



## **Eastern Ontario Leadership Council Communications Update April/May 2018**

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This update is part of a series of quarterly updates regarding the recent activities and advocacy of the Eastern Ontario Leadership Council (EOLC). The intended audience is board members, municipal councils, and staff located within Eastern Ontario, including members of the EOLC's five partner organizations. To learn more about the EOLC's background and composition, visit <http://www.eowc.org/en/economic-development-sustainability/eastern-ontario-leadership-council.aspx>.

### **1. Composition of the EOLC Board**

The EOLC consists of five partner organizations:

Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus  
Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus  
Eastern Ontario Regional Network  
Ontario East Economic Development Commission  
Community Futures Ontario East

### **2. Regional Cross-Border Collaboration Award at 2018 EDCO Conference**

In February 2018, the EOLC was recognized with an important award during the annual Economic Developers' Council of Ontario (EDCO) Conference in Toronto. Specifically, the EOLC received the *Collaboration & Partnership Award* in the category of "Regional and Cross-Border Collaboration" representing populations of 250,000 and greater. For an organization whose work began less than three years ago, this is an important recognition that the EOLC's collaborative regional model is a progressive step forward in the field of economic development.

### **3. Economic Development Strategy Refresh and Implementation with MEDG**

Throughout 2017 and early 2018, the EOLC worked closely with the Ministry of Economic Development and Growth (MEDG) to prepare for the implementation of the first of seven regional economic development plans across the Province. Due to Eastern Ontario's extensive experience in researching and preparing the [2014 Regional Economic Development Strategy](#), the region was well positioned to move forward quickly as the Ministry's pilot region.

The first step of this implementation project was a refresh of the aforementioned strategy, in order to update it using new data acquired since 2014, address any knowledge gaps that may have emerged during the strategy's implementation, and refine the approach to this implementation with new available opportunities.

Both the EOWC and EOMC held delegations during the ROMA Conference with Minister Jeff Leal (OMAFRA) and Minister Steven Del Duca (MEDG), to emphasize the importance of securing provincial funding for this refresh project.

In early March, the MEDG confirmed that the EOLC would receive the requested funding for the strategy refresh and implementation plan, for a total of \$135,000. These funds will be used to complete the following:

- Targeted Regional Business Surveys
- Indigenous Communities Consultation
- Supplementary Stakeholder Consultation
- Communications/Marketing of Refresh Strategy
- Refreshed Strategy and 2018-2022 Implementation Plan
- Business Plans to Advance Implementation of Three Working Groups

### **4. Funding Announcement with Minister Leal regarding the EOLC and EORN**

Minister Jeff Leal invited EOLC members and various stakeholders to a funding announcement on Monday, April 23 in the County of Hastings, where he spoke about the \$135,000 to implement the Eastern Ontario Economic Development Strategy as well as the \$71-million commitment in the 2018 budget for the cell and mobile broadband improvement project. Led by EORN, the latter project is a \$213-million public-private partnership that would improve both the reach and quality of cellular data services in Eastern Ontario. The project would create 3,000 full-time equivalent jobs over 10 years and spur \$420 million in new revenue.

## **5. Ontario East “Economic Development Disrupted” Event**

One of the EOLC’s members, Ontario East, held a successful two-day event in Kingston that brought many economic development professionals together from across the region on March 1st and 2nd. The event featured several workshops dedicated to economic development and the changes and disruptions facing the way economic developers work and interact. Key themes included global trends, marketing and strategic planning in the changing environments, and realizing the potential, responding to the gaps, and seeing the data in new ways.

## **6. The EOLC Working Groups**

The EOLC employs a “working group” model to guide the board’s deliberations and offer recommendations on implementation priorities and directions. These three working groups also build broader collaborations across the region; draw on widespread expertise; provide opportunities for participation from across the region and across various sectors (e.g. private sector, post-secondary education).

All three working groups meet on a regular basis throughout the year. Each group is chaired by an EOLC member or designate, and features membership from various levels of municipal, provincial, and federal government, as well as the private sector, colleges and universities. Staff from various Provincial Ministries sit as observers on the board, including the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) and the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD).

For more information on the Working Groups, or to become involved, please contact the Chairs directly:

- Integrated, Intelligent Transportation System – Andrew Wallen / EOCFDC
- Workforce Development and Deployment – Craig Desjardins / Kingston
- Technology Integration and Innovation – David Fell / EORN

## **7. Upcoming EOLC Meetings**

Friday, May 25

Wednesday, July 18

Friday, September 7

Friday, November 23