

## Religious Adherence, 1891-1961

Canada's religious heritage has been overwhelmingly Christian. Zealous, well-intentioned missionaries - mainly Roman Catholic and Anglican - virtually annihilated native forms of worship. In French-speaking regions Roman Catholicism dominates; elsewhere the denominational mix echoes wide cultural diversity. Non-Christian religions are redefining this pattern in the 21st century, particularly in the cities.

To start this Maptour, navigate to the chapter page for: Religious Adherence, 1891-1961  
*Browse > National Perspectives - Society > Religious Adherence, 1891-1961*

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the 'Historical Atlas of Canada Online Learning Project' website. The page title is 'Religious Adherence, 1891-1961'. The main content area includes an overview paragraph, a preview map of Canada with a highlighted region in Saskatchewan, and a list of interactive maps. The interactive maps section contains three entries: 'Religious Adherence, 1921', 'Religious Diversity in Saskatchewan, 1921', and 'Presbyterian Vote on Church Union, 1924-1925'. Below these are sections for 'Static Maps' and 'Graphs', each with a single entry. The page also features a 'Notes' section with links to 'Overview', 'Authors and Sources', 'Text from the printed Atlas', and 'Essay from the printed Atlas'. A 'More Resources' section at the bottom provides links to 'Related resources on this site' and 'Links to other sites'. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'http://www.historicalatlas.ca/...'. The browser window title is 'Historical Atlas of Canada Online Learning Project - Microsoft Internet Explorer'.

## Religious Regionalism in 1921



### Try This:

- Open the interactive map “Religious Adherence, 1921.”
- Click on the “Zoom to” drop-down menu and select “Southern Ontario”, and examine the map.
- Using the “Zoom to” drop-down menu select “Southern Québec” and “The Prairies”, each in turn, and examine the maps.



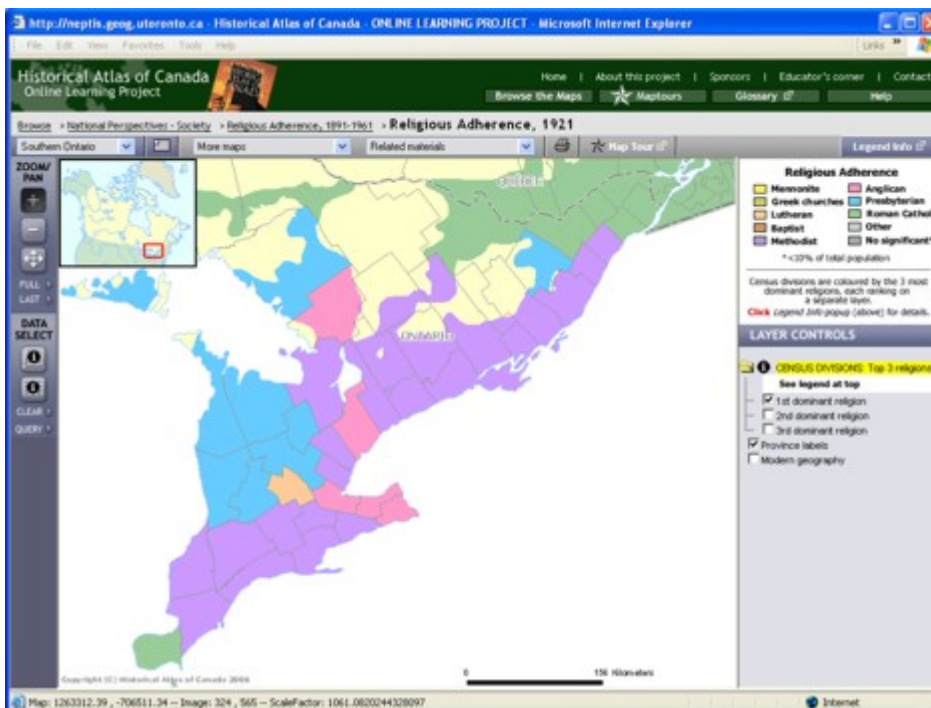
### Notice ...

- Dominant religions in 1921 were clustered regionally: Roman Catholics in Québec, Methodists in Ontario, and Presbyterians on the Prairies.



### Consider!

- Nowhere in Canada were non-Christians predominant in 1921.



Québec's Second Religion?



Try This:

- Keep open the interactive map "Religious Adherence, 1921."
- Click on the "Zoom to" drop-down menu and select "Southern Québec".
- Under LAYER CONTROLS, turn on the checkbox for "2nd most common religion."



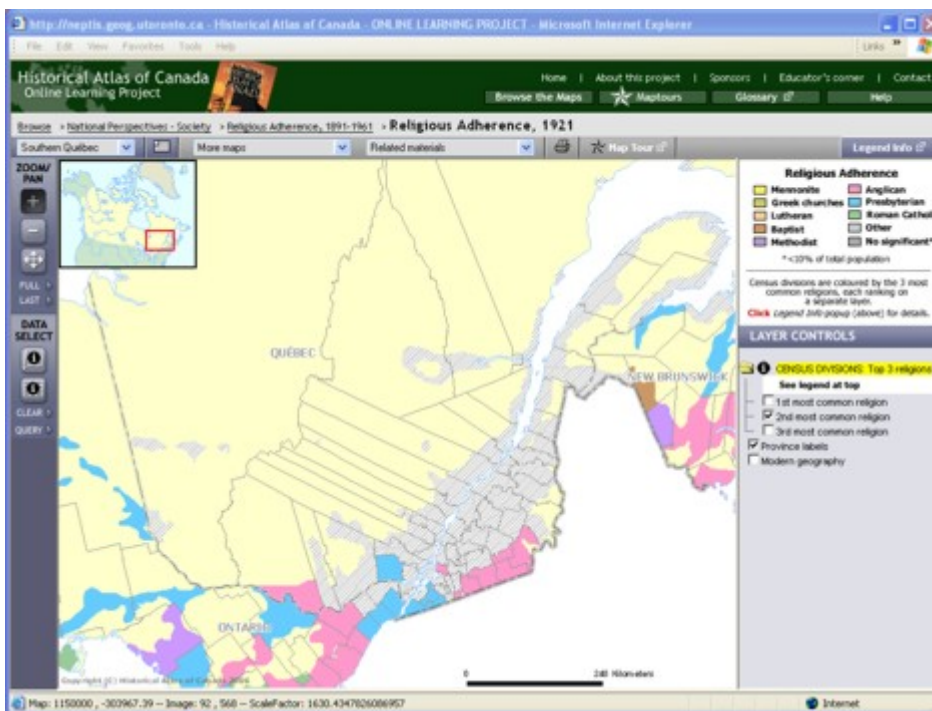
Notice ...

- In most of Québec in 1921 the second most common religion after Roman Catholicism was held by less than ten per cent of the population.



Consider!

- The St Lawrence River valley in 1921 was an intensely homogeneous area when it came to religion.
- The presence of Presbyterians and Anglicans along Québec's American border may be a sign of adjacent New England roots.



The Saskatchewan Patchwork



Try This:

- Click on the "More Maps" drop-down menu and select " Saskatchewan, 1921."
- Under LAYER CONTROLS turn on, in succession, the checkboxes for "1st most common religion," "2nd most common religion" and "3rd most common religion" and watch the changes in the map.



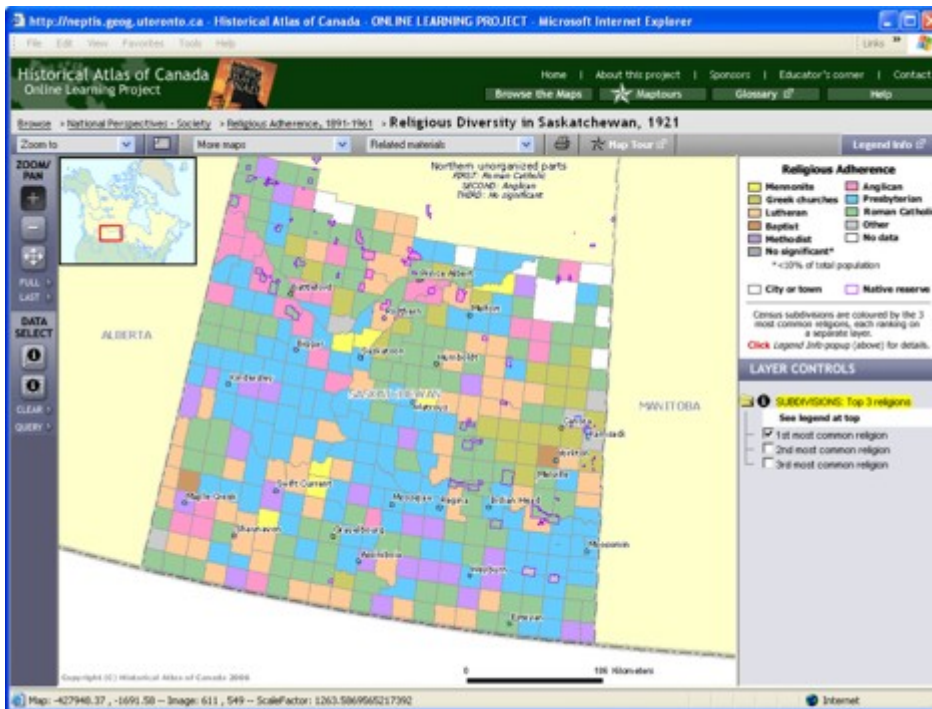
Notice ...

- Greek Orthodox Christians have a deep presence in eastern Saskatchewan, in the Canora and Yorkton region.
- Anglicans may be described as a "diffuse minority" throughout the province.



Consider!

- The religious landscapes of Saskatchewan and Québec in 1921 could hardly have been more different.
- The immigrant histories of Québec and Saskatchewan must likewise display strong contrasts.



Canada's Census a Treasure Trove



Try This:

- Keep open the interactive map "Religious Diversity in Saskatchewan, 1921."
- On the DATA SELECT toolbar, click on the Table tool and then click on any Census subdivision on the map to open a pop-up table of its information.



Notice ...

- The table gives you the name of the census subdivision (the recording unit) and some statistical detail about its 3 most common religions.
- The boundary of the census subdivision is highlighted. (You may have to drag aside the table box to see your chosen area.)



Try This:

- With the Table tool still active, use the cursor to drag a rectangle on the map enclosing several Census subdivisions.



Notice ...

- The table box re-loads, with a table naming all the Census subdivisions in your sample, and comparative statistical detail.
- The boundaries of all the selected Census subdivisions are highlighted.



Consider!

- Canada's published decennial censuses are a remarkably rich resource, and the census manuscripts offer even more extensive detail.

The screenshot shows the 'Historical Atlas of Canada' web application. The main map displays 'Religious Diversity in Saskatchewan, 1921' with various colored regions representing different religious groups. A legend on the right lists categories like 'Mennonites', 'Greek churches', 'Lutheran', 'Baptist', 'Methodist', 'No significant\*', 'City or town', and 'Native reserve'. A data table is open in the foreground, showing the top 3 religions for several census subdivisions.

Rank	Census Subdivision	1st Religion	1st Number	1st Percent	2nd Religion	2nd Number	2nd Percent	3rd Religion	3rd Number	3rd Percent
1	Kindersley	Presbyterian	340	34.89591	Anglican	225	22.43270	Methodist	170	17.04735
2	319 Winnow	Presbyterian	690	41.54124	Roman Catholic	272	16.37568	Anglican	254	15.29199
3	320 Oakdale	Presbyterian	319	30.55556	Methodist	247	23.85900	Anglican	185	17.81009
4	138 Wells	Presbyterian	1499	34.83915	Lutheran	761	17.89534	Roman Catholic	609	14.08320
5	259 Snake-Lake	Presbyterian	635	32.74884	Methodist	549	28.31366	Anglican	248	12.88666
6	290 Hillsburg	Methodist	424	30.88017	Presbyterian	407	29.45007	Anglican	241	17.40650
7	290 Kindersley	Presbyterian	362	29.96799	Methodist	242	19.96700	Anglican	185	13.81366



All Sorts of Protestants



Try This:

- Click on the "Related Materials" drop-down menu and select *Graphs* - "Road to Church Union."



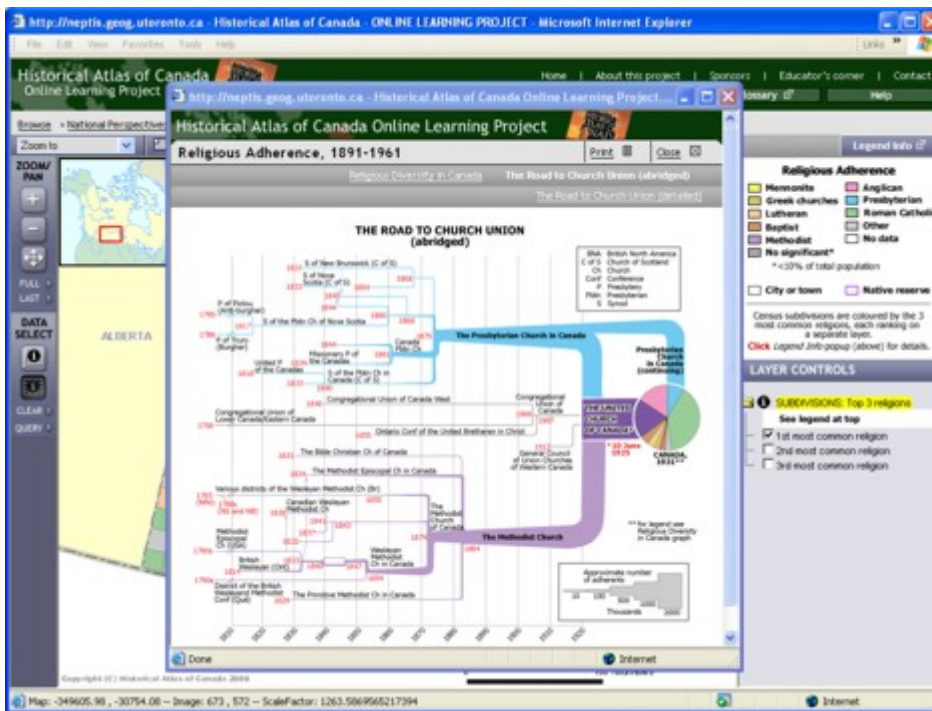
Notice ...

- Protestant Christianity in Canada was severely fragmented before the 1870s.



Consider!

- Doctrinal disputes occur within religious communities as well as between them, and the 19th-century experience in Canada was no exception to this rule.
- Doctrinal disputes may be overcome.



## Unity among Presbyterians?



### Try This:

- Open the interactive map "Presbyterian vote on Church Union, 1924-1925."
  - On the ZOOM/PAN toolbar, click on the Zoom in button and drag a rectangle on the map so that both the Prairies and Ontario are visible.
- 



### Notice ...

- Prairie Presbyterian congregations were of one voice on this subject.
  - Ontario Presbyterian congregations were widely divided.
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### Try This:

- Use the Zoom in tool on the map, to zoom in to the Prairies.
  - On the DATA SELECT toolbar, click on the Table tool and then click and drag a rectangle on the map to include several of the units ("presbyteries.")
- 



### Notice ...

- The data table displays the vote for church union both by congregations and by individuals, presbytery by presbytery.
  - The limits of the presbyteries you selected are individually highlighted. (You may have to drag the table aside to see this.)
  - The proportion of congregations in each presbytery that voted in favour of Union in 1925 was almost always greater - and frequently a great deal greater - than the proportion of the vote when reported by individual ballots (the "popular vote").
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### Consider!

- The strength and homogeneity among Prairie voters was not as strong as the map would suggest.
  - Ontario appeared to have been consistently heterogeneous, not only between presbyteries but also within them.
  - The manner in which votes are recorded in elections can yield highly discordant results.
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These are just a few of the questions that these maps and data can address  
If you have ideas for other questions, please use our [Feedback](#) page to send them in,  
and they may be posted on the website in the future.

