

# Signal for Innovation:

Improving Mobile Broadband in Eastern Ontario

Enhance. Expand. Empower.

The Eastern Ontario Regional Network proposes a **\$213 million** public-private partnership to close gaps in cell coverage and capacity in areas where there are homes, businesses and public roads.



## What's New?

Ontario's 2018 provincial budget earmarked **\$71 million** for its share of the project.



## ACTION:

EORN seeks federal support, and that of all Ontario provincial parties, to ensure Eastern Ontario keeps pace with demand for connectivity.

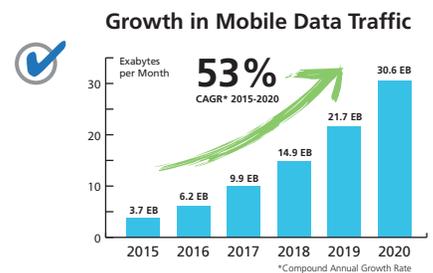
## Cellular improvements will:



Create **3,000** full-time equivalent jobs over 10 years.



Spur **\$420 million** in new business revenue.



Meet exponential **growth** in demand.



**Improve safety** and support a future national public safety broadband network.



Prepare for **5G** driven technologies.

## About the Eastern Ontario Regional Network

The Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) is a non-profit organization focused on supporting the region's quality of life and economic development through improved connectivity for rural Eastern Ontario.

### Improved Fixed Broadband Access

From 2010 to 2014, EORN built a \$175-million network that improved broadband access to about 90% of Eastern Ontario. The innovative public-private partnership was funded by the federal, provincial and municipal governments, and private sector service providers.

As expected, the EORN project has spurred further investment by the private sector to further improve and expand broadband infrastructure in the region. Since the project was completed, internet service providers have invested more than \$100 million, with even more expected in the next few years in new infrastructure like fibre-to-the-home, fixed wireless towers and radios.

EORN includes:

- A scalable 5,500-km fibre optic backbone network.
- Local access networks that link people to the backbone through either wired or fixed wireless technology.
- More affordable satellite packages to reach areas that wireless or wired service cannot due to extreme population scarcity and/or difficult terrain.
- New fibre optic connections to more than 60 business parks and clusters across the region, improving communities' ability to attract and retain local business.

Today, EORN continues to oversee local access contracts. It's also collaborating with government and local partners on a digital strategy to improve and leverage broadband access to fuel economic growth. It is also driving continued efforts to improve regional connectivity through a cellular improvement and public safety network project.

### Eastern Ontario

Eastern Ontario is home to nearly one million people spread out over 50,000 square kilometres. EORN was created by the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, which represents:

- 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.

