

Leadership Council to Guide Regional Economic Development

Leaders in Eastern Ontario have long recognized that they must work together if they are to overcome the range of economic challenges facing the entire region. The Eastern Ontario Economic Development Leadership Council has been created to foster a collaborative approach to achieving economic growth throughout the region.

Who

- The Leadership Council has four founding partners:
 - The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC)
 - The Eastern Ontario Mayors' Committee (EOMC)
 - The Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN), and
 - The Ontario East Economic Development Commission (Ontario East)
- The Council's mandate is to work with the many stakeholders involved in economic development in the region, such as municipalities and First Nations, business groups, Community Futures Development Corporations, post-secondary institutions as well as the provincial and federal governments.

What

- The EOWC and EOMC partnered to create a regional economic development strategy. It focuses on three main priorities for Eastern Ontario:
 - Workforce development and deployment;
 - Technology integration and innovation; and,
 - Creating integrated and intelligent transportation systems.
- The Leadership Council will work across the region to implement the strategy and address regional challenges and opportunities. Its role will be to:
 - Oversee the creation of related working groups that include a cross-section of the economic development community.
 - Share information, such as economic data and policy positions, with stakeholders so that decisions are informed and evidence-based.
 - Track and report on regional economic performance, and overall progress on implementing the regional economic development strategy.
 - Advocate and provide input to federal and provincial governments on regional economic development programs.
 - The Leadership Council will not replace or duplicate any municipal or regional economic development investment attraction and business development activities.

Why

- There are many people and organizations who are working to create jobs and improve the economy across Eastern Ontario. Given the breadth of activity and number of players, the regional economic development strategy recommended creating a group to coordinate efforts and promote collaboration, as well as to track progress made on the strategy.
- The region will make a lot more progress if we're all pulling in the same direction. The Leadership Council will advocate and advance local and regional interests and support the work of others.