

Eastern Ontario Workforce Programs Showcase

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Ontario Canada
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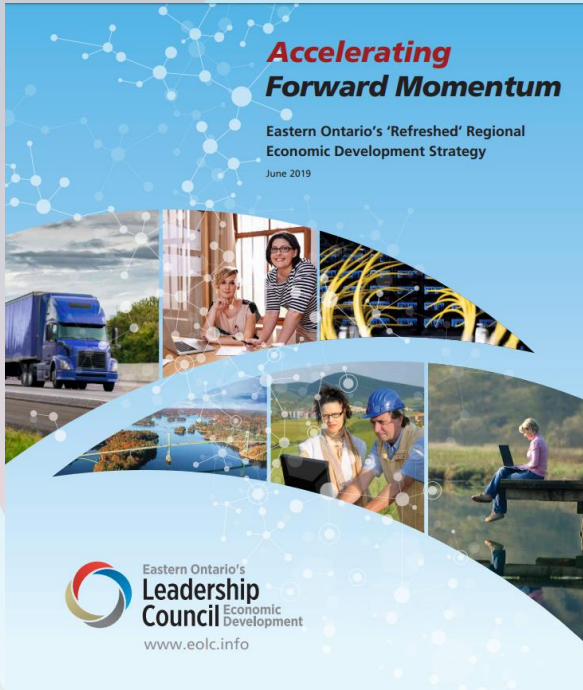
Eastern Ontario's
**Leadership
Council** Economic
Development

Presentation Overview

- A Provincial ‘first’: Overview of Eastern Ontario’s regional economic development strategy (www.eolc.info)
- Implementation Projects Now Under Way
- Focus on Commuter Strategy



Overview of Eastern Ontario's Regional Economic Development Strategy



- “Eastern Ontario” is 13 counties (11 two-tier; 2 single tier) and 10 separated cities and towns
- First *regional* strategy approved in 2014; ‘refreshed’ in 2019
- Motivated by desire to advance the region’s economy; build on collaborations
- **Key Numbers:**
 - 1.18 million people
 - 570,000-strong workforce
 - ~\$4 billion/year in municipal capital and operating expenditures
 - \$14 billion in infrastructure assets (at cost); \$3 billion capital infrastructure deficit

2019 Strategy *Development* Took Place Under Auspices of The EOLC

- Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus (EOWC)
- Eastern Ontario Mayors Caucus (EOMC)
- Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN)
- CF Ontario East
- Ontario East Economic Development Commission

EOLC *operations* are largely funded by municipal governments, with special *project funding* sought from upper levels of government.



EOLC won an EDCO regional collaboration award in 2017

2019 Strategy *Implementation* Now Being Led by the EOLC

- The EOLC works on pan-regional initiatives, especially ones where solutions are most likely to:
 - Cross municipal boundaries
 - Be more easily accomplished by aggregation of demand
 - Provide an opportunity to be a ‘test region’.
- The regional strategy focuses on three themes:
 - Workforce Development and Deployment* (**#1 priority**)
 - Technology Integration and Innovation*
 - Integrated, Intelligent Transportation Systems*... with Digital Infrastructure as the foundation for all three.
 - * *The EOLC has a ‘working group’ for each of three themes.*
- Multiple prov. ministries have observers on working groups.

Implementation Projects Now Under Way

- “One Window” Freight Permitting Pilot Project (multi-municipality oversized/overload shipments); MMAH funding to assess cost savings for municipalities and financial sustainability; collaboration with Transnomis and OGRA
 - **Municipal Innovation Certification Project** (bringing municipalities with challenges together with early stage companies/innovators with potential solutions)
 - “Standing watch” for **autonomous vehicles** and **VIA Rail’s** proposed high-frequency passenger ‘Northern Route’ and optimization of lakeshore route
- ... and the Commuter Analysis and Business Case Development Project (aka the **Commuter Strategy**)

Focus on Commuter Strategy Project

Q: What IS it?

A: A Way to Connect Workforce with Employment Opportunity

- **November 2019: Launched a 17-month region-wide “Commuter Strategy” project (MLTSD-funded through OLMP)**
 - Understand the significance of transportation challenges for workforce... region-wide
 - Analyze demand and opportunities for financially-sustainable non-conventional ‘cross-boundary’ transportation options (might be private or NFP or multi-municipal-collaboration models; might be an “app”)
 - Develop a modelling tool to help communities assess financial sustainability
 - Call for/provide modest seed funding for up to six pilot projects across the region (late summer 2020)
 - Evaluate original analyses and provide results to the region



Focus on Commuter Strategy Project

Q: How Can 'We' Get Involved?

A1: Review and Comment on the *Commuter Strategy Literature Review*

- *Focus on cross-boundary, commuter-focused transportation*
- *Lessons Learned, Examples from other jurisdictions, Heuristics, Methodologies*

A2: Review and validate, update, improve the *Commuter Maps*

- *32 maps available on DropBox; mark up and send back to us*

A3: Share link to forthcoming online survey, especially with employers; help us promote consultation meetings in March-April

- *Encourage them to share how they are trying to address labour force-transportation challenges, and their interests*

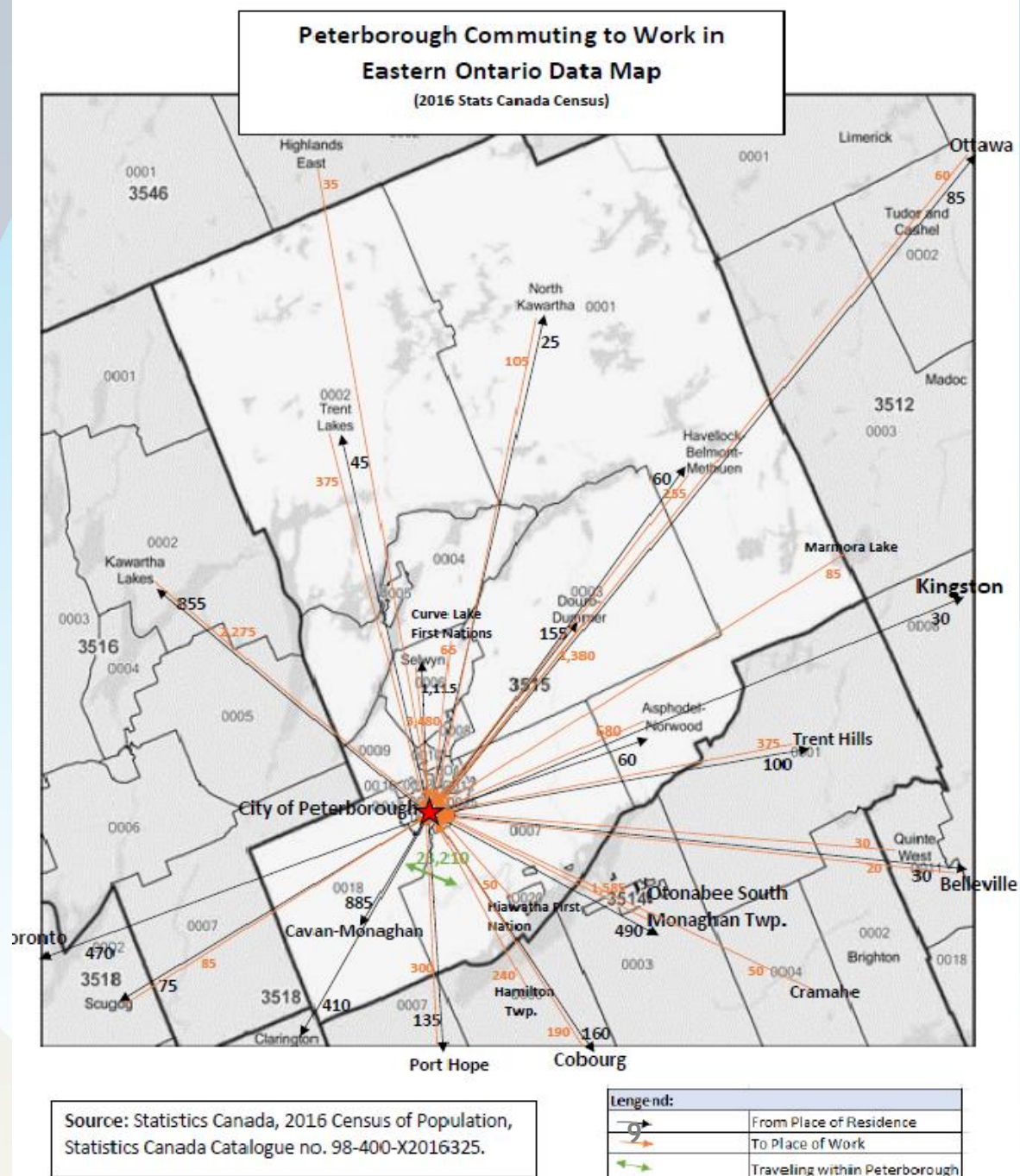
A4: Share municipal data

- *AADT, BR&E, sector-specific analyses, strategic plans with workforce/commuter implications*

A5: Send signal if possibly interested in pilot project opportunity

Commuter Maps?

- Inbound and outbound commuter 'traffic' for each county and separated city and town
 - Where?
 - How many?
- ... but it's 2016 data!
 - New employers?
 - Expansions?
 - Closures?
 - New services?
 - Leading indicators of growth?



For more information:

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS SESSION.



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