

Hon. Amarjeet Sohi  
Minister of Infrastructure and Communities  
180 Kent St  
Suite 1100  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 0B6

June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018

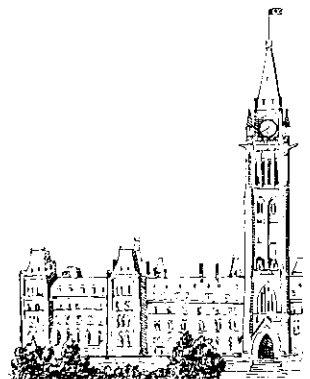
Dear Minister Sohi,

We are writing to you to express our support for the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) proposal that was submitted to your department.

The EORN project will address capacity and coverage gaps that are increasingly too present in Eastern Ontario as demand increases. It's an issue which is consistently raised by our constituents. Businesses are no longer able to adequately serve their customers in a transforming digital economy.

The proposal builds on an earlier successful project to expand broadband networks across Eastern Ontario. In Budget 2018, the Ontario Government announced it would support 1/3 of the project which is evaluated at \$71 million. It has the support of local Members of Provincial Parliament including those of the PC Caucus, the Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus and municipal councils across Eastern Ontario.

If we are to grow this economy, it is unacceptable that close to 20% of Eastern Ontario have no cell coverage and 65% do not have sufficient capacity. The demand on the network will continue to grow in the near future.





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Finally, this project is vital to plan for future implementation of a 5G network in order to ensure Eastern Ontario participates in the digital economy.

We are hopeful that a positive resolution to EORN's ask of \$71 million will come forward in the near future. In the meantime, please feel free to contact us should you have any questions about the details of this project.

Sincerely,

Mike Bossio  
Member of Parliament  
Hastings-Lennox and Addington

Francis Drouin  
Member of Parliament  
Glengarry-Prescott-Russell

Neil Ellis  
Member of Parliament  
Bay of Quinte





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Mark Gerretsen  
Member of Parliament  
Kingston and the Islands

Hon. Maryam Monsef  
Member of Parliament  
Peterborough-Kawartha

Kim Rudd  
Member of Parliament  
Northumberland-Peterborough South



*Ottawa*

120 Confederation Building  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6  
Phone: 613-992-2474  
Fax: 613-996-9656  
Jamie.Schmale@parl.gc.ca



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CANADA

***Jamie Schmale***

Member of Parliament  
Haliburton—Kawartha Lakes—Brock

*Constituency*

68 McLaughlin Road, Unit 1  
Lindsay, ON K9V 6B5  
Phone: 705-324-2400  
Toll Free: (866) 688-9881  
www.jamieschmale.ca

April 27, 2018

The Honourable Navdeep Singh Bains, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Bains,

We are writing to you to express our unequivocal support for the Eastern Ontario Regional Network's (EORN) *Moving Cell Services and Building a Public Safety Broadband Network in Eastern Ontario* proposal.

This proposal, which was submitted to your department for consideration nearly a year ago, has the potential to revitalize the economy of Eastern Ontario through the creation of more than 3,000 full-time jobs and the generation of more than \$420 million in private sector business revenues.

Residents and businesses in Eastern Ontario will further benefit from an improved access to online services allowing people to connect with friends, family and business and community organizations whether they are on a farm in Lanark County or in downtown Singapore.

Most importantly, this proposal will save lives by ensuring cellular access to emergency services in remote areas and improving public safety by connecting all first responders on a dedicated network.

As you know, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) has designated both mobile and fixed broadband access as a basic service for all Canadians. In Eastern Ontario, one quarter of the areas where there are homes, businesses or major roadways cannot access mobile data service from their major carrier of choice.

EORN's proposal offers a solution to expand mobile data services in Eastern Ontario to address these concerns. The proposal builds on EORN's 5,500-kilometre fibre backhaul network, leveraging earlier investments in the region.

Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus (EOWC) is also in full support of the proposal. In its *Economic Development Strategy for Eastern Ontario* study, EOWC identified the necessity of improving mobile broadband and cellular networks as critical to propelling innovation and economic growth in all sectors of the regional economy including manufacturing, agriculture, and transportation services.

We hope that you will see the value of EORN's proposal and approve the application, signalling to the residents, businesses and visitors to Eastern Ontario that their safety, productivity and quality of life are important.

We would be pleased to discuss this matter further with you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Gord Brown  
Member of Parliament  
Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes



Guy Lauzon  
Member of Parliament  
Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry



Scott Reid  
Member of Parliament  
Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston



Jamie Schmale  
Member of Parliament  
Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock