



RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES OF EMBRUN, LIMOGES, RUSSELL AND VARS NOW HAVE ACCESS TO HIGH-SPEED INTERNET

Construction Completed on the Embrun Zone of Eastern Ontario's Regional Broadband Network

December 16, 2011

Embrun, Ontario – More than 8,000 residents and businesses in the United Counties of Prescott & Russell now have access to wireless high-speed Internet.

Pierre Lemieux, Member of Parliament for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell, on behalf of the Honourable Denis Lebel, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, and Grant Crack, Parliamentary Assistant to the Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and Member of Provincial Parliament for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell, today joined representatives from the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) Incorporated and the United Counties of Prescott and Russell to celebrate this significant milestone.

The Embrun Zone is the first of 15 areas to receive high-speed Internet access through the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) – Ontario's largest rural broadband network project. Once completed, the network will provide broadband service to residents and businesses in many of the counties of Eastern Ontario, including Hastings, Peterborough, Renfrew, Northumberland, Haliburton, Frontenac, Lanark, Prince Edward, Lennox & Addington, the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry, the United Counties of Prescott & Russell, the United Counties of Leeds & Grenville, as well as the City of Kawartha Lakes. Xplornet Communications Inc. has activated thirteen 4G fixed-wireless towers and special service packages that offer speeds of up to 10 Mbps to residents and businesses. The high-speed coverage zone spans the area between Devine and Indian Creek roads to the north, Concession Road 10 and 11 to the south, and from Yorks Corners Road to the west and Country Road 8 to the east.

The wireless access points connect to EORN's 5,500 kilometre fibre-optic network, which is being built by Bell Aliant and Bell.

"Access to modern, high-speed internet service is a vital asset for businesses and people living in rural regions of Canada," said Pierre Lemieux, Member of Parliament for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell, on behalf of the Honourable Denis Lebel, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities. "Our Government is committed to expanding Canada's broadband network, which is helping to create jobs and economic growth here in Eastern Ontario, and connecting families and friends in communities across the country."

"Our government is investing in projects that strengthen the economy and create jobs for Ontario families. This rural broadband network puts rural businesses on a level playing field

with urban businesses and opens up new opportunities for communication with customers and business partners,” said Ted McMeekin, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

“Today’s launch is an important step toward our goal of providing higher speeds and bandwidth to at least 95 per cent of homes in Eastern Ontario,” said J. Murray Jones, Chair of the EOWC. “Broadband access will improve the quality of life for our residents and help businesses thrive.”

“We are excited to launch high-speed Internet access in the Embrun Zone a full five months ahead of schedule and we’re looking forward to completing work on the remaining 14 EORN Zones,” said Dave Burton, Chair of the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN).

“After completion of this project, Prescott and Russell will be one of the best covered rural regions in Ontario. We are proud to deliver this service to our taxpayers,” said United Counties of Prescott & Russell Warden, Jean-Yves Lalonde.

“Xplornet is pleased to have contributed to this important project in partnership with the Eastern Ontario Wardens’ Caucus. This deployment, which finished five months ahead of schedule, is groundbreaking since Embrun is the first area in Canada with access to our 10 Mbps package. This robust 4G service is faster than any other fixed, residential high-speed Internet service in rural Canada, and will be a great complement to the 4G satellite services that will be launched across the region early next year,” said John Maduri, Chief Executive Officer at Xplornet Communications Inc.

The Eastern Ontario Regional Network project is a \$170 million initiative supported through substantial investment from federal, provincial and local governments, along with private sector contributions. The governments of Canada and Ontario have each committed up to one-third of total eligible costs of the project, to a maximum contribution of \$55 million each. EOWC Inc. and private sector partners are providing the remaining funding, with EOWC Inc. contributing up to \$10 million. Xplornet Communications Inc. has contributed \$750,000 towards the construction of the network in the Embrun zone. Bell and Bell Aliant have contributed \$23 million towards the fibre backhaul network.

Funding from the Government of Canada is being provided through the Building Canada Fund – Major Infrastructure Component, which targets larger, strategic projects of national or regional significance.

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Backgrounder: Eastern Ontario Regional Network

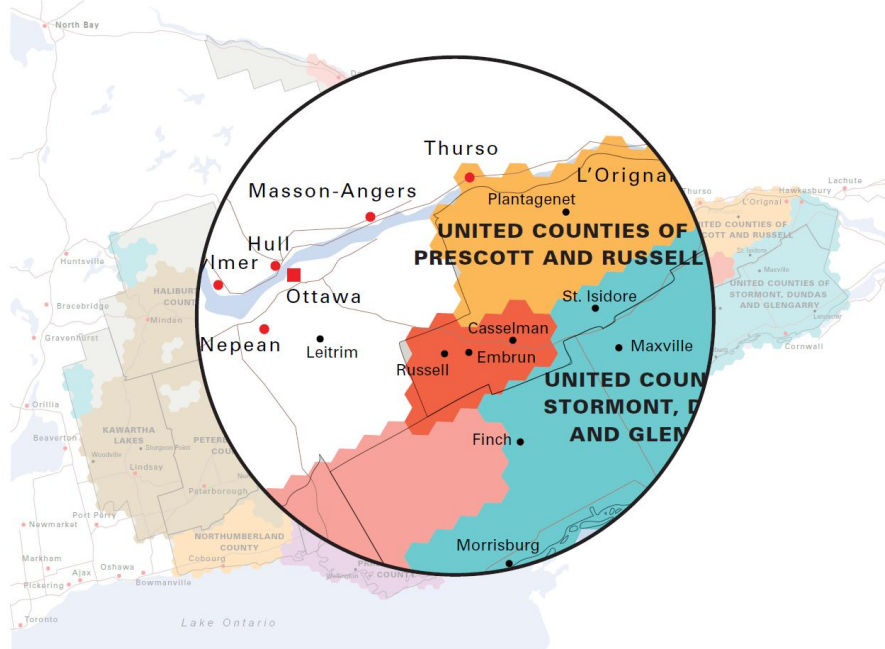
The Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus is spearheading a \$170 million broadband project that will see improved access to high-speed Internet across the region by 2014. Given that high-speed is essential for a host of services and information delivered by the Internet, expanding this access is critical to improving the quality of life and economic growth of the community.

The project is supported through substantial investments from federal, provincial and local governments, along with private sector contributions. To manage this important initiative, the EOWC created the Eastern Ontario Regional Network.

- The project is made up of three main components:
 - **Backbone:** A scalable network of 5,500 km of new and existing fibre connected by new generation high-speed switches in 160 Points of Presence throughout Eastern Ontario. Construction began last year on this wired portion of the network.
 - **Access:** Links the end-user, such as businesses and residents, to the network through either wired or fixed wireless technology. EORN will promote high-speed bandwidth access that bridges the urban/rural price gap. Internet service providers can bid and receive funding to assist in improving and adding new infrastructure.
 - **Satellite:** Ensures no one is left behind by providing satellite access for those that the wireless and wired network cannot reach. Improved and more affordable satellite services are now available through Xplornet Communications Inc. by contacting any of the company's dealers across the EORN region.
- The project aims to improve access to the Internet with higher speeds and bandwidth to at least 95 per cent of homes and businesses in Eastern Ontario, a majority of which will see speeds up to 10 Mbps.
- The entire project encompasses a region of more than one million people spread out over 50,000 square kilometres.
- A mix of wired, wireless and satellite technologies will be required to deliver high-speed access across the varied terrain and remote communities of the region.
- EORN will choose technology based on the best fit for the needs of a particular area and is negotiating improved rates from Internet service providers through a competitive proposal process. The region has been divided into 15 zones to facilitate these contracts.

Quick Facts – Embrun

- The local access contract for the Embrun Zone was awarded to Xplornet Communications Inc. in August 2011. As part of the contract, Xplornet expanded its fixed wireless network to reach a 500 square kilometre region in the southwest corner of the United Counties of Prescott and Russell.
- The Embrun zone includes more than 8,000 homes and businesses.
- Xplornet has activated 13 4G fixed-wireless towers and created special service packages for area residents that offer speeds up to 10Mbps.
- The high-speed coverage zone spans the area between Devine and Indian Creek roads to the north, Concession Road 10 and 11 to the south, and from Yorks Corners Road to the west and Country Road 8 to the east.
- The service is available through Xplornet's local dealers, including Source Embrun, Lenz Computer & Electronic Store and R&R Satellite Antenna. 4G packages start at just \$49.99 a month. Xplornet is currently offering a launch promotion of 50 per cent off for the first six months of service.



Residents and businesses in the Embrun area, shown above in red, now have improved access to high-speed Internet through the Eastern Ontario Regional Network project.