

# 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](http://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



# 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

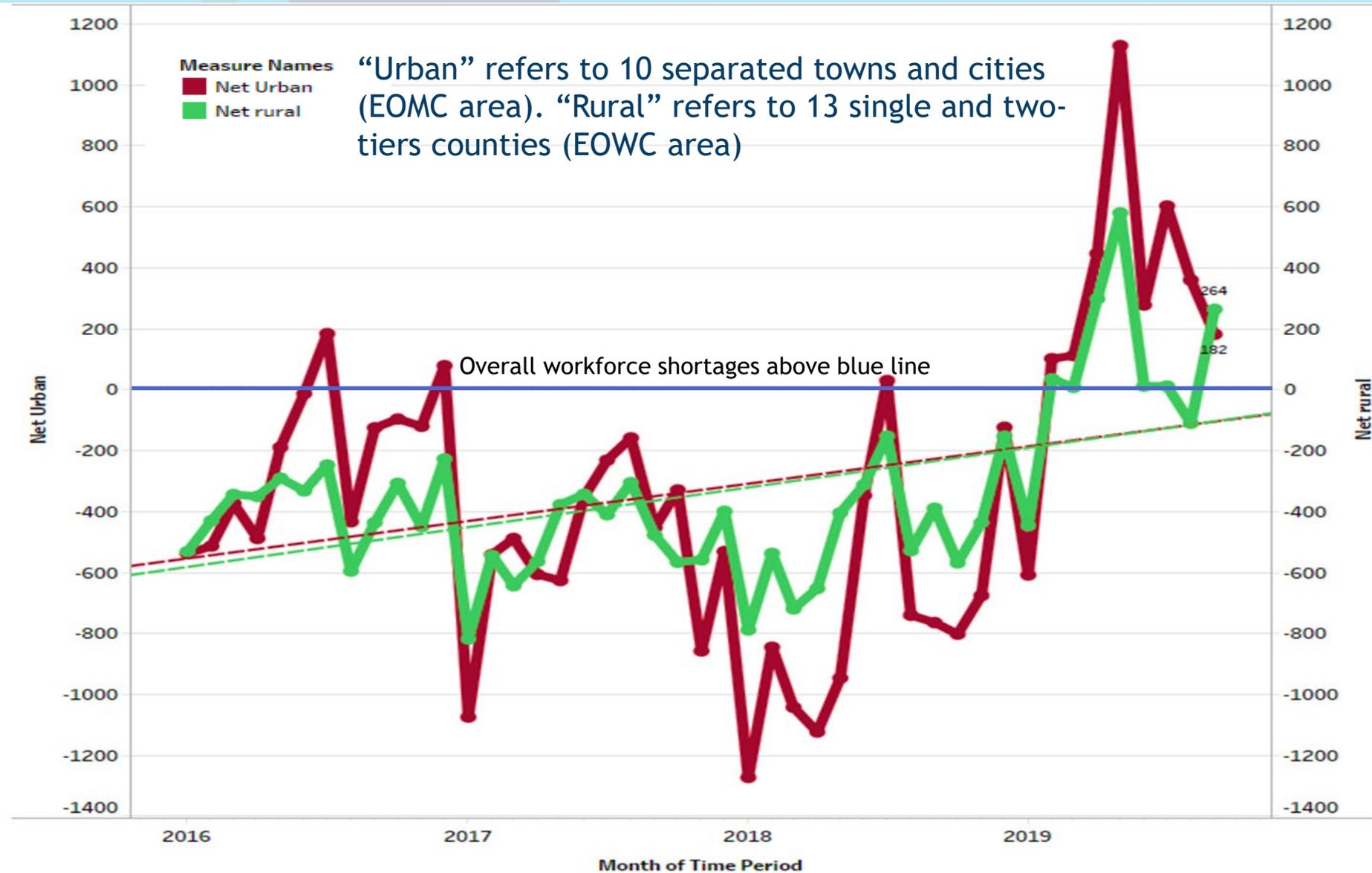


# What's Happening Right Now?

- **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 agreements)



# 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](http://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*

Questions and Comments?

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Thank you!



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