



SPEAKING NOTES FOR EOWC/EORN MEMBERS

GIG TO THE HOMES/BUSINESS PROJECT

June 1, 2020

The Proposed Project

- EORN and the EOWC are proposing a new fixed broadband project that will be capable of delivering speeds of 1 Gbps (gigabit per second) for up to 95% of the homes and businesses across the EOWC region.
- There are more than 500,000 homes (includes seasonal dwellings) and businesses in the EORN region.
- 1 Gbps of speed will satisfy our connectivity needs both now and in the long term.
- The most likely technology that will be used is some form of wired solution (like a fibre or cable) to the home or business.

Cost

- The estimated cost of building the project is \$1.2 billion *- \$1.6 billion**
- Proposed cost sharing:
 - \$200 - \$300 million from Federal Government
 - \$200 - \$300 million from Ontario Government
 - \$400 - \$500 million from Canada Infrastructure Bank (loans)
 - \$400 - \$500 million from Internet Service Providers

*Key variable in range of cost estimates is access to hydro poles and pole replacement costs.

**EORN's project management costs to be determined

Suggested Comments

- COVID-19 has exposed the **serious lack of internet access and capacity** for rural residents and businesses across eastern Ontario
- Students are not able to properly connect to schools, colleges and universities putting them at disadvantage.
- Doctors are having trouble undertaking telemedicine.
- Businesses can't reach customers, and customers can't reach businesses.
- Local governments having difficulty connecting with residents and providing virtual services.
- The time to fix this divide is now and it needs to be done in a way that will serve today's needs and long into the future.
- Investing in this project means every sector of our economy and society will get a substantial benefit...healthcare, education, business, government. Without it rural areas will continue to suffer.

EORN is ready

- EORN has done the detailed engineering and research necessary to undertake the project.
- EORN is ready to work with the federal and provincial governments to move the project forward quickly.
- The EORN approach has proven that it can deliver big projects quickly and efficiently.
- EORN has been entrusted to deliver nearly \$400 million broadband and mobile projects already.
- EORN knows how to work with the private sector and protect public sector investments.
- There are 110 municipalities across the EORN / eastern Ontario region outside of the City of Ottawa.