



## Backgrounder: Eastern Ontario Regional Network

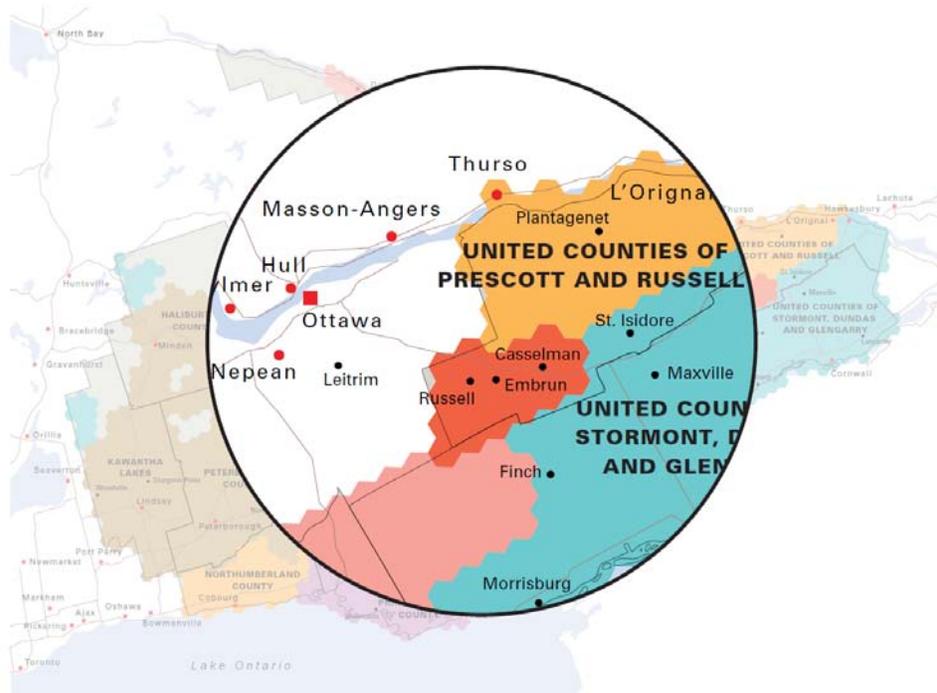
The Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus is spearheading a \$170 million broadband project that will see improved access to high-speed Internet across the region by 2014. Given that high-speed is essential for a host of services and information delivered by the Internet, expanding this access is critical to 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 wireless access points connect to EORN's fibre optic network, a 5,500 km backbone which is being built by Bell Aliant.
- 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.*