging for certain individuals
 - COVID-19 has resulted in decreased ability for outreach/advocacy work and decreased opportunities for one-on-one contact in the community
- Long-term Care and Seniors Services (Bruce County)
 - Lack of services for seniors
 - Health care system is not friendly to seniors
 - Lack of staff and bed shortages in care facilities – further challenged by:
 - Increasing level of care required by clients (stay home longer and enter care facilities sicker and with later disease progression)
 - Increasing number of dual diagnosis clients (e.g., combination of developmental disability + physical health condition + aging + dementia and/or other chronic diseases)
 - 24/7 services required because of the high needs
 - Seniors who are low income require subsidized beds. These beds are in high demand and there is not enough to meet the need. Seniors who cannot afford to pay for a bed or who cannot access a subsidized bed in the community (e.g., retirement home) are placed in long term care facilities. This is not the best place for them (e.g., mixing healthy and unhealth seniors); they would be better served elsewhere.

Challenges Identified in Key Documents

Social programs and services are challenged by limited system resources (e.g., child care spaces, supportive housing) and human resources.

- Low Socio-Economic Status
 - Serving the needs of low socio-economic status populations has put increasing pressure on the funding for, and the availability of, services, such as social housing. Currently, the demand for social housing exceeds availability. As such, many households remain on housing waitlists. In 2020, 639 households were on the housing waitlist for Bruce County, while the waitlist for Grey County had 1040 households (The Municipalities of Bruce and Grey CSWBP Advisory Committee, 2021). In 2019, 448 household were on the housing waitlist for Huron County (Huron County, 2019).

- There has also been a trend of increasing need for social supports provided by various organizations, which puts pressure on the capacity and staffing needs of these organizations. As examples of the current landscape, in 2019-20 there were 518 Ontario Works cases for financial assistance in Bruce County and 1,294 in Grey County (The Municipalities of Bruce and Grey CSWBP Advisory Committee, 2021). In Bruce Grey there were also 1,557 referrals made by Community Connection, 211 Central East Ontario in response for utility assistance inquiries.
- With an aging population, municipal governments are also under increasing pressure to ensure that seniors have access to appropriate housing and mobility options and have opportunities for social participation (WSP, 2021).
- Children and Families:
 - In seeking to support families with children, the ability to provide child care at affordable rates is a key challenge. This challenge may have a pronounced impact on low income and single parent households, who have the greatest need for child care services (Bruce County 2019, Grey County, 2019; Huron County Social and Property Services, 2019).
 - Despite the high cost of child care, wages for child care professionals remain low, making it difficult for facilities to hire and retain staff, which ultimately limits the capacity of child care service delivery (Bruce County, 2019; Grey County, 2020)
 - Child care facilities must also make efforts to ensure that their services and programming are inclusive (Bruce County 2019, Grey County, 2019; Huron County Social and Property Services, 2019).
 - Across Ontario and the study regions, pressures in child care availability due to limited child care spaces are substantial, resulting in extensive wait lists. In 2019 there were 1,052 children on child care waitlists in Bruce County, 1,531 in Grey County (The Municipalities of Bruce and Grey CSWBP Advisory Committee, 2021) and 525 in Huron County (Huron County Social and Property Services, 2019).
- Mental Health and Addictions
 - Service capacity and accessibility are an important challenge for mental health and addictions services within the Study Area. In some areas there is limited access and long wait times for mental health and addictions support (Grodzinski & Fast, 2021). This challenge has emerged despite a proliferation of services delivered by various organizations (in response to new funding to address a notable decrease in mental health as a result of the pandemic). As such, there is a need to enhance service coordination and facilitate the ability of individuals to navigate the service system (Grodzinski & Fast, 2021; Govier, Leffley, Huffman, Sherazy, 2018).
 - Approaches to service-related decision-making, which incorporate input from individuals with lived experience, are desired to enhance the effectiveness of strategies to systematically address addictions and substance abuse issues (Govier, 2018).
- Victims of Domestic Violence
 - Incidents of domestic violence are increasing, placing greater demands on resources for shelters and support services households (The Municipalities of Bruce and Grey CSWBP Advisory Committee, 2021). The isolation measures associated with the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in increased rates of domestic violence (Lewis, 2021), which may place additional pressures on service availability.
 - There are also capacity-related challenges in ensuring that educational resources on domestic and sexual violence get out to communities to promote awareness (Violence Prevention Bruce Grey, 2018).

3.3.4 Current and Future/Planned Initiatives

During the interviews, knowledge holders identified a number of initiatives that are underway or planned for the near future.

- Long Term Care and Seniors Services (Bruce County)
 - Aiming to enhance service systems so that they can provide a high standard of care through:
 - Implementation of the butterfly model of care¹⁵
 - Accreditation of long term care homes
 - Increased use of technology and innovations to support care
 - Aiming to participate in all appropriate tables so that they can be an advocate/voice of seniors and represent their needs
 - Currently sit on a number of tables (e.g., Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team, Grey Bruce Long Term Care Committee)
- Women's Shelter
 - Recently initiated a human trafficking program for those at risk
- Department of Human Services (Bruce County)
 - As result of a recent departmental re-organization, created a new Business and integration Services division
 - Working to modernize service delivery by providing more online self-service processes (e.g., apply online instead of by phone or in person)
 - Working towards a more integrated approach to service delivery that support breaks down silos, links programs, and coordinates service delivery
 - Being asked by Council to decrease waitlists (as there is an increase in demand for services).
 - In the process of determining what this would cost – need to determine the level of service that can be provided from a cost perspective
- Child and Family Services (Grey Bruce)
 - Working with Indigenous board members, Saugeen First Nation and Chippewas of Nawash to build meaningful relationships
 - Working with Saugeen First Nation and Chippewas of Nawash to determine if they have the capacity to take on devolved services
 - Saugeen First Nation determined it is too small to take on child and family services
 - Entered into an agreement with them such that if a child needs to be removed from their home, they remain on the reserve
 - Chippewas of Nawash still to be determined
 - Working on a newer model of service – signs of safety – to enhance family engagement and increase buy-in and transparency
 - Working to expand the mandate of the Equity Committee to include the needs of African Canadians, LGBTQ2+ individuals, and youth
- Community Living
 - Creation of a new agency (hub) that will provide administrative supports to all their Community Living offices through the merging of services such as payroll, administration and property management

¹⁵ The Butterfly Model™ is a social interaction model that has been implemented in numerous homes in Europe, Australia, the US and Canada. The outcome of emotional well-being is achieved through positive social interactions between those living with dementia and staff who care for them. The effect of well-being is experienced by both. This model represents a care approach that responds to people in a human, dignified way rather than in an objectified manner.

- Social and Property Services (Huron County)
 - Working toward the creation of a dispersed model for supportive housing – currently only have a cold-weather shelter but they are looking for more permanent housing supports and funds - will approach Council
 - Ontario Works is in the midst of transforming their employment services to include centralized intake and document management
 - Within children's services shift toward electronic document management and online registration that would allow parents to see if there is space in programs
 - Looking at other online initiatives to see how they can provide better services for their clients (i.e., increase access)
- Library Services (Huron County)
 - Looking at changing opening/closing hours to better meet the needs of people (roll out of new hours in 2022)
 - Looking into virtual access, apps, e-books, self-checkout, book locker
- South Grey Bruce Health Centre
 - CT scanner planned for Kincardine
 - Currently people from Kincardine have to go to Walkerton for CT scans which can be problematic. Care ends up being delayed if a nurse needs to travel in the ambulance with the patient.
 - Kincardine Hospital is going to be expanding.
 - There are plans for a new and much larger emergency department that has enhanced imaging capabilities.
 - The existing decontamination room will be expanded to ensure the needs of BP are met – working closely with them

4 Relevant Project Characteristics

In the context of the *Vulnerable Populations* and *Social Programs* studies, the relevant Project characteristics relate to the workforce numbers/characteristics for each phase, where the workforce may originate/reside, and the significance of those numbers or degree of change relative to existing conditions. Key Project characteristics are summarized below in terms of workforce and housing.

4.1 Project Workforce

The *Community Studies Planning Assumptions* (Confidential) (NWMO, October 2021) describes the labour workforce projected for the Project by three phases and location (on- or off-site). Table 17 (NWMO, October 2021) describes the workforce associated with the Project phases.). The *Labour Baseline Study* and *Workforce Development Study* (Keir Corp., 2022a, 2022b) conclude that the direct labour force requirements of the Project are relatively modest in relation to Bruce Power’s Major Component Replacement (MCR) Project/the Bruce Power Generating Station, and occur in stages, synchronized with the key phases of the Project.

Table 17: Workforce by Project Phase

		NWMO Staff	Surface Trades	Underground Trades	Total
On-site	Pre-construction (2028)	20	-	-	20
	Construction (2033)	40	300	130	470
	Operations (2043)	510	10	60	580
Off-site	Pre-construction (2028)	180	-	-	180
	Construction (2033)	170	-	-	170
	Operations (2043)	120	-	-	120
Total	Pre-construction (2028)	200	-	-	200
	Construction (2033)	210	300	130	640
	Operations (2043)	630	10	60	700

Source: NWMO (October 2021)

Pre-construction (2028) – Centre of Expertise

Pre-construction is characterized by the in-moving of NWMO staff to the community from their current office location in Toronto. This phase of the Project will be closely associated with permitting and licensing activities and it also will involve both on-site and off-site initiatives. In the latter case an office and Centre of Expertise will be made operational. The NWMO workforce strategy will entail a combination of new employee hires and relocation of existing employees. These 200 workers would have medium to high incomes.

Construction (2033) and Operations (2043+)

In subsequent phases of the Project, replacement and new additional NWMO staff can be potentially sourced from the Regional¹⁶, Local¹⁷ or Core¹⁸ Study Areas as defined in the *Housing Needs and Demand Analysis* and *Workforce Development* studies (Keir Corp., 2022c, 2022b).

4.2 Population Projections

The MSB (metroeconomics, 2022) prepared base case ('without the Project') population projections for five local municipalities. A corresponding set of incremental 'anticipated Project effects' projections was also prepared (metroeconomics, 2022) utilizing MSB Project-related growth targets. As shown in Table 18, these projections indicate that, in the base case (without the Project), the total population of the combined area¹⁹ of the MSB, the Township of Huron-Kinloss, the Municipality of Brockton, the Township of North Huron, and the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry will be 46,390 by the year 2046 (a growth of 13,060 people). When growth associated with the Project is incorporated (refer to Table 18), it is projected that the population of these five municipalities could be 48,190 by the year 2046 (a growth of 14,860 people, with an incremental additional growth of 1,800 people from the Project) (metroeconomics, 2022).

Table 18: Base and Impact Case Population Projections, 2021-2046

		2021		2031		2041		2046	
		Base Case	Impact Case	Base Case	Impact Case	Base Case	Impact Case	Base Case	Impact Case
South Bruce		6,250	-	7,420	7,620	8,400	9,040	8,760	9,540
Other Core Area Municipalities	Sum of Other Core Area	27,080	-	32,030	32,230	36,120	36,760	37,630	38,650
Total Core Area		33,330	-	39,450	39,850	44,520	45,800	46,390	48,190

Source: metroeconomics (2022)

The *Labour Baseline Study* and *Workforce Development Study* (Keir Corp., 2022a, 2022b) note that:

- The proposed Project is located in the midst of a large capable labour pool. At a regional level this is one of the largest most advanced labour pools in the country. It is also home to a number of companies that form part of the supply chain for the nuclear industry across Ontario, and further afield.
- Therefore, at a broad level the size and qualifications of the labour pool within the *Labour Baseline* and *Workforce Development Study* Areas are sufficient to meet the needs of the Project. The Study Areas collectively can meet almost all the needs for labour and goods and services required by the Project. The

¹⁶ The Regional Study Area for the *Workforce Development Study* includes the Counties of Bruce, Grey, Huron, Perth, Wellington, Oxford and Middlesex and the Region of Waterloo. This area lies within a one and half to two-hour drive time of the potential Project site and is home to a large portion of the supply chain companies for the Bruce Nuclear Plant and its associated Major Component Replacement (MCR) Project. Additionally, it is home to many of the workers associated with the Bruce Nuclear Station during refurbishment and almost all the workers associated with plant operations.

¹⁷ The Local Study Area for the *Workforce Development Study* and the *Housing Needs and Demand Analysis Study* steps down from the Regional Study area and focusses on the municipalities surrounding the MSB (i.e., Huron-Kinloss, Brockton, Kincardine, Saugeen Shores, Arran-Elderslie, West Grey, Hanover, Minto, Howick, Morris-Turnberry, North Huron, Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh) as well as South Bruce itself. All parts of the Local Study Area are within a one-hour drive of the potential Project Site.

¹⁸ The Core Study Area for the *Workforce Development Study* and the *Housing Needs and Demand Analysis Study* steps down from the Local Study Area and focuses on the municipalities of South Bruce, Huron-Kinloss, Brockton, North Huron and Morris-Turnberry. These five communities are closely intertwined through social/cultural, economic and political relationships.

¹⁹ The metroeconomics projections include five of the municipalities that are part of the Study Area for the *Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs* studies, but do not include the Municipality of Kincardine, Municipality of West Grey, Township of Howick, Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh, or Town of Minto.

one exception is for mining expertise and underground trades which may potentially have to be sourced from other areas in Ontario.²⁰

- Bruce Power is the biggest economic engine in the area and is currently in the midst of its Major Component Replacement (MCR) Project, which will secure operation of the Generating Station until 2064. The MCR Project value is \$13 billion and having started in 2016 it is scheduled for completion in mid-2033 when work wraps up on reactor 8. Bruce Power estimates that the MCR Project will support an estimated 5,000 direct and indirect jobs annually with approximately 1,600 on-site. Moreover, they further estimate in the Bruce, Grey, and Huron Counties combined, the MCR Project could support 400 direct jobs from suppliers and 3,000 jobs overall.
- Bruce Power estimates that 25% of the trades people employed on the MCR Project reside within commuting distance of the Generating Station. These tradespeople would therefore likely be available to work on the construction of the Project.

In summary, there is a large and capable skilled workforce available regionally for the construction and operations phases of the Project. A number of NWMO workers will move to the area during pre-construction, though NWMO has a number of staff living in the local/regional area already. While there may be in-migration of workers during the construction and operations phases, the overall change in population resulting from the Project in comparison to the regional baseline population is relatively small. However, the distribution of the workforce in the MSB and neighbouring communities has important social and economic implications.

4.3 Housing Considerations

The MSB (metroeconomics, 2022) prepared base case ('without the Project') projections for housing for five municipalities. A corresponding set of incremental 'anticipated Project effects' projections was also prepared (metroeconomics, 2022). As shown in Table 19, these projections indicate that, in the base case (without the Project), the total number of dwellings in the combined area²¹ of the MSB, the Township of Huron-Kinloss, the Municipality of Brockton, the Township of North Huron, and the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry will be 17,640 by the year 2046 (a growth of 4,610 dwellings). When growth associated with the Project is incorporated (refer to Table 19), it is projected that the number of dwellings in these five municipalities would be 18,240 by the year 2046 (an incremental additional growth of 600 dwellings from the Project) (metroeconomics, 2022).

Table 19: Base Case and Impact Case Housing Projections, 2021-2046

	2021		2031		2041		2046	
	Base Case	Impact Case	Base Case	Impact Case	Base Case	Impact Case	Base Case	Impact Case
South Bruce	2,360	-	2,850	2,920	3,200	3,400	3,300	3,550
Other Core Area Municipalities	10,670	-	12,450	12,520	13,840	14,060	14,340	14,690
Total Core Area	13,030	-	15,300	15,440	17,040	17,460	17,640	18,240

Source: metroeconomics (2022)

The following observations from the *Housing Needs and Demand Analysis Study* (Keir Corp., 2022c) are also relevant for the *Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs* studies:

²⁰ The topics of mining expertise and underground trades can be further explored in a future study / during the Impact Assessment process if the Project is located in the South Bruce Area, when there may be a better understanding of where the workforce for underground operations may come from.

²¹ The metroeconomics projections include five of the municipalities that are part of the Study Area for the *Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs* studies, but do not include the Municipality of Kincardine, Municipality of West Grey, Township of Howick, Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh, or Town of Minto.

- The MSB wishes to grow its compliment of occupied housing by attracting workers and their families associated with the Project to take up residence in the Municipality. MSB and NWMO are currently exploring options to that end.
- Other nearby municipalities are also interested in attracting a portion of the Project workforce to reside in their communities.
- Current and potential housing availability across the Local Study Area²² as a whole is substantial. Many of the municipalities in the area are planning for growth, and as such home buyers with a few exceptions have an extensive landscape to shop in.

²² The Local Study Area for the *Housing Needs and Demand Study* focusses on the municipalities surrounding the MSB (i.e., Huron-Kinloss, Brockton, Kincardine, Saugeen Shores, Arran-Elderslie, West Grey, Hanover, Minto, Howick, Morris-Turnberry, North Huron, Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh) as well as MSB itself.

5 Preliminary Analysis/Effects Assessment

Knowledge holders and DPRA, as subject matter experts, identified a number of potential positive and negative effects that might occur as a result of the Project. Many of the identified potential effects focus on workforce and housing. As noted in Section 4, the *Labour Baseline Study* and *Workforce Development Study* findings report there is an existing large and capable skilled workforce available regionally for the construction and operations phases of the Project as a result of Bruce Power's MCR Project. While there may be in-migration of workers during construction and operations phases of the Project, the overall change in population relative to the regional baseline population is relatively small. Hence, it is not expected that the Project will result in the extent of positive or negative effects on vulnerable populations and social programs that may have been anticipated by the knowledge holders, many of whom were not aware of the specific Project characteristics. However, given the current pressures and challenges being experienced in the Study Area as a consequence of factors such as Bruce Power's MCR Project (refer to Section 4), the pandemic (refer to Section 3.1) and the resulting migration of people to the area from the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area and other parts of southern Ontario which has resulted in a dearth of affordable housing in the Study Area (refer to *Housing Needs and Demand Analysis Study*, Keir Corp. 2022c), it is likely that any additional population growth (baseline and Project-specific) may add further pressure to the existing circumstances experienced by vulnerable populations and social programs and services.

5.1 Potential Positive Project Effects

Potential positive effects that might be experienced by vulnerable individuals and/or social programs, services and supports as a result of the Project, were identified. The potential positive effects may occur throughout the pre-construction, construction, and operations phases of the Project, while becoming more pronounced as the Project progresses (as a result of cumulative population growth and maturation of initiatives associated with the Project). The exception is supportive housing, which is only applicable upon completion of the Construction phase.

Potential Positive Effects

Identified positive effects as well as their link to vulnerable populations and social programs are listed below:

- Population growth will result in an increased municipal tax base and economic prosperity, increased funding for social programs, enhanced community sustainability and a more vibrant community (e.g., increase in multiculturalism; more community involvement, e.g., taking part in library activities)
- The Project will provide employment opportunities with higher paying wages for community members
 - This may result in families staying together and the retention of families and youth in the Study Area, as residents do not have to leave the community to look for employment elsewhere
 - If youth stay in the Study Area and begin a family, their partners and children may be interested in working for/volunteering for local social program and service providers
- If NWMO employees/contractors move into South Bruce and surrounding communities, they will bring their families with them, which will result in a larger pool of individuals for local organizations providing social programs to hire from and recruit volunteers
- Increase in employment opportunities may lead to a reduction in child and family service issues which may result in less pressure on service providers and more time to serve other clients
- Opportunity for NWMO to partner with local school boards, colleges and training organizations to enhance the education and skills levels of youth so they can obtain employment at the Project (refer to Keir Corp., 2022b), which may reduce poverty in the Study Area

Additional relevant potential positive effects of the Project relevant to vulnerable populations or social programs identified in other community studies (e.g., *Housing Needs and Demand Analysis Study* (Keir Corp. 2022c), *Infrastructure Baseline and Feasibility Study* (Morrison Hershfield, 2022b) include:

- One of the preliminary options being considered for the Project is a Project-affiliated campus development that offers both temporary accommodation and training facilities to build and evolve workforce capabilities. It could be linked to the NWMO's off-site office and the Centre of Expertise. These could in the future be converted to supportive housing (e.g., affordable, long-term care/retirement homes) (see Section 6.2: Option 3, below)
- Improvements in telecommunications infrastructure (e.g., fibre optics cable) required for the Project would benefit all residents (i.e., more opportunities for virtual services and fewer transportation challenges associated with in-person service provision)

Some knowledge holders did refer to Bruce Power's MCR Project and the effects it has had on the local communities, noting they would expect to see similar effects occur if the Project were to be located in South Bruce. Additionally, knowledge holders spoke about the importance of early planning to capitalize on potential positive effects that may be associated with the Project.

5.2 Potential Negative Project Effects

Potential negative effects that might be experienced by vulnerable individuals and/or social programs, services and supports as a result of the Project, were identified. The potential negative effects may occur throughout the pre-construction, construction, and operations phases of the Project, while becoming more pronounced as the Project progresses (as a result of cumulative population growth and maturation of initiatives associated with the Project).

Potential Negative Effects

Identified potential negative effects as well as their link to vulnerable populations and social programs are listed below:

- Increased cost of living as a result of more higher-paying jobs
 - A greater number of higher-paying jobs may result in growing divide between the “haves” and “have nots”
 - For example, schools closer to Bruce Power are thought to have better programs than those further away – creating social divisions
- Influx of new residents with great spending power will result in continued increases in housing prices and decreases in availability
 - Because of housing costs, low-income residents may not be able to afford to stay in the area even if they have employment
 - If residents have to move to find more affordable housing/lower cost of living, they may not have the transportation necessary (and no public transit) that would allow them to continue to work in their current job
 - Increased rates of homelessness/couch surfing
- Increase in multicultural/diverse residents (NWMO staff/contractors and families) requires the provision of culturally appropriate services and supports that may not currently exist
 - May encounter Children and Family Services issues that staff are not trained/equipped to address (e.g., child protection issues in which the underlying problem is trauma (for example, from a war-torn country))
- Further challenges for service providers, particularly NGOs, to recruit and retain skilled employees due to competition with the Project
- Increased pressure on social and health services already beyond capacity (e.g., family doctors, seniors' services) may result in decreased access for some vulnerable populations
- Increased demand across the children's services sector for special needs programming, childcare spaces, children's programming, and before and after school programs

- Increased demands on library staff and increased use of digital services provided by the libraries which will drive up the cost (i.e., libraries pay per use)
 - Staff may not have the time available to deliver or support programming in the libraries
 - Libraries may have to pass along increased costs to users²³
- Concerns about potential accidents, malfunctions or environmental contamination affecting the local area as well as the Great Lakes may lead to increased anxiety levels among some residents, especially farmers and those with existing mental health problems; and /or stigma for some residents or businesses in close proximity to the potential Project site

Some knowledge holders spoke about the importance of early planning to address any potential negative effects from the Project.

5.3 Summary of Potential Effects

In summary, a number of potential positive and negative effects associated with the Project and relevant to vulnerable populations and social programs were identified. The potential positive effects on vulnerable populations and/or social programs resulting from the Project include:

- Increased employment opportunities;
- Increased pool of potential employees and volunteers;
- Increased municipal tax base/ funds for social programs;
- Enhanced community sustainability and a more vibrant community (increased multiculturalism and community involvement);
- Reduced pressure on service providers and programs due to decreased child and family services issues as a result of increased employment;
- Increased opportunities for academic and training partnerships;
- Future supportive housing opportunities; and
- Enhanced telecommunications infrastructure.

The potential negative effects related to potential effects the Project on vulnerable populations and/or social programs include:

- Increased cost of living;
- Increased divide between the 'haves' and have nots';
- Decreased availability and affordability of housing;
- Increased need for culturally appropriate services and supports that may not currently exist;
- Increased competition for employees;
- Increased pressure on community services and supports that are already operating at or beyond capacity;
- Increased pressure on social programs and increased costs (e.g., for libraries);
- Lack of ability to sustain indirect and induced services; and
- Anxiety about possible Project accidents, malfunctions or environmental contamination for some residents

²³ It is noted that the MSB-led *Effects on Recreational Resources Study (Tract, July 2022)* has detailed discussion of South Bruce libraries and potential effects of the Project as well as future population growth without the Project.

It is important to note that knowledge holders might not have been aware of the relevant Project characteristics (see Section 4.1 Project Workforce, 4.2 Population Projections, 4.3 Housing Considerations), and some knowledge holders were basing the potential effects on their experiences with Bruce Power's MCR Project which is significantly larger in scope. As a result, the potential effects they identified may not be applicable/fully applicable to the Project (e.g., because there is already a large and capable skilled workforce available regionally for the Project's construction and operations phases, it is unlikely that the cost of living will increase significantly due to an influx of new workers taking on higher paying jobs).

6 Options Assessment

Note to Reader

This section provides an overview of possible options to mitigate negative consequences or to enhance positive outcomes. They are presented by the authors to foster discussion only. They do not represent commitments or actions for the NWMO, the Municipality of South Bruce, or other parties. The final decisions on actions and commitments will be made at a future date.

6.1 Overview of Options

As described in Sections 4 and 5, because there is an existing large and capable skilled workforce available regionally for the construction and operations phases of the Project as a result of Bruce Power's MCR Project, it is expected that the overall change in population relative to the regional baseline population would be relatively small. As such, it is not anticipated that the Project would result in a significant increase in pressure on vulnerable populations or existing social programs and services in the Study Area. That being said, as noted in Section 3, there are currently a number of challenges in the Study Area:

- Vulnerable populations: For example, high cost of living; lack of affordable, accessible and supportive housing; lack of transportation to access services; inability to take advantage of employment opportunities due lack of required education and skills; stigma as a result of living in poverty; lack of accessible mental health and addiction services; lack of safe spaces for women and children);
- Social program and service providers: For example, lack of qualified staff; lack of child care spaces; increasing demand for social assistance, mental health and addiction services, and domestic violence supports; high social service caseloads; limited opportunities for community outreach due to COVID).

Consequently, given the existing conditions of vulnerable populations and the increased demands being placed on social programs, it is possible that Project (combined with anticipated baseline growth) could result in some effects, albeit relatively small, on these populations and on programs in relation to the current state (e.g., increasing demand on childcare spaces, mental health and addictions services, library services).

It is also important to note, as outlined in Section 4, that the overall change in population resulting from the Project relative to the regional baseline population is relatively small; the majority of change will be due to projected baseline growth (i.e., not attributable to the Project). As such, it will be the responsibility of the MSB and other local/regional partners to address the existing conditions that affect vulnerable populations and social programs. That being said, there are opportunities for NWMO, the MSB and others to improve and enhance the existing and projected conditions of vulnerable populations and social programs, services and supports. Potential options are considered for enhancement of possible positive effects (strengthening of positive effects) and mitigation of possible negative effects (minimizing or managing risk associated with negative effects). Based on the identified potential effects (and relevant effects identified in other community studies), those effects considered most material from a Project commitment perspective form the basis of the options presented below. It is important to note that most, if not all enhancement and mitigation options will require partnerships between the NWMO, the MSB and specific local/regional stakeholders/service providers to ensure the options are meeting the needs of vulnerable / general populations and the organizations providing services and programs. Opportunities for the NWMO to take part, when appropriate, in existing tables/committees/work groups, may help support the development and sustainability of these community partnerships.

The options presented in Section 6.2 are based on:

- Discussions with knowledge holders;
- Subject matter expertise of DPRA;
- Discussions with the NWMO and the MSB peer review team;
- A review of NWMO's recent annual reports, brochures, and engagement documents (referenced below); and
- A review of recent Bruce Power annual and sustainability reports that outline the various initiatives it has implemented to contribute to community well-being or to address community concerns identified through its materiality assessment (Bruce Power, 2021a; Bruce Power 2021b; Bruce Power, 2019; Bruce Power, n.d.).

6.2 Specific Options

Details on each of four specific options are described, including the assessed need for each option, along with tables that highlight the factors for consideration and the responses to those factors, as appropriate and when possible. If the Project is located in South Bruce, NWMO can refine these options based on a further materiality assessment in the context of potential effects/needs and the priorities of NWMO, MSB and other stakeholders.

The four options summarized in Tables 20 to 23.

- Option 1: Creating an NWMO CSR Program Stream with a Focus on Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs and Services
- Option 2: Creating a Participatory Social Monitoring Program
- Option 3: Temporary Accommodations that Could be Converted into Supportive Housing
- Option 4: Creating a Child Care Centre in Centre of Expertise

The NWMO is committed to being strong corporate citizen; however, the options put forward cannot be the sole responsibility of the NWMO, but rather, require partnerships with the MSB and other local/regional organizations to implement.

Option 1: Creating an NWMO CSR Program Stream with a Focus on Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs and Services The NWMO creates a strategic and responsive Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Program with a vulnerable populations and social programs /services stream focused on:

- a) NWMO participating in existing/future social forums (e.g., working groups, Advisory Committees, task forces that address issues such as food security, housing, mental health and addictions, domestic violence, children's services, seniors services) when appropriate;
- b) Donations to local and regional NGOs/charitable organizations (e.g., food banks, shelters, community gardens);
- c) Sponsorship of local and regional NGOs/charitable organizations (e.g., seniors organizations, youth programs, afterschool programs) through funding available to support the operation of social programs; and
- d) STEM scholarship programs and summer student programs that support low income youth and adults in pursuit of post-secondary education or skills/trade training (This should be coordinated with the 'Passive Investment' and 'Incubate and Cultivate' options and potential examples identified in the *Workforce Development Study* (Keir Corp. 2022b) and the options presented in the *Local/Regional Education Study* (DPRA, 2022).

It is anticipated that Option 1 would begin in the near-term pre-construction phase (2023-2032) and continue through construction / mid-term (2033-2042) and operations / long-term (2043 and beyond).

Option 1 aligns with the following MSB Guiding Principles:

- #16: “The NWMO will implement the Project in a manner that promotes diversity, equality and inclusion.
- #32: “The NWMO, in consultation with the Municipality and other local and regional partners, will prepare a strategy to ensure there are sufficient community services and amenities, including health, child-care, educational and recreational facilities, to accommodate the expected population growth associated with hosting the Project in South Bruce.”

For example, to fulfill these Principles with respect to vulnerable populations and social programs:

- NWMO could work with social service providers, as a component of the CSR program, to identify areas for donations, funding programs and scholarships.
- NWMO could participate in forums, as appropriate, to identify vulnerable populations and social programs in which they could provide strategic supports.

Table 20: Option 1 - Creating an NWMO CSR Program Stream with a Focus on Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs and Services

Factors	Response
Ease of implementation (demonstrated success on other projects, if applicable)/degree of complexity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation dependent on the interest of service providers task forces/action groups for NWMO to participate • Scholarships - determine eligibility requirements, number of scholarships per year, amounts • Create application processes for scholarships and NGO/charitable organization funding programs • Low – medium degree of complexity, leverages existing mechanism(s) the NWMO and/or municipalities already have in place
Degree of effectiveness or conditions for effectiveness as per understanding of community needs and aspiration(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in forums may increase NWMO’s understanding of issues affecting vulnerable populations and the provision of social programs, and may identify ways in which NWMO can provide supports (financial and in-kind) through donations and sponsorships • Provides an opportunity for NWMO to support the work carried out by organizations that assist vulnerable populations • Addresses need for local youth and adults to obtain further education and training in order to be able to take advantage of job opportunities with NWMO or other local businesses • Provides an opportunity for NWMO to create and strengthen partnerships with community organizations
Cost (if known)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined
Ability for NWMO and/or the Municipality of South Bruce to implement vs. need to involve other responsible authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWMO would need to work with MSB, social forums, local service providers and academic/training institutions to identify and help establish potential opportunities to support vulnerable populations and social programs

Option 2: Creating a Participatory Social Monitoring Program The NWMO creates a Participatory Social Monitoring Program with MSB, local and regional social service providers and representatives from academic/training institutions. The program could support research on the identification of best practices in the area of participatory social monitoring with the goal of finding new ways to involve stakeholders in the process of gathering and analyzing social monitoring data. More specifically, the program would provide an opportunity for stakeholders to identify relevant indicators that are already being tracked by service providers or others, to work together to identify additional social indicators that could be monitored to understand potential effects of the Project on vulnerable populations and the operation of social programs, and to address the issue of attribution of effects (i.e., are the effects the result of the Project and/or other factors?). The program would contribute to understanding potential future vulnerable populations and social programs and services streams of the NWMO CSR Program.

It is anticipated that Option 2 would begin in the near-term pre-construction phase (2023-2032) and continue through construction / the mid-term (2033-2042) and operations / long-term (2043 and beyond).

Option 2 aligns with the following MSB Guiding Principles #10, #16 and #32:

- #10: “The NWMO will identify the potential for any positive and negative socio-economic impacts of the Project on South Bruce and surrounding communities and what community benefits it will contribute to mitigate any potential risks.”
- #16: “The NWMO will implement the Project in a manner that promotes diversity, equality and inclusion.
- #32: “The NWMO, in consultation with the Municipality and other local and regional partners, will prepare a strategy to ensure there are sufficient community services and amenities, including health, child-care, educational and recreational facilities, to accommodate the expected population growth associated with hosting the Project in South Bruce.”

For example, to fulfill these Principles with respect to vulnerable populations and social programs, NWMO could ask social service providers, academic/training representatives and persons with lived experience (PWLE)²⁴ to participate in the Participatory Social Monitoring Program. Participants could guide the collection and analysis of social monitoring data and support the development of strategic plans to identify and mitigate Project-related social effects and to strengthen Project benefits with respect to vulnerable populations and social programs.

Table 21: Option 2 - Creating a Participatory Social Monitoring Program

Factors	Response
Ease of implementation (demonstrated success on other projects, if applicable)/degree of complexity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation dependent on the interest of key stakeholders • Participation could take various forms, depending on the degree of engagement preferred by key stakeholders • Low degree of complexity; a participatory framework may need to be developed, which would leverage existing mechanism(s) the NWMO and/or municipalities already have in place where possible
Degree of effectiveness or conditions for effectiveness as per understanding of community needs and aspiration(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves NWMO’s understanding of best practices in the area of participatory social monitoring and identifies new ways for NWMO to involve stakeholders in the process of gathering and analyzing social monitoring data • Provides a forum for identifying existing and new social indicators to be monitored

²⁴ In this context, persons with lived experience are defined as members of vulnerable populations and/or individuals who have participated in, or are the target population of, social programs.

Factors	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can provide a mechanism to understand/monitor any expected or emerging potential adverse effects related specifically to the Project, and more generally in the Study Area • Provides an opportunity for NWMO to create and strengthen partnerships with local/regional service providers. • Provides an opportunity for the NWMO to increase it's understanding of issues affecting vulnerable populations (e.g., poverty, homelessness, unemployment) and social programs, and may identify ways in which NWMO can provide supports (financial or in-kind).
Cost (if known)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined
Ability for NWMO and/or the Municipality of South Bruce to implement vs. need to involve other responsible authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWMO would need to work with MSB and other stakeholders (including in a participatory manner to identify and monitor social indicators linked to potential effects of the Project (negative and positive) on vulnerable populations and social programs

Option 3: Temporary Accommodations that Could be Converted into Supportive Housing As outlined in the options presented in the *Housing Needs and Demand Analysis Study* (Keir Corp., 2022c, Section 5.3), The NWMO, in collaboration with the MSB, could create temporary accommodations for workers/contractors as part of the potential 'campus concept' that could ultimately be converted to supportive housing upon completion of the construction phase.^{25,26} The possible development of temporary accommodations could help to alleviate competition for scarce available housing and could in the future add to the dearth of available supportive/transitional housing stock.

It is anticipated that development for Option 3 could begin in the near-term pre-construction phase (2023-2032) with work continuing through construction / mid-term (2033-2042) and operations / long-term (2043 and beyond).

Option 3 aligns with MSB Guiding Principle #32:

- #32: "The NWMO, in consultation with the Municipality and other local and regional partners, will prepare a strategy to ensure there are sufficient community services and amenities, including health, child-care, educational and recreational facilities, to accommodate the expected population growth associated with hosting the Project in South Bruce."

For example, to fulfill this Principle with respect to vulnerable populations and social programs, NWMO would work with MSB and Bruce County to plan the design, development and implementation of any potential housing supports.

²⁵ At this point in time, the potential 'campus concept' is only an option (one of many) presented in the *Workforce Development Study* (Keir Corp., 2022b) and *Housing Demand and Needs Assessment Study* (Keir Corp., 2022c). As such detail concerning the services and infrastructure have not been articulated at this point in the study process.

²⁶ Based on the analysis in the *Workforce Development Study* (Keir Corp., 2022b) and *Housing Demand and Needs Assessment Study* (Keir Corp., 2022c), there will not be a large influx of non-resident temporary or short-term construction workers, and that those that do come will be able to find accommodations within the local/regional area (see Section 4.2, above).

Table 22: Option 3 - Temporary Accommodations that Could be Converted into Supportive Housing

Factors	Response
Ease of implementation (demonstrated success on other projects, if applicable)/degree of complexity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High degree of complexity
Degree of effectiveness or conditions for effectiveness as per understanding of community needs and aspiration(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As noted in the <i>Housing Needs and Demand Analysis Study</i>: “The accommodation component is flexible. As the first wave of NWMO staff move out of the suites having made decisions on permanent residences, units are freed up for visitors, workers and students. Eventually, depending on the aspirations of MSB, some or all of the suites could be made available to the general public as rental housing, seniors’ accommodation or assisted living quarters • Addresses demonstrated need for additional supportive housing for low income individuals and/or seniors
Cost (if known)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined
Ability for NWMO and/or the Municipality of South Bruce to implement vs. need to involve other responsible authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As noted in the <i>Housing Needs and Demand Analysis Study</i>: “This is a significant initiative. Decisions need to be made; planning needs to take place; and development needs to be started in the near term to be ready for 2028.” • NWMO would need to work with other responsible authorities – specifically the MSB and Bruce County - in planning and implementation

Option 4: Creating a Child Care Centre in Centre of Expertise The NWMO, potentially in partnership with the Municipality of South Bruce or others, creates a Child Care Centre in the Centre of Expertise that would provide much needed additional child care spaces in the Study Area. To support low income families participating in employment, education and/or skills training opportunities, a percentage of spaces could be set aside for them. The availability of guaranteed child care may provide an incentive for NWMO workers and their families to relocate to the Study Area. Additionally, the NWMO, working with MSB, could look for available local spaces that are appropriate for converting into child care space (i.e., leverage existing space (e.g., churches).

It is anticipated that Option 4 would begin in the near-term pre-construction phase (2023-2032) and continue through construction / mid-term (2033-2042) and operations / long-term (2043 and beyond).

Option 4 aligns with MSB Guiding Principle #32:

- #32: “The NWMO, in consultation with the Municipality and other local and regional partners, will prepare a strategy to ensure there are sufficient community services and amenities, including health, child-care, educational and recreational facilities, to accommodate the expected population growth associated with hosting the Project in South Bruce.”

For example, to fulfill this Principle with respect to vulnerable populations and social programs, NWMO would work with Children’s Services organizations/departments to identify low income individuals who would benefit from child care services.

Table 23: Option 4 - Creating a Child Care Centre in Centre of Expertise

Factors	Response
Ease of implementation (demonstrated success on other projects, if applicable)/degree of complexity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assuming the NWMO moves forward the creation of a Child Care Centre in the Centre of Expertise, determine how many spaces should be set aside for low income families and the criteria for measuring low income • Identification of opportunities to leverage existing local spaces to be used as child care facilities • Low level of complexity
Degree of effectiveness or conditions for effectiveness as per understanding of community needs and aspiration(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responds to the shortage in child care spaces in the Study Area and to the need to support low income families so they can explore/accept employment opportunities
Cost (if known)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined
Ability for NWMO and/or the Municipality of South Bruce to implement vs. need to involve other responsible authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NWMO and the MSB would need to partner with local child services providers to develop the selection criteria • The new Child Care Centre in the Centre for Expertise could be operated by an existing child care entity, or provide an opportunity for a new business start up

7 Summary

The key findings are as follows:

1. The Study Area is currently experiencing pressure in the areas of housing and service provision (e.g., child care, mental health and addictions) as a result of Bruce Power's MCR Project, the pandemic, and the recent influx of new residents from southern Ontario.
2. The vulnerable populations in the Study Area that were determined to be at greater risk of adverse affects as a result of the Project and that may not benefit equally from the potential possible effects of the Project are:
 - People of low socio-economic status;
 - People experiencing mental health and addictions challenges; and
 - Victims of domestic violence (specifically women and children).
3. The overall change in the projected population resulting from the Project in comparison to the regional baseline population growth is relatively small.
4. There is already an existing large and capable skilled workforce available regionally for the construction and operations phases of the Project (Keir, 2022b). While there may be in-migration of workers during the construction and operations phases of the Project, the overall change in population relative to the regional baseline population is expected to be relatively small.
5. As a result of the influx of people from the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area and other parts of southern Ontario to the area, housing has become largely unaffordable for low wage households, and households dependent on subsidies (Keir, 2022c).
6. Given the overall change in population as a result of the Project is expected to be relatively small, it is not anticipated that the Project would result in a significant increase in pressure on vulnerable populations or on existing social programs and services in the Study Area. However, given the current challenges facing vulnerable populations and social programs, it is possible that the Project could result in some effects, albeit relatively small, on these populations and programs in relation to the current state (e.g., increasing demand on childcare spaces, mental health and addictions services, library services).
7. A number of possible benefits to vulnerable populations and social programs and services resulting from the Project were identified, including increased employment opportunities, increased pool of potential employees, increased municipal tax base and increased funds for social programs, enhanced community sustainability and a more vibrant community (increased multiculturalism and community involvement), decreased child and family services issues as a result of increase employment, increased opportunities for academic and training partnerships, future supportive housing opportunities, and enhanced telecommunications infrastructure.

8. The concerns related to potential effects the Project on vulnerable programs and/or social programs include:
 - Increased cost of living;
 - Increased divide between the 'haves' and have nots';
 - Decreased availability and affordability of housing;
 - Increased need for culturally appropriate services and supports that may not currently exist;
 - Increased competition for employees;
 - Increased pressure on community services and supports that are already operating at or beyond capacity;
 - Increased pressure on social programs and increased costs (e.g., for libraries);
 - Lack of ability to sustain indirect and induced services; and
 - Anxiety about possible Project accidents, malfunctions or environmental contamination for some residents

9. NWMO can enhance opportunities or mitigate potential negative effects through a number of options put forward for consideration. The options presented reflect those effects considered most material from a Project commitment perspective. Implementation of the options will require NWMO to partner with MSB and other local/regional organizations. These include:
 - Creating a CSR vulnerable population and social program and service stream to help address some of the current pressures being placed on vulnerable populations and social programs, through activities such as: partnership development with local service providers, donations to NGOs/community organizations, funding programs for NGOs/charitable organizations to enhance supports to vulnerable populations, and scholarships;
 - Creation of a Participatory Social Monitoring Program to identify new and innovative ways to involve key local stakeholders in the process of gathering and analyzing monitoring data;
 - The possible conversion of temporary accommodations for workers to subsidized/transitional housing for vulnerable populations (e.g., low income, seniors); and
 - The creation of a Child Care Centre in the Centre for Expertise, and/or leveraging existing local space for the purposes of child care facilities, with a percentage of spaces set aside for low income families.

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Appendix A.

List of Socio-Economic Community Studies

List of Socio-Economic Community Studies

Study Name	Study Proponent	Lead Consultant
<i>Municipality of South Bruce Economic Development Project Effects and Strategy</i>	MSB	MDB Insight (now Deloitte LLP)
<i>Economic Development Study on Youth</i>	MSB	MDB Insight (now Deloitte LLP)
<i>Local Hiring Effects Study & Strategy</i>	MSB	MDB Insight (now Deloitte LLP)
<i>Agriculture Business Impact Study</i>	MSB	MDB Insight (now Deloitte LLP)
<i>Fiscal Impact and Public Finance Study</i>	MSB	Watson & Associates Economists
<i>Tourism Industry Effects Study</i>	MSB	MDB Insight (now Deloitte LLP)
<i>Housing Needs and Demand Analysis Study</i>	NWMO, MSB	Keir Corp.
<i>Labour Baseline Study</i>	NWMO	Keir Corp.
<i>Workforce Development Study</i>	NWMO	Keir Corp.
<i>Regional Economic Development Study</i>	NWMO	Keir Corp.
<i>Effects on Recreational Resources Study</i>	MSB	Tract Consulting
<i>Local/Regional Education Study</i>	NWMO, MSB	DPRA
<i>Land Use Study</i>	NWMO, MSB	DPRA
<i>Social Programs Study</i>	NWMO, MSB	DPRA
<i>Emergency Services Study</i>	NWMO	DPRA
<i>Vulnerable Populations Study</i>	NWMO	DPRA
<i>Community Health Programs and Infrastructure Study</i>	NWMO	DPRA
<i>Aggregate Resources Study</i>	NWMO, MSB	Keir Corp.
<i>Infrastructure Baseline and Feasibility Study</i>	NWMO	Morrison Hershfield
<i>Local Traffic Study</i>	NWMO	Morrison Hershfield
<i>Road Conditions Study</i>	NWMO	Morrison Hershfield

Appendix B.

Inventory of Knowledge Holders

Interviewed

The table below includes an inventory of Knowledge Holders interviewed in 2021 applicable to the *Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies*. Names and titles have been excluded to respect the privacy of individuals.

Knowledge Holder Interviews

Date	Knowledge Holder – Organization	Applicable Studies
04-Aug-21	Community Living Kincardine and District	<i>Social Programs Study</i> <i>Vulnerable Populations Study</i>
11-Aug-21	Women’s House Serving Bruce and Grey	<i>Vulnerable Populations Study</i>
12-Aug-21	Bruce County, Human Services and Health Services	<i>Social Programs Study</i> <i>Vulnerable Populations Study</i>
25-Aug-21	Bruce Grey Child & Family Services	<i>Social Programs Study</i> <i>Vulnerable Populations Study</i>
26-Aug-21	Community Living Walkerton & District	<i>Social Programs Study</i>
13-Oct-21	Huron County	<i>Housing Needs and Demand Analysis Study</i> <i>Social Programs Study</i>
04-Nov-21	Grey Bruce Public Health	<i>Vulnerable Populations Study</i>
11-Nov-21	South Bruce Grey Health Centre	<i>Vulnerable Populations Study</i>
11-Nov-21	Bruce County, Long Term Care and Seniors Services	<i>Vulnerable Populations Study</i>
13-Apr-22	Huron Perth Public Health	<i>Social Programs Study</i> <i>Vulnerable Populations Study</i>





Peer Review Report

Vulnerable Populations (S18) and Social Programs (S16) Studies Report

Municipality of South Bruce

November 02, 2022

Executive Summary

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) has been engaged in a multiyear, community driven process to identify a site where Canada's used nuclear fuel can be safely contained. The site selection process involves nine steps, with the process currently at Step 3 (Phase 2). The NWMO is now in its final screening process, and the two remaining siting areas currently being assessed under Step 3, Phase 2, are the Municipality of South Bruce (MSB) and the Township of Ignace, and their surrounding areas. The NWMO plans to complete all preliminary assessment work and to select one community/area to host the Adaptive Phased Management (APM) Project (Project) by 2024.

Building on previous work, engagement completed to-date, and MSB's 36 Guiding Principles, NWMO and MSB are working together to prepare a suite of studies which will be shared broadly with the community. The studies are being undertaken by NWMO or MSB, with some being joint efforts. The MSB has retained consultants (Deloitte LLP, Tract Consulting) to develop a number of studies and to peer review others (GHD Limited [GHD] team) developed by NWMO and their consultants (DPRA Canada [DPRA] team). The information acquired through the studies is expected to aid MSB make informed decisions about whether the Project is suitable for their community, and if they are willing to consider hosting it and under what circumstances and terms.

The Vulnerable Populations (S18) and Social Programs (S16) Studies are two of the studies being carried out by NWMO. The overall objective of the Vulnerable Populations Study is to identify the vulnerable populations in the Study Area, the effects that they may feel as a result of the Project, and steps that could be taken to mitigate those effects. The overall objective of the Social Programs Study is to assess the effects of the Project on the community programs offered by Bruce County, such as children's programs including assisted day care and learning programs, plus community programs for adults, seniors and families that are made available to the residents of South Bruce at the commencement of construction and of operations. The Studies were peer reviewed by a Subject Matter Expert (SME) at GHD (Brigitte Masella) in combination with the GHD Leadership Team (Greg Ferraro and Ian Dobrindt), making up the Peer Review Team (PRT). This peer review has been undertaken on the framing and scope of the study, and the effects assessment, in accordance with the Peer Review Protocol process established jointly by MSB and NWMO. The PRT considered several documents and information in the peer review of the Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies Draft Report to aid in their understanding, focus the peer review, and develop their findings. The PRT findings and resolution of those findings are outlined in this Peer Review Report.

The PRT concludes that the Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies Revised Final Report satisfactorily addresses the objectives of the Work Plans by identifying certain potential Project effects. The PRT has, however, identified areas of further beneficial study described in this report to more fully assess the potential Project effects on a wider range of vulnerable populations and social programs/services, which would presumably lead to refining the mitigation/enhancement options and to fleshing out the Participatory Social Monitoring (PSM) Program. The PRT suggests that some future studies be conducted to inform the MSB's decision about its willingness to host the Project, while others be conducted as part of a more detailed impact assessment should South Bruce be selected as the preferred location for the Project. The proposed studies would serve to address the following principal recommendations:

- Sufficiently incorporate and reconcile the relevant findings and recommendations of other community studies (and the associated peer review reports) to permit fuller analysis of the potential Project effects on vulnerable populations and social programs/services, as some of those effects are considered to be inadequately addressed. Doing so will allow for validation of key assumptions, in particular those regarding the availability of an existing large and capable regional workforce for Project construction and operations and an insignificant increase in the Project-related MSB population and cost of living.

More broadly, the PRT suggests that the future studies into the potential effects of the Project on the socio-economic environment be less piecemeal and apply suitable analytical frameworks (e.g., Gender-based Analysis Plus; Determinants of Health) that permit a more systematic and comprehensive assessment of the potential effects on vulnerable populations and social programs/services.

- Provide a focused analysis of the potential effects of the Project on vulnerable populations and/or social programs/services that are not adequately addressed. This would presumably lead to refining the mitigation/enhancement options and to fleshing out the PSM Program.

In closing, the PRT notes that the term “vulnerable populations” may stigmatize the members of groups labelled as “vulnerable” and conceal structural factors of inequity. An alternate term could be “overburdened populations,” who are disproportionately exposed to environmental and socio-economic burdens. A discussion involving the relevant stakeholders could be foreseen to decide on an appropriate term.

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Appendices

Appendix A	List of Socio-Economic Community Studies
Appendix B	Peer Review Protocol
Appendix C	Peer Review Comments Memo
Appendix D	36 Guiding Principles

Acronyms

APM	Adaptive Phased Management
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DPRA	DPRA Canada Inc.
GHD	GHD Limited
MSB	Municipality of South Bruce
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NWMO	Nuclear Waste Management Organization
PSM	Participatory Social Monitoring
PRT	Peer Review Team
SME	Subject Matter Expert

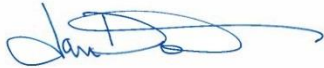
Scope and limitations

GHD has prepared this Report exclusively for the Municipality of South Bruce. All data and information contained herein is considered confidential and proprietary and may not be reproduced, published or distributed to, or for, any third party without the express prior written consent of GHD.

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1. Introduction

This report documents the peer review undertaken of the Vulnerable Populations (S18) and Social Programs (S16) Studies Draft Report prepared by DPRA Canada Inc. (DPRA) dated January 31, 2022 (Draft, V1), August 12, 2022 (Revised Draft, V2), August 31, 2022 (Final, V3) and September 12, 2022 (Revised Final, V4). The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) has been engaged in a multi-year, community-driven process to identify a site where Canada's used nuclear fuel can be safely contained. The site selection process involves nine steps, with the process currently at Step 3 (Phase 2). Step 3 is defined by two phases of preliminary assessments for each interested community. Phase 1 involved primarily desktop studies documenting the current socio-economic conditions in the communities and then considering what might be the possible implications of the Adaptive Phased Management (APM) Project on community wellbeing for each community and the wider area. For interested communities that successfully completed the initial screening in Phase 1, Phase 2 (the current phase) involves additional work to support conducting a preliminary assessment of potential suitability and narrowing the number of communities that have expressed an interest in partnering with the NWMO.

The NWMO is now in its final screening process, and the two remaining siting areas currently being assessed under Step 3, Phase 2, are the Municipality of South Bruce (MSB) and the Township of Ignace, and their surrounding areas. The NWMO plans to complete all preliminary assessment work and to select one community/area to host the APM Project by 2024, which then marks the beginning of the fourth step of APM implementation¹. The selection of a final site will trigger the regulatory approvals phase of the APM Project. Federal approval under the Impact Assessment Act and licensing by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission under the Nuclear Safety and Control Act will be required. Meeting federal regulatory standards is imperative to achieve approval, and to withstand intense public and regulatory scrutiny.

Building on previous work, engagement completed to date, and the MSB's 36 Guiding Principles, the NWMO and the MSB are working together to prepare a suite of studies that will be shared broadly with the community. The list of studies is included in **Appendix A** grouped by similar topic area (MSB-led, environment, infrastructure, and socio-economic). The studies are being undertaken by the NWMO or the MSB, with some being joint efforts. The MSB has retained consultants (Deloitte LLP, Tract Consulting) to develop a number of studies and to peer review others (GHD Limited [GHD] team) developed by the NWMO and their consultants (DPRA). The information acquired through the studies is expected to aid the MSB in making informed decisions about whether the APM Project is suitable for their community, and if they are willing to consider hosting it and under what circumstances and terms.

The Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies are two of the socio-economic studies being carried out by the NWMO. The overall objective of the Vulnerable Populations Study is to identify the vulnerable populations in the Study Area, the effects that they may feel as a result of the APM Project, and steps that could be taken to mitigate those effects. The overall objective of the Social Programs Study is to assess the effects of the APM Project on the community programs offered by Bruce County, such as children's programs, including assisted day care and learning programs, plus community programs for adults, seniors, and families that are made available to the residents of South Bruce at the commencement of construction and of operations. Given the significant overlap in the subject matter of the two studies, a decision was made to combine the two study reports.

The Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies were peer reviewed by Subject Matter Expert (SME) at GHD (Brigitte Masella) in combination with the GHD Leadership Team (Greg Ferraro and Ian Dobrindt), making up the Peer Review Team (PRT). The Peer Review has been undertaken on the framing and scope of the Studies, and the effects assessment, in accordance with the Peer Review Protocol process established jointly by the MSB and the NWMO. **Section 2** elaborates on the Peer Review Protocol process followed, including the steps specifically followed and discussions held with the NWMO/DPRA team.

1. Nuclear Waste Management Organization, 2020. Moving Towards Partnership Triennial- Report 2017 to 2019.

As described in **Section 3**, the PRT considered several documents and information in the Peer Review of the Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies to aid in their understanding, focus the Peer Review, and develop their findings. The results and resolution of the PRT findings are outlined in **Section 4**, followed by a review of how the Studies comply with the approved Work Plans and how they inform the applicable Guiding Principles. Lastly, the conclusions from the Peer Review are provided.

The Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies Revised Final Report identifies potential positive effects, which include:

- Increased employment opportunities
- Increased pool of potential employees
- Increased municipal tax base and increased funds for social programs
- Increased opportunities for academic and training partnerships
- Future supportive housing opportunities
- Enhanced telecommunications infrastructure

In general, it is found that the Project will enhance community sustainability and help create a more vibrant community with increased multiculturalism and community involvement.

The Revised Final Report also identifies potential negative effects, which include:

- Increased cost of living and increased divide between the 'haves' and 'have nots'
- Decreased availability and affordability of housing
- Increased need for culturally appropriate services and supports that may not currently exist
- Increased competition for employees for small businesses and agriculture operations
- Anxiety about possible Project accidents, malfunctions, or environmental contamination

In general, based on the assumption that there will be only a small increase in Project-related population growth, it is found that the Project will not result in a significant increase in pressure on vulnerable populations or existing social programs.

The Revised Final Report states that the NWMO can enhance opportunities or mitigate potential negative effects through the following options:

- Create a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program with a stream for vulnerable population and social programs and services to help address some of the current pressures being placed on vulnerable populations and social programs/services. The CSR program could include such activities as partnership development with local service providers, donations to NGOs/community organizations, funding programs for NGOs/charitable organizations to enhance supports to vulnerable populations, and scholarships.
- Create a Participatory Social Monitoring (PSM) Program to identify new and innovative ways to involve key local stakeholders in the process of gathering and analysing monitoring data
- Possibly convert temporary accommodations for workers to subsidised/transitional housing for vulnerable populations (e.g., low income, seniors) following construction
- Create a Child Care Centre in the Centre for Expertise, and/or leveraging existing local space for the purposes of child care facilities, with a percentage of spaces set aside for low-income families

Given full consideration of the Revised Final Report's findings, the PRT concludes that, in general, the Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies satisfactorily addresses the objectives of the Work Plans by identifying certain potential Project effects. The PRT has, however, identified areas of further beneficial study described in Section 4 of this report to more fully assess the potential Project effects on a wider range of vulnerable populations and social programs/services, which would presumably lead to refining the mitigation/enhancement options and to fleshing out the PSM Program. It is recommended that, as described herein, additional study be conducted to inform the MSB's decision about its willingness to host the Project and that further study be conducted as part of a more detailed impact assessment should South Bruce be selected as the preferred location for the Project.

2. Peer Review Protocol

2.1 Objectives and Overview of the Peer Review Protocol Process

As mentioned, the peer review of the Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies were undertaken in accordance with the Peer Review Protocol established jointly by the MSB and the NWMO. The Peer Review Protocol has the following established objectives:

1. To provide the community of the MSB with an independent review by qualified SMEs.
2. To complete a peer review of the NWMO's assessment of potential impacts and proposed benefits of locating the APM Project in the MSB in comparison to existing conditions.
3. To review how the potential impacts and proposed benefits adhere to the 36 principles that will guide the MSB's assessment of willingness to host the APM Project.

With these objectives in mind, the Peer Review was conducted in a collaborative manner between the NWMO/DPRA team and the MSB/GHD team while maintaining independence during the process. **Appendix B** includes the Peer Review Protocol established in June 2021 and **Figure 2.1** summarizes the process followed.

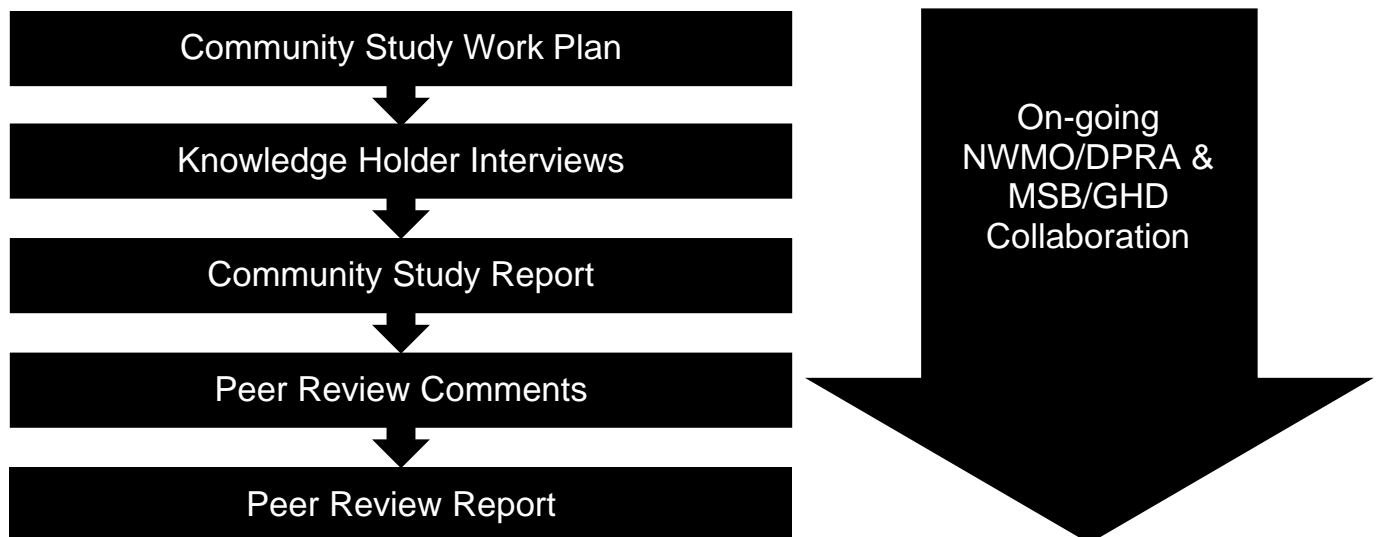


Figure 2.1 The Peer Review Protocol Process

With **Figure 2.1** in mind, the following identifies the primary activities carried out by the PRT:

Community Study Work Plans

- Review the Statements of Work associated with the Community Studies (CS) prepared by the MSB (May 2021) to better understand the stated objectives
- Gain a greater understanding of the APM Project and area conditions, including reviewing and providing comments on the NWMO's Project design reports and considering responses received from the NWMO
- Hold on-going discussions as required with the NWMO/DPRA team, providing input where appropriate (e.g., data sources to be reviewed, study area boundaries, knowledge holders to be interviewed)
- Review and provide comments on the draft Work Plans associated with the CS prepared by the NWMO/DPRA team and consider responses received from the NWMO/DPRA team as part of them finalizing the Work Plans before their implementation

Knowledge Holder Interviews

- Attend Knowledge Holder interviews organized by the NWMO to listen firsthand, ask questions, and seek clarifications. Review and provide comments on draft meeting minutes prepared by the NWMO
- Hold on-going discussions as required with the GHD Leadership Team (e.g., receive Project updates and information, ask questions, seek clarification)

Community Studies Report

- Attend CS Draft Report Status Update Meetings organized by the NWMO/DPRA team
- Review the CS Draft Report (V1) prepared by the NWMO/DPRA team
- Review the CS Revised Draft Report (V2) prepared by the NWMO/DPRA team
- Review the CS Final Report (V3) prepared by the NWMO/DPRA team
- Review the CS Revised Final Report (V4) prepared by the NWMO/DPRA team

Peer Review Comments

- Develop a preliminary list of comments, including initial impressions, observations, and any potential issues and/or concerns with the CS Draft Report based on several documents and information as described in **Section 3**
- Attend a CS Draft Report Check-in Meeting with the GHD Leadership Team and the MSB to discuss the preliminary list of comments and confirm those to be provided to the NWMO/DPRA team
- Provide the preliminary list of comments on the CS Draft Report to the NWMO/DPRA team for their understanding of the PRT's initial impressions, observations, and any potential issues and/or concerns
- Attend a CS Draft Report Working Session with the NWMO/DPRA team to discuss the preliminary list of comments and work through them collectively in a collaborative manner. Through the Working Session, some comments were determined not to be applicable to the CS based on the clarifying discussions. In addition, through the Working Session it was agreed that those comments associated with the Draft Report's structure, or such items as to how sources or exhibits are referenced, or spelling and grammar, would be excluded and the focus would be more on content and substance as it related to the final Work Plans.
- In some situations, it was agreed between the GHD Leadership Team/MSB and the NWMO/DPRA team that certain sections of the CS Draft Report or the entire document itself should be revised and resubmitted for review, because of the nature and extent of the preliminary comments provided. In the situations of the entire document, the formal set of comments were held pending receipt of the revised CS Draft Report. Upon receipt, the revised CS Draft Report was reviewed, the preliminary comments updated accordingly for submission, and further discussions were held between the GHD Leadership Team/MSB and the NWMO/DPRA team prior to formal comments being submitted.
- Submit the formal set of comments on the CS Draft or Revised Draft Report to the NWMO/DPRA team for their review and responses
- Review the responses from the NWMO/DPRA team to the formal set of comments and ensure there were no significant outstanding issues and/or concerns

Peer Review Report

- Prepare the draft Peer Review Report and submit it to the MSB for review
- Finalize the draft Peer Review Report based on any comments received and provide it to the MSB

2.2 Key Activities Associated with the Peer Review of the Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies

With the preceding process in mind, **Table 2.1** lists the key activities associated with the Peer Review carried out by the PRT comprising the SME at GHD (Brigitte Masella) in combination with the GHD Leadership Team (Greg Ferraro

and Ian Dobrindt) for the Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies prepared by DPRA. The Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies were initiated by DPRA following finalization of the Work Plans in October 2021 and culminated in the Revised Final Report being submitted to GHD on September 12, 2022.

Table 2.1 *Key Activities Associated with the Peer Review of the Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies*

Key Activities	Date	Parties Involved
Review of the Draft Southwestern Ontario Vulnerable Populations Study Work Plan (S18) and the Draft Southwestern Ontario Social Programs Study Work Plan (S16) issued by DPRA (August 13, 2021)	August 2021 – October 2021	GHD (Brigitte Masella, Greg Ferraro, and Ian Dobrindt)
Issuance of the Peer Review Team comment disposition table on the Draft Work Plans	September 13, 2021	GHD (Brigitte Masella, Greg Ferraro, and Ian Dobrindt)
Review of the Final Southwestern Ontario Vulnerable Populations Study Work Plan (S18) and the Final Southwestern Ontario Social Programs Study Work Plan (S16) issued by DPRA (October 12, 2021)	October 2021 – January 2022	GHD (Brigitte Masella, Greg Ferraro, and Ian Dobrindt)
Review of Vulnerable Populations (S18) and Social Programs (S16) Studies Report - Draft V1 – Southwestern Ontario Community Study issued by DPRA (January 31, 2022)	February 2022 – June 2022	GHD (Brigitte Masella, Greg Ferraro, and Ian Dobrindt)
Peer Review Team Check-in Meeting to review/confirm preliminary comments	February 14, 2022	GHD (Brigitte Masella, Greg Ferraro, and Ian Dobrindt) and MSB (Catherine Simpson)
Issuance of the Peer Review Team preliminary comment disposition table on the Draft Report	February 14, 2022	GHD (Brigitte Masella, Greg Ferraro, and Ian Dobrindt)
Peer Review Team and DPRA Project Update Meeting to discuss/understand the preliminary comments	February 15, 2022	GHD (Brigitte Masella, Greg Ferraro, and Ian Dobrindt) NWMO (Charlene Easton, Tim Weber, and Marvin Stemeroff), and DPRA (Vicki McCulloch and Tracy Farmer)
Issuance of the Peer Review Team formal comment disposition table on the Draft Report	March 10, 2022	GHD (Brigitte Masella, Greg Ferraro, and Ian Dobrindt)
Peer Review Team and DPRA Project Update Meeting to discuss/understand the formal comments	March 14, 2022	GHD (Brigitte Masella, Greg Ferraro, and Ian Dobrindt) and DPRA (Vicki McCulloch)
Issuance of DPRA Team responses to Peer Review Team's formal comments on the Draft Report	July 25, 2022	DPRA (Vicki McCulloch)
Review of Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies Report – Revised Draft V2 – Southwestern Ontario Community Study issued by DPRA (August 12, 2022)	August 12 – 31, 2022	GHD (Brigitte Masella, Greg Ferraro, and Ian Dobrindt)
Review of Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies Report – Final V3 – Southwestern Ontario Community Study issued by DPRA (August 31, 2022)	August 31 – September 12, 2022	GHD (Brigitte Masella, Greg Ferraro, and Ian Dobrindt)

Key Activities	Date	Parties Involved
Review of the Vulnerable Populations (S18) and Social Programs (S16) Studies Report – Revised Final V4 – Southwestern Ontario Community Study issued by DPRA (September 12, 2022)	September 12 – November 1, 2022	GHD (Brigitte Masella, Greg Ferraro, and Ian Dobrindt)

3. Key Documentation and Information Reviewed

As stated, several documents and information were considered by the PRT in carrying out the Peer Review Protocol. **Table 3.1** lists the key documents and information considered by the PRT in the review of the Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies.

Table 3.1 Key Documents and Information Considered in the Peer Review of the Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies

Document Name/Information	Author/Source/Date	Description/Application
Implementing Adaptive Phased Management 2021 to 2025	Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) (March 2021)	Reviewed to understand the Project planning timelines. The PRT provided comments (November 18, 2021) for the NWMO's consideration and response (January 27, 2022).
Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies - Statements of Work	Municipality of South Bruce (MSB) (May 2021)	Reviewed to understand the objectives and scopes of work, including inputs to the Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies and their relationship to other Community Studies as envisioned by the MSB.
Knowledge Holder Interviews (Community Living Kincardine and District; Women's House Serving Bruce and Grey; Bruce County, Human Services and Health Services; Bruce Grey Child & Family Services; Community Living Walkerton & District; Huron County; Grey Bruce Public Health; South Bruce Grey Health Centre; Bruce County, Long Term Care and Seniors Services; Huron Perth Public Health)	NWMO (August 2021 – April 2022)	Attended in-person to listen firsthand, ask questions, and seek clarifications as part of gaining an understanding of key knowledge holders' perspectives on the Project. Reviewed and provided comments on draft meeting minutes prepared by the NWMO prior to their issuance to meeting attendees.
Deep Geological Repository Conceptual Design Report – Crystalline / Sedimentary Rock (APM-REP-00440-0211-R000)	NWMO (September 2021)	All members of the PRT reviewed the Executive Summary to obtain an understanding of the below ground facility. Subsequently, additional sections of the Report were reviewed, by certain members of the PRT as appropriate, to obtain a greater level of understanding specific to their areas of study (e.g., Facility Design and Operation, Aggregate Resources Study, Local Traffic Effects Study, Waste Management, Social Programs, Vulnerable Populations, etc.). The PRT provided comments (November 18, 2021) for the NWMO's consideration and response (January 27, 2022).

Document Name/Information	Author/Source/Date	Description/Application
Community Studies Planning Assumptions	NWMO (October 18, 2021)	Reviewed to understand certain parameters for the Project. The PRT provided comments (November 18, 2021) for the NWMO's consideration and response (January 27, 2022).
Southwestern Ontario Vulnerable Populations Study Work Plan (S18) and Southwestern Ontario Social Programs Study Work Plan (S16)	DPRA Canada Inc. (October 12, 2021)	Reviewed to understand the purpose and outcome of the Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies, including their linkages to other Community Studies, scope and assumptions, approach, and key information sources/data collection.
Vulnerable Populations (S18) and Social Programs (S16) Studies Report - Draft V1 - Southwestern Ontario Community Study	DPRA Canada Inc. (January 31, 2022)	The draft output/deliverable from completing the final Work Plans for review by the PRT.
South Bruce and Area Growth Expectations Memo	metroeconomics (February 7, 2022)	Reviewed to understand the assessment of the potential for economic and demographic growth over the period from 2022 to 2046 of the Core Study Area, including the MSB, both from the perspectives of growth independent of the Project as well as the result of the Project.
Review of Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies Report – Revised Draft V2 – Southwestern Ontario Community Study issued by DPRA (August 12, 2022)	August 2022 – September 2022	GHD (Brigitte Masella, Greg Ferraro, and Ian Dobrindt)
Vulnerable Populations (S18) and Social Programs (S16) Studies Report – Final V3 - Southwestern Ontario Community Study	DPRA Canada Inc. (August 31, 2022)	The final output/deliverable from completing the final Work Plans for review by the PRT.
Vulnerable Populations (S18) and Social Programs (S16) Studies Report – Revised Final V4 - Southwestern Ontario Community Study	DPRA Canada Inc. (September 12, 2022)	The revised final output/deliverable from completing the final Work Plans for review by the PRT.

4. Peer Review Findings and Resolution

4.1 Comments on the Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies

The PRT provided formal comments to the NWMO/DPRA team on March 10, 2022 in the form of a memo and comment disposition table (**Appendix C**). In reply, the NWMO/DPRA team provided a documented response on July 25, 2022 describing how and where the formal comments will be addressed in the Revised Final Report (**Appendix C, 4th column**). Upon receiving the Revised Final Report, the PRT reviewed it to ensure the documented responses were, in fact, incorporated into the Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies (**Appendix C, 5th column**).

From the review of the responses to comments and review of the Revised Final Report, the PRT has identified areas of further beneficial study to more fully assess the potential Project effects on a wider range of vulnerable populations and social programs/services. The areas of study and/or actions are summarized below. Pertinent findings from other

community studies that address in whole or in part the recommended areas of study/action are provided to integrate the community study results and objectives as appropriate.

1. *Inclusion of members of vulnerable groups in development of options to mitigate or enhance potential effects*

The knowledge holder consultation process did not involve community members who are vulnerable or who avail of social programs/services. While the knowledge holders consulted can provide relevant insights, they cannot speak on their behalf. Following a recommendation by the PRT in its review of the Draft Report, the Revised Final Report provides for persons with lived experience within the community to be part of the PSM Program.

The PRT recommends that persons with lived experience be included in developing options to mitigate the Project's negative effects and enhance its positive effects, in particular in developing the PSM Program.

2. *Potential effects on students who may be subject to school capacity and career opportunity limitations within the community*

The school boards are responsible for providing tailored support to vulnerable students, who include, without being limited to, students who are at risk of not graduating and students who experience mental health issues. The Project has the potential to add to the pressure on school boards to accommodate students, including vulnerable ones, in line with community expectations. The Local/Regional Education Study and Peer Review recommend that NWMO provide timely Project Description updates that include employee, housing, and population growth forecasts. The Project Description updates should be provided to local school boards on a timely basis to assist in their planning to accommodate growth. The Study recommends the establishment of a CSR Program with a stream focused on education and a PSM Program with the MSB, academic partners, and local/regional service providers participating.

The PRT for the Revised Final Report recommends that further study of the potential effects of the Project on vulnerable students be undertaken as part of developing the CSR and PSM programs.

The ability of youths to take advantage of Project-related career opportunities can be constrained by deficiencies in basic skills (e.g., literacy, numeracy). The Economic Development Study on Youth and Peer Review identify opportunities to maximize youth workforce development. The Study provides recommendations that support attracting youth to in-demand occupations and recognizes that youth opportunities for workplace integration in South Bruce and surrounding communities will continue to emerge based on economic growth and through the NWMO and/or nuclear sector in general. The recommendations are set within the context of an overarching recommendation to increase dialogue and collaboration between the MSB, youth-serving organizations, and educators to respond to youth issues and priorities.

The PRT for the Revised Final Report recommends that the initiatives involving youth workforce development be connected to the CSR and PSM programs to improve basic skills, including literacy and numeracy.

3. *Targeted analysis of the potential effects on farmers*

Although the Radiation Safety Institute of Canada has concluded that actual safety risk is minimal, the perception of risk may affect farmers. Concerns about stigma and its impact on business and community character will need to be addressed.

The Agriculture Business Impact Study recommended developing economic opportunities and mitigation options. These include monitoring programs for commodity safety, property values, and commodity values to address potential negative effects. Further recommendations target the development of economic opportunities and programs related to agritech innovation, agriculture awareness, and agritourism and the necessary infrastructure to address the Project's potential effects on farming operations.

The Economic Development Study on Youth identifies strategies to attract youth to the agriculture sector in the areas of education and training, innovation and technology, investment, and promotion.

The PRT for the Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Revised Final Report recommends that further consultations with agriculture stakeholders and further analysis of economic development and mitigation options be undertaken and that the results be considered in developing the CSR and PSM programs.

4. *Potential effects on culturally/linguistically diverse groups who will likely become part of the South Bruce community*

Knowledge holders consulted for the Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies identified culturally/linguistically diverse groups as a vulnerable group, referring to a challenge for service providers in the area to provide culturally appropriate services.

The Economic Development Study on Youth identifies Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as a central priority of South Bruce youth. Youth identified that South Bruce needs to be progressive, welcoming to diverse populations, and provide services and supports that address mental health and well-being. The Study concludes that the MSB could lead initiatives to support a welcoming community and inclusion of all populations reflected in the decision-making. The NWMO could demonstrate its commitment over the long term to foster a positive workplace culture for youth through employee engagement events, health and wellness programs, and creating a sense of unity and camaraderie among employees. Education partners play an essential role in implementing on-going programs and information sessions to create inclusive environments not only at schools but in preparing students for a diverse community.

The Local Economic Development Study and Strategy provides recommendations to revitalize the community to embrace diversity in business and culture.

The Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Revised Final Report does not identify culturally/linguistically diverse groups as a key vulnerable group. The PRT recommends further study of the potential effects of the Project on culturally/linguistically diverse groups and development of opportunities to address diversity, equity, and inclusion.

5. *Illustration of interrelations between sources of potential effects and vulnerable populations benefitting from social programs/services*

The identification of interrelations between sources of potential Project effects (e.g., workforce size, wages, and transport; reduced housing affordability/availability; increased pressure on social programs/services) and vulnerable populations and social programs/services helps to ensure that potential effects are not overlooked or not sufficiently addressed.

Currently, the community studies do not illustrate the interrelations between the sources of potential Project effects and the vulnerable populations and available social programs/services in a consistent or comprehensive manner.

The PRT recommends further assessment of the interrelations for use in the design and implementation of the PSM Program.

6. *Project effects within temporal boundaries*

Ordering potential effects by Project phase provides for improved development of options to mitigate negative effects and enhance positive effects.

The metroeconomics report forecasts the population, employment, housing, and economic growth for each of the Project phases. Baseline and Project-driven growth resulting in increased infrastructure, roads, traffic management, housing, and Project-related hiring requirements are identified for each Project phase.

The Local Traffic Effects Study provides a limited view of the traffic impacts for each phase, while the Infrastructure Baseline and Feasibility Study and the Aggregate Resources Study identify the needs of the Project during each Project phase.

Recommendations to develop the required growth/expansion plans are made and described in a number of community studies. A consolidated summary and assessment of the effects within each of the Project's temporal boundaries is recommended for development of the growth/expansion plans.

The Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies Revised Final Report does not clearly order the potential effects by Project phase.

The PRT recommends that the Project's potential effects on vulnerable populations and social programs/services be ordered by phase as part of further detailed assessment.

7. *Potential for increased cost of living*

An increase in the cost of living is felt more harshly by vulnerable populations and may result in increasing the size of vulnerable populations and recourse to social programs/services.

The potential effects of the Project on the cost of living require further examination. The Project will lead to an influx of workers attracted by higher-paying jobs, which could exacerbate housing affordability/availability and other issues. In addition, the expectation (or even speculation) that workers and their families will be concentrated in South Bruce could lead to an increase in the cost of living in the area.

Further study is recommended to better understand the potential of the Project to increase the cost of living.

8. *Potential for increased gender-based violence*

The potential for a contingent of non-resident workers composed mostly of men to exacerbate gender-based violence has been established in the literature.

The potential effects of the Project on gender-based violence require further examination, since gender-based violence has been identified as an existing issue in the area and some of the relevant characteristics of the Project workforce are currently undefined.

Further study of the potential of the Project to exacerbate a range of existing social issues, including gender-based violence, is recommended when more clarity is obtained on the relevant characteristics of the workforce (e.g., origin, living and transport arrangements).

9. *Potential effects on small businesses as per Local Hiring Effects Study and Strategy*

The expected attraction of local workers to the Project's high-paying jobs could lead to vacancies in lower-paying jobs in certain small businesses (e.g., food and beverage services, accommodations, retail), leading to the recruitment of new workers, potentially from the surrounding region. Those availing of lower-paying jobs may face the increased cost of living that can be expected from the Project, putting them in a situation of vulnerability.

The Local Hiring Effects Study and Strategy identifies that the key to success includes meeting the labour needs of local employers for continued economic competitiveness and business growth. The Study focuses on strategy to maximize local employment associated with the Project, while ensuring that the community has a sufficient skilled workforce to meet the on-going labour force needs of local businesses. The Study provides action plans for creating strong local talent and developing an environment of business growth and talent retention.

The Housing Needs and Demand Analysis Study identifies the need for affordable housing and for housing that satisfies the aspirations of Project workers and their families. In the Local Hiring Effects Study, the strategic direction “Market the Community for Talent Attraction” identifies the need for South Bruce to revitalize the community.

The development of a comprehensive monitoring and reporting program is recommended to manage the effects of the Project on small businesses. The program should be prepared to detail the approach/protocol for implementing performance measures and for the measurement of success beyond effort.

The PRT for the Revised Final Report recommends that the monitoring program for small businesses be coordinated with the PSM Program.

10. Managing issues resulting from the rotational and daily transport of non-resident workers

Policies addressing non-resident workers, notably their rotational and daily transport, can influence the degree of the Project’s potential effects on vulnerable populations.

The Workforce Development Study identifies that the Regional Study Area has good potential to meet the needs of the Project, with the exception of the mining sector. Although significant rates of skilled workers will retire, the educational institutions within the Regional Study Area are producing significant numbers of graduates in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). The Local Hiring Effects Study and Strategy concludes that the means to minimizing rotational and daily transport of workers is community revitalization and a successful housing plan. The Workforce Development Study identifies a campus concept to incubate and cultivate workers to settle in the Core Study Area.

Further study of the potential effects of the rates of rotational and daily transport of workers on the community is recommended.

11. Supportive housing during the construction phase of the Project

Housing of vulnerable persons may become an issue as early as pre-construction, as speculation of the influx of workers and families may increase the costs of housing for rent or purchase. Renters can be particularly vulnerable to increased costs or eviction in favour of workers who can pay more.

The Housing Needs and Demand Analysis Study recommends the preparation of a housing plan.

The Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Revised Final Report does not sufficiently address supportive housing during the construction phase. The PRT recommends that supportive housing during construction be a component of the housing plan.

12. Assumption of the availability of a skilled regional workforce resulting in a small increase in population, thereby not adding significant pressure to existing social programs/services

An increase in the population would presumably result in increased pressure on existing social programs/services.

The community studies provide a number of strategies and recommendations to attract workers and their families to the MSB.

The Workforce Development Study provides an Incubate and Cultivate strategy to attract skilled labour to the community.

The Local Hiring Effects Study and Strategy identifies the need to revitalize the community to attract workers for local businesses and the Project to the community.

The Housing Needs and Demand Analysis Study identifies the need for affordable housing and for housing that satisfies the aspirations of Project workers and their families.

The rationale for the assumption stated in the Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies Revised Final Report that there will be only a small increase in Project-related population growth, thereby not adding significant pressure to existing social programs/services, needs to be further assessed for its validity.

4.2 Comments on Adherence to the Work Plans

The Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies generally comply with their approved Work Plans as indicated in **Table 4.1**. Compliance is considered to be partial for some aspects of the Work Plans, as explained in **Appendix C**.

Table 4.1 Adherence to the Work Plans

Step #	Step	Description of Activities	Comments from Peer Review
Step 1	Data Collection – Secondary/Primary, updated Project assumptions, information from other related community studies	<p>Vulnerable Populations Study</p> <p>a. Define the vulnerable populations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify vulnerable community member groups for assessment (e.g., low-income population, individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities, populations with language and literacy barriers, elderly population, children, groups that are isolated culturally, geographically or socially (e.g., the Mennonite community), individuals suffering from mental illness, population affected by chronic health conditions). • Describe why these groups are considered vulnerable in comparison to others in South Bruce and the region. <p>b. Resource review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out a review of South Bruce and region relevant documents and data sets that support collection of information required. <p>c. Conduct interviews with key knowledge holders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create data collection tools that support the collection of information regarding current programs and services and program barriers. • Based on the preliminary definition/list of vulnerable groups, identify key knowledge holders for engagement (individual or group interviews). • Knowledge holders will include representatives from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grey Bruce Public Health ○ Bruce County Human Services Department ○ Bruce County Health Services Department ○ Huron Perth Public Health 	In general, Steps 1a-c have been satisfactorily addressed.

Step #	Step	Description of Activities	Comments from Peer Review
		<p>Social Programs Study</p> <p>a. Carry out a review of documents and data sets that provide information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s programs • Programs for adults, seniors and families • Other support services <p>b. Undertake interviews with key knowledge holders.</p> <p>c. Identify the children’s programs, programs for adults, seniors and families, and other support services currently available.</p>	<p>In general, Steps 1a-c have been satisfactorily addressed.</p>
Step 2	Provide inputs to and take outputs from other studies	<p>a. Share data and findings with other community studies.</p> <p>b. Take into considerations data and findings from other studies that are pertinent to the subject study.</p>	<p>In general, Step 2a has been satisfactorily addressed. Step 2b has been partially addressed, as per the relevant peer review comments in Appendix C (e.g., 2a, 2i).</p>
Step 3	Analysis and assessment, identification of effects management options	<p>Vulnerable Populations Study</p> <p>a. Create an inventory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the programs and services currently available to / planned for each of the defined vulnerable groups. <p>b. Define program barriers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the inventory, identify and describe any non-financial limitations (e.g., program space) experienced by the programs and services available to / planned for the vulnerable groups. <p>c. Assess the potential Project effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and explain any potential Project effects on the current programs and services available to /planned for the vulnerable groups (e.g., increase in costs). <p>d. Develop potential effects management options based on the identified potential Project effects; options could include mitigation/enhancement measures, management options or other possibilities.</p> <p>Social Programs Study</p> <p>a. Identify projected population increases and demographics changes as a result of the Project and identify changes in populations that would be using social programs.</p> <p>b. Identify and explain any potential Project effects (positive and negative) on social programs and services.</p> <p>c. Based on the analysed findings, develop potential options to sustain social programs and services; options could include mitigation/enhancement measures, management options or other possibilities.</p>	<p>Steps 3a to 3d have been partially addressed, as per the relevant peer review comments in Appendix C (e.g., 2b, 2c, 2i).</p> <p>Steps 3a to 3c have been partially addressed, as per the relevant peer review comments in Appendix C (e.g., 2b, 2c, 2i).</p>

Step #	Step	Description of Activities	Comments from Peer Review
Step 4	Observations and conclusions	a. Summarise findings. b. Set out observations and conclusions.	In general, Steps 4a and 4b have been satisfactorily addressed.

4.3 Municipality of South Bruce's Guiding Principles

The Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies inform select principles of the 36 Guiding Principles established by the MSB. The MSB published a Project Visioning report based on community workshops held in January 2020 that identified areas of community concern and opportunities. Based on the Project Visioning report and further public consultation, the MSB passed a Council resolution endorsing the 36 principles that will guide their assessment of willingness to host the APM Project. In light of their importance to the MSB, the principles have been individually linked to each of the studies as appropriate to ensure that they were fully considered or accounted for in completing the work (**Appendix D**).

Three of the 36 principles are linked to the Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies: numbers 10, 16, and 32. **Table 4.2** lists the principles and how the Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies inform them.

Table 4.2 The Principles Associated with the Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies

Principle # and Description	Consideration of the Principle in the Study
<p>10. The NWMO will identify the potential for any positive and negative socio-economic impacts of the Project on South Bruce and surrounding communities and what community benefits it will contribute to mitigate any potential risks.</p>	<p>Options 1, 3 and 4 in particular align with the MSB Guiding Principle #10, as listed sequentially below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The NWMO creates a strategic and responsive CSR Program with a vulnerable populations and social programs and services stream. – The NWMO, in collaboration with the MSB, could create temporary accommodations for workers/contractors as part of the potential 'campus concept' that could ultimately be converted to supportive housing upon completion of the construction phase. – The NWMO, potentially in partnership with the MSB or others, creates a Child Care Centre in the Centre of Expertise that would provide much needed additional child care spaces in the Study Area. <p>The Revised Final Report specifies that "the options put forward cannot be the sole responsibility of the NWMO, but rather, require partnerships with the MSB and other local/regional organizations to implement."</p>
<p>16. The NWMO will implement the Project in a manner that promotes diversity, equality and inclusion.</p>	<p>Options 1 and 2 in particular align with the MSB Guiding Principle #16, as listed sequentially below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The NWMO creates a strategic and responsive CSR Program with a vulnerable populations and social programs and services stream. – The NWMO creates a PSM Program with the MSB, local and regional social service providers, representatives from academic/training institutions and persons with lived experience. <p>The Revised Final Report specifies that "the options put forward cannot be the sole responsibility of the NWMO, but rather, require partnerships with the MSB and other local/regional organizations to implement."</p>
<p>32. The NWMO, in consultation with the Municipality and other local and regional partners, will prepare a strategy to ensure there are sufficient community services and amenities, including health, child-care, educational and recreational facilities, to accommodate the expected population growth associated with hosting the Project in South Bruce.</p>	<p>Options 1, 3 and 4 in particular align with the MSB Guiding Principle #32, as listed sequentially below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The NWMO creates a strategic and responsive CSR Program with a vulnerable populations and social programs and services stream. – The NWMO, in collaboration with the MSB, could create temporary accommodations for workers/contractors as part of the potential 'campus concept' that could ultimately be converted to supportive housing upon completion of the construction phase. – The NWMO, potentially in partnership with the MSB or others, creates a Child Care Centre in the Centre of Expertise that would provide much needed additional child care spaces in the Study Area. <p>The Revised Final Report specifies that "the options put forward cannot be the sole responsibility of the NWMO, but rather, require partnerships with the MSB and other local/regional organizations to implement."</p>

4.4 Conclusions of the Peer Review

The overall objectives of the Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies are to identify the vulnerable populations in the MSB and surrounding region, the effects that they may feel as a result of the APM Project, and steps that could be taken to mitigate those effects, as well as to assess the effects of the APM Project on the community programs offered by Bruce County that are made available to the residents of South Bruce at the commencement of construction and of operations.

The key findings of the Revised Final Report can be summarized as follows:

- The Study Area is currently experiencing pressure in housing and social services provision (e.g., child care, mental health and addictions) as a result of Bruce Power’s MCR Project, the pandemic, and the recent influx of new residents from southern Ontario. For example, as a result of the influx of people from the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area and other parts of southern Ontario to the Study Area, housing has become largely unaffordable for low-wage households and households dependent on subsidies.
- The vulnerable populations in the Study Area determined to be at greater risk of adverse effects because of the Project and that may not benefit equally from the potential positive effects of the Project are:
 - People of low socio-economic status
 - People experiencing mental health and addictions challenges
 - Victims of domestic violence (specifically women and children)
- While there may be in-migration of workers during the construction and operations phases of the Project, the overall change in the projected population resulting from the Project in comparison to the regional baseline population growth is predicted to be relatively small. There is already an existing large and capable skilled workforce available regionally for the construction and operations phases of the Project.
- Given the overall change in population because of the Project is expected to be relatively small, it is not anticipated that the Project would result in a significant increase in pressure on vulnerable populations or on existing social programs and services in the Study Area. However, given the current challenges facing vulnerable populations and social programs, it is possible that the Project could result in some effects, albeit relatively small, on these populations and programs in relation to the current state (e.g., increasing demand on child care spaces, mental health and addictions services, library services).
- The possible benefits to vulnerable populations and social programs and services resulting from the Project include increased employment opportunities, increased pool of potential employees, increased municipal tax base and increased funds for social programs, enhanced community sustainability and a more vibrant community (increased multiculturalism and community involvement), decreased child and family services issues as a result of increase employment, increased opportunities for academic and training partnerships, future supportive housing opportunities, and enhanced telecommunications infrastructure.
- The potential negative effects of the Project on vulnerable programs and/or social programs include increased cost of living, increased divide between the ‘haves’ and ‘have nots’, decreased availability and affordability of housing, increased need for culturally appropriate services and supports that may not currently exist, increased competition for employees, increased pressure on community services and supports that are already operating at or beyond capacity, increased pressure on social programs and increased costs, lack of ability to sustain indirect and induced services, and anxiety about possible Project accidents, malfunctions or environmental contamination.
- NWMO can enhance opportunities or mitigate potential negative effects through several options put forward for consideration. The options presented reflect those effects considered most material from a Project commitment perspective. Implementation of the options will require NWMO to partner with MSB and other local/regional organizations. These include:
 - Create a CSR vulnerable population and social program and service stream to help address some of the current pressures being placed on vulnerable populations and social programs, through activities such as: partnership development with local service providers, donations to NGOs/community organizations, funding

programs for NGOS/charitable organizations to enhance supports to vulnerable populations, and scholarships

- Create of a PSM Program to identify new and innovative ways to involve key local stakeholders in the process of gathering and analysing monitoring data
- Possibly convert temporary accommodations for workers to subsidized/transitional housing for vulnerable populations (e.g., low income, seniors)
- Create a Child Care Centre in the Centre for Expertise, and/or leveraging existing local space for the purposes of child care facilities, with a percentage of spaces set aside for low-income families

The PRT concludes that the Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies Revised Final Report satisfactorily addresses the objectives of the Work Plans by identifying certain potential Project effects. The PRT has, however, identified areas of further beneficial study described in this report to more fully assess the potential Project effects on a wider range of vulnerable populations and social programs/services, which would presumably lead to refining the mitigation/enhancement options and to fleshing out the PSM Program. The PRT suggests that some future studies be conducted to inform the MSB's decision about its willingness to host the Project, while others be conducted as part of a more detailed impact assessment should South Bruce be selected as the preferred location for the Project. The proposed studies would serve to address the following principal recommendations:

- Sufficiently incorporate and reconcile the relevant findings and recommendations of other community studies (and the associated peer review reports) to permit fuller analysis of the potential Project effects on vulnerable populations and social programs/services, as some of those effects are considered to be inadequately addressed. Doing so will allow for validation of key assumptions, in particular those regarding the availability of an existing large and capable regional workforce for Project construction and operations and an insignificant increase in the Project-related MSB population and cost of living.

More broadly, the PRT suggests that the future studies into the potential effects of the Project on the socio-economic environment be less piecemeal and apply suitable analytical frameworks (e.g., Gender-based Analysis Plus; Determinants of Health) that permit a more systematic and comprehensive assessment of the potential effects on vulnerable populations and social programs/services.

- Provide a focused analysis of the potential effects of the Project on vulnerable populations and/or social programs/services that are not adequately addressed. This would presumably lead to refining the mitigation/enhancement options and to fleshing out the PSM Program.

In closing, the PRT notes that the term “vulnerable populations” may stigmatize the members of groups labelled as “vulnerable” and conceal structural factors of inequity. An alternate term could be “overburdened populations,” who are disproportionately exposed to environmental and socio-economic burdens. A discussion involving the relevant stakeholders could be foreseen to decide on an appropriate term.

Appendices

Appendix A

List of Socio-Economic Community Studies

Appendix A. List of Socio-Economic Community Studies

ID	Study Name	Study Proponent	Lead Consultant
E01	Local Economic Development Study & Strategy	MSB	Deloitte
E02	Economic Development Program - Youth	MSB	Deloitte
E03	Local Hiring Effects Study & Strategy	MSB	Deloitte
E04	Demographics	MSB	Deloitte
E05	Agricultural Task Force/Agricultural Business Impact Study	MSB	Deloitte
E06	Fiscal Impact and Public Finance	MSB	Watson & Associates Economists
E07	Tourism Industry Effects & Strategy	MSB	Deloitte
E08	Housing Needs and Demand Analysis Study	NWMO, MSB	Keir Corp.
E09	Labour Baseline Study	NWMO	Keir Corp.
E10	Workforce Development Study	NWMO	Keir Corp.
E11	Regional Economic Development Study	NWMO	Keir Corp.
E12	Property Value Monitoring Program		
I21	Aggregate Resources Study	NWMO, MSB	Keir Corp.
I22	Infrastructure Baseline and Feasibility Study	NWMO	Morrison Hershfield
I23	Local Traffic Effects Study	NWMO	Morrison Hershfield
I24	Road Conditions Effects Study	NWMO	Morrison Hershfield
S13	Effects on Recreational Resources	MSB	Tract Consulting
S14	Local/Regional Education Study	NWMO, MSB	DPRA
S15	Land Use Study	NWMO, MSB	DPRA and MHBC
S16	Social Programs Study	NWMO, MSB	DPRA
S17	Emergency Services Study	NWMO	DPRA and IEC
S18	Vulnerable Populations Baseline and Effects Study	NWMO	DPRA
S19	Effects on Community Safety		
S20	Community Health Programs and Health Infrastructure Study	NWMO	DPRA

Appendix B

Peer Review Protocol

South Bruce Consultants Peer Review Protocol

Protocol for Peer Review Process

1. The scope of the peer review is variable for each NWMO study (Study). The scope and objective of each Study is variable. The Study may include development of information, data and documents in the form of a:

- Statement of Work
- Work plan
- Baseline conditions
- Modeling/prediction/forecast of future conditions
- An assessment of impact/benefits

Not all NWMO studies will include each of the above listed elements. While a collaborative peer review approach is to be used, it is important to maintain independence during the peer review process.

2. Develop an initial understanding of NWMO inputs to conducting the Study including timing, availability and sources of information.
3. Meet with NWMO and their consultants to
 - compile a list of information/documents that will need to be reviewed as part of the Peer Review
 - compile a list of parties/agencies providing information for use in preparing the Study
 - identify additional information/sources that may be pertinent to the Study
4. Undertake an initial review of the information/documents assembled and developed for the Study
 - Peer review of the SoW will include information and data pertaining to some or all of the following elements:
 - i.) Statement of Work (SoW)
 - ii.) Work plan
 - iii.) Baseline conditions
 - Provide questions/comments to NWMO on the available information/documents and ensure they have been adequately addressed with the community in mind.
5. Conduct peer review of the Study findings as they are developed which may include the following:
 - i.) Project design(s)
 - ii.) Modeling of future conditions
 - iii.) Impact assessment approach
 - iv.) Impact assessment findings
 - v.) Analysis of reliability
 - If warranted, work with NWMO and their consultants to conduct a site visit
6. Meet with NWMO and their consultants to:
 - Seek clarifications of the information/documents reviewed
 - Ensure a full understanding of the assessment approach and findings
 - Present the preliminary peer review findings (concurrences and concerns)



- Provide questions/comments and peer review findings and ensure they have been adequately addressed with the community in mind.
- 7. Review NWMO draft reports
 - Complete a detailed review of the draft reports
 - Identify omissions and/or inconsistencies if they occur with SOW and Work Plan
- 8. Prepare draft Peer Review Report for submission to South Bruce for comments.
 - Include a summary of peer review observations, findings, and comments
- 9. South Bruce will review with RedBrick for communications to public
- 10. Finalize and present the Peer Review Report to South Bruce and NWMO
- 11. Each consultant will need to provide a presentation of the findings of the peer reviews to the CLC.

Table of Contents for Peer Review Report

1. Introduction
 - a. State the purpose of the Peer Review Report (Report)
 - b. Provide capsule summary of the proposed Project
 - c. Identify the NWMO Study that is being peer reviewed
 - d. Identify the NWMO Statement of Work for completing the Study (i.e., SOW from EOI or update)
 - e. Identify participants involved in conducting the Study
 - f. Identify the time period the Study work and Peer Review was carried out
2. Peer Review Objectives and Process
 - a. State objectives for conducting the Peer Review which include
 - i. To provide the community of SB with independent review by qualified subject matter experts
 - ii. To complete a peer review of the NWMO Assessment of potential impacts and proposed benefits in comparison to existing conditions
 - iii. To review how the potential impacts and proposed benefits adhere to the 36 principles that will guide the assessment of willingness to host the Project.
 - b. Describe the Peer Review Process Undertaken
 - i. Describe the Peer Review process that was carried out.
 - ii. List activities completed (e.g., site visits, work plan review, data review, report review, meetings, etc.)
3. Documentation and Information Reviewed
 - a. List NWMO study specific information reviewed which may include:
 - i. Scope of work
 - ii. Detailed work plan
 - iii. Baseline Conditions
 - iv. Assessment Approach
 - v. Assessment Findings
 - b. List parties/agencies involved in providing information into the study
 - c. List all documents/meetings/data/additional information and include a short summary of each
4. Peer Review Findings and Resolution
 - a. Baseline Conditions Report (concurrences and concerns and resolution)

- b. Impact Assessment (IA) Report
 - i. IA approach (concurrences and concerns and resolution)
 - ii. IA findings (concurrences and concerns and resolution)
 - c. Conclusions of peer review
 - d. Adherence to the 36 principles which are pertinent to the study
5. Summary

Appendix C

Peer Review Comments Memo

Memorandum

March 10, 2022 – Table 1 updated October 5, 2022 (Peer Review Responses to DPRA Comments column based on DPRA Revised Final Report of September 12, 2022)

To	Dave Rushton/Catherine Simpson, Municipality of South Bruce		
Copy to			
From	Brigitte Masella, Greg Ferraro and Ian Dobrindt/AD/kf	Tel	+1 519 884 0510
Subject	Vulnerable Populations (S18) and Social Programs (S16) Studies Draft Report – Peer Review Comments	Project no.	11224152-MEM-20

1. Introduction

This memorandum provides the Municipality of South Bruce (South Bruce) Peer Review Team’s comments on the Vulnerable Populations (S18) and Social Programs (S16) Studies Draft Report (Draft Report) prepared by DPRA Canada inc. (January 31, 2022), which was supplemented by a preliminary revision of the proposed options submitted on February 15, 2022 in the form of four slides, for your consideration and internal circulation as per the South Bruce Nuclear Exploration Project Joint Study Review Flow process. In addition, this memorandum will be submitted to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) and their consultant (DPRA) by GHD Limited (GHD) as per the Peer Review Protocol process.

2. Peer Review Approach

The peer review of the Draft Report was carried out by GHD. The peer review process was completed in alignment with the Peer Review Protocol that was developed to support a collaborative approach between NWMO and South Bruce, while maintaining independence during the process. In accordance with the Peer Review Protocol, GHD (Subject Matter Expert (SME) and Lead Consultant) considered the following information during our review of the Draft Report:

- Southwestern Ontario Vulnerable Populations Study Work Plan (S18), prepared by DPRA Canada inc. (October 12, 2021)
- Southwestern Ontario Social Programs Study Work Plan (S16), prepared by DPRA Canada inc. (October 12, 2021)
- Knowledge Holder Interviews
- Peer Review Comments on NWMO’s Draft Project Description for South Bruce Community Studies Memorandum, prepared by GHD Limited (November 18, 2021) and responded to by NWMO (January 27, 2022)
- Observations on DPRA Canada inc.’s “Check-in #2” presentation of December 9, 2021, prepared by GHD Limited (January 3, 2022), and the follow-up discussion between GHD, DPRA and NWMO on January 5, 2022
- Housing Needs and Demand Analysis Study Report (E08), prepared by Keir Corp. (May 20, 2022)

- Labour Baseline Study Report (E09), prepared by Keir Corp. (May 5, 2022)
- Workforce Development Study Report (E10), prepared by Keir Corp. (May 5, 2022)

GHD reviewed the Draft Report with the following questions in mind:

- Are there any significant concerns with, issues about, and/or omissions in the Draft Report?
- What are our initial observations/impressions on the Draft Report?
 - Has the Work Plan been complied with?
 - Has pertinent information gained from Knowledge Holder interviews been included?
 - Has a previous NMWO response of deferring a Peer Review Team comment to the Draft Report task been complied with?
 - Have Peer Review comments made during the Community Study workshops been addressed?
 - Does the Draft Report reflect the most current information available?

GHD's Lead Consultant and SME held an internal 10-day Peer Review Check-In Meeting working through the preceding questions. Following this, we shared our initial observations/preliminary comments with NWMO and their consultant during discussions on February 15 and March 14, 2022, where questions were asked, clarifications were sought, and suggestions were offered. Following this discussion, our substantive comments were finalized as listed in the Comment Disposition Table (**Table 1**).

3. Peer Review Comments

As stated, the Comment Disposition Table (**Table 1**) lists our substantive comments on the Draft Report. We understand that NWMO and their consultant will provide responses to these comments and address them as part of finalizing the Report. **Attachment 1** lists comments noted as less important to the fundamental purpose of the peer review for NWMO's consideration.

In general, we conclude that the Draft Report fulfils the objectives of the Work Plans that involve identifying/describing the vulnerable populations and social programs/services by providing a relatively good description of baseline conditions. We find, however, that the Draft Report only partially fulfils the objectives that involve identifying and assessing the potential effects of the APM Project and developing options to address those effects: the Draft Report generally provides a high-level assessment of potential effects and certain general options to address those effects.

While we recognize that the current effects assessment process is not the formal impact assessment process, we have identified a lack of traceability in the data analyses, notably between the effects assessment and the options development. We suggest that, in order to improve upon the logical flow of information, Section 5 should end with a tabulation or list of the potential negative and positive effects and Section 6 address those effects in a systematic fashion in proposing options for mitigating negative effects and enhancing positive effects. Using this approach, the net effects of the APM Project can be more clearly communicated to the reader. At present, this is not undertaken consistently in a traceable manner nor communicated clearly. For example, some of the potential negative effects in Section 5 are carried forward into Section 6, but others are not, with no explanation given.

During the above-cited February 15, 2022 meeting, GHD commented on the statement in the Draft Report that there is a large and skilled workforce available regionally for construction and operations (resulting in a relatively small "overall change" in the population) that rests on the assumption that the timeline for the completion of the MCR Project will be harmonized with the timeline for the construction of the APM Project. Our comment was that it is common for the timelines of large projects to shift (e.g., delays in the formal impact assessment) and that the analyses and conclusions of the report could presumably be affected if that assumption does not hold true. For example, the size of the contingent of non-resident workers, as well their

lodging and commuting arrangements, shift rotations and other matters, will influence the assessment of the potential effects of that particular workforce on vulnerable populations.

It was decided in the February 15, 2022 meeting that the assumption, which is also relevant to other Community Studies, is reasonable based on best available information at this time. We recognize the challenge in predicting the availability of a large and skilled workforce in the region. We understand that a statement to this effect will be included in the final report, as well as in the other Community Study Reports as applicable. Therefore, this comment is not included in **Table 1**.

Table 1 *Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies Draft Report Comment Disposition Table*

Comment Number	Report Section Reference	Comments from Peer Review	How and Where Comments are Addressed	Peer Review Responses to DPRA Comments
1		The Draft Report is not currently clear about measures to involve members of vulnerable groups or of groups that avail of social programs as part of mitigating or enhancing the potential effects of the APM Project on them. More clarity could be provided in that regard, by addressing for example the following recommendations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – As per the SOW and work plan, there was no intent to engagement with vulnerable populations at this point in the process (community studies; this can occur in future studies, if the South Bruce Area is ultimately selected as the Project location. Text will be added to clarify this point in the study. 	<p>The peer review comment focused on the involvement of members of vulnerable groups or of groups that avail of social programs in the options to mitigate or enhance potential effects.</p> <p>Peer review responses to DPRA comments on specific peer review comments provided in Rows 1a to 1d.</p>
1a	2.2.1	Explain on what basis the knowledge holders were selected, as well as how and when other knowledge holders, such as members of vulnerable groups and of groups that avail of social programs, will be consulted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Additional text will be added to reflect the fact that: (1) the Knowledge Holders were selected based on their knowledge and experience regarding vulnerable populations and social programs; (2) in some instances those Knowledge Holders contacted referred NWMO to someone more suited to address the questions; (3) Subsequently an interview was completed with Huron Perth Public Health, which will be reflected in the revised report. – As per the SOW and work plan, there was no intent to engage directly with vulnerable populations or individuals. Text will be added to clarify this point in the study report; as per above, additional engagement can occur in future studies if the Project is located in the South Bruce Area). 	Comment satisfactorily addressed.
1b	Table 18	Consider community engagement measures aimed at improving the determination of mitigation and enhancement measures during the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment as part of the options assessment. (The following statement illustrates the importance of engaging the community in that respect: “Approaches to service-related decision-making, which incorporate input from individuals with	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – As per the response to comment 20 below, and as discussed on Feb 15, Table 18 will be removed. – For the purposes of the VPSP study, ‘individuals with lived experience’ are defined as members of vulnerable populations and/or individuals who have participated in, or are the target population of, social programs. – In Section 6 of the revised report ‘Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) 	Comment satisfactorily addressed.

Comment Number	Report Section Reference	Comments from Peer Review	How and Where Comments are Addressed	Peer Review Responses to DPRA Comments
		lived experience, are desired to enhance the effectiveness of strategies to systematically address addictions and substance abuse issues” (Section 3.3.3, last paragraph)).	<p>Program with a stream focused on vulnerable populations and social programs/services’ (slide # 3 from February 15 meeting with the PRT) will be expanded to include an existing/new lived experience group that assists NWMO/MSB with the identification of target supports that could be provided. [Support would be required from local stakeholders to identify and/or help establish this group]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In addition, in Section 6 of the revised report, consistent with the description of the ‘Participatory Social Monitoring Program’ slide # 4 from February 15 meeting with the PRT) in the Final <i>Local Regional Education Study</i> report (July 2022), an existing/ new lived experience group may participate in the Program. Participants would guide the collection and analysis of social monitoring data and support the development of strategic plans to identify and mitigate Project-related effects and to strengthen Project benefits. The Program would also contribute to understanding potential future streams for the CSR program. Information from this Program could be an input to a future impact assessment if the Project is located in the South Bruce Area. 	
1c	Slide 3	Clarify whether members of vulnerable groups and of groups that avail of social programs would be involved in the actual work of the proposed stream.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See 1b. 	Comment satisfactorily addressed. [Slides removed from Final Draft Report.]
1d	Slide 4	Clarify whether members of vulnerable groups and of groups that avail of social programs would be involved in the actual work of the Participatory Social Monitoring Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As stated in response to 1b above, in Section 6 of the revised report, consistent with the description of the ‘Participatory Social Monitoring Program’ slide # 4 from February 15 meeting with the PRT) in the Final 	Comment satisfactorily addressed. [Slides removed from Final Draft Report.]

Comment Number	Report Section Reference	Comments from Peer Review	How and Where Comments are Addressed	Peer Review Responses to DPRA Comments
			<i>Local Regional Education Study</i> report (July 2022), an existing/ new lived experience group may participate in the Program.	
2		The traceability of the data in the analyses is in some cases lacking (e.g., relaying of baseline data to the effects assessment and relaying of effects assessment results to the options development). In cases where some data no longer need to be carried further in the analysis, the report should make that clear. The traceability of the data could be improved, by addressing for example the following recommendations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Text to be added that explains that information related to those populations not considered more vulnerable as a result of the Project will no longer be discussed. 	Peer review responses to DPRA comments on specific peer review comments provided in Rows 2a to 2u.
2a	3.1	Explain why some of the impacts of the influx of new residents since the start of the pandemic identified do not seem to be covered further in the report (e.g., capacities of schools).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is addressed in Section 4.0 and 5.0. Again, the goal of Section 3.0 is to present the baseline findings. - Capacities of the schools was not identified as an issue by VP/SP Knowledge Holders. - Education (K-12) is the focus of the Local/Regional Education Community Study Report, which was not complete when the V1 draft VP/SP report was submitted in January 2022. - Text will be added to the revised report, referring the readers to the final version of the <i>Local/Regional Education Study</i> Report (DPRA July 15, 2022). 	<p>Comment partially addressed.</p> <p>The Final Draft Report states that potential positive and negative effects of the Project were identified by knowledge holders and DPRA as subject matter experts. DPRA's Local/Regional Education Study notes that knowledge holders consulted for that study identified the responsibility of the school boards for inclusion of vulnerable students as an operational consideration that may "influence" the Project's effects. According to said study, knowledge holders identified potential effects, including pressure for school boards to respond to "community expectations for accommodation."</p> <p>The Local/Regional Education Study recommends that the NWMO provide timely Project description updates that include employee, housing, and population growth forecasts. Said study also recommends establishing a CSR Program with a stream on education and a PSM Program with MSB, academic partners, and local/regional service providers.</p>

Comment Number	Report Section Reference	Comments from Peer Review	How and Where Comments are Addressed	Peer Review Responses to DPRA Comments
				Further study of the potential effects of the Project on vulnerable students as part of developing the CSR and PSM programs is recommended should South Bruce be selected as the preferred location for the Project.
2b	3.2	List all the vulnerable groups identified by the knowledge holders interviewed, such as farmers.	– Will include farmers in the text of 3.2	<p>Comment partially addressed.</p> <p>A reference to farmers in the list of groups who may be vulnerable to the Project's effects, as identified by knowledge holders (Section 3.2, second paragraph) of the Final Draft Report, was not found, even though that group had been specifically identified.</p> <p>A reference is made to “[c]oncerns about potential accidents/contamination and/or increased cost of living [that] may be experienced by some farmers in the area” when describing one of the three “populations considered more vulnerable due to the Project” (i.e., “People experiencing mental health and/or addictions challenges”) in Table 3 (Vulnerable Groups within the Context of the APM).</p> <p>In Section 3.2.2.1 (key statistics on individuals experiencing mental health and/or addictions issues), it is noted that “[f]armers have been known to encounter a variety of psychosocial risks and stressors and potentially greater mental health problems...”</p> <p>In Section 5.2 (Potential Negative Project Effects), the potential effects of concerns about potential accidents/leaks on the mental health of farmers are reiterated.</p> <p>In Section 6 (Options Assessment), Option 1 involves creating a CSR program stream for vulnerable populations and social programs/services, including those involving mental health. More specifically, Option 1 involves: NWMO participation in</p>

Comment Number	Report Section Reference	Comments from Peer Review	How and Where Comments are Addressed	Peer Review Responses to DPRA Comments
				<p>working groups and the like that address social issues, donations, and sponsorships.</p> <p>The Agriculture Business Impact Study notes in the subsection “Local Support for Agriculture” that “[s]takeholders expressed a passionate desire to see the South Bruce farming way of life understood, respected, and reintegrated into the rest of the economy and the community.”</p> <p>Section 3 of that study raises several concerns of farmers (e.g., “availability of workforce, if higher-paying low-skilled jobs become available because of the Project”; traffic disruptions; disruption of agricultural character of the community; perception of contamination of produce). The potential effects of the Project on the agricultural industry could create or exacerbate the vulnerability and mental health of workers in the industry due to the concerns raised.</p> <p>As per the Agriculture Business Impact Study, further consultations with agriculture stakeholders and further development of mitigation options to address the Project’s potential negative effects are recommended to inform the decision about willingness to host the Project. Doing so will assist in further developing the CSR and PSM programs.</p>
2c	3.2	<p>Explain why some vulnerable groups identified are not seemingly included in Table 3 and/or addressed only superficially in the analysis of potential effects (e.g., LGBTQ2S+ community; newcomers and culturally/linguistically diverse groups). Where an explanation is already provided, document it with references (e.g., Mennonites).</p> <p>This recommendation is tied to the identification of four “key vulnerable population groups” in Section 3.3.2 (first</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – As is done in the case of Mennonite population, a rationale for why other groups were not considered more vulnerable/benefit less from the Project will be added. – Rationale for selection of VPs identified in Section 3.3.2 is provided at the start of Section 3.2 and in Table 3. If required, this can be repeated in Section 3.3.2. 	<p>Comment not addressed.</p> <p>Peer review comment focused on why certain vulnerable groups identified by knowledge holders were not seemingly included in Table 3 (which lists “those populations considered more vulnerable due to the Project”) and/or addressed only superficially in the analysis of potential effects. In other words, on what basis were they not included in the first paragraph of Section 3.3.2, which refers to existing strategies/partnerships and</p>

Comment Number	Report Section Reference	Comments from Peer Review	How and Where Comments are Addressed	Peer Review Responses to DPRA Comments
		paragraph); on what basis were they selected?		<p>service areas for each of the “key vulnerable population groups.”</p> <p>For example, culturally/linguistically diverse groups, identified by knowledge holders (one of whom referred to a challenge for all service providers in the area to provide culturally appropriate services), are not identified as a key vulnerable group, although Section 5.2 (Potential Negative Project Effects) refers to the need to provide “culturally appropriate services and supports that may not currently exist” (Section 5.1 (Potential Positive Project Effects) notes that a potential benefit is an increase in multiculturalism).</p> <p>The options presented in Section 6 to mitigate/enhance negative/positive effects do not refer specifically to culturally/linguistically diverse groups.</p> <p>According to the Local Hiring Effects Study and Strategy, 98% of South Bruce’s population is white and the lack of ethnic and racial diversity represents a risk. Said study/strategy notes that a desired result is a “[s]tronger focus on immigrant attraction and supports to enable settlement and integration into the community and labour market.” According to the Economic Development Study on Youth, cultural diversity is a key factor that would incentivize youths to stay in or relocate to South Bruce. That study noted that Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is a priority for youths.</p> <p>Further study of the potential effects of the Project on vulnerable populations identified by knowledge holders but excluded from the “key vulnerable population groups” and not sufficiently addressed in other community studies, including culturally/linguistically diverse groups, is recommended. It could be done</p>

Comment Number	Report Section Reference	Comments from Peer Review	How and Where Comments are Addressed	Peer Review Responses to DPRA Comments
				as part of a more detailed impact assessment should South Bruce be selected as the preferred location for the Project.
2d	4	List the principal sources of the potential effects of the APM Project on the socio-economic environment and identify which could affect vulnerable groups and groups that avail of social programs prior to determining which project characteristics are relevant to the effects assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the revised report, we are further refining Section 4 to update with more recent information not available at the time the V1 draft was submitted in January 2022 (e.g., metroeconomics growth expectations February 2022 for base/impact cases, May 2022 final <i>Housing Needs and Demand Assessment</i> and <i>Workforce Development</i> findings). Section 5 assessment will also be revisited to identify Project elements that may potentially affect Vulnerable Populations/Social Programs. - As noted above, the focus of the study is on effects on programs and services and VPs, not the larger/broader socio-economic environment as whole. - With metroeconomics growth expectations prepared for MSB, the relative impact of the Project on population is marginally less than was the case in the V1 draft (i.e., the population growth without the Project is greater than was projected by the two counties' forecasts) 	<p>Comment partially addressed.</p> <p>The wages to be paid to the Project workforce are a source of potential effects on vulnerable groups. Section 4 refers to wages for the pre-construction workforce, but not for the construction and operations workforce. The age of the workforce available regionally/locally would also be a relevant characteristic to address (e.g., it may have implications for the need to source non-resident workers, whose presence could potentially affect vulnerable groups). The Local Hiring Effects Study and Strategy refers to possible labour force shortages due to retirements.</p> <p>Fuller illustration of the interrelations between sources of potential effects on the one hand and vulnerable groups and/or groups that avail of social programs on the other would help to ensure that potential effects are not overlooked or not sufficiently addressed. This could be done as part of a more detailed impact assessment should South Bruce be selected as the preferred location for the Project.</p>
2e	Figures 3 and 4	Validate that each of the pathways identified has been explained (e.g., how demographic change can lead to social cohesion; how the APM Project will lead directly to a lack of start-up capital for child care) and specify whether/how each relates to vulnerable groups or groups that avail of social programs (e.g., decreased traffic safety).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Figures 3 and 4 will be removed. - The changes will be identified and discussed in relation to materiality. - Changes identified by Knowledge Holders but not germane to the Project, will be noted but an explanation added as why they are not being carried forward to the options. 	Comment satisfactorily addressed.
2f	Figures 3 and 4	Validate that all the cause-and-effect relationships described in the Draft Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See 2e 	Comment satisfactorily addressed.

Comment Number	Report Section Reference	Comments from Peer Review	How and Where Comments are Addressed	Peer Review Responses to DPRA Comments
		are reflected in the figures (e.g., relationship between increased cost of living and difficulty in finding housing).		
2g	Figures 3 and 4	Section 5 notes that the figures illustrate the potential direct and indirect negative effects of the APM Project in the context of vulnerable populations and social programs, based on information provided by knowledge holders and DPRA's knowledge and experience. We recommend validating that the figures illustrate potential pathways as per information from the knowledge holders and per the general scientific literature (e.g., "increased pressure on existing rural services/supports and care providers" would presumably lead to more effects than pressure on after-school programming and digital library services).	– See 2e	Comment satisfactorily addressed.
2h	5	Order the potential effects by project phase as per the temporal boundaries identified in Section 1.3.3.	– DPRA will describe this in the context of programs and services and the relative differences in Project effects during the pre-construction, construction and operations periods. It is noted that the relative effects in pre-construction are less, but this first phase in an opportunity to understand potential effects in practice and to initiate the options described in Section 6.	Comment partially addressed. Section 5.2 notes that: "The potential negative effects may occur throughout the Pre-Construction, Construction, and Operations phases of the Project, while becoming more pronounced as the Project progresses (as a result of cumulative population growth and maturation of initiatives associated with the Project)." That statement is confusing: on the one hand, it seems to suggest that the potential negative effects may worsen with time, while on the other it seems to suggest the opposite in referring to the "maturation of initiatives" (assumed to be mitigation measures). We recommend classifying the Project's potential effects by Project phase to inform the decision about willingness to host the Project.
2i	5	Explain why the potential effects of a contingent of non-resident construction workers composed mostly of men (e.g.,	– As noted in Section 4 (and further articulated in revisions to Section 4 in the revised report) it is anticipated that	Comment partially addressed. Number of Workers:

Comment Number	Report Section Reference	Comments from Peer Review	How and Where Comments are Addressed	Peer Review Responses to DPR Comments
		<p>miners) are not explicitly addressed in the effects assessment, particularly in the context of the statement that "...it is likely that any additional population growth may add further pressure to [the] existing socio-economic environment" (Section 5, first paragraph).</p> <p>We also recommend that such an explanation take into account not only the estimated number of non-resident workers, but also their expected spending power, which could affect the cost of living. In addition, the explanation could consider the potential for a contingent of non-resident workers composed mostly of men to exacerbate a range of existing issues that have been identified, including gender-based violence. Figure 4 shows only a decrease in social cohesion as an effect of "more transient people not invested in the community."</p>	<p>the majority of construction workers may be comprised of labour from the Regional/Local study area, including Bruce Power MCR Project workers who may transition to the NWMO Project upon completion of the MCR Project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional information from the <i>Workforce Development Study</i> (Keir Corp, May 2022) re: numbers of non-resident workers, the sources/size of workforce for underground operations (e.g., Section 3.4.3/ Section 5.3 p. 55) will be added, including identified measures to train local/regional residents for these skills. This topic can be further explored in a future study/during the Impact Assessment process if the Project is located in the South Bruce Area, when there may be a better understanding of where the workforce for underground operations may come from. - As noted in Section 5, with respect to "additional growth", it anticipated that the overall change in population from the Project relative to the regional baseline population is relatively small, as illustrated by the metroeconomics projections (February 2022) prepared for MSB. Section 5 assessment will also be revisited to identify Project elements that may potentially affect Vulnerable Populations/Social Programs. - Increased cost of living is identified throughout the report as a key factor. However, given the relatively small change in population as a result of the Project, it is not likely that the Project will result in material/ further increases in cost of living. This is a current challenge being experienced by VPs as a result of the MCR Project, the 	<p>The peer review report for the Workforce Development Study notes that: "with the information presented the wind down in activity to the MCR Project at the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station will not significantly enhance the labour pool in the Region because of what the Building Trade Halls have stated. These Halls have indicated that there will be a high rate of member retirements over the next decade, which will reduce the labour force numbers available for the NWMO Project in 2033 (anticipated construction start). Further assessment of this potential could be carried out to better understand and develop this opportunity." Said peer review report also finds the discussion of the workforce required for below-ground operations to be general.</p> <p>The Local Hiring Effects Study and Strategy refers to the challenges of South Bruce in attracting "a working-age population with the skills necessary to participate in the evolving labour market." The Final Draft Report does not address the findings in said study/strategy (it only refers the reader to it for a discussion of the vulnerability of small business owners).</p> <p>The assumption, therefore, that "there is a large and capable skilled workforce available regionally for the construction and operations phases of the Project" (Section 4.2) may be challenged. Further study of the availability of workers regionally/locally as part of a more detailed impact assessment is recommended should South Bruce be selected as the preferred location for the Project.</p> <p>We note that, in Section 5, a potential effect raised by knowledge holders about the Project leading to more "transient workers not invested in the communities"</p>

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			<p>pandemic, and other factors. This topic is not being explored any further in a community study – this could be explored in a future study / during the Impact Assessment process if the Project is located in the South Bruce Area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1037 435 1486 760">– None of Knowledge Holders stated that the increase in domestic violence was the result of transient workers employed by Bruce Power for the MCR Project. The only mention of domestic violence was in the context of social isolation due to the pandemic. As discussed in the meeting with the peer review team, Figure 4 will be deleted. Additional text on domestic violence/gender-based violence will be added to Section 5. <li data-bbox="1037 776 1486 906">– As discussed previously, in Southwestern Ontario, the workforce will not be housed in a large camp setting. This will be reiterated in the report. 	<p>has been deleted from the Final Draft Report.</p> <p>Spending Power of Workers:</p> <p>Section 5.2 notes that potential negative effects identified include an increase in the cost of living due to a greater number of higher-paying jobs, which could exacerbate housing affordability/availability and other issues.</p> <p>Section 5.3 posits that potential effects identified by knowledge holders “may not be applicable/fully applicable to the Project (e.g., because there is already a large and capable skilled workforce available regionally for the Project’s construction and operations phases, it is unlikely that the cost of living will increase significantly due to an influx of new workers taking on higher paying jobs).”</p> <p>We find that assumption to be insufficiently documented (particularly in the current context of unfavourable economic dynamics). For example, a sustained analysis of existing or future wages in the area, with or without the Project, and on price indices is lacking. In addition, the expectation (or even speculation) that workers and their families will be concentrated in South Bruce could lead to an increase in the cost of living in that area.</p> <p>We believe that the potential effects of the Project on the cost of living are not currently known and that it is not currently possible to presume that they will be negligible.</p> <p>Further study of the potential effects of the Project on the cost of living is recommended as part of a more detailed impact assessment should South Bruce be selected as the preferred location for the Project.</p>

Comment Number	Report Section Reference	Comments from Peer Review	How and Where Comments are Addressed	Peer Review Responses to DPRA Comments
				<p>Gender-based Violence:</p> <p>The text on gender-based violence to be added in Section 5 was not found.</p> <p>Further study of the potential for a contingent of non-resident workers composed mostly of men to exacerbate a range of existing issues that have been identified in the area, including gender-based violence, is recommended when more clarity is obtained on the relevant characteristics of the workforce. This could be done in the context of a more detailed impact assessment should South Bruce be selected as the preferred location for the Project.</p>
2j	5 and 6	Distinguish between direct and indirect effects by defining each term.	– Definitions to be added	<p>Comment satisfactorily addressed.</p> <p>Definitions between direct and indirect effects were not found, though Figures 3 and 4, which referred to potential direct and indirect effects, were removed.</p>
2k	5 and 6	Distinguish between mitigation and enhancement measures by defining each term.	– Definitions to be added	Comment satisfactorily addressed.
2l	6.1	Clearly state the potential direct and indirect effects identified in Section 5, as opposed to noting, for example, that the “possible benefits...include such things as...” (first paragraph).	– Effects to be repeated in Section 6.1.	Comment satisfactorily addressed.
2m	6.1	Explain why the first paragraph limits the identification of concerns to those “most frequently articulated,” particularly in the light of the last sentence in Point 1 under Section 2.4.	– All concerns will be repeated.	Comment satisfactorily addressed.
2n	6	Explain why some of the potential effects identified in Section 5 are not explicitly addressed in Section 6.	– Text will be added explaining that not all of the potential effects identified in the revised Section 5.0 are unique to / relevant to the Project and /or VPSP (i.e., some identified by Knowledge Holders who are not familiar with the Project scope). As discussed in the	<p>Comment partially addressed.</p> <p>For example, Section 5.2 refers to the need to provide culturally appropriate services/supports that may not currently exist (Section 5.1 notes that a potential Project benefit is an increase in multiculturalism). Yet, the options</p>

Comment Number	Report Section Reference	Comments from Peer Review	How and Where Comments are Addressed	Peer Review Responses to DPRA Comments
			meeting with the peer review team, Figure 4 will be deleted.	presented in Section 6 do not refer specifically to culturally/linguistically diverse groups. As per peer review response in 2c, a rationale for excluding that segment from the list of key vulnerable groups was not found.
2o	Table 18	First list the potential effects flowing from the effects analysis, followed by the identification of options to address those effects, as is commonly done in impact assessment to provide a logical flow of analysis, thus facilitating the understanding of laypersons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With the streamlined options presented / discussed on Feb 15, Table 18 will be removed - The options will be presented directly 	Comment satisfactorily addressed.
2p	Table 18	Order the table per negative and positive effects, per direct and indirect effects and per mitigation and enhancement options.	- See 2o	Comment satisfactorily addressed
2q	Table 18	Identify the timeframes for the planning/ implementation of each option identified.	- See 2o	Comment satisfactorily addressed
2r	Table 18	Identify the key stakeholders to be involved in the planning/implementation of each option.	- See 2o	Comment satisfactorily addressed
2s	7	In the key findings, refer also to the key vulnerable groups identified and the principal negative and positive potential effects of the APM Project on them.	- Text to be added	Comment satisfactorily addressed
2t	Slides 1 to 4	We note that some of the “key vulnerable population groups” identified in the Draft Report are not specifically mentioned in any of the options. We recommend referring to them and considering targeted options for them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the discussion of options in the revised report, examples of relevant key vulnerable population groups can be referred to. Will consider if targeted options beyond what is proposed are appropriate. - In a discussion between NWMO, DPRA, GHD and MSB on March 14 re: the March 11 peer review comments on the draft <i>Vulnerable Populations/Social Programs</i> report, it was agreed that the parties have further discussion regarding where potential effects/options for managing effects on small businesses such as 	Comment satisfactorily addressed. [Slides removed from Final Draft Report.]

Comment Number	Report Section Reference	Comments from Peer Review	How and Where Comments are Addressed	Peer Review Responses to DPRA Comments
			<p>these would be addressed in the community studies. It was agreed that while the VPSP report would touch on this topic, it is not the 'primary home' for this issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DPRA will identify small businesses as potentially vulnerable, and briefly explain why but we will remove small businesses from the list of populations made more vulnerable by the Project since they do not align with this study's focus on programs and services. - On March 17, MSB/GHD communicated to DPRA that while reports such as <i>Workforce Development, Vulnerable Populations & Social Programs</i> may touch on potential effects on small businesses as part of existing context/issues, all reports will point the reader to the MSB's '<i>Local Hiring Effects Study and Strategy</i>' (Deloitte, April 2022) for more fulsome discussion including options for mitigating/enhancing potential effects. 	
2u	Slide 2	Clarify if the "Campus Concept" would also apply to the contingent of non-resident construction workers and, depending on the type of housing arrangements for them, specify what types of measures might be useful to manage any potential effects arising from their comings and goings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will add the information from the final <i>Workforce Development/Housing Demand and Needs Assessment</i> studies (Keir Corp. May 2022) on the potential 'Campus Concept' option and relationship with non-resident workers. The options in all of the community studies reports are presented by the authors to foster discussion only. They do not represent commitments or actions for the NWMO, the Municipality of South Bruce, or other parties. The final decisions on actions and commitments will be made at a future date. - Revised report can also reinforce that based on the analysis in <i>Workforce Development/ Housing Demand and</i> 	<p>Comment partially addressed. See peer review response in 2i.</p> <p>In light of the uncertainty at this stage about the relevance of foreseeing measures to manage such things as the daily and rotational transport of non-resident workers (as per DPRA's comment to the peer review comment), we recommend further study of this issue when more clarity is obtained on the relevant characteristics of the workforce. This could be done in the context of a more detailed impact assessment should South Bruce be selected as the preferred location for the Project.</p> <p>[Slides removed from Final Draft Report.]</p>

Comment Number	Report Section Reference	Comments from Peer Review	How and Where Comments are Addressed	Peer Review Responses to DPRA Comments
			<p><i>Needs Assessment</i> studies, there will not be a large influx of non-resident temporary or short-term construction workers, and that those that do come will be able to find accommodations within the local/regional area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – However, at this stage in the process (community studies), measures to manage the 'comings and goings' of workers utilizing a potential temporary accommodations component of such a facility have not been identified. It is acknowledged that in conventional camp accommodations in remote areas for mining/development settings there are best practices for these types of activities, but their relevance/application in this setting is not known. There is no workforce camp associated with the Project in the South Bruce Area. 	
3		<p>The option proposed to address the potential effects of the APM Project on housing would benefit from additional detail to appreciate how it will effectively mitigate the potential effects. Aspects of that option could be more detailed by drawing in relevant details from the Housing Needs and Demand Analysis Study Draft Report and addressing for example the following recommendations:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Relevant details from the final <i>Housing Needs and Demand Analysis Study Report</i> (Keir Corp. May 2022) will be added to address this issue. 	<p>Peer review responses to DPRA comments on specific peer review comments provided in Rows 3a to 3c.</p>
3a	Slide 2	<p>Describe what services and infrastructure would be foreseen by the "Campus Concept," in order to provide insights into what community services/ infrastructure might be used, or not, by the staff living on the Campus.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – At this point in the process, this level of detail has not been articulated for the potential 'campus concept' option articulated in the <i>Workforce Development/ Housing Demand and Needs Assessment</i> studies. At this point in time, it is only an option, and one of many. Please see the response above to 2u. – These details could be looked at in future studies, if the South Bruce Area 	<p>Comment satisfactorily addressed (footnote added in revised report reiterating DPRA's comments to peer review comments). [Slides removed from Final Draft Report.]</p>

Comment Number	Report Section Reference	Comments from Peer Review	How and Where Comments are Addressed	Peer Review Responses to DPRA Comments
			is ultimately selected as the Project location.	
3b	Slide 2	Clarify what measures would be put in place for “supportive housing” before the end of construction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The options in all of the community studies reports are presented by the authors to foster discussion only. They do not represent commitments or actions for the NWMO, the Municipality of South Bruce, or other parties. The final decisions on actions and commitments will be made at a future date. 	<p>Comment not addressed.</p> <p>Option 3 (Temporary Accommodations that Could be Converted into Supportive Housing) addresses supportive housing after the construction phase.</p> <p>Housing of vulnerable persons may become an issue as early as pre-construction, as speculation of the influx of workers and families may increase the costs of housing for rent or purchase.</p> <p>The peer review report for the Housing Needs and Demand Analysis Study recommends the preparation of a comprehensive housing growth plan.</p> <p>We recommend specifically addressing supportive housing, in one form or another, during construction (during which there will be an estimated workforce of 640, 20% of which is estimated to be non-resident) to inform the decision about willingness to host the Project.</p> <p>[Slides removed from Final Draft Report.]</p>
3c	Slide 2	Explain why the potential mitigation options suggested for housing during the “Check-in #2” presentation (e.g., home-sharing program matching seniors with young adults) were not retained in the Draft Report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – NWMO does not have a mandate/ responsibility for this type of program. – However, as per the response to 1b above, in Section 6 of the revised report, ‘Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Program with a stream focused on vulnerable populations and social programs/services’ (slide # 3 from February 15 meeting with the PRT) will note that NWMO/MSB could work with housing/homelessness action groups to identify ways that NWMO/MSB could possibly provide support. 	<p>Comment satisfactorily addressed.</p> <p>[Slides removed from Final Draft Report.]</p>
4		We recommend clarifying certain key statements as reproduced below:		

Comment Number	Report Section Reference	Comments from Peer Review	How and Where Comments are Addressed	Peer Review Responses to DPR Comments
4a	5 and 6	<p>Explain further the following statements, particularly in the light of statements describing the potential effects of an increase in the cost of living:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Additionally, it is assumed that in general, the members of Project workforce and their families would not be classified as vulnerable individuals, and as such would not be expected to directly increase pressure on existing social programs and services. As such, it is not expected that the Project will result in the extent of positive or negative effects on vulnerable populations and social programs that may be anticipated by the knowledge holders.” - “As described in Sections 4 and 5, it is assumed that in general, the members of the Project workforce and their families would not be classified as vulnerable individuals, and as such would not be expected to directly increase pressure on existing social programs and services. Thus, it is not anticipated that there will be significant negative effects on vulnerable populations or social programs as a result of the Project. However, should some of the concerns expressed by knowledge holders materialize to some extent beyond what was anticipated, it is important that possible mitigation options are identified.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See response to 2i above re: treatment of Cost of Living at this point in the siting process /community studies vs future studies if the South Bruce Area is ultimately selected as the Project location - There are a multitude of variables involved in Cost of Living, and these are beyond the scope of this community study - As per the response to comment 2i above, Knowledge Holders concerns were typically in the context of the pandemic, and in some cases the Bruce Power MCR Project. - Options for the ‘Participatory Social Monitoring Program’ and Corporate Social Responsibility (see the response to 1b above) options will contribute to understanding of any potential issues and/or potential mitigation that may be possible should issues arise. 	<p>Comment partially addressed.</p> <p>The assumption that most members of the Project workforce and their families would not be classified as vulnerable individuals, and as such would not be expected to directly increase pressure on existing social programs and services, has been removed from the Final Draft Report.</p> <p>Section 6 now states that “because there is an existing large and capable skilled workforce available regionally for the construction and operations phases of the Project as a result of Bruce Power’s MCR Project, it is expected that the overall change in population relative to the regional baseline population would be relatively small. As such, it is not anticipated that the Project would result in a significant increase in pressure on vulnerable populations or existing social programs and services in the Study Area.”</p> <p>Section 6 further states that “given the existing conditions of vulnerable populations and the increased demands being placed on social programs, it is possible that Project (combined with anticipated baseline growth) could result in some effects, albeit relatively small, on these populations and on programs.”</p> <p>As explained in 2i, the assumption that there is a large and capable workforce available regionally for the Project may be challenged; also, the assumption that the Project would not result in a significant increase in pressure on vulnerable populations or existing social programs/services is insufficiently documented.</p> <p>Validation of these assumptions is recommended as part of a more detailed impact assessment should South Bruce be selected as the preferred location for the Project. While the option involving</p>

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				PSM will assist in further understanding the potential effects, the assumptions on which the current effects assessment rests are not considered to be sufficiently documented.

Attachments

Attachment 1

Additional Comments

Attachment 1

Comments noted as less important to the fundamental purpose of the peer review are summarized as follows for NWMO's consideration in finalizing the Draft Report:

1. In Section 1.3.2, we recommend explaining why some localities identified as being part of the study area do not seem to be considered in the baseline data (e.g., Town of Minto).

DPRA Response: There has been an evolution of Project understanding since Oct, 2021; also much is dependent on the Local Study Area/Core Study Area from the *Workforce Development and Housing Demand and Needs Analysis* studies. This will be explained in the revised report.

Minto is in the Local Study Area for workforce/housing studies; the Core Study Area for Workforce/Housing includes the following five local municipalities (MSB, Huron-Kinloss, Brockton, North Huron, Morris-Turnberry).

Social services / programs are not typically provided at local municipal level, but at the county/regional level etc. Even if located in a lower-tier municipality, a program will also typically serve neighbours (e.g., see also the response to #6 below).

PRT Response: Comment satisfactorily addressed.

2. In Section 2, we recommend that the relevant Guiding Principles applicable to the Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies be identified and that a brief explanation as to how they were addressed be provided.

DPRA Response: this is now being added to all of the community studies reports, and will be incorporated into the revised report.

PRT Response: Comment satisfactorily addressed.

3. In Table 3, we recommend clarifying if the rationales for the selection of vulnerable groups are based on baseline data and/or sources of potential impacts.

DPRA Response: See response to comment 2c, above.

PRT Response: Comment partially addressed, as per peer review response in 2c.

4. In Section 3.2, we recommend that the years to which baseline data refer be systematically identified and that the baseline data reported be systematically put into context (e.g., 141 Bruce County families received childcare fee subsidies in 2020 – a proportion or comparison should be provided).

DPRA Response: It is not possible to systematically present or compare the baseline data by date in Section 3.2 because what is presented is data that was readily available on each vulnerable group at the municipal level rather than based on specific dates.

PRT Response: Comment satisfactorily addressed (years in which baseline data were collected were added).

5. In Tables 12 to 17, we recommend consistently specifying which of the relevant initiatives listed are already in effect and which are still at the planning stage. Where it is noted that action tables “are in the process of developing action plans,” are timelines for implementing the plans available?

DPRA Response: This will be addressed in the revised report.

PRT Response: Comment not addressed.

6. In Section 3.3, if the information is readily available, we recommend specifying the locations of the social programs/services inventoried at the lower-tier municipality level. For example, it is stated that the inventory includes 3 programs, organizations, and/or locations that provide shelters for abused women. How many shelters are there, and can their location be provided? This example is also tied to the statement in Section 3.3.4 that a women's shelter recently initiated a human-trafficking program, without providing the location. Doing so would assist in identifying where social programs/services are under more or less pressure.

DPRA Response: DPRA attempted to do this in the initial analysis, but it did not produce useful information. Because the communities are relatively close to one another, individuals from different communities access programs and services where they are provided.

PRT Response: Comment satisfactorily addressed.

7. In Section 4.1, we recommend addressing also the aging workforce, as noted in Section 3.2.2.2 as well as in the Labour Baseline Study and Workforce Development Study, and its potential implications (e.g., recruitment, upskilling).

DPRA Response: These topics are better addressed in the *Workforce Development Study* (Keir Corp. 2022), and in other community studies being led by the Municipality of South Bruce (e.g., the *Local Hiring Effects Study and Strategy* (Deloitte, 2022)).

PRT Response: Comment not addressed. The age of the workforce available regionally/locally is a relevant characteristic to address in the Vulnerable Populations and Social Programs Studies Report; for example, it may have implications for the need to source non-resident workers, which can have potential effects on vulnerable populations.

8. In Section 4.2, we recommend removing the last bullet, which describes one of the options, as it is out of place.

DPRA Response: This will be done.

PRT Response: Comment satisfactorily addressed.

9. In Section 5.1, where it is stated that knowledge holders referred to Bruce Power's MCR Project and the effects it has had on the local communities and noted they would expect to see similar effects occur if the APM Project were to be located in South Bruce, we recommend specifying those effects.

DPRA Response: Detail was not provided by knowledge holders, they spoke generally only.

PRT Response: Comment satisfactorily addressed.

10. In Section 6, we recommend expanding the consideration of sources of information beyond discussions with knowledge holders, NWMO and MSB and literature from the NWMO and Bruce Power to identify potential options (e.g., scientific literature, projects of similar scope).

DPRA Response: This Project/setting is not similar to many of the other types of Project typically undergoing Impact Assessment /Environmental Assessment e.g.,

- this Project is not greenfield/remote,
- it is in an area with large available regional/local workforce,
- the Project workforce relative to anticipated growth without Project is relatively small
- there is not a large accommodations camp for transient workers during construction or operations
- The options identified are not dis-similar to those that are identified with respect to social programs/services for large infrastructure projects.

This could be addressed in future impact assessment or other studies, if the South Bruce Area is ultimately selected as the Project location. The experience with Bruce Power on their operations of the Generating Station, as well as the MCR Project – both of which are larger in magnitude than the potential Project – as well as the experiences of knowledge holders in that regard, provides current information that is rooted directly in the local region.

PRT Response: Comment partially addressed (e.g., the assumption that there is a “large available regional/local workforce” in the area may be challenged, as per peer review responses in Table 4.1). Agreed that the issues should be addressed in more depth in future studies.

11. In Section 6.2, we recommend explaining on what basis the factors (or criteria) for assessing the options were selected.

DPRA Response: These factors were considered generally in all of the community studies when considering potential options.

PRT Response: Comment satisfactorily addressed.

12. Inconsistencies in the use of acronyms, terminology and punctuation, typographical errors, unnecessary repetitions, errors in reproducing baseline data, etc.

DPRA Response: These will be reviewed while the final report is being prepared.

PRT Response: Comment partially addressed.

Appendix D

36 Guiding Principles

South Bruce Guiding Principles for NWMO's Site Selection Process

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) is seeking an informed and willing host for a deep geologic repository (DGR) to safely store Canada's used nuclear fuel, and a Centre for Expertise. To guide its work, South Bruce held a comprehensive visioning process in 2019 and 2020 to get input on what people cared about most in relation to the Project. The process, in addition to other community input and feedback resulted in the creation of 36 Guiding Principles which focus on safety for people and the environment, ensuring the Project brings meaningful benefits to the community, and ensuring the municipality has a voice in decision-making.


The principles were adopted by Council resolution and they have guided municipal activities and engagement related to the Project. South Bruce is seeking NWMO commitments on how it would meet or address these 36 expectations and aspirations for the Project. This is a key step in determining whether the Project is right for the community and will help people make an informed decision when a public referendum is held to measure willingness to be a host community.

Safety and the Natural Environment



1. The NWMO must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Municipality that the Project will be subject to the highest standards of safety across its lifespan of construction, operation and into the distant future.
2. The NWMO must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Municipality that sufficient measures will be in place to ensure the natural environment will be protected, including the community's precious waters, land and air, throughout the Project's lifespan of construction, operation and into the distant future.
3. The NWMO must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Municipality that used nuclear fuel can be safely and securely transported to the repository site.
4. The NWMO will ensure that the repository site will not host any nuclear waste generated by other countries.
5. The NWMO must commit to implementing the Project in a manner consistent with the unique natural and agricultural character of the community of South Bruce.
6. The NWMO will minimize the footprint of the repository's surface facilities to the extent it is possible to do so and ensure that public access to the Teeswater River is maintained, subject to meeting regulatory requirements for the repository.
7. The NWMO must commit to preparing construction management and operation plans that detail the measures the NWMO will implement to mitigate the impacts of construction and operation of the Project.

People, Community and Culture

8. The NWMO must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Municipality that it has built broad support for the Project within the community of South Bruce.
 9. The Municipality will, in collaboration with community members, develop and establish an open and transparent process that will allow the community to express its level of willingness to host the Project.
 10. The NWMO will identify the potential for any positive and negative socio-economic impacts of the Project on South Bruce and surrounding communities and what community benefits it will contribute to mitigate any potential risks.
 11. The NWMO, in consultation with the Municipality, will establish a property value protection program to compensate property owners in the event that property values are adversely affected by the NWMO's site selection process and the development, construction and/or operation of the Project.
 12. The NWMO, in consultation with the Municipality, will establish a program to mitigate losses to business owners in the event that their business is adversely affected by the NWMO's site selection process and the development, construction and/or operation of the Project.
 13. The NWMO, in partnership with the Municipality, will develop a strategy and fund a program to promote the agriculture of South Bruce and the surrounding communities.
 14. The NWMO, in partnership with the Municipality, will develop a strategy and fund a program to promote tourism in South Bruce and the surrounding communities.
 15. The NWMO, in partnership with the Municipality, will commit to implement programs to engage with and provide opportunities for youth in the community, including investments in education and the provision of scholarships, bursaries and other incentives for youth to remain in or return to the community.
 16. The NWMO will implement the Project in a manner that promotes diversity, equality and inclusion.
 17. The Municipality recognizes the important historic and contemporary roles Indigenous peoples have and continue to play in the stewardship of the lands we all call home and will, in the spirit of Reconciliation, work with the NWMO and local Indigenous peoples to build mutually respectful relationships regarding the Project.
 18. The NWMO will commit to relocate the working location of a majority of its employees to South Bruce as soon as it is reasonably practicable to do so after the completion of the site selection process.
 19. The NWMO will, in consultation with the Municipality, establish a Centre of Expertise at a location within South Bruce to be developed in conjunction with the Project.
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Economics and Finance

20. The NWMO, in consultation with the Municipality, will commit to implementing a local employment and training strategy with the objective of ensuring that the majority of employees for the Project are located within South Bruce and surrounding communities.
21. The NWMO, in consultation with the Municipality, will commit to implementing a business opportunities strategy that will provide opportunities for qualified local businesses to secure agreements that support the Project and that requires the NWMO to take all reasonable steps to create opportunities for qualified local businesses to benefit from the Project.
22. The NWMO will commit to implementing a procurement strategy for the Project that gives preference to the selection of suppliers who can demonstrate economic benefit to South Bruce and surrounding communities.
23. The NWMO will enter into an agreement with the Municipality providing for community benefit payments to the Municipality.

Capacity Building

24. The NWMO will cover the costs incurred by the Municipality in assessing community well-being and willingness to host the Project.
25. The NWMO will fund the engagement of subject matter experts by the Municipality to undertake peer reviews of Project reports and independent assessments of the Project's potential impacts on and benefits for the community as determined necessary by the Municipality.

26. The NWMO agrees to cover the costs of the Municipality's preparation for and participation in the Project's regulatory approval processes, including the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission's licencing process and the assessment of the Project under the Impact Assessment Act (or other similar legislation), that are not otherwise covered by available participant funding.
27. The NWMO will fund the Municipality's preparation of a housing plan to ensure that the residents of South Bruce have access to a sufficient supply of safe, secure, affordable and well-maintained homes.

Services and Infrastructure

28. The NWMO will prepare a review of the existing emergency services in South Bruce and provide appropriate funding for any additional emergency services required to host the Project in South Bruce.
29. The NWMO will prepare an infrastructure strategy that addresses any municipal infrastructure requirements for the Project and will commit to providing appropriate funding for any required upgrades to municipal infrastructure required to host the Project in South Bruce.
30. The NWMO will prepare a review of the existing and projected capacity of South Bruce's road network and will commit to providing appropriate funding for any required upgrades to the road network.
31. The NWMO will enter into a road use agreement with the Municipality that identifies approved transportation routes during construction and operation of the Project and ensures proper funding for maintenance and repair of municipal roads and bridges used for the Project.

Services and Infrastructure (continued)

32. The NWMO, in consultation with the Municipality and other local and regional partners, will prepare a strategy to ensure there are sufficient community services and amenities, including health, child-care, educational and recreational facilities, to accommodate the expected population growth associated with hosting the Project in South Bruce.
33. The NWMO will comply with the Municipal Official Plan and zoning by-law and seek amendments to the Official Plan and zoning by-law as necessary to implement the Project.

Regional Benefits

36. The NWMO must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Municipality that the Project will benefit the broader region outside of the community of South Bruce, including local Indigenous communities.


Governance and Community Engagement

34. The NWMO will provide the Municipality with an ongoing and active role in the governance of the Project during the construction and operation phases of the Project.
35. The NWMO will continue to engage with community members and key stakeholders to gather input on community vision, expectations and principles, including concerns, related to the Project.

Reach out anytime with your questions, comments, concerns, or if you are seeking more information. We would be happy to hear from you!

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www.southbruce.ca

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