



Media Release

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Western Ontario Warden's Caucus launches new web site to capture local broadband needs

The Western Ontario Warden's Caucus (WOWC) has re-launched its website and is reaching out to local residents and businesses to capture local broadband internet needs as part of its Rural Broadband Feasibility Study.

The WOWC is seeking information about broadband availability for public institutions and private businesses in order to learn about the gaps in available broadband, particularly in Western Ontario's rural areas. Residents and business owners are invited to respond to a survey posted at www.wowc.ca with information about the speed of their current internet service. To participate in the study and contribute to decisions about the future of broadband in Western Ontario, please visit the WOWC website and follow the links for "How can I help?"

The Rural Broadband Feasibility Study and re-launch of the WOWC website are part of the region's efforts to become an "Intelligent Community," a designation used by the Intelligent Communities Forum to describe communities that leverage high speed, high capacity information and communications technologies to drive economic development and promote job creation, diversity and innovation.

High speed internet access is a critical factor in ensuring Western Ontario can fully participate in the 21st century economy, often referred to as the "knowledge economy." With optimal internet speeds, individuals living in Western Ontario can do business with partners and clients virtually anywhere in the world while enjoying the lifestyle of their chosen community. Becoming an "Intelligent Region" means that Western Ontario will be able capitalize on opportunities to grow local businesses as well as attract community builders from across the sectors that have a significant impact on quality of life: health and well-being, entertainment and education, commerce and communication.

The Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus Inc. (the WOWC) is a not-for-profit organization representing 14 counties in western Ontario, the purpose of which is to enhance the prosperity and overall wellbeing of rural and small urban communities across the region. The members of the WOWC work collectively to influence federal, provincial and municipal legislative, regulatory and program initiatives through advocacy, research and analysis and education.

For more information, please contact Geoff Hogan at 519-376-2277 or geoff.hogan@grey.ca or visit www.wowc.ca