



Faster, Further: Improving High Speed Broadband in Eastern Ontario

Broadband is coming to Eastern Ontario with the help of the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus Inc. (www.eowc.org) and the support of federal, provincial and municipal funding, as well as the private sector.

Enabling high-speed internet access will improve the quality of life for residents and support innovation and economic growth. “This is a desperately needed investment. Our region has lost thousands of jobs in traditional industries such as manufacturing, service industries and forestry over the past five years, and some 300,000 homes and businesses have little or no internet access,” said J. Murray Jones Chair of the EOWC and warden of Peterborough County.

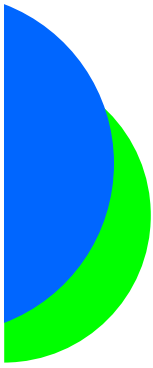
The Eastern Ontario Regional Network, or EORN, aims to bring higher speeds and bandwidth to at least 95% of homes and businesses in Eastern Ontario, a majority of which will gain internet speeds of up to 10 Mbps. This multi-year, \$170 million project has three main components:

1. **Backbone:** A scalable network of wireless towers, optical fibre and high-speed switches that will involve about 500 km of new optical fibre and create 160 new “access points.”
2. **Access:** High speed links connect users, such as businesses and residents, to the network at the most affordable rates we can achieve. Internet Service Providers (ISPs) will bid on the opportunity to provide services and they will receive funding to assist in improving and adding the costly infrastructure that’s needed.
3. **Satellite:** To ensure that no one is left behind, we are providing satellite access for those areas that cannot be reached by wireless or fibre networks, either because the terrain is too difficult or because the population is too sparse.

The Project will cover the more than 50,000 square kilometers that make up Eastern Ontario, an area larger than 109 countries around the world. At the time of its launch, EORN was the largest broadband project underway in Canada.

“We have been heartened by the tremendous response to our project by citizens and businesses across Eastern Ontario and we owe a real thank you to both the Federal and Provincial governments for supporting our efforts,” said David Burton Chair of the Board of Directors of EORN.

Bell and Bell Aliant, working together, with the EOWC began work to build the essential optical fibre backbone of the network in September. They were selected through a



competitive bidding process in which they offered a robust, scalable design within the anticipated budget.

“Bringing private sector partners like Bell and Bell Aliant to the project with their expertise and financial investments is truly resulting in an effective public-private partnership,” stated Mel Campbell, Vice Chair of the EOWC.

The EOWC team has also been preparing and issuing Requests for Proposals (RFP) for the “last mile access” component of the project. Four of seven RFPs have been issued to the private sector, and by the end of this August, all of the RFPs will have been issued.

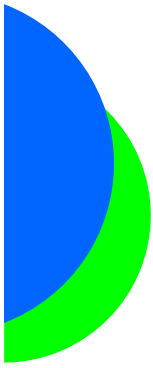
Access to the internet for some residents and businesses located in sparsely populated areas will be via satellite. This past January, the EOWC and Barrett Xplore Inc. jointly announced a new partnership to bring better access to satellite services at reduced costs. EOWC has negotiated packages that can offer savings of \$1,999.00 on a three-year contract for speeds of up to 1.5Mbps. Barrett Xplore is also investing heavily in improving the quality of satellite service. The technology used to deliver satellite service is steadily moving toward the same speed as wired and wireless options, for comparable rates.

A complete project schedule is set out below. To view maps of the EORN zones, please visit www.eorn.ca and go to “Maps and Schedules.” This map also identifies satellite zones.

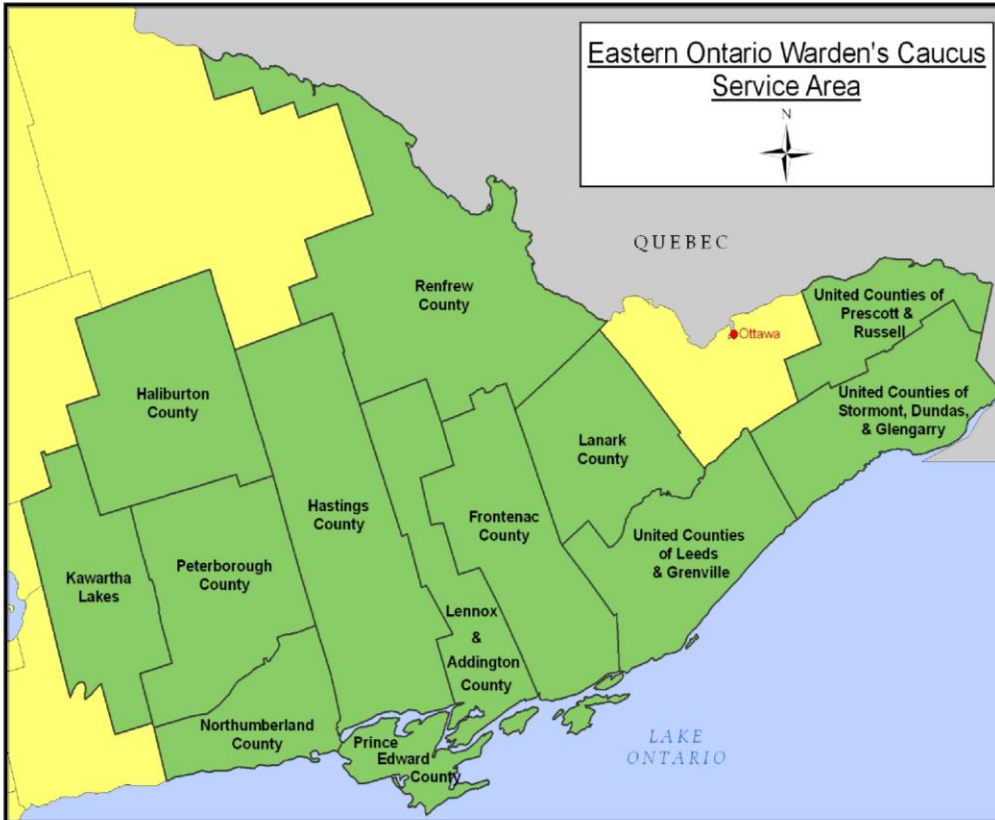
EORN Zone* Names	Expected Service Availability to Household
Embrun	Spring 2012
Quinte- Loyalist	Spring 2012
Northumberland, Highlands, South Nation	Fall 2012
Haliburton, Kawartha	Fall 2012
Ottawa Valley North Ottawa Valley South	Fall 2012
Lanark, SD&G, Dorset Seabright	Spring 2013
Hastings North Thousand Islands	Spring 2013

For more information contact:

Lisa Severson – Communications & Stakeholder Relations Officer: seversonl@eorn.ca



Eastern Ontario Regional Network Coverage Area



Area is larger than:

- 109 countries
- 9x PEI
- >Vancouver Island
- Equal to Nova Scotia
- 50,000 sq kms
- Home 6 First Nations
- **Project Cost \$170m**