

ADDENDUM TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION REPORT

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Prepared for: Development and Property Committee

August 10, 2021

INFORMATION

5. High-Speed Internet Announcement

Attached as Appendix ED-I is a news release and backgrounder issued on August 6, 2021 advising that the Governments of Canada and Ontario will be investing over \$362 million to bring high-speed internet to Eastern Ontario.

6. Province Invests in St. Francis Herb Farm

Attached as Appendix ED-II is a news release issued on August 9, 2021 advising that the Ontario government will be investing \$1 million into St. Francis Herb Farm in support of their new \$12.7 million facility to help strengthen local manufacturing, create jobs and attract investment in the Barry's Bay and surrounding area.

NEWS RELEASE

Governments of Canada and Ontario invest over \$362 million to bring high-speed internet to Eastern Ontario

August 06, 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted how much we rely on our internet connections, making access to fast and reliable internet service even more critical. For too long, many rural Canadians have lacked access to high-speed internet, impacting their ability to work, learn and keep in touch with family and friends. The pandemic has made addressing this divide even more urgent. That's why the governments of Canada and Ontario are accelerating their investments in broadband infrastructure.

Today, the Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development and Member of Parliament for Peterborough–Kawartha; together with François Drouin, Member of Parliament for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell, and the Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure and Member of Provincial Parliament for Etobicoke Centre, highlighted a joint investment of over \$362 million to bring high-speed internet to 90,124 rural Ontario households in Eastern Ontario.

This investment is being made as part of a [joint federal-provincial agreement](#) through which the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario have partnered to support large-scale, fibre-based projects that will provide high-speed internet access to all corners of the province by 2025.

In addition, the Canada Infrastructure Bank is assessing opportunities proposed through the Universal Broadband Fund to provide additional financing on a project-by-project basis toward significant expansion of broadband in partnership with private and institutional investors.

Canada-wide, more than 890,000 rural and remote households are on track to be connected to high-speed internet as a result of federal investments. At the end of March 2021, 175,000 rural and remote households had been connected to high-

speed internet under projects supported by the Government of Canada. By the end of this year, over 435,000 households will be connected thanks to support from the federal government.

This investment represents a concrete step forward that will move Ontario almost 40 per cent of the way in its ambitious plan to bring high-speed internet to everyone in the province by the end of 2025. This investment builds on Ontario's recently announced [investment of up to \\$14.7 million](#) for 13 new projects under the [Improving Connectivity for Ontario \(ICON\) program](#). This will provide up to 17,000 homes and businesses with access to reliable high-speed internet and builds on a range of provincial initiatives under way that will connect another 70,000 homes and businesses.

Also part of Ontario's plan to achieve 100 per cent connectivity is a recently announced [innovative procurement process](#) that is being used to help connect the vast majority of the remaining underserved and unserved communities. Procurement under this delivery model, led by [Infrastructure Ontario](#), will begin later this summer. Together, these initiatives are part of Ontario's plan to help bring reliable high-speed internet to more communities across Ontario.

Today's announcement builds on the progress the governments of Canada and Ontario have already made to improve critical infrastructure in Ontario. This includes leveraging over \$30 billion in federal, provincial and partner funding for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). This investment supports over 265 local transit projects; 140 projects in rural and northern areas; over 70 green infrastructure projects; and over 270 community, culture and recreation projects. Also, as part of ICIP, Ontario launched the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure stream with combined federal and provincial funding of \$1.05 billion. This includes up to \$250 million in federal and provincial funding for municipalities to address critical local infrastructure needs to improve health and safety.

Quick Facts

- Since 2015, Government of Canada investments have helped more than 175,000 rural and remote households across Canada gain access to high-speed internet.
- The Government of Canada has committed \$7.2 billion to broadband internet infrastructure, including \$2.75 billion through the [Universal Broadband Fund](#) (UBF).
- These investments will help ensure that 98 per cent of Canadians will have high-speed internet access by 2026, and 100 per cent will have access by 2030.

- The Government of Ontario is helping to [improve connectivity across the province](#). This is supported by a commitment of nearly \$4 billion to ensure all Ontarians have access to high-speed internet by the end of 2025.
- The Ontario government has invested in initiatives to improve connectivity across [Eastern](#) and [Southwestern Ontario](#). It has also invested in high-speed internet projects in rural and Northern Ontario, such as through the [Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation](#) and the [Next Generation Network Program](#).
- The Ontario government is also helping to speed up construction of broadband projects through the *Supporting Broadband and Infrastructure Expansion Act, 2021*, which received royal assent this spring.

NEWS RELEASE

Province Invests in Local Business to Boost Economic Growth in Barry's Bay

Ontario supports \$12.7-million surge in Eastern Ontario economy with \$1-million Regional Development Program investment

August 09, 2021

[Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade](#)

BARRY'S BAY – The Ontario government is supporting an investment of \$12.7 million by St. Francis Herb Farm to help strengthen local manufacturing, create good jobs, and attract investment to Barry's Bay and the surrounding region. Through the Regional Development Program, the province is investing \$1 million in this Ottawa Valley business, helping to create 12 new jobs, while retaining 34 existing positions.

"Our government's top priority throughout the pandemic has been protecting the province's health and protecting our jobs and economy," said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. "This project is making a significant impact in communities and economies across the Ottawa Valley and Eastern Ontario. It is enabling long-term measurable outcomes, including private-sector investment, job creation and retention, and strong regional growth."

[St. Francis Herb Farm Inc.](#) is investing \$12.7 million to consolidate activities to a new facility in Barry's Bay, while adding new capabilities to optimize the production of its plant-based medicines. With \$1 million from the Eastern Ontario Development Fund, the company is engaging in retrofits and process enhancements, as well as acquiring new equipment for capsule production that will reduce lead times and decrease production costs. St. Francis Herb Farm produces herbal medicines that are used to address a number of conditions, including cognitive health, skin care, stress and anxiety, and pain.

"St. Francis Herb Farm has long been an incredible community partner in Combermere, Barry's Bay, and for the whole surrounding region," said John Yakabuski, MPP for Renfrew – Nipissing – Pembroke. "We are proud to provide support for their investment in their new Barry's Bay facility, the new jobs it has created, and look forward to their future growth in our community."

“We, at St Francis Herb Farm, greatly appreciate our partnership with EODF,” said Paul Rivett-Carnac, President and CEO. “The support provided by the EODF helps to strengthen our leadership position within the natural health product industry through the construction of our new facility and the expansion of manufacturing capabilities, providing further and meaningful employment for 12 new hires within the local community.”

Ontario is investing more than \$100 million through the Regional Development Program from 2019 to 2023 to support distinct regional priorities and challenges. The program provides cost-shared funding to businesses, municipalities and economic development organizations to help local communities attract investment, diversify their economies, and plan for long-term sustainability and growth.

Quick Facts

- The government launched the [Regional Development Program](#) for Eastern and Southwestern Ontario in November 2019. Businesses and municipalities can get financial support through the Eastern Ontario Development Fund (EODF) and Southwestern Ontario Development Fund (SWODF) and guided access to a range of complementary services and supports.

Additional Resources

[Learn more about the Regional Development Program](#)

Related Topics

Business and Economy

Information about Ontario’s economy and how to do business here. Includes economic development opportunities, research funding, tax credits for business and the Ontario Budget. [Learn more](#)

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ADDENDUM TO THE FORESTRY AND GIS DIVISION REPORT

Prepared by: Jason Davis, Manager of Forestry and GIS

Prepared for: Development and Property Committee

August 10, 2021

RESOLUTIONS

3. DP Trails–2021-06 – Quarry Limestone Crusher Dust Supply and Delivery to Algonquin Trail

Recommendation: THAT the Development and Property Committee approve that Tender DP Trails-2021-06 for the Supply and Delivery of Quarry Limestone Crusher Dust to the Algonquin Trail from Turcotte Road to Old Mill Road, a distance of approximately 23.5 km in the Townships of Whitewater Region and Laurentian Valley be cancelled; AND FURTHER THAT a new tender be issued that includes sections in the Town of Laurentian Hills and the City of Pembroke.

Background

Tenders were requested for the supply and delivery of quarry limestone crusher dust to the Algonquin Trail for a distance of approximately 23 km in the Townships of Whitewater Region and Laurentian Valley. Three bids were received; however, since that time, the County of Renfrew has been awarded the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) Resiliency Fund for improvements to the Algonquin Trail west of the Petawawa River to utilize the aggregate received from the Ministry of Transportation in the amount of \$255,699. With this in mind, staff are recommending retendering to also include sections of the Algonquin Trail within the City of Pembroke and Town of Laurentian Hills. Staff are hopeful that with the increase in length of the tender, this will provide further cost benefits and efficiencies to both the County of Renfrew and the bidder.

BY-LAWS

4. Infrastructure of Canada Funding announcement for the Rehabilitation of OVRT/Algonquin Trail in the Town of Laurentian Hills

Recommendation: THAT the Development and Property Committee recommend that County Council pass a By-law to enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement

(TPA) with the Province of Ontario for the Rehabilitation of Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail (OVRT)/Algonquin Trail in the Town of Laurentian Hills area.

Background

At the direction of County Council, staff submitted an application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) Resiliency Fund for the improvements of the Algonquin Trail west of the Petawawa River to utilize the aggregate received from the Ministry of Transportation. The application included brushing, grading, signage, review and improvement to structures, control access gates and the application of stone dust. It has been announced that the County of Renfrew was successful in the application for \$255,699 for the Rehabilitation of OVRT/Algonquin Trail in the Town of Laurentian Hills area.