



May 4, 2021

Honourable Maryam Monsef
Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development
180 Kent Street, Suite 1100
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 9B6

Honourable Laurie Scott
Minister of Infrastructure
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2J3

Dear Ministers:

Yesterday as Chairs of the EOWC, EOMC and EORN we brought together 75 participants of which 59 were heads of council from across eastern Ontario to discuss the proposed EORN Gig Project. We were very pleased with the attendance given the short notice of the meeting.

We want you to know that there is overwhelming support for the Gig Project from mayors, reeves and wardens from across our region. This is in addition to the unanimous support of all 13 EOWC Wardens and the 10 Mayors of the separated cities and towns throughout eastern Ontario that we shared with you some weeks ago. Municipalities of all sizes in our region want an EORN led Gig Project because it is the right solution for today and long into the future.

We also want you to know that there is deep appreciation for the hard work both of you have put in to secure the historic levels of funding for building out broadband infrastructure. Together you have made this critical infrastructure a priority for both Canada and Ontario. As Chairs we want to add our thanks to you as well.

In the coming days we expect Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament and perhaps you, will be hearing from heads of council and councillors asking for their support for the project.

We appreciated your email communication to us this past Friday Minister Scott and shared it with the participants at yesterday's meeting. We also apprised them of your recent meeting with Chair Jones, Minister Monsef. It too was a very welcome gesture.

As some participants noted it has been nearly a year since EORN first submitted its Gig Project proposal to Canada and Ontario. We continue to believe that the project should be a part of the plans your governments have for our region.

EORN has proven itself more than capable of delivering large complex projects. It is quick, efficient, and effective. As a non-profit entity its overhead and administrative costs are low. It works equally well with small, medium, and large telecommunications companies, all of whom should be part of the build solution. A number of those same companies are telling us that they prefer the EORN approach because of the way it brings all sources of government funding into one spot along with the professional and effective way EORN runs its procurement process.

Ministers let's execute the EORN Gig Project together. It is time to move forward.

We look forward to hearing back from you and are ready to meet with you at your convenience.

Yours truly,



J. Murray Jones
Chair, EORN
Warden, Peterborough County



Debbie Robinson
Chair, EOWC
Warden, Renfrew County



Diane Therrien
Chair, EOMC
City of Peterborough

cc Eastern Ontario Members of Parliament
Eastern Ontario Member of Provincial Parliament
Heads of Council for eastern Ontario
EOWC members
EOMC members
EORN Board of Directors