



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

Briefing/Speaking Note

Eastern Ontario Regional Broadband Project

ROMA/OGRA 2009

Issue:

In addition to the good work already done under the Rural Connections program Eastern Ontario requires an integrated, high speed, high capacity broadband network. This network is needed to help transform our regional economy into a competitive, innovative and digital-based one capable of competing and winning in global markets.

The EOWC has been working on developing a network that has two fundamental components: a high capacity, resilient core backhaul structure to connect the region to existing and new long haul fibre trunk lines and enabling access for people and businesses that delivers a minimum of 10 Mbps of bandwidth.

In the past several years Eastern Ontario has suffered nearly 12,000 permanent job losses in all parts of the traditional economy including manufacturing, forestry and the service sector. A new way forward is required.

The EOWC has already undertaken considerable effort to create this project. Early in January an Expression of Interest was released to the private sector asking for their views on the cost of the proposed network and what assets they could bring to the table including financial contributions. That EOI closes on March 9, 2009.

Action Requested

Creating this transformation will require all levels of Government along with the private sector and we are hopeful that the Province will join with us in this crucial endeavour.

The EOWC will be making a formal application under the Build Canada Fund for financial support from both the Provincial and Federal Government.