



EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL

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May ____, 2021

Honourable Maryan Monsef
Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development
180 Kent St, Suite 1100
Ottawa, ON
K1P 9B6

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

SUBJECT: EORN Gig Project

Dear Ministers,

We are pleased to express our support for EORN's Gig Project to deliver ultra-fast internet speeds to homes and businesses in Eastern Ontario. We believe that the Gig Project will have meaningful and lasting beneficial impacts on our community. The Gig Project would be game changing for Eastern Ontario to assist in attracting and retaining businesses and residents, and to compete globally over the long term.

The Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal, with a population of just under 7,000 people, is located in Eastern Ontario. The Township is located at the intersection of Provincial Highways 401 and 416, with the Township being less than an hour drive from the cities of Ottawa and Kingston. The Township borders the majestic St. Lawrence River Seaway to the south, and includes multiple rural villages and hamlets, including the Township's Industrial Park in Johnstown, the small industrial Village of Cardinal, and the historical Township Hall in the Village of Spencerville.

Access to high-speed internet throughout the Township is a high priority for the Township Council. As an underserved rural community, the lack of high-speed Internet access has prevented residents from taking advantage of the many opportunities afforded by the digital era. By making faster internet speeds available in the Township, the proposed project will allow households, businesses and community institutions to keep pace with changing technology and to fully participate in the digital economy. This lack of adequate connectivity has been brought even more sharply into focus with the COVID-19 pandemic. Fixing the issue with a comprehensive Gig solution will ensure that rural communities have the connectivity needed to recover from the pandemic.

The Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal considers the following to be reason for the Township to have access to high-speed internet:

- Lack of services and capacity throughout the Township, including areas within the Township that receive poor service that can't handle current demand for data
- Growing use of internet, and mobile internet cellular networks for business, personal and emergency response purposes
- Minimize the gap of high-speed, reliable internet in Eastern Ontario
- The current gap in high-speed internet is hindering the economic growth, quality of life, and public safety in the Township
- CRTC has stated that both fixed and mobile broadband internet should be a basic telecommunication service available to all Canadians.
- Eastern Ontario has approximately 30% of all underserved or unserved households in Ontario that currently cannot even meet the minimum CRTC standard of 50 Megabits down and 10 Megabits up of speed.

Combined, the federal and provincial government have committed almost \$7 billion towards broadband improvements. EORN is seeking \$200 million from both the federal and provincial government to support the \$1.2 billion public private partnership project.

If EORN receives the necessary funding of \$200 million from both the federal and provincial government, it will provide more households, businesses and other organizations in our Township with the internet access they need to take advantage of digital opportunities, especially with respect to business, education, health and wellbeing, and public safety.

For the reasons outlined above, we support EORN's Gig Project to bring up to 1 Gig of internet speed to residents and businesses within the Township and hope that they will receive the funding required to make better connectivity a reality for our Township and across Eastern Ontario.

Sincerely,

Pat Sayeau, Mayor
Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal

Cc: Honourable MPP Steve Clark
MP Michael Barrett