



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

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July 30, 2009

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS DELIVER UP TO \$110 MILLION FOR REGIONAL BROADBAND**

#### **NEWS**

The Federal and Provincial Governments announced today that they will each provide up to \$55 million towards the creation of an eastern Ontario regional broadband network as proposed by the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus Inc.

#### **QUOTES**

"Today's announcement represents a huge step forward in helping us construct one of the most important pieces of new infrastructure ever built in Eastern Ontario," stated Ron Emond, Chair of the EOWC. "We are extremely grateful to both the Federal and Provincial governments for their decision to support us and their faith in our ability to deliver this network," added Emond.

"As others have said, spending public funds on broadband infrastructure is the one expenditure that benefits every sector of an economy from health, education, government to business and of course the individual taxpayer. All of these sectors need access to a high-speed, high-capacity network in order to provide new and improved services," stated Chair Emond.

"The EOWC Inc. has a vision for unlocking the potential of Eastern Ontario, it has a plan to implement that vision and now we have the support of both senior governments to make it happen," said Warden Campbell. "We know that many of the jobs of the future will come from the new knowledge economy and we want our region to be ready and able to create those jobs and enhance our prosperity," added Warden Campbell.

## **FACTS –**

- Many areas, particularly rural ones, in Eastern Ontario are years behind those more urban centers in obtaining access to the high speed internet.
- Analysis shows that more than 200,000 people and businesses have poor or no access to the internet across the Region.
- The Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) will deliver some ten times (10x) more speed and capacity of current internet service in many areas of the Region.
- EORN will consist of two components: a high-capacity (Gigabit Ethernet) fiber backbone or trunk system and expanded and improved access to the end user.
- Requests for Proposals will be issued separately for both components of the network.
- EORN will have an estimated 60 new Points of Presence (PoPs) pushing optical fiber deeper into the Region.
- It is expected to take three years to fully complete the network but many will begin to receive access and higher capacities as it is built out.
- The estimated cost of the EORN is \$170 million. The EOWC and private sector will be expected to fund the remaining amount beyond the Federal and Provincial contributions.

## **EOWC Inc.**

The EOWC Inc. is a corporation without share capital whose mandate is to present a unified voice on behalf of eastern Ontario municipalities engaging both the federal and provincial governments in developing new programs and policies that support the goal of realizing the region's full potential for sustainable economies and communities.

Membership includes the counties of Northumberland, Peterborough, Haliburton, Hastings, Lennox & Addington, Lanark, Renfrew, Frontenac, Stormont Dundas and Glengarry Counties, the United Counties of Leeds & Grenville, the United Counties of Prescott & Russell and the single tier municipalities of the City of Kawartha Lakes and the County of Prince Edward. The municipalities include nearly 1,000,000 people.

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