

Improved Connectivity for Today and Tomorrow

Eastern Ontario can only thrive if its residents have the tools to succeed. Today, that includes access to high-speed internet at home, work and on the road. It is key to our economic prosperity.

Since 2010, municipal governments across rural Eastern Ontario have come together to improve local connectivity through a not-for-profit called the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN), which was created by the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus. We've had great success. However, it is an ongoing effort, as technology continues to drive greater demand for speed and bandwidth.

Achieved Better Broadband

From 2010-2015, EORN oversaw a \$175 million investment in new broadband infrastructure funded by all three orders of government and the private sector that:

- Connected a 5,500-km fibre optic backbone across the region.
- Improved connectivity for about 90% of homes and businesses, adding more than 140,000 new broadband subscribers so far.
- Connected more than 60 business parks with fibre broadband.
- Created a 10-year Digital Strategy focused on economic growth.
- Generated additional telecom investments bringing total project value to \$260 million.
- Spurred new private sector investments since 2015, including \$100 million in new broadband infrastructure, with more fibre and wireless equipment in the pipeline.

Now: Focus on Cell Service

EORN has created a \$213 million public-private partnership to improve cell service by building on the new broadband infrastructure. The project has the potential to:

- Address gaps across the region in cellular services where people live, work or travel.
- 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."

Continued Advocacy and Expansion

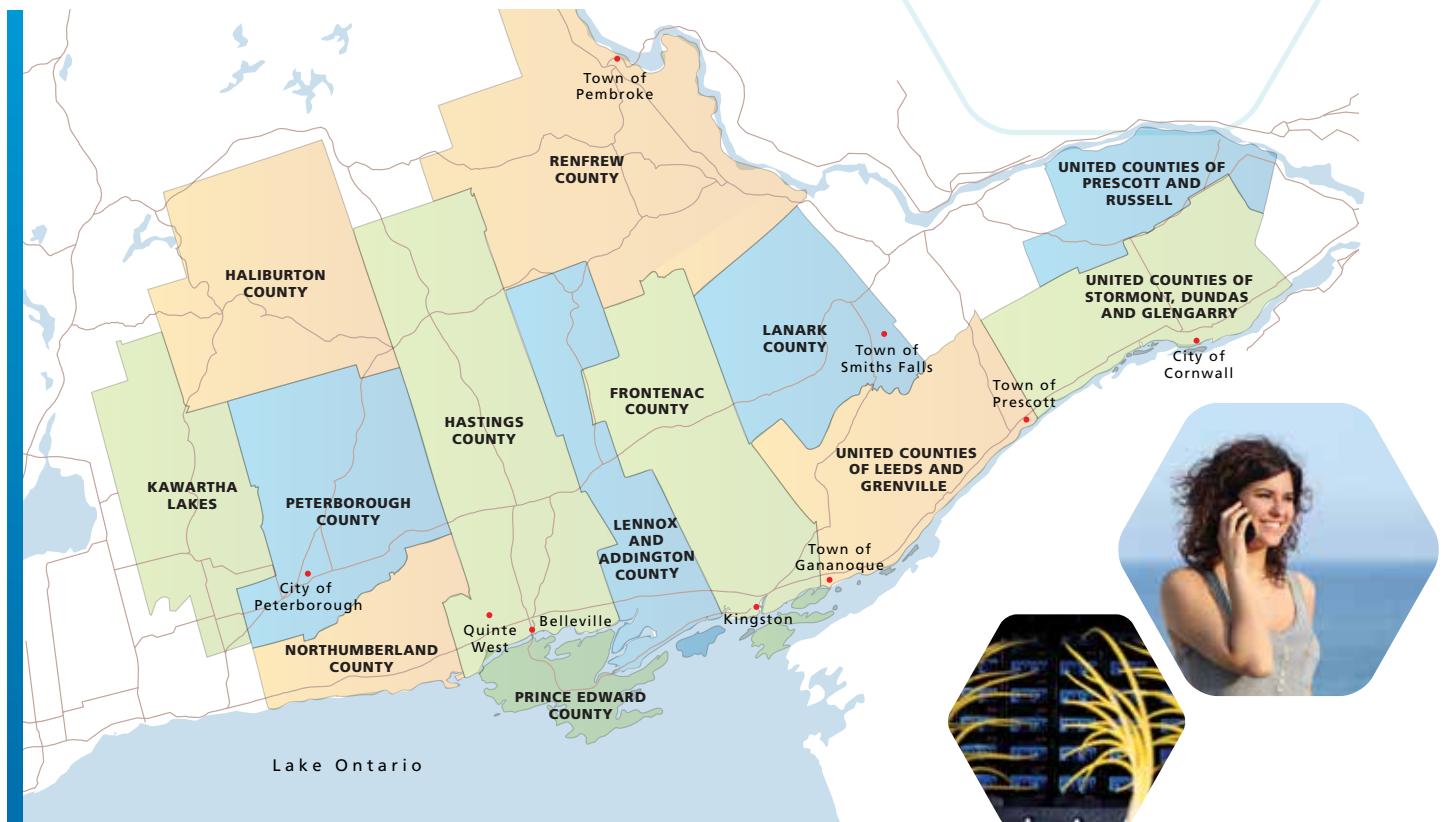
The Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) has designated both mobile and fixed broadband access as a basic service for all Canadians. It also set a goal of 50Mbps download/10 Mbps upload speeds. EORN was an advocate for this move and it continues to:

- Identify where "50/10" speeds are not available and determine the estimated cost to ensure access to the CRTC standard across the region. A technical study is underway.
- Develop a cost estimate to bring 1 Gig service to homes and businesses.



Eastern Ontario

Eastern Ontario is home to almost 1.2 million people spread over 50,000 square kilometres.



EOMC EORN members:

- Hastings County
- Peterborough County
- Renfrew County
- Northumberland County
- Haliburton County
- Frontenac County
- Lanark County
- Prince Edward County
- Lennox & Addington County
- the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry
- the United Counties of Prescott & Russell
- the United Counties of Leeds & Grenville
- the City of Kawartha Lakes

Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus (EOMC):

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

The EOWC has been highly successful in driving regional initiatives on common challenges, from region-wide economic development to joint advocacy on infrastructure, broadband and beyond. The EOWC works collaboratively with the Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus (EOMC) and others to achieve shared goals.

The EOWC oversees and appoints EORN's 9-member Board of Directors. The members of the Board include representatives from the EOWC, EOMC, as well as three public members who have telecom, legal or management expertise.