



**Information Technology Department**

789 Broadway Street, Box 3000  
Wyoming, ON N0N 1T0

Telephone: 519-845-0801

Toll-free: 1-866-324-6912

Fax: 519-845-3160

**NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

**Lambton County Community Encouraged to Participate in SWIFT Surveys**

Wednesday, July 5, 2017

**Wyoming, ON** - Lambton County residents, businesses, and public sector employees are being encouraged to participate in an internet usage survey by SouthWestern Integrated Fibre Technology Inc. (SWIFT).

Information collected will help SWIFT determine where to invest its funding in its efforts to build broadband internet infrastructure across southwestern Ontario.

"It is important that SWIFT hears from as many Lambton County residents as possible, especially if your internet service needs improvement," said Warden Bill Weber. "This is a tremendous opportunity for Lambton County to help shape the future of ultra-high speed internet access across our community."

Residential/Farm, Business, and Public Sector surveys can be found online at [swiftnetwork.ca/survey](http://swiftnetwork.ca/survey). Residents without internet access are encouraged to participate in the survey through a nearby Lambton County Library branch.

Survey results will be kept confidential, unless otherwise indicated by the respondent, and will be stored securely. Respondents are asked to participate by August 1, 2017.

SWIFT is a forward-looking, financially sustainable plan to build an affordable, ultra-high-speed fibre optic network across southwestern Ontario.

The project was initiated by the membership of the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus (WOWC) in 2011 and has since been joined by the City of Orillia, Town of Caledon, and the Region of Niagara. First Nation supporters include the Southern First Nations Secretariat, the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, the Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point, and Walpole Island First Nation.

At its July 5, 2017 meeting, Lambton County Council entered into a partnership agreement with SWIFT Inc. The agreement allows the County to benefit from significant funding from municipal partners and senior levels of government.

In 2016, SWIFT received a combined \$180 million in funding from the federal and provincial governments.

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**Please contact:**

**Bill Weber**

Warden  
County of Lambton  
519-381-6111  
bill.weber@county-lambton.on.ca

**Robert Wilks**

Corporate Manager, Information Technology  
County of Lambton  
519-845-0809 ext. 5418  
robert.wilks@county-lambton.on.ca