



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

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NEWS RELEASE

FIRST REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW HIGH SPEED-HIGH CAPACITY BROADBAND NETWORK RELEASED

NEWS

The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus Inc. announced today that it has released the first two requests for proposals related to the creation of the eastern Ontario regional broadband network (EORN). One RFP is related to the establishment of the Transport/Backbone Fibre Ring and the second is for the acquisition of satellite capacity.

Requests for proposals for the access portion of the project are anticipated to be released in 2010.

The Federal and Provincial Governments announced on July 30th, 2009 that they will each provide up to \$55 million (\$110 m) towards the project.

QUOTES

"With the release of these two requests for proposals we had taken a major step forward", said the EOWC Chair, Ron Emond. "The fibre backbone is one of the key ingredients in creating this network. We need to get it in place so that work on the next phase can get underway. This means extending out access to at least 95% of those who do not yet have it as well as improve on the speed and capacity for existing users wherever possible", he added.

"We know that the private sector has been anxiously waiting the release of the RFPs and we look forward to their responses", stated Emond.

FACTS –

- The due dates for both RFPs is November 20, 2009.
- Many areas, particularly rural ones, in Eastern Ontario are years behind those more urban centers in obtaining access to the high speed internet.
- 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 including the use of satellite where necessary.
- EORN envisions Points of Presence (PoPs) pushing optical fiber deeper into the Region.
- It 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.

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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