

KLA UPDATE: North Frontenac - Shared Cell Towers - EORN Cell Gap Project

August 22, 2025

We recognize cell phone coverage in North Frontenac is a subject of concern to many.

Accordingly, the following update on cell towers in North Frontenac has been provided by the NFLAA (North Frontenac Lake Association Alliance) in response to multiple questions on this subject:

What is EORN?

The Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) conducted an open and transparent procurement process for the Cell Gap Project, which resulted in two qualified proponents submitting bids. It was EORN's hope to fund more than one carrier to enhance network diversity, but both bidders requested the full funding allocation, limiting the ability to support multiple carriers through the project.

EORN is committed to promoting infrastructure sharing across all providers. As part of our project agreements, all new towers constructed under the Cell Gap Project are required to be "open access," meaning they are built to allow other carriers to co-locate their equipment. In fact, many carriers already do share infrastructure across the region. In our current project Rogers leases space on 75 towers from other carriers and third party-tower owners. Decisions to lease space on these towers ultimately lie with the individual carriers, including whether they see a viable business case to expand their network in specific locations. EORN does not have the authority to make carriers enter into co-location agreements, but we continue to advocate for greater collaboration among providers so that rural residents are able to have a choice of carrier.

Please note that through legislation passed federally all 911 call are to work across all carriers' networks.

With infrastructure now in place, EORN hopes more providers will see the value in expanding their presence across our region.

FAQs

In direct response to your questions please see below.

Towers are installed on a public private partnership basis meaning that the company (usually Rogers or Bell) has exclusive use of the tower for a fixed period of time after which each provider has equal rights".

The majority of the towers being constructed will be owned by Rogers. Rogers has long-term lease agreements with private land owners to host their towers and equipment. As stated above Bell and other cell carriers have the ability to request to collocate space on the towers, but that is their business decision and there are no funds allotted for this through our project. EORN will have oversight on the infrastructure built through the project until 2030 to ensure Rogers continues to service levels of the network.

Naturally the questions then come:

- 1. How long are the exclusive rights?**

Towers are owned either by Rogers or by third party tower owners (Rogers would lease space from these owners – could be existing towers owned by other carriers or new towers owned by third party tower builders).

2. Does the second or alternate provider have to negotiate use of the tower and cost sharing?

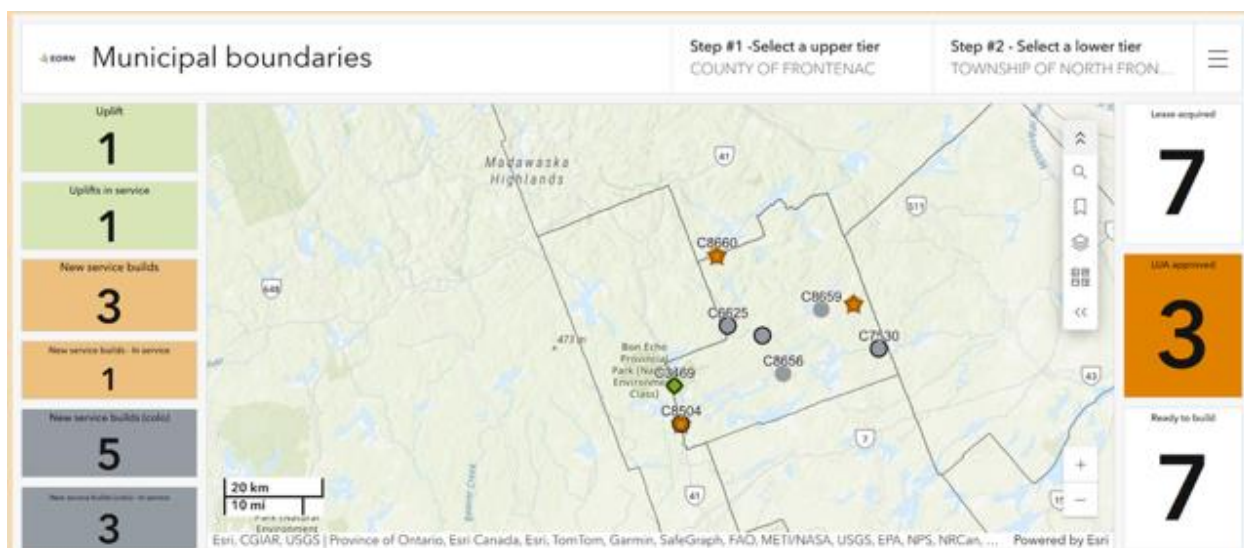
Yes, these are contractual arrangements between the tower owner and the carrier requesting to lease space on the tower. Each carrier on the tower is responsible for their own customers.

3. How is the decision taken on whether Bell or Rogers gets the initial installation/construction contract?

As stated above EORN ran a transparent procurement process. Both submissions requested the full amount of the funding available. After extensive review of both submission Rogers was awarded the contract for the EORN Cell Gap Project.

4. Is there a map, location and time frame contract with the installation company chosen?

All builds for new towers, colocations on third party towers and upgrades to existing towers are to be completed by July 31, 2026. I have included a map of North Frontenac and also a schedule of proposed timeframes for service to be available. I have attached a presentation made to Frontenac County around the EORN Cell Gap Project in May for your review.



5. What else can you tell me to help things become clear with the public?

If you have further questions upon review of the information please reach out via email and we can set up a virtual meeting to further discuss.

Bell Fibre Optic Cabling Update

6. *An additional question concerns the fibre optic cabling by Bell.*

Please note that the fibre cabling being completed by Bell is through a provincial program called the Accelerated High Speed Internet Program. Bell was awarded to provide service in your area. I have attached a link around the project. There is an interactive map that can be used by the public to check to see what type of service is coming and who will be offering it. If you use the map you must click on the coloured line which provides the information. At this time the work is to be completed by end of 2025. This could however change and it is suggested to continue to check back on the provincial website to check on status. [Ontario Launches New Interactive High-Speed Internet Map | Ontario Newsroom](#)

7. *How does this service relate to cell tower expansion?*

The AHSIP program is not related to the EORN Cell Gap Project.

8. *Bell tells me that they have exclusive use of the fibre optic for 5 years. Is this your understanding and does 5 years also relate to my question 1 above?*

EORN is not privy to the details around the contract between Bell and the province. We are not aware of the five-year exclusiveness.

Questions?

Contact NFLAA: info@nflaa.ca