

Regional Economic Development in Eastern Ontario

Presentation at the ROMA 2020 Conference

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

Quick Background...

- Municipal leaders led the initial effort to create the 2014 regional economic development strategy (10 year time horizon): www.eolc.info
- Eastern Ontario Leadership Council created to oversee implementation (initial members: EOWC, EOMC, EORN, Ontario East, and later, Community Futures Ontario East)
- Co-chairs; one each from EOWC and EOMC; three working groups mapped to priorities in original plan
- Self-funded administration since inception
- With provincial support, the Strategy was refreshed in 2018-2019





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Regional Developments Since Strategy's Launch in 2014

- Creation of EOLC with basic financing
- Eastern Ontario Transportation Needs Analysis
- Formation of Eastern Ontario Postsecondary Task Force (all colleges and universities); led by Carleton University; cross-appointments
- EOLC - commissioned analysis of Eastern Ontario's innovation ecosystem; round table discussion of results at OEMC 2017
- Strengthening relations with regional representatives of Ontario ministries via Provincial Inter-ministerial Council (PIC)



EOLC won an EDCO regional collaboration award in 2017



Hallmarks of the 'Refreshed' Strategy

- Three priorities are unchanged
 - Workforce Development and Deployment (top priority*)
 - Technology Integration and Innovation
 - Integrated, Intelligent Transportation Systems
- Digital infrastructure cited as a new, foundational priority under all three (as of 2018)
- Emphasis continues to be on initiatives that address pan-regional challenges or opportunities
- Monitoring game-changing developments by others (e.g. VIA's High Frequency Passenger Rail service; autonomous vehicle test corridor along Highway 7)
- Aspirational outcomes identified for all priorities
- Performance measures suggested for EOLC consideration

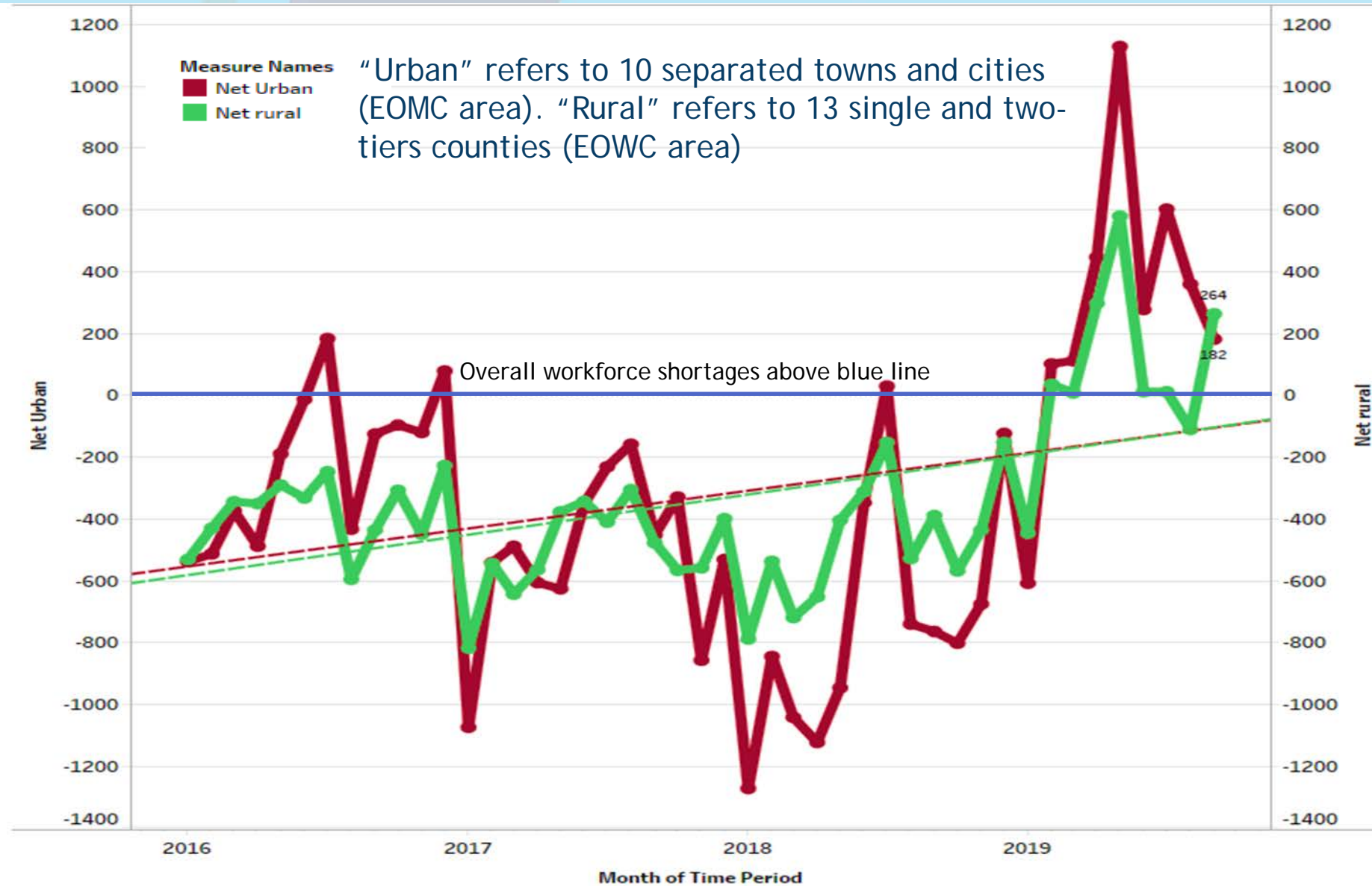


What's Happening Right Now?

- Licensing close-to-real time data on digital job postings and job seeker information, and data analyst services
 - Presentation to Ontario East Municipal Conference in September 2019
 - Now developing more detailed analyses and projections, by sector and occupation, to respond to requests from economic development community
- Exploring 'Analytics as a Service' concept to see if there is a business case for serving workforce data needs of individual municipalities and other stakeholders across the region



Now Able To Track Labour Market Changes



What's Happening Right Now?

- November 2019: Launched the 17-month region-wide “commuter strategy” project (MTCU-funded)
 - Understand the significance of transportation challenges for workforce
 - Estimate demand and analyze opportunities for financially-sustainable non-conventional ‘cross-boundary’ transportation options (might be private or NFP or municipal-collaboration models)
 - Call for/provide modest seed funding for up to six pilot projects across the region
 - Evaluate original analyses and provide results to the region
- Matching funds from EOLC’s 2019-2020 budget; no additional ‘ask’ to do this project



What's Happening Right Now?

- 'Slow-walking' a unique approach to municipal innovation: certification
 - Goal is to help region's start-ups/early stage customers get 'first customers' AND help municipalities address their challenges
 - If successful, more of these companies will stay and grow in the region
 - Specific criteria for certification (modest three-year financial commitment, identification of challenges, resolution, incorporating innovation procurement in bylaws)
 - Obtained legal opinion and sample bylaw wording to be compliant with Discriminatory Business Practices legislation (re: trade agreement)



What's Happening Right Now?

- Working on several transportation priorities:
 - “Regional511” to support municipal operations and freight carriers on municipal roads (non-MTO)
 - Proceeding with minimal assistance from EOLC via www.municipal511.ca
 - Exploring ways to develop/introduce a ‘one-window’ permitting system for freight carriers moving oversize/overlimit loads across multiple municipal boundaries
 - Significant interest in this at the provincial level; proposal under development to start with a handful of municipalities in Eastern Ontario
 - Monitoring VIA Rail and MACAVO initiatives



Success Summary

1. Established the EOLC as a Regional Voice that is recognized by the Province and supported with grant funding
2. Established a presence with related Provincial Ministries through delegations and presentations
3. Launched the Eastern Ontario Economic Development Strategy Refresh at OEMC 2019
4. Strengthened the relationship between all partners across Eastern Ontario
5. Moving forward with a governance review



Financial Success

1. Received \$135,000 for the 2019 Refresh of the Eastern Ontario Economic Development Strategy
2. Received \$405,000 from the Ontario Labour Market Program (OLMP) for an Eastern Ontario Commuter Strategy
3. Other announcements may follow **very soon!**



Eastern Ontario Leadership Council

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Links:

Ontario East Economic Development: <https://ontarioeast.ca/>

Eastern Ontario Wardens

Caucus: <http://www.eowc.org/en/index.aspx>

Eastern Ontario Mayors Caucus: <https://eomc.ca/>

Eastern Ontario Leadership Council:

<http://www.eolc.info/en/index.aspx>

Thank you!



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