



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

Briefing/Speaking Note

Eastern Ontario Regional Network

AMO CONFERENCE 2009

Issue:

On July 30, 2009 the Federal and Provincial Governments announced that each would be providing up to \$55 million dollars (\$110 m) in support for the creation of the Eastern Ontario Regional Broadband Network (EORN) which has an estimated cost of \$170 million in total.

EORN is a project of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus Inc. and will result the creation of high-speed, high-capacity broadband network throughout the Region. It has been designated as the EOWC Inc.'s number one regional economic development priority.

As we understand it, our project is the only one of this scope and reach that has received the support of both senior governments anywhere in Canada. We are proud of that distinction but we know that a lot of work to bring the network into operation remains to be done in the next 2-3 years.

You should know that we have been working on this project for nearly two years and have spent countless hours with federal and provincial staff as well as conducting a detailed Expression of Interest with the industry this past winter and held a Digital Summit in Kingston in March.

Action Requested:

The EOWC Inc. has a vision for unlocking the potential of our region, we have the plan and now we have this significant financial support from Canada and Ontario.

We wanted to take this opportunity to ensure that you and your colleagues fully understand the project and its critical importance to the future of Eastern Ontario. Your support would be most welcome.