



West Parry Sound Smart Community Network Inc.

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The Georgian SMART Optical Corridor Project

In April 2017 WPS SMART submitted an application to the Federal Government's Connect to Innovate Program (CTI) for the Georgian SMART Optical Corridor ("GSOC") project. \$500M has been allocated by the Federal Government for this program.

WPS SMART's application is for funding of a backbone that is critical to the future of northern Ontario. Our unique fiber backbone initiative leverages the investment of one of Canada's largest wind energy projects.

WPS SMART's project has excellent backing by from local municipalities and from First Nations communities. The Township of Archipelago Council fully endorse the GSOC project and in addition to being a guarantor for the project, they are a funder in the amount of \$500,000.

The GSOC project provides the required Regional Network Trunk Capacity - a high-capacity 100 Gigabit optical transmission system which is designed and configured to provide access (DAPs) to nine strategic locations plus two end termination points. These will provide 10 gigabits of aggregate Ethernet traffic capacity to local POP distribution locations. Specific anchor sites have been identified for these POP locations. We have requested funding for two end termination points and two ADM drop and inserts to provide to turn up four POP sites with 10 gigabits capacity. The remainder will be turned up as further funding is secured.

WPS SMART are fully committed to building a backbone that will eliminate the current digital divide that rural areas are experiencing. We also understand and look forward to technological innovation that will bring new important opportunities to our area. The technological advances anticipated such as 5G, Artificial Intelligence, Block-Chain, Robotics (i.e. driverless cars), and the growth in the Internet of Things. Rural communities need to be in the position to adopt and exploit these opportunities to ensure they reap the economic and social benefits and to assure there is rural relevancy in the Canadian and global economy.

WPS SMART has engaged expertise for the engineering planning, sales and marketing, and project management of GSOC.

Local distribution projects will commence once the backbone is in place. Planning for these has commenced.

As of March 2018, CTI has announced \$263M of the \$500M allocated for the Program
<https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/programs/computer-internet-access/connect-to-innovate/announced-projects.htm>