
What is the Eastern Ontario Leadership Council?

Presentation for Elected Officials, Administrative and Economic Development staff members across Eastern Ontario

January 2018



History: why and when the EOLC began

Following the completion and adoption in 2014 of the [Eastern Ontario Economic Development Strategy](#) by both the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus and the Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus, a key action item of the strategy was the creation of a regional economic governance model, tasked with coordinating strategic, *regional*, economic development in Eastern Ontario.

History: why and when the EOLC began

Over the course of 2015 and 2016, the EOLC developed into a partnership between five regional organizations, representing both the municipal and economic development sectors:

- Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus
- Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus
- Eastern Ontario Regional Network
- Ontario East Economic Development Commission
- Community Futures (CFDCs) Ontario East



Role and Mandate of the EOLC

The EOLC's mandate is to lead the implementation of the regional economic development strategy. Each member organization contributes financially to provide the funding required to advance projects as well as the creation of three working groups, being:

- Integrated, Intelligent Transportation System
- Workforce Development and Deployment
- Technology Integration and Innovation



Governance Model Formalized and Operating

- Approved Terms of Reference (revised early 2018)
- Representation from five regionally-minded groups
- Initial funding obtained to get the EOLC operating
- Unincorporated, collaborative, 'pay to play' model
- EOLC board responsible for oversight of strategy implementation, identifying & responding to issues affecting *regional* economic development

EOLC Board / Membership Composition

- **Co-chairs:** One EOWC Warden and one EOMC Mayor
- **EOWC:** Two staff members from the EOWC CAOs group
- **EOMC:** Two staff members from the EOMC CAOs group
- **EORN:** Two staff members from the EORN administration
- **OEEDC:** One staff member and one board member
- **CFDCs:** One staff member and one board member
- **Staff:** Support staff hired on a contract basis

The EOLC is represented by five regional partners,
ready to help set the table for all of your success
– and the success of Eastern Ontario!



Role and Mandate of the Working Groups

- Guide EOLC's deliberations and offer recommendations on implementation priorities and directions
- Build broader collaborations across the region
- Draw on widespread expertise, to suit the task at hand
- Provide opportunities for cross-regional, cross-sectoral participation (e.g. private sector, post-secondary education)
- Multiple EOLC members sit on Working Groups
- Chaired by EOLC member (or designate)

Link Between EOLC and Working Groups

Through the working groups, the EOLC also serves to:

- Act as a conduit for information and policy positions with various stakeholders, including the Province of Ontario;
- Track and report on the performance of the Eastern Ontario economy, as it relates to the priorities of the Economic Development Strategy;
- Undertake advocacy on key economic issues; and
- Identify resources and provide recommendations on funding opportunities.

Two Collaboration-Based Funding Applications

- 1) Application submitted September 2017 to OMAFRA through the Rural Economic Development (RED) Program
 - **Funds would advance major projects in 2018-19**
- 2) Application submitted January 2018 to MEDG to refresh initial 2014 strategy, update implementation plan, and release *first Ministry-sponsored plan across Ontario*
 - **Eastern Ontario considered a “leader” due to its extensive experience in researching and preparing a regional strategy**

RED Application: 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 receptor organizations to share information on technologies and factors influencing successful entry into marketplace; the event would be live-streamed.
 - The creation and launch of a web-based portal for the **region's growing artisan food and beverage sector**, to connect local producers with their supply chain, building on the initial data gathering work being undertaken through OEEDC.
 - 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.

Projects Ongoing and On the Horizon

- EORN has completed and submitted (to both levels of government) the business case for a cellular and mobile broadband project
- Collaborating with MTO to explore opportunities for data, technology and infrastructure integration
- Following VIA Rail's plans for a dedicated passenger service connecting Toronto and Ottawa through Eastern Ontario
- Exploring opportunities for becoming a *regional* test bed for zero emission and other technologies; including seamless, efficient freight movement

Other Projects through the EOLC Working Groups

- Work with Magnet as platform for regional labour force matching (employers and job-seekers) and providing close-to-real time data on regional labour market
- Planning for succession for small businesses in multiple sectors, currently a major issue across the region
- Work with Ontario East to secure Sector Planning grant to design and build support for a 'rapid response' system for region's manufacturing sector

Questions? Comments? Let the EOLC know how it can help you.

For further discussion or information:

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