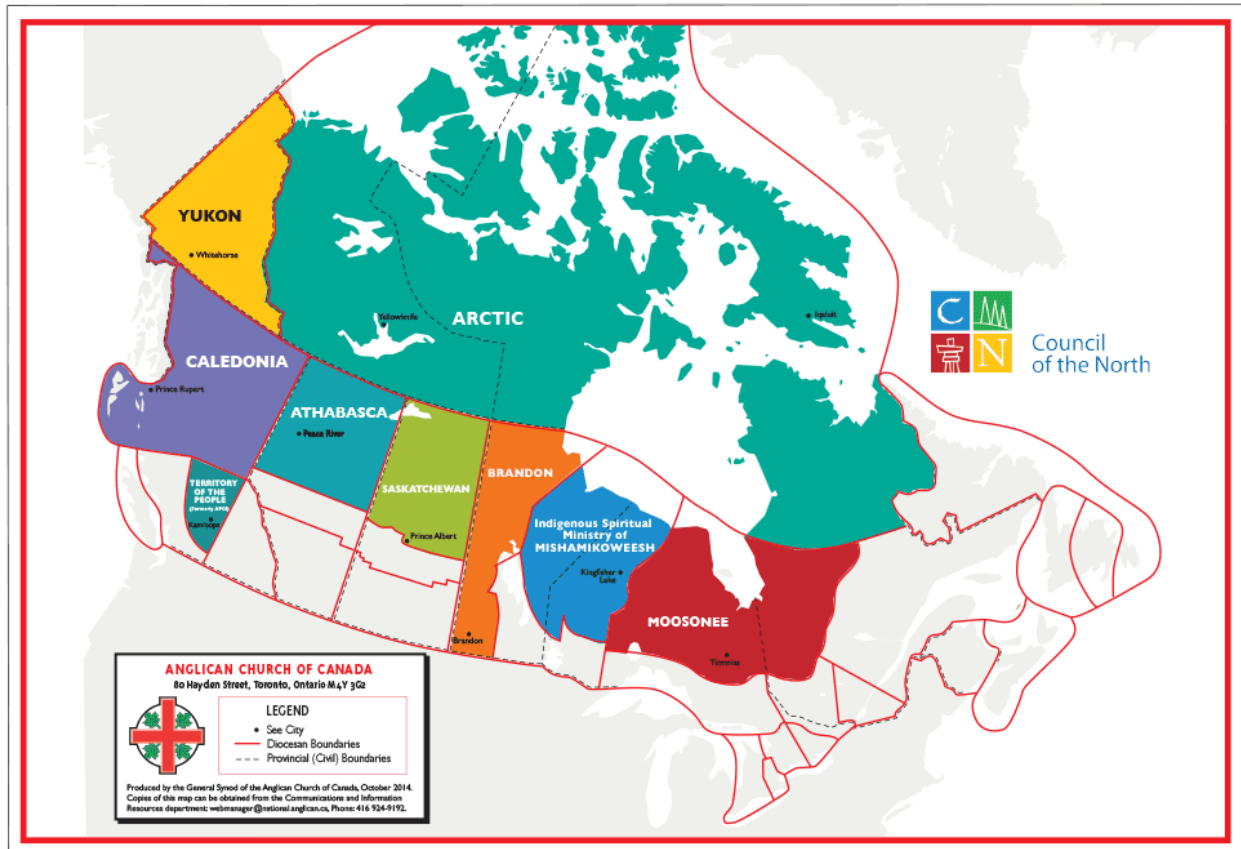


REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE NORTH
TO GENERAL SYNOD 2023

1. FOR ACTION OR CONSIDERATION

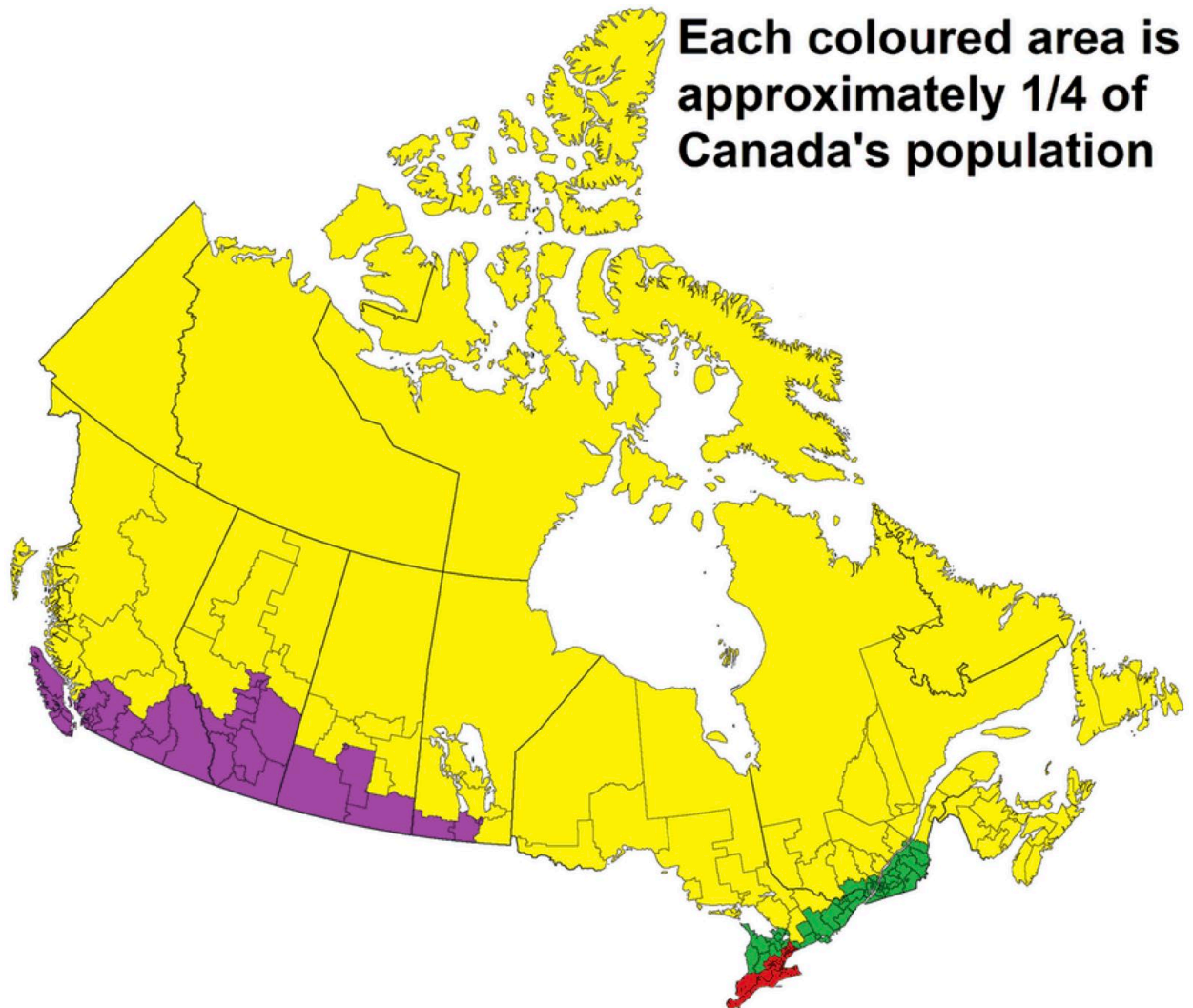
NONE

2. FOR INFORMATION



Above this map of the voting members of the Council of the North. Not included is Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador that has rejoined the Council as an observer. This is a huge country where the 9 jurisdictions of the Council of the North ministry are in the least populated and most expensive areas of the country. According to the 2021 Census, Dioceses of Yukon and the Arctic represent over 40% of Canada’s landmass and contain about 3% of Canada’s population. The support of the Anglican Church of Canada is a blessing we treasure.

Another way to look at Canada is the map below. The Windsor – Montreal belt contains 50% of Canada’s population. The southern portions of BC and the Prairie provinces are another 25%. While the members of the Council of the North make up less than 15% of the remaining 25%. Our geography forms the ministry of the Council and the whole Anglican Church of Canada.



The Census data also paints a picture of spiritual diversity across Canada. Within Newfoundland and the Arctic, large portions of the population identify as Christians and specifically Anglicans. While in British Columbia, for example, 52.4% of the population reported No Religious Expression. In one community in the Diocese of Caledonia this number jumps to 88%. Leaving the local clergy asking, “how do we share Christ in this context?” The Scripture that is often quoted is Matthew 9:37 – “The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few.”

CoVid-19 placed an incredible strain on the church. It tested our ability to adapt ministry when gatherings were not possible. In the north, streaming services were not always an option. Bishops Lydia and Lucy took to the airwaves and broadcasted services on the radio. Other jurisdictions started streaming Sunday worship services and daily offices on Facebook. The Diocese of Caledonia has had a nightly Compline service since March 22, 2020. The Diocese of Brandon organized online training for every person in the Council of the North through a LTh program at Huron College. While the Diocese of the Arctic has initiated a new deacon training program. With the assistance of the wider church, PPE needs were addressed when raised by Bishop Isaiah Beardy. In communities across the Council food banks and soup kitchens went into take-away and delivery services.

Smaller communities with bigger hearts. This is one way to describe the communities and the congregations within the Council. Communities in the Council are communities in a true sense. This is a blessing from being remote and isolated. The next community may be a 5-hour drive away if the ferry or ice road are in service. People congregate and lookout for one another. The mission of the church takes on deep meaning and practice in these spaces with limited resources.



Some dated pictures of the cost of groceries in Canada's north.

Amazon Prime does not deliver to most parts of the Council, in fact there is a delivery surcharge. Insurance costs have risen 100% in the past 4 years. A shortage of clergy requires the bishops and priests to provide Sacramental care over greater distances. This requires local leadership to be trained and comfortable in leading faith formation, outreach, and worship.

Over the past couple years the discrepancy of housing for Council clergy has been on the front page of the Anglican Journal. For both stipendiary and non-stipendiary this is a justice issue. Clergy in northern Canada are asked to live sacrificially. In retirement, housing and income are an issue. Thanks to the generosity of the New Westminster ACW, other diocesan ACWs, and donors, the Anglican Foundation has established a fund to support these faithful servants. This fund is over \$250,000 and will be distributed by the Council.

Since General Synod 2019, donations to the Council of the North have supported clergy housing, a special Technologies Fund, theological training for ordination and parish leadership, gatherings to refocus and address the ministry, and partnerships for theological training. These gifts have a profound impact on the life of the church in remote Canada. Thank you!

The annual grant to the Council of the North is shared amongst the Council members. The formula weighs: the geographic space, number of congregations, average weekly attendance, and number of bishops. Jurisdictions apply to use the funds as they have need. Council members have their finances reviewed annually to ensure the funds are used in accordance with the application. Recommendations and observations of common issues are shared with the Council, while each member receives direct feedback.

The generosity of all Canadian Anglicans makes this support and ministry possible. Without it, rural and remote ministry, a ministry that supports all communities in the north, would be crippled. We are a church that cares for those on the margins. Sometimes the margins are geographic.

Once behalf of the Council and members, thank you. Please know that you are in our prayers.

Yours in Christ,
+David: Caledonia
Chair of the Council of the North