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MAKING THE CASE FOR REGIONALISM



DON IVESON



JEN NELLES



ZACK TAYLOR

Land Acknowledgement

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional lands of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

Questions?

Use the built-in Q&A feature in Zoom

OR

Ask in person



FOLLOW US

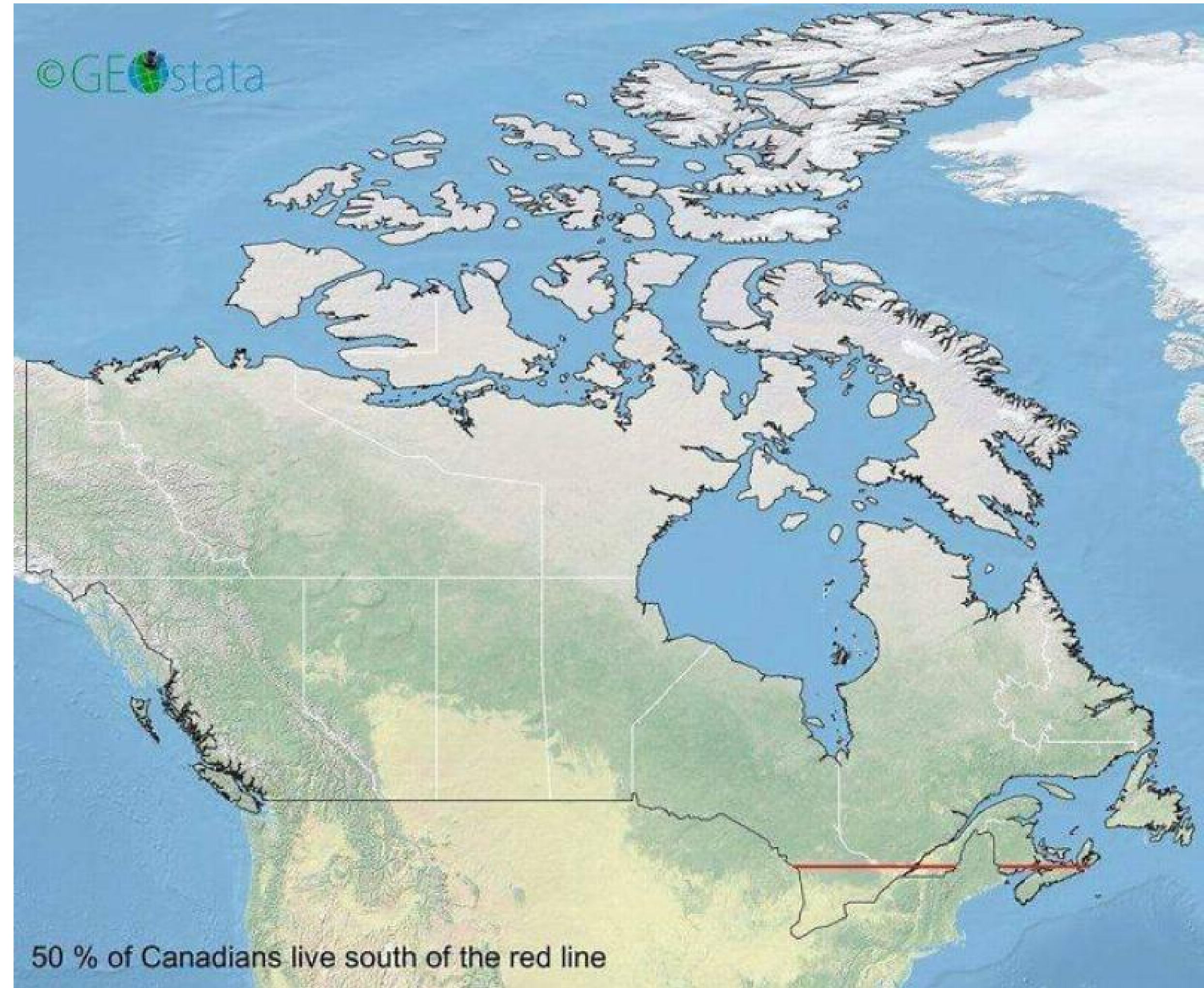
School of Cities - @UofTcities, #SofCevents

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The Metropolitan Mindset

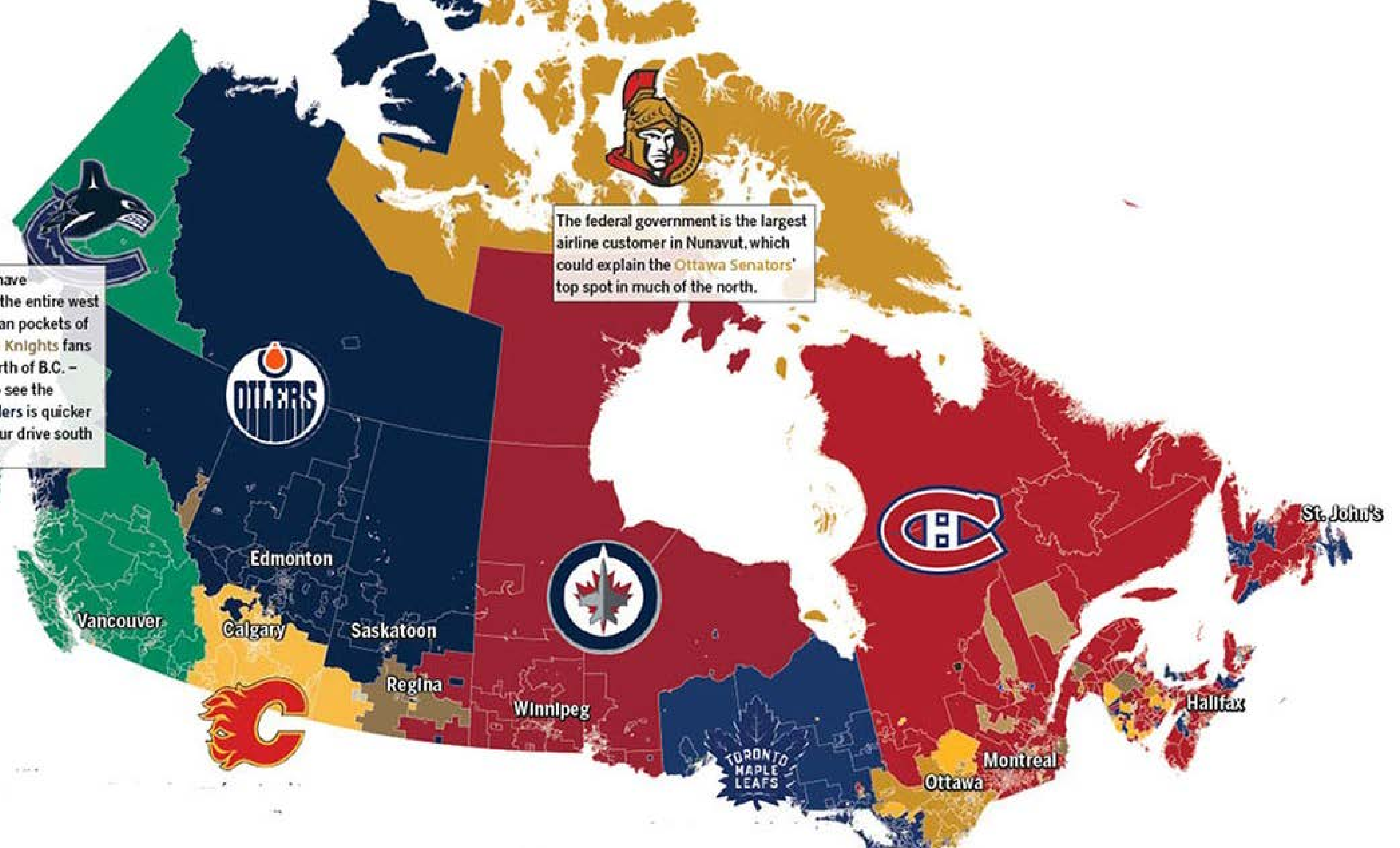
A Case for Stronger Canadian City-Regions

Don Iveson, U of T School of Cities Canadian Urban Leader — January 2023



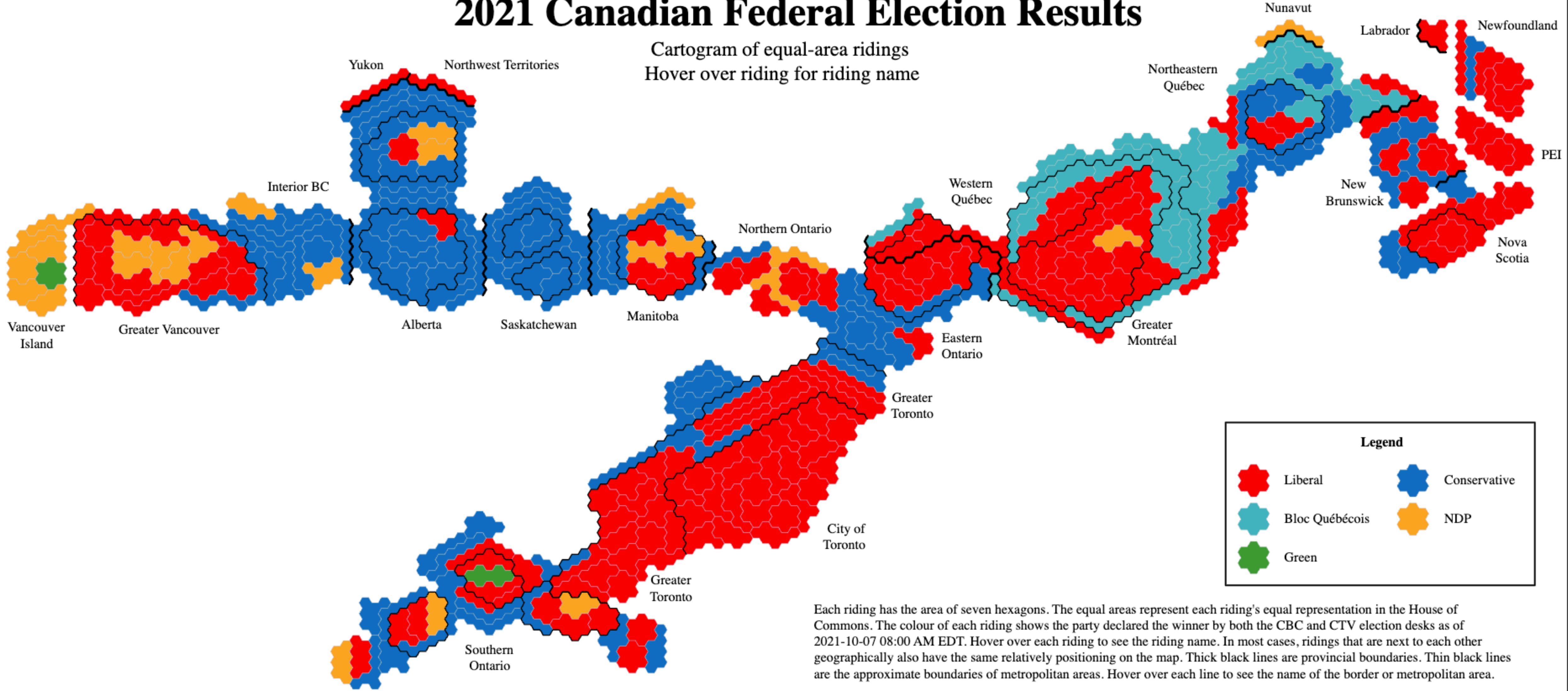
The **Canucks** have tied up nearly the entire west coast other than pockets of Vegas Golden Knights fans and the far north of B.C. – where a trip to see the Edmonton Oilers is quicker than a nine hour drive south to Vancouver.

The federal government is the largest airline customer in Nunavut, which could explain the **Ottawa Senators'** top spot in much of the north.

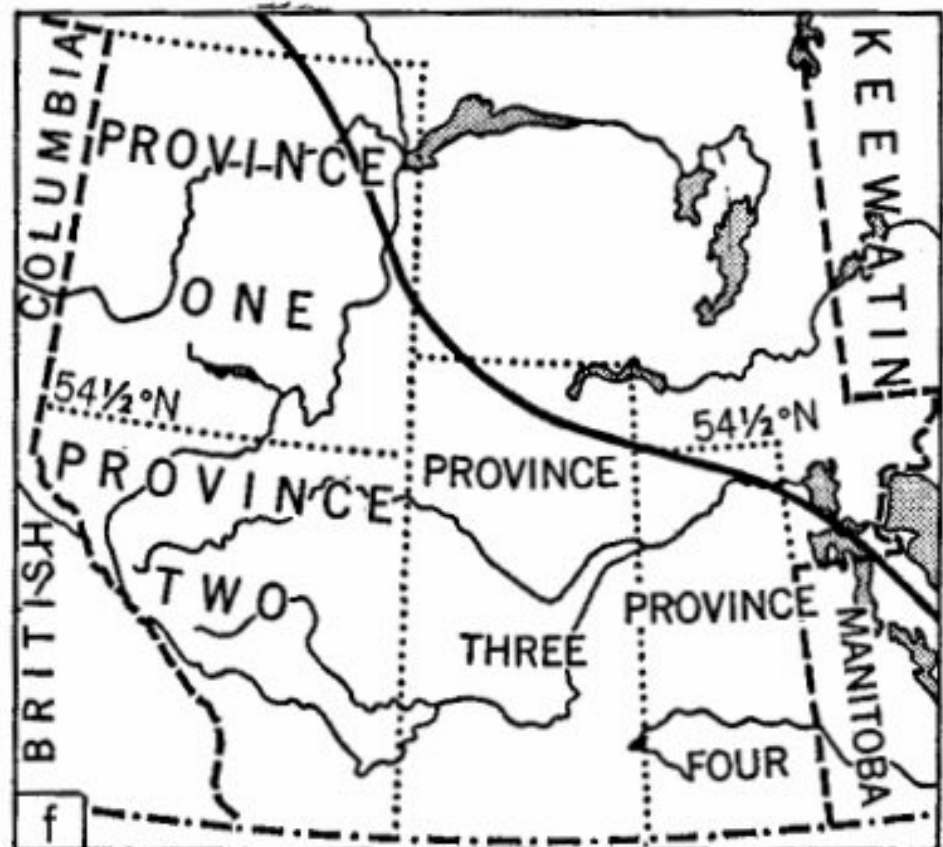
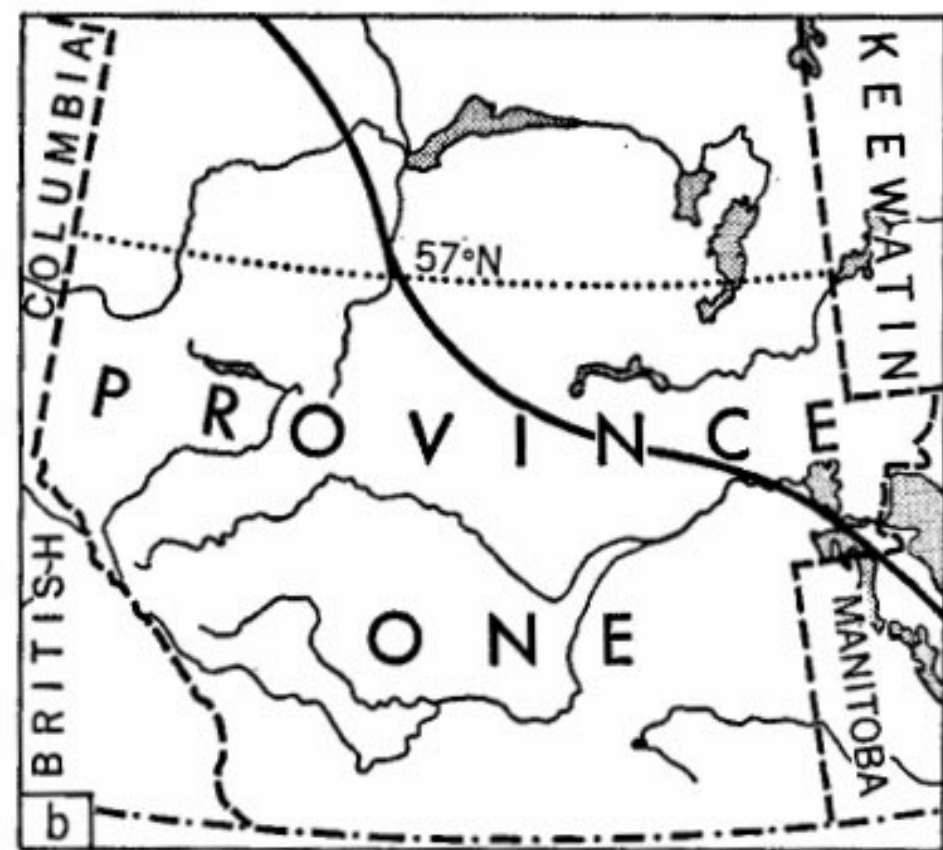
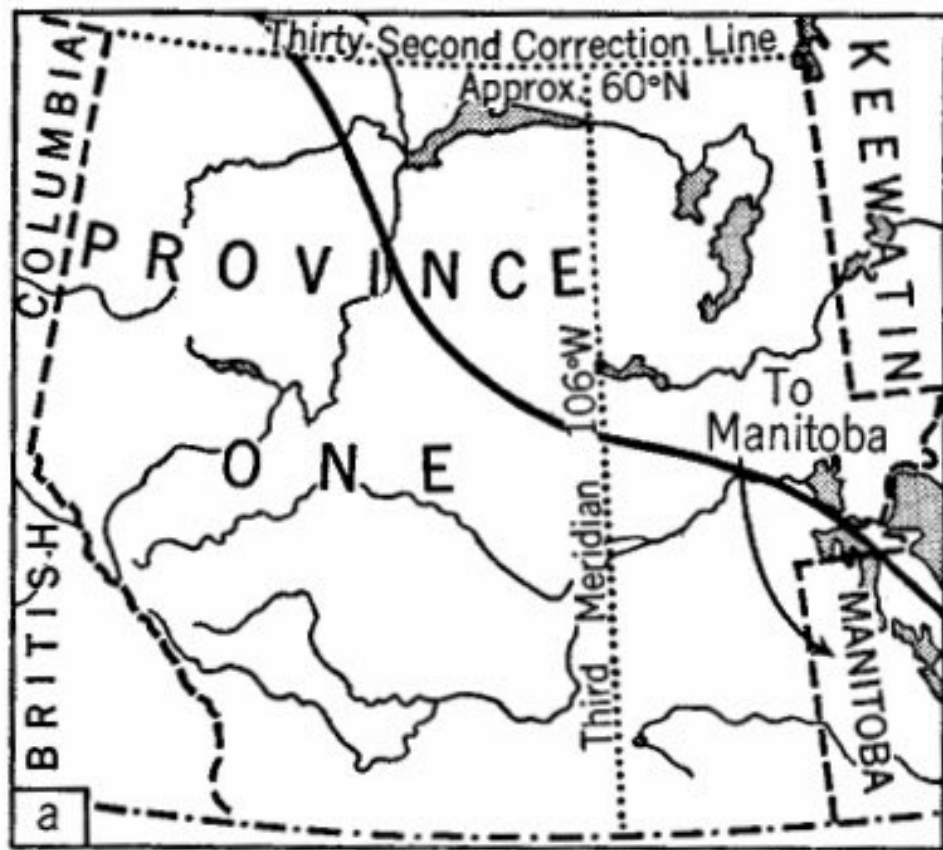


2021 Canadian Federal Election Results

Cartogram of equal-area ridings
Hover over riding for riding name

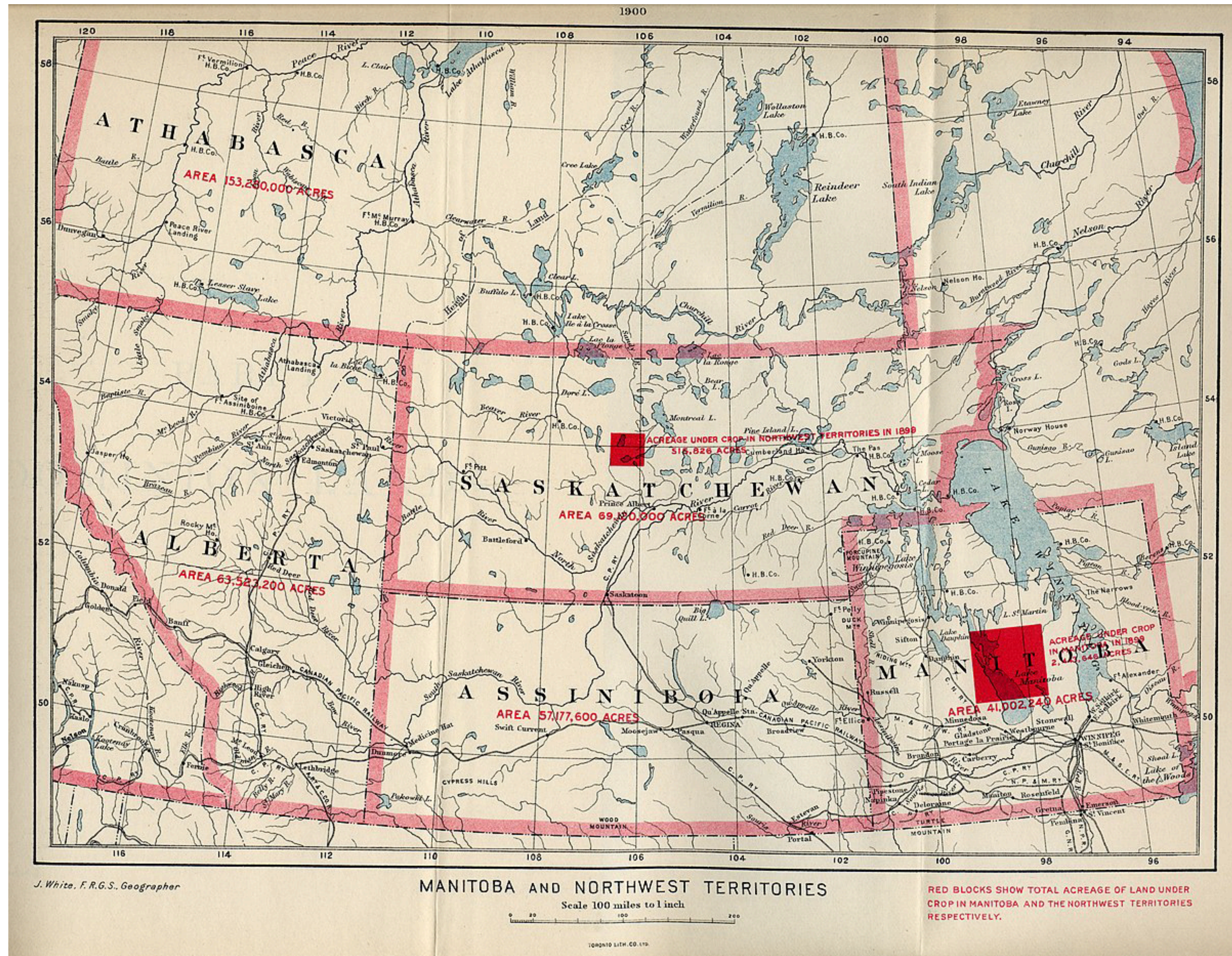


Each riding has the area of seven hexagons. The equal areas represent each riding's equal representation in the House of Commons. The colour of each riding shows the party declared the winner by both the CBC and CTV election desks as of 2021-10-07 08:00 AM EDT. Hover over each riding to see the riding name. In most cases, ridings that are next to each other geographically also have the same relative positioning on the map. Thick black lines are provincial boundaries. Thin black lines are the approximate boundaries of metropolitan areas. Hover over each line to see the name of the border or metropolitan area.



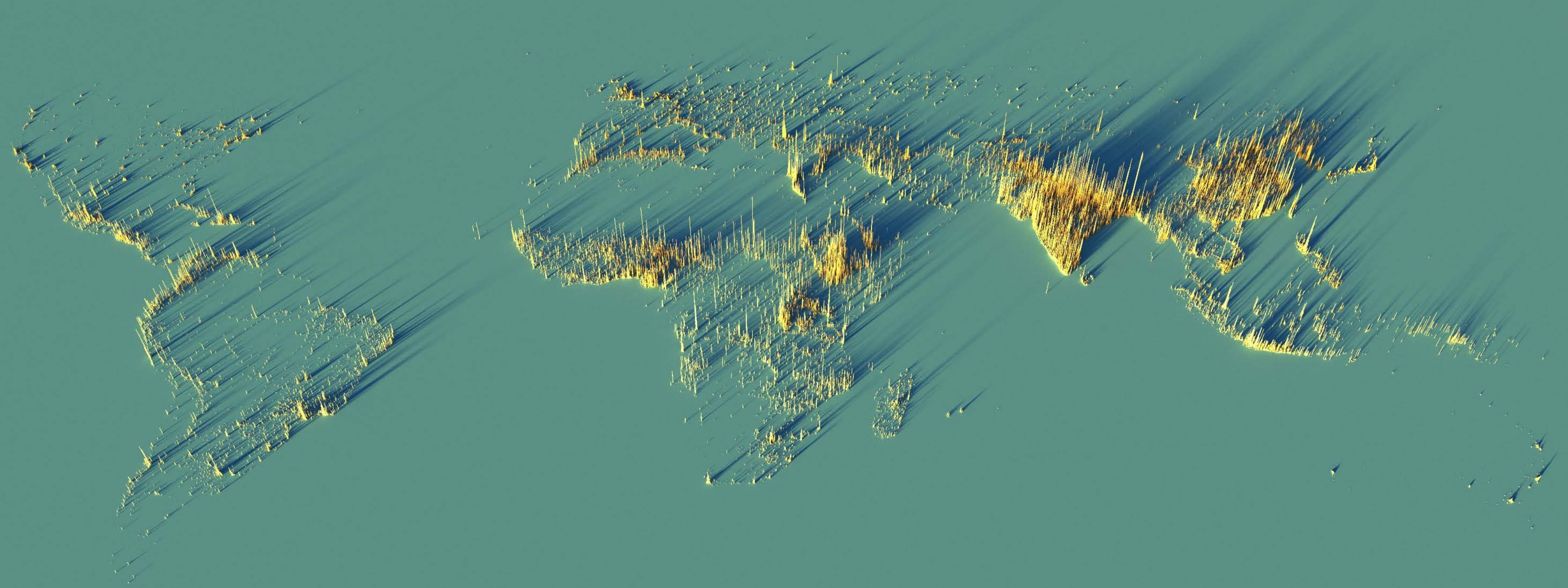
International Boundary.....
 Provincial and Territorial Boundaries.....
 Suggested New Provincial Boundary.....

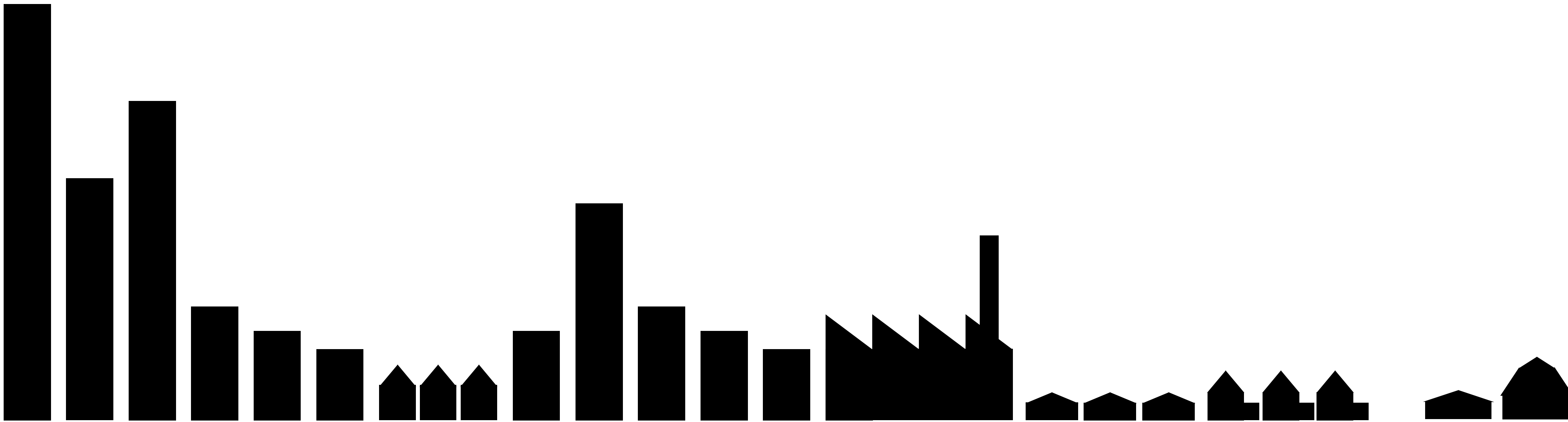
60°F Summer Isotherm.....
 Scale in miles
 100 0 100 200 300 400



GLOBAL POPULATION DENSITY

The height of the spikes relates to the number of people living in an area.





ROAD NETWORK

POTABLE WATER

SANITARY SEWER SERVICE

BUS TRANSIT COVERAGE

RAPID TRANSIT COVERAGE

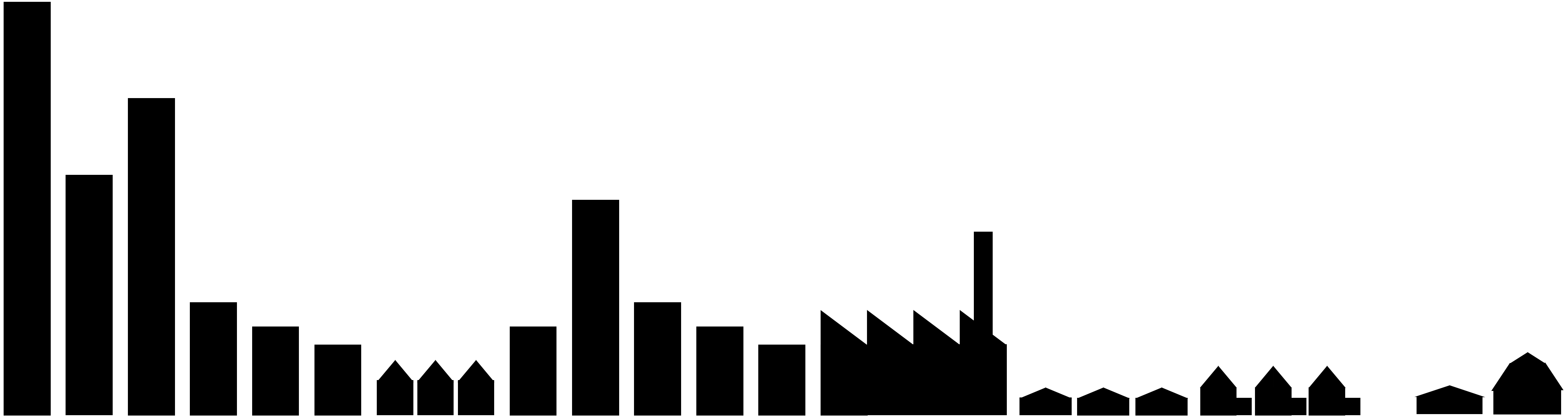
CITY POLICE

CITY A

CITY B

TOWN C

COUNTY D



ROAD NETWORK

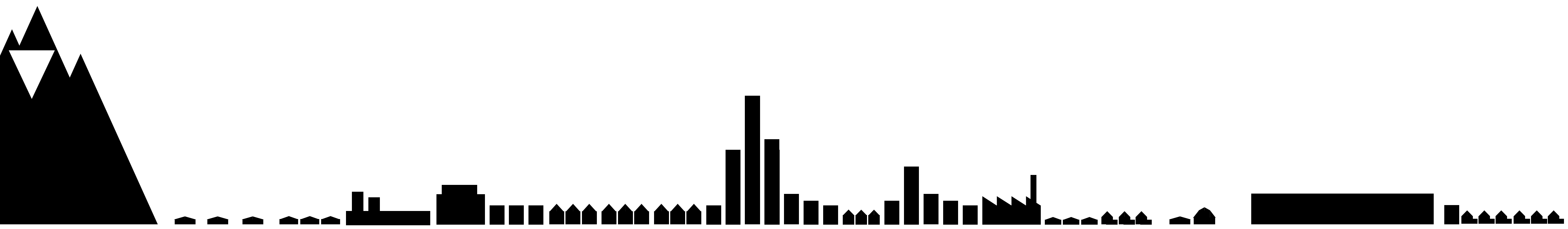
POTABLE WATER

SANITARY SEWER SERVICE

BUS TRANSIT COVERAGE

RAPID TRANSIT COVERAGE

CITY POLICE



AIRSHED & BIOSPHERE

WATERSHED A

WATERSHED B

SUBURBAN HOUSING

EXCLUSIVE HOUSING

INNER CITY NBHDS

EXURBAN HOUSING MARKET

COMMUTER SHED, LABOUR MARKET & INTERTWINED INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORKS

WIDER TRADING AREA

A Canadian Metropolitan Mindset

Developing an Urgent ***DRAFT*** Playbook for Regionalism

- **Convene bottom up:** assemble business, academia, civil society, agency heads, Cllrs. & Mayors;
- **Rally together:** quick wins to build momentum and trust on economic development, transit, culture infrastructure, event attraction or regional parks — co-create something;
- **Think bigger:** friendly local competition is good for differentiation and efficiency, but the real competition is other city regions.
- **Provincial Government(s) should:** respond by articulating a metropolitan policy framework, including goals for environmental, social and economic outcomes, derived from stronger planning, infrastructure optimization, regulatory alignment and service integration and innovation;
- **Invite:** focused engagement with affected jurisdictions and stakeholders on design of Metropolitan **decision-making** models and scope of the Metropolitan area or areas that need work;
- **Demand improved outcomes:** not protecting fiefdoms or the status quo — from housing supply to emissions reduction, and from population health to productivity, we need to go way beyond tinkering;
- **Mandate:** scope, decision making systems, integrated growth planning and accountability, equitable cost and revenue sharing; devolve revenue streams to support new mandates and unlock more collaboration.

A Canadian Metropolitan Mindset (2/2)

Developing an Urgent ***DRAFT*** Playbook for Regionalism

- **Federal nudging:** policy signals are increasingly aligning major programs to metropolitan units, such as with affordable housing, public transit infrastructure funding, and activity within regional economic development areas — lean in further;
- **Push the envelope:** advance reconciliation and pivot from the impasse with provinces on health care spending by increasing direct collaboration with Indigenous housing, health and social welfare service providers on urban reserves.
- **Measure results:** Are emissions falling fast enough? Is rent affordable? Is workforce housing supply growing within a reasonable distance of employment? Are commutes getting better or worse? Are people coming or leaving, or both, and why?
- **Review and adjust:** it's not going to be perfect the first try, but that's no excuse not to try to get these complex systems working better, you can tune the machine over time.
- **Seize initiative:** I argue that the province(s) that gets here first will outperform those stuck playing urban/suburban/rural wedge politics or punching down to their local governments.

← Return to Gallery

Regional Structure (EMRGP Schedule 2)

