



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

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

• 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
• Total	\$1.31 Billion +

* Note: includes 62m in private sector cash investments