



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.



Cell Gap Project Update

The [EORN Cell Gap Project](#) aims to dramatically improve cell phone coverage and capacity in the areas of eastern Ontario where people live, work and travel on major roadways. Valued at more than \$300 million, the project will involve construction of approximately 265 new telecommunications towers and the upgrade of more than 300 existing sites. Upgrading of the existing sites is now

underway and as of March 14, 2022, 140 towers have been upgraded. Construction of six new towers has also commenced. Work is to be completed by 2025, with new services activated as groups of towers are completed. 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). The balance is investment by Rogers Communications, which was selected through a competitive bidding process.



Land use authority (LUA)

All new cell telecommunications towers need to go through a land use authority (LUA) process, which is set by the federal government, and managed by municipalities. Telecommunications service providers (TSPs) contact the municipality to start the LUA process once they have found a site location for a proposed new tower and often after they have signed a lease with the property owner. In the case of the EORN Cell Gap Project, Rogers Communications will initiate the process with municipal governments. Federally, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) sets out the parameters of the LUA process, including public consultation requirements. Municipalities can add their own requirements by developing their own tower siting protocol. EORN has developed a [Tower Siting Resource Guide](#) (10 MB/PDF) to assist municipalities in this process.



Roaming

When your phone is roaming, it means you're able to use your mobile phone outside of your telecom service provider's coverage area. This can be particularly handy when you are in an area that is known for reduced cellular service by your particular provider or when you are travelling abroad. However, there can be additional charges associated with roaming especially if roaming is not part of your service agreement with your provider. Roaming agreements vary between plans and providers. If your phone has roaming turned on it will occur without notice. For example, in eastern Ontario, if you travel along the St. Lawrence River near the U.S. border and there is an area where your provider doesn't have great service it is possible that your phone will automatically pick up a signal from a tower in the U.S. If you don't want to roam or don't want to take a chance that you accidentally do, you can switch your roaming off in the settings of your phone.



Resources

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

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