

EORN Cell Gap Project

Eastern Ontario can only thrive if its residents have the tools to succeed. High-speed internet access and reliable cellular connectivity – at home, work and on the road – are key to our economic prosperity. Valued at \$300 million, the federal and provincial governments are providing \$71 million each to the Cell Gap Project, while all municipal members of the EOWC and most of the EOMC have committed to the \$10 million municipal share of funding. Rogers Communications is providing the balance of the funds.

Cell Gap Project goals

- 99 per cent of the area with voice calling services.
- At least 95 per cent of the area with standard-definition level services, such as video-app calls, basic app usage and streaming of SD video.
- At least 85 per cent of the area with service levels that can support streaming high-definition video and more data-intensive apps.

Project planning launched in 2021. Over the next four to five years, it will build more than 300 new telecommunications towers, a combination of new tower constructions and colocations, and upgrade more than 300 existing sites. New services are activated as groups of towers are completed.



Better cell range and capacity is critical for the region's economy and quality of life. It has the potential to:

- Create more than 3,000 full-time equivalent jobs and spur \$420 million in new business revenue over 10 years.
- Improve safety so people aren't left stranded with "no signal."
- Provide greater choice to residents and ready the region for the next evolution of technology.

Improving cell and broadband connectivity

About EORN

Founded in 2010 by the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC), the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) is a non-profit that works on behalf of the region's municipal governments to fuel economic development and growth through better connectivity. EORN uses in-depth study and analysis of regional access to develop solutions. It advocates for public-private partnerships to fund and then oversees project builds. Since 2010, it has helped bring approximately \$500 million in investment to improve connectivity across the rural region. Jurisdictions from across Canada and the world have reached out to learn from EORN's experience. EORN is governed by an independent Board comprised of elected officials from the EOWC and Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus (EOMC), as well as three members of the public.



Broadband

From 2010 to 2014, EORN's first project helped to enhance broadband access for nearly 90 per cent of eastern Ontario through a \$175 million public-private partnership. The network was funded by federal, provincial, and municipal governments and private sector service providers. By the end of the project, 423,000 homes and businesses were able to access services of up to 10 Mbps download. It also spurred an additional \$100 million of private sector investment in the region beyond initial commitments.

About eastern Ontario

The EORN initiative applies to a geographic area of nearly 50,000 square kilometres that includes 13 members of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (11 regional county municipalities and two single-tier municipalities), and nine separated municipalities who are members of the Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus. EORN is also consulting with Indigenous communities and organizations about the Cell Gap Project.

The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus includes:

- County of Frontenac
- County of Haliburton
- County of Hastings
- City of Kawartha Lakes (single tier)
- County of Lanark
- United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
- County of Lennox and Addington
- County of Northumberland
- County of Peterborough
- United Counties of Prescott and Russell
- Prince Edward County (single tier)
- County of Renfrew
- United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry

The nine separated municipalities participating in the Cell Gap Project are:

- Kingston
- Belleville
- Quinte West
- Smiths Falls
- Gananoque
- Prescott
- City of Peterborough
- Pembroke
- Cornwall