



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

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NEWS RELEASE

WARDENS OFFER ADVICE TO FEDERAL MINISTER OF FINANCE

Eastern Wardens deliver recommendations through their federal pre-budget submission

January 24, 2009

NEWS

The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus Inc. has offered a series of recommendations to the Honourable Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance that focus on improving the regional economy of Eastern Ontario.

The EOWC Inc.'s annual Pre-Budget Submission was approved last week in Kingston and was recently delivered to the Minister.

QUOTES

"This year's submission is targeted at encouraging the Federal Government to support Eastern Ontario through a number of specific actions that will strengthen our regional economy," stated Mr. Ron Emond, Chair of the EOWC Inc. and Warden of Hastings County. "We recognize that with nearly 12,000 lost jobs in the past two years alone that the focus must be on economic development and job creation", he added.

"We have provided Minister Flaherty with eight (8) specific recommendations ranging from investing in a modern, high-capacity regional broadband network to establishing an agricultural innovation fund valued at \$40 million dollars," said Emond.

"We believe our prosperity will depend on moving quickly into the 'knowledge-based economy' helping us promote innovation and entrepreneurship in our communities and at the same time reducing the burden on traditional industries like manufacturing and primary resource sectors to support our citizens," he added.

FACTS –

The following priorities will be advanced by the EOWC Inc. in 2009:

- Making a significant investment in the building of the proposed *Eastern Ontario Regional Broadband Network*;
- Supporting the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's (AMO) call for new federal investments in affordable housing;
- Supporting AMO's recommendation to increase funding under the Building Canada Fund for municipalities with populations less than 100,000 to support infrastructure projects both new and renewal;
- Investing federal support in the region's road and bridge systems as part of a fiscal stimulus package;
- Doubling the amount of money available under the Eastern Ontario Development Program from \$10 million to \$20 million and making permanent;
- Working with the EOWC Inc. to better develop the economic potential of the 5 deep water ports in eastern Ontario;
- Creating a new \$40 million dollar Agricultural Innovation Fund to support the sector across the region;
- Accelerating the planned federal investments in the renewal of the Trent-Severn Waterway.

EOWC Inc.

The EOWC Inc. is a corporation without share capital whose mandate is to present a unified voice on behalf of eastern Ontario municipalities engaging both the federal and provincial governments in developing new programs and policies that support the goal of realizing the region's full potential for sustainable economies and communities.

Membership includes the counties of Northumberland, Peterborough, Haliburton, Hastings, Lennox & Addington, Lanark, Renfrew, Frontenac, Stormont Dundas and Glengarry Counties, the United Counties of Leeds & Grenville, the United Counties of Prescott & Russell and the single tier municipalities of the City of Kawartha Lakes and the County of Prince Edward. The municipalities include some 900,000 people.

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