

BUSINESS CASE FOR THE INCORPORATION OF THE EASTERN ONTARIO LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Purpose

The purpose of this business case is to outline the case for the incorporation for the Eastern Ontario Leadership Council.

Background

In 2014 the Eastern Ontario Economic Development Strategy was completed and adopted by both the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus and the Eastern Ontario Mayors Caucus. One of the key action items out of this strategy was the creation of a Regional Economic Governance Model tasked with coordinating strategic, regional economic development in eastern Ontario. Over the course of 2015 and 2016 the Eastern Ontario Leadership Council (“EOLC”) was created as a unincorporated organizational partnership with 5 regional organizations representing both the municipal and economic development sectors:

- Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus,
- Eastern Ontario Mayors Caucus,
- Eastern Ontario Regional Network,
- Ontario East Economic Development Commission, and
- Community Futures (CFDCs) Ontario East.

Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference were prepared and initial Terms of Reference for EOLC were adopted on August 7th, 2015. They were further updated on January 2018. The current Terms of Reference of the EOLC are attached to this business case as Schedule “A”.

Purpose

The EOLC was established to act in a guidance, advocacy and coordination role for foundational economic development activities in the region. In this role EOLC will help ensure that the resources are in place to support – and bring attention to – regional economic development activities by stimulating research, analysis, and collaborative projects that improve the overall business climate in Eastern Ontario.

Taking its approved Regional Economic Development Strategy as its core guidance document, EOLC will coordinate the pursuit of opportunities with partners at the provincial and federal levels of government, plus the education and innovation sectors.

Vision

The vision and strategy for Eastern Ontario is as set out on the Terms of Reference attached hereto as Schedule "A".

Purpose/Mandate of Leadership Council

This is also as set out in the Terms of Reference attached hereto as Schedule "A".

Membership and Composition of the EOLC

The membership and composition of the EOLC board is also set out in the Terms of Reference attached hereto as Schedule "A" dated January 2018.

Funding

Currently EOLC is funded primarily by grants from the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus ("EOWC") and the Eastern Ontario Mayors Caucus ("EOMC") as well as government and other grants applied for and received for the organization's purposes and its particular projects. It is anticipated that this funding model will continue after incorporation and that the EOLC, once incorporated, will be a self-sustaining business entity with levies or fees paid by its primary members, EOWC and EOMC together with any grants awarded to it from time to time.

Why Incorporate

EOLC has decided to incorporate for 2 primary reasons:

1) Government Grants

Many government grants are easier to receive and administer if applied for by a not for profit corporation on a separate basis which has purposes or objects related to the purpose of the project. Therefore, incorporating the EOLC makes it easier for it to apply for and obtain various grants to allow it to fulfill its purposes.

2) Liability

As EOLC currently is unincorporated and EOMC is unincorporated, in the event that there is any liability incurred by EOLC this will flow through to the members of the EOLC and therefore to the member municipalities of EOMC creating an unnecessary risk or exposure to them for the activities of an organization they do not directly control, although they have

an influential voice in such organization. Therefore, it has been recommended for protection of legal liability that EOLC be incorporated.

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