



Eastern Ontario Leadership Council Communications Update January 2018

This update is part of a series of four annual updates (every quarter) regarding 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 (listed below).

1. History and Background

To learn more about the history and background of the EOLC, please consult the first EOLC Communications Update online at <http://www.eowc.org/en/economic-development-sustainability/eastern-ontario-leadership-council.aspx>.

2. Composition of the EOLC Board

As of January 15, 2018, the EOLC board consists of:

Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

- **Warden John Fenik – EOLC Co-Chair**
- Kelly Pender, CAO, County of Frontenac
- Andy Brown, CAO, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville

Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus

- **Mayor Leslie O'Shaughnessy – EOLC Co-Chair**
- Gerard Hunt, CAO, City of Kingston
- Maureen Adams, CAO, City of Cornwall

Eastern Ontario Regional Network

- David Fell, CEO
- Lisa Severson

Ontario East Economic Development Commission

- Bonnie O’Neill, Executive Director
- Dan Borowec, President

Community Futures Ontario East

- Andrew Wallen, GM & CEO, Kawartha Lakes CFDC
- Bruce Smith, Chair, Eastern Ontario CFDC Network

The following staff also provide resource and administrative assistance:

- Craig Desjardins
- Kathryn Wood
- Justin Bromberg

3. Discussions with the Ministry of Economic Development and Growth

Last year, the Ministry of Economic Development and Growth (MEDG) advised the EOLC that the Premier’s Office had issued a directive for the implementation 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 Eastern Ontario region was selected as a pilot region for launch and MEDG staff began consulting with the EOLC to determine the most appropriate method of implementation.

Since August 2017, the EOLC board worked closely with the MEDG’s Regional Economic Strategies Branch to secure the necessary funding to refresh the strategy and prepare an implementation plan for 2018 through 2022. This refresh provides the opportunity to acknowledge accomplishments thus far, address any knowledge gaps that may have emerged during the strategy’s implementation, and refine the approach to this implementation as new opportunities become available. By doing so, it enables the Strategy to remain relevant to the EOLC’s five partner organizations, constituent communities, and the region as a whole.

Result: in mid-January, the EOLC submitted its funding application for a Strategic Sector Support Grant for \$135,000. A decision is expected by mid-February, and the MEDG fully understands the need to move forward with this funding in order to provide for the release of the first “Regional Economic Plan” across Ontario.

Specifically, the funding will be used to:

- Incorporate updated data (since 2014) into the Regional Strategy;
- Bring additional, new external stakeholder insights into the Strategy;
- Conduct a business survey for multiple sectors of the regional economy;
- Develop a high-level Strategy implementation plan for 2018 to 2022;
- Identify performance measures for each of the Strategic Priorities.

4. Funding Application to the Rural Economic Development Program

In September 2017, the EOLC submitted a funding application to the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), requesting \$80,000 through the Rural Economic Development (RED) Program. The EOLC would be investing another \$80,000, for a total of \$160,000, which would result in a three-part technology integration project.

Goal: to accelerate the integration of technology into targeted sectors, strengthen competitiveness and increase businesses' operational efficiency, via:

- A regional marketplace event, connecting innovators and start-ups with municipalities to share information on technologies/factors influencing successful entry into marketplace; the event would be live-streamed.
- The creation and launch of a web-based portal for the growing artisan food and beverage sector, to connect local producers with their supply chain, building on the initial data gathering work being undertaken through Ontario East.
- The creation and launch of a web-based portal for an Eastern Ontario Training Network, providing "one-window" access to all training and education services across the region, for job seekers, employees and employers to find the services and training that they require.

5. 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, with multiple EOLC members sitting as members. Each group is chaired by an EOLC member or designate. They are as follows:

- Integrated, Intelligent Transportation System (I2TS) – Andrew Wallen
- Workforce Development and Deployment (WD&D) – Craig Desjardins
- Technology Integration and Innovation (TI&I) – David Fell

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

6. EOLC Board Meeting Schedule for 2018

Friday, February 2

Friday, March 16

Friday, May 25

Wednesday, July 18

Friday, September 7

Friday, November 23