



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

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# **Historical Overview and Accomplishments**

January 2016

# Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus



- **45,000** sq. km
- **750,000** population
- **13** upper and single-tier
- **90** lower-tier municipalities



# What we do

- Monitor federal, provincial and municipal legislation, regulatory and government information
- Conduct research and analysis on issues of importance to rural eastern Ontario
- Political influence and advocacy
- Partnerships (AMO, EOMC, WOWC, CFDCs)
- Communication and representation

## What we do

- **2004 CRF Reconciliation** – “Pay Your Bills” campaign resulted in the Province reversing its decision not to reconcile actual costs for downloaded programs and payment of \$90 million across the municipal sector.
- **Land Ambulance Costs** – Along with AMO strongly advocated on the issue of true 50-50 cost sharing between the province and municipalities. In 2006, the Province announced a three-year phase-in of \$300 million



## Past Successes

- **2005: CFDC / EOWC partnership** – Federal support of \$10 million per year for the EODP (Eastern Ontario Development Program) to promote the growth of businesses in rural communities. Extended in 2013, an additional \$48 million committed over 5 years.
- **2008: Provincial EODF Program** – \$80 million for the Eastern Ontario Development Fund (\$20M / year for 4 years). One of the EOWC's recommendations. The EODF was made permanent in 2012.

## Past Successes

- **2010-2015: EORN** – Partnership with federal, provincial and private sectors for a total \$172-million investment in high speed infrastructure
- 425,000 homes/businesses acquire access to high speed service, plus an additional 50+ industrial parks acquire access to high-speed fibre
- Approval of EORN Phase 2 in October 2014 – Digital Strategy and Cellular Gap Analysis



# Significant Research

- **Research and Production of five White Papers**
  - August 2013 – Municipal Infrastructure
  - August 2013 – Municipal Affordability
  - December 2013 – Ratepayer Affordability
  - July 2014 – Environmental Services
  - July 2014 – Social Housing

# Lobbying and Advocacy

- **2011/2012** – Lobbied for changes to mandatory participation in Housing Services Corporation insurance program for Social Housing
  - Result: changes implemented
- **2012/2013** – Lobbied for Province to introduce “formula based” infrastructure funding instead of all funding being application based / lottery style.
  - Result: Province introduced \$100 million OCIF and Small Communities Fund



## Lobbying and Advocacy

- **2013/2014** – Lobbied for legislative change to improve POA fine collection
  - Result: Province amended legislation and improvements forthcoming – Bill 173
- **June 2014** – EOWC formally partnered with Eastern Ontario Mayors Committee (EOMC) and CFDCs to complete “Eastern Ontario Regional Economic Development Strategy”

## Lobbying and Advocacy

- **March 2014** – Consultation with Future Health on digital Home HealthCare monitoring. Program now being delivered independently by several EMS Departments and CCACs with LHIN funding.
- **May 2015** – Lobbied Federal government to protect Broadband spectrum in Rural areas. Successful.
- **August 2015** – Researched and lobbying of Province and MTO for improvements to asphalt quality. Province is now tracking and communicating on research and progress along with OGRA task force.



# Recent Projects and Successes

- **June 2014** – Completion of the Eastern Ontario Economic Development Strategy
- **August 2014** – Successful lobbying in favour of the creation of a permanent municipal infrastructure fund
- **March 2015** – Creation of the Eastern Ontario Purchasing Cooperative
- **May 2015** – Provided IT Director training program

## Recent Projects and Successes

- **August 2015** – Successful lobbying in favour of the passage of provincial Bill 34 (now Bill 31)
- **September 2015** – Secured CFDC & EORN Funding to formally create “Leadership Council” and hire Coordinator to focus on implementation of Regional Economic Development Strategy
- **December 2015** – Ongoing lobbying efforts against Ontario’s Bill 8 (Accountability Act)



# Financial Summary

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• CRF Reconciliation	\$90 M
• Rural Broadband (Provincial)	\$40 M
• EORN Project	\$172 M*
• EODF (Provincial)	\$80 M +
• EODP (Federal)	\$88 M +
• Business Education Tax Reductions	\$540 M
• Ambulance 50-50	\$300 M
• <b>Total</b>	<b>\$1.31 Billion +</b>

\* Note: includes 62m in private sector cash investments