



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 2, 2007

**EASTERN WARDENS MOVE FORWARD ON BROADBAND, PROSPERITY  
PLAN PROVINCIAL SERVICE DELIVERY  
AND FISCAL CAPACITY REVIEW**

Brockville: Members of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus at its working meeting in Brockville on April 20<sup>th</sup> took steps to move forward and established directions for three significant initiatives affecting Eastern Ontario.

Following presentations by the Eastern Ontario Broadband Coalition Working Group and Eastern Ontario Community Futures Development Corporation the Caucus endorsed a broadband implementation plan for submission to the federal and provincial governments. Under the plan the Eastern Ontario Development Program would request the Federal Government to match the Province's budget amount of \$10 million. The strategy would call for an allocation of funds to each County based on research currently being completed by the broadband coalition group as well as the formation of key partnerships between municipalities and ISPs to meet the broadband needs of the residents they serve.

In an effort to address a broader range of issues facing Eastern Ontario, the Caucus plans to convene later this month to establish its priorities and develop a clear path forward on the implementation of the policy recommendations set in the Eastern Ontario Prosperity Plan. The Plan, which was released earlier this year by the Caucus in partnership with the Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDCs) of Eastern Ontario and the Economic Development Commission, speaks to the policy and program issues that must be addressed by all levels of government to ensure that Eastern Ontario will "unleash the region's full potential for sustainable economies and communities". The document is available for viewing at the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus website [www.eowc.org](http://www.eowc.org)

In connection with the Province's on-going Service Delivery and Fiscal Capacity Review, the Caucus plans to put the finishing touches to its submission to the political and co-coordinator tables responsible for conducting this review and making recommendations to the Province. At its meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup>, the Caucus endorsed a set of eight (8) principals or themes that will shape the contents of the submission. These principles range from addressing the provincial-municipal fiscal gap of \$3.2 billion identified by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario to establish a framework that best assesses what level of government has the financial and organizational capacity to effectively fund and deliver programs mandated by the province.

"Moving forward on broadband, the Prosperity Plan and the provincial Service Delivery and Capacity Review is essential and ensures the Caucus is fulfilling its mandate to advocate on behalf of the residents of Eastern Ontario" said Chair, J.

Douglas Struthers, Warden of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville. “The implementation of a plan to enhance broadband services across our regions in partnership with the stakeholders is crucial. When combined with the strategies that will be developed around the Prosperity Plan, I see a “management plan” emerging that will guide the Caucus, senior levels of government and stakeholders in the development and delivery of programs that will strengthen the competitiveness of our rural economies and communities in the region” said Struthers.

Regarding the submission to the working groups responsible for the provincial Service Delivery and Capacity Review, “ It is essential that the Caucus deliver a clear set of action oriented guidelines for the effective delivery of provincial programs in a financially responsible manner to the residents of Eastern Ontario” stated (add your Warden’s name).

**(You’re Wardens Quote Here)**

For more information:

**Your Warden’s Name and Contact Information**

Or

J. Douglas Struthers  
EOWC Chair & Warden, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville

E-mail: [mayor@merrickville-wolford.ca](mailto:mayor@merrickville-wolford.ca)  
Phone: (613) 342-3840  
Cell: (613) 498-7254  
Website: [www.eowc.org](http://www.eowc.org)