



EORN

EASTERN ONTARIO REGIONAL NETWORK

Welcome to the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) newsletter. Below you'll find an update on the Cell Gap Project as well as some other things we are commonly asked about. Please encourage others to [sign up](#) for the newsletter as well.

First new cell towers go in service

The first newly constructed towers as part of the Cell Gap Project are now in service. At [a celebratory event in Maxville on November 7](#), it was announced that new towers in Maxville, Greenfield, Glen Robertson and Wendover are now live. Meanwhile, more than 260 existing towers have already been upgraded with new equipment to increase cell phone coverage and capacity in the region.



Celebrating the first new towers in service in Maxville on November 7. From left to right: MPP Nolan Quinn, EORN Chair J. Murray Jones, EORN board member Brent Devolin, EORN board member Rick Phillips, EOWC Chair Debbie Robinson, Rogers' Senior VP Wireless Marketing Bart Nickerson, EORN board member Pierre Leroux, United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Warden Carma Williams, City of Cornwall Mayor Glen Grant, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan's Chief Wendy Jocko and MP Francis Drouin.

Archaeological assessment of new tower sites

As part of the Cell Gap Project, EORN is committed to working with Indigenous communities and organizations to ensure that new cell infrastructure is built with respect for Indigenous priorities, treaty rights and heritage. Based on input from several First Nations, EORN and Rogers Communications Inc. have committed to conducting Stage 1 and Stage 2 archaeological assessments on all new tower sites. Stage 1 assessments consist of a desktop review of a proposed tower site and Stage 2 assessments see archaeologists visiting and conducting work at the actual sites. EORN and Indigenous communities and organizations are also in frequent discussions, looking at the natural features of proposed tower sites in an effort to minimize and mitigate the potential impact of construction.



Archaeological staff at work during a Stage 2 assessment at one of the proposed tower sites.

EORN welcomes a new CEO

The EORN board of directors and staff welcomed a new CEO earlier this year. Jason St.Pierre has replaced long-time EORN CEO David Fell who departed earlier this year to join Utilities Kingston as President and CEO.

“We are pleased to have Jason take on this vital role with EORN. His experience in the telecommunications sector, management expertise and strong ties to eastern Ontario position him to be an excellent leader – particularly as we continue to manage the rollout of the Cell Gap Project. He will also be a knowledgeable advocate for connectivity across the region,” said EORN Chair J. Murray Jones.

The full CEO announcement is available on the EORN website.



One of the new towers that was built with funds from a \$300 million public-private partnership to improve and expand cellular services across rural eastern Ontario. About half the project funding comes from the federal and provincial governments, as well as municipal members of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) and most of the Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus (EOMC). Rogers Communications Inc., which was selected through a competitive bidding process, is providing the balance of the investment.

Low-cost mobile and broadband programs

Canadians deserve access to high-quality cellular and internet services at affordable prices. The primary objective of [Canada's Digital Charter](#) is focused on ensuring that all Canadians have equal opportunity to participate in the digital world and the necessary tools to do so, including access, connectivity, literacy and skills. EORN has compiled this list based on publicly available information. The choice of provider remains with the consumer.

Please contact your provider of choice directly to see what programs and discounts you maybe eligible for.

Mobile programs:

- [Bell Accessibility Services Program](#)
- [Fido Accessibility Services Discount](#)
- [Freedom Mobile Accessibility Services Program](#)
- [Freedom Mobile Exclusive Partner Offer](#)
- [Rogers Accessibility Services Program](#)
- [Telus Accessibility Services Program](#)
- [Telus Mobility for Good](#)
- [Videotron Accessibility Services Discount](#)
- [Virgin Mobile Accessibility Discount](#)

Broadband programs:

- [Connecting Families 1.0 \(2018\)](#)
- [Connecting Families 2.0 \(2022\)](#)
- [Eastlink Student Discounts](#)
- [Nexicom Student Discounts](#)
- [Rogers Connected for Success](#)

Coming soon

EORN will be looking for new board members in 2023. Keep an eye on the [EORN website](#) in January for more details.

Resources

www.eorn.ca features a number of resources for municipalities and residents such as:

- [EORN backgrounder](#) (1 MB/PDF)
- [General information and FAQ on Cell Gap Project](#) (web page)
- [5G Technology Resource Guide](#) (15 MB/PDF)
- [Municipal Tower Siting Resource Guide](#) (10 MB/PDF).