

DRAFT

Shining Waters Regional Council

Mapping the Future

EDGE: A Network for Ministry Development

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Purpose

Shining Waters Regional Council is looking to understand the region in different ways. By looking at demographic data, combined with data provided by the United Church and the individual communities of faith, we can make recommendations about how ministries might connect with their communities, work with congregations which are in similar circumstances, and how the region as a whole can support the ministry of communities of faith.

Data

Time was spent gathering data from a variety of sources. Statistics Canada has their 2020 census data available (with the understanding that the majority of this data was collected or predicted prior to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic) and this data was used on a larger scale to look at 368 'neighbourhoods' within Shining Waters, as well as 1km and 2km buffers around each community of faith.

United Church of Canada data was collected by using annual UCC Yearbook reports from 2010 and 2019 to help understand the situations of the communities of faith within the region. To supplement this self-reported data, official UCC sources were used to gather information around the status of ministry personnel across the region.

Finally, data from the former Toronto Conference was provided around affirming status and language of worship.

Analysis

Analysis was primarily performed on Pastoral Charges, as this is what the 2019 yearbook data is available for. It allowed for buffers around each location, and placement within neighbourhoods. While the church may be moving away from pastoral charges and into communities of faith as terminology, these may be mixed throughout the analysis to fit the context. Fortunately, as there are few

multi-point charges within Shining Waters, most of the time the terms will be overlapping.

For Statistics Canada, the smallest geographic area of study is called a Dissemination Area. These areas typically hold between 400 and 700 people. With over 3,000 of these in the Shining Waters region, DAs were combined to create larger areas that could be studied. This worked out to 368 neighbourhoods, and allowed for demographic information to be gathered on a localized level throughout the region.

Clustering model analysis was performed using different variables to see how congregations that may not be geographically close can be in similar circumstances. Using mixes of UCC data and demographic data, we are able to get a sense of how the communities of faith within the region might be able to draw on support from other communities and how they are doing ministry in these contexts.

When looking at the individual pastoral charges, UCC yearbook data was analyzed to see how the church has changed since 2010. Often it's too easy to see the decline, but there are areas of growth to be celebrated.

Variables

This is a list of variables that were collected and used for analysis:

Demographics:

- 2015 population
- 2020 population
- 2025 predicted population
- Aboriginal identity, percent
- Age, median
- Children per household, average
- Donations to religious charities, avg
- Female parent households, percent
- Immigration, percent
- Income, average
- Male parent households, percent
- Non-official mother tongue, percent
- People per household, average
- Seniors living alone, percent
- Unemployment rate
- United Church of Canada, percent
- Visible Minorities, percent

United Church Yearbook:

- Average Sunday attendance
- Adult baptisms
- Child baptisms
- Sunday school
- Christian education
- Men's groups
- Women's groups
- Market value of land
- Total raised by all sources

Toronto Conference and General Council Office

- Ethno-cultural specific
- Indigenous congregation
- Affirming congregation
- Tenure of longest serving ministry personnel
- Number of full time equivalent

Demographics

The entire of Shining Waters Regional Council was broken down into 368 'neighbourhoods'. These neighbourhoods had an average population of ~15,000 people, but went from less than a thousand people up to almost 80,000 people. Given how varied the region is from the Toronto area to rural and small towns, this is expected.

POPULATION

With a total population of 5.5 million people in 2019 [figure 1], the region is expected to grow by 14.7% over the next 10 years to reach a population of 6.3 million people by 2029 [figure 2]. The population increase will reach 7.4% in the next five years to see just under 6 million people living in the region by 2024.

Compare this to the growth in the five years since 2014, when there was a 7.9% growth in population [figure 3]. While the population growth is predicted to be slightly less in the following 5 years, it is by no means slowing.

Only 28 of the neighbourhoods are expecting negative or zero growth over the next 10 years, with 178 growing by 10% or less. 162 neighbourhoods will grow by over 10%, with 6 more than doubling in the next 10 years.

[NEIGHBOURHOOD LOCATIONS]

RELIGION

Religion data is asked in the form of 'which religious group are you affiliated with', and does not question whether or not respondents are members, adherents, or merely culturally or historically linked.

The United Church of Canada was deemed to be the choice of affiliation of over 209,000 people in the Shining Waters catchment area in 2020, representing just over 5% of the population [figure 4]. Five neighbourhoods reported over a quarter of their population as being affiliated with the UCC, primarily in the northern parts of the region. A few outliers of neighbourhoods in the southern areas of the region with over 13% affiliated with the United Church, but among those with less than 13%, the average neighbourhood has 3.5% of their population reporting an affiliation with the United Church.

AGE

The median age of a neighbourhood tells us at what age half the population is below, and half is above. Across the region, the median age of the population is 41.5 years old, slightly higher than the median age of Canada at 40.9.

Median ages are highest in the northern part of the region, with younger median ages (as low as 29.9) in the downtown core of Toronto, in many parts of Brampton, and scattered along the Hwy 400 corridor [figure 5].

Christian Island and Wahta Mohawk Territory are notable outliers for their low median ages, surrounded by otherwise older neighbourhoods.

HOUSEHOLDS

Households can be made up of any number of people, representing everyone who lives within one dwelling. The average number of people who make up a household in Shining Waters is 2.9, but in high density areas such as Brampton, Vaughan, and Markham, there are households with up to 4.9 people on average [figure 6]. Households with larger numbers of people may represent multi-generational households, or rooming houses with many families living within a single dwelling.

To get a sense of the types of families that live in these larger households, we can look at the average number of children per household [figure 7]. The average number of children is only 1.2, whereas we can see that the areas that correspond to the higher numbers of people per household have a higher number of children, on average. However, at 1.6 children, this means that households are likely to have multiple generations living within one dwelling, or are many unrelated people living in close quarters.

Another metric to understand households across the region is the number of seniors (65+) who are in a household on their own [figure 8]. Old town Brampton, Innisfil, and the Parry Sound area are all high outliers with up to a third of their residents being seniors who are living alone. Comparing these neighbourhoods on the average people per household map [figure 6] shows fewer people on average in each household.

MONEY

The income levels across the region show a drastic difference between the northern areas and the southern areas [figure 9]. With four neighbourhoods in known wealthy centres of Toronto having average household incomes of over \$335,000, including one up to \$780,000, this naturally skews the data higher.

Removing those four outliers, the average household income across the region is \$123,000, with households on the eastern and western parts of Toronto, Brampton, Barrie, and throughout the northern neighbourhoods having average incomes of less than \$100,000.

The disparity of average income of a household becomes more important, when compared to the number of people in a household.

EMPLOYMENT

The average unemployment rate across the region is 6.6%, quite a bit lower than the provincial average of 10.6% (as of August 2020) [figure 10]. However, the data collected for this project *does not* reflect changes in the economy or society due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Unemployment is varied across the region, with pockets of higher rates of unemployment in Scarborough, Brampton, and Richmond Hill, with consistently climbing rates as you go farther north.

LANGUAGE & IMMIGRATION

Mother tongue is the language that a person first spoke as a child, the language of their parents. In Shining Waters, just under 40% of people say their mother tongue is a language other than English or French [figure 11], with the vast majority of these people located south of Barrie.

We find non-official mother tongues in the diaspora communities of Markham and the new parts of Brampton, while multicultural Toronto sees areas of higher non-official mother tongues in neighbourhoods where income levels are lower.

Two outliers of the Wahta Mohawk Territory and Christian Island, indicating the likelihood of indigenous languages spoken in the communities.

Immigration rates correspond to many of the neighbourhoods with high non-official mother tongues. 42% of the total population in Shining Waters having immigrated to Canada, and it's not surprising that all but 20 of the neighbourhoods have more than 10% immigration [figure 12].

VISIBLE MINORITIES

The rates of racialized people throughout the region are interesting to compare with the rates of immigration. With much higher rates of visible minorities (just under 50% across the region), whole swathes of the region have neighbourhoods with greater than 75% of their population being visible minorities [figure 13].

Comparing the income levels of households in neighbourhoods where visible minority rates are high shows the disparity between predominantly white neighbourhoods with those with higher numbers of racialized people.

ABORIGINAL IDENTITY

Statistics Canada asks people to self-report their aboriginal identity. With just under 2% of the population reporting being indigenous, it is not surprising to find the greatest percentage (~95%) of people living on Christian Island and in the Wahta Mohawk Territory as being indigenous peoples [*figure 14*]. While northern neighbourhoods have greater percentages of indigenous people living in them, there are pockets of neighbourhoods in downtown Toronto and East York, as well as the downtown areas of Brampton with higher numbers of indigenous people.

The neighbourhoods which include Rama First Nation, and around Midland in the traditional lands of the Wendat, also have higher concentrations of indigenous people.

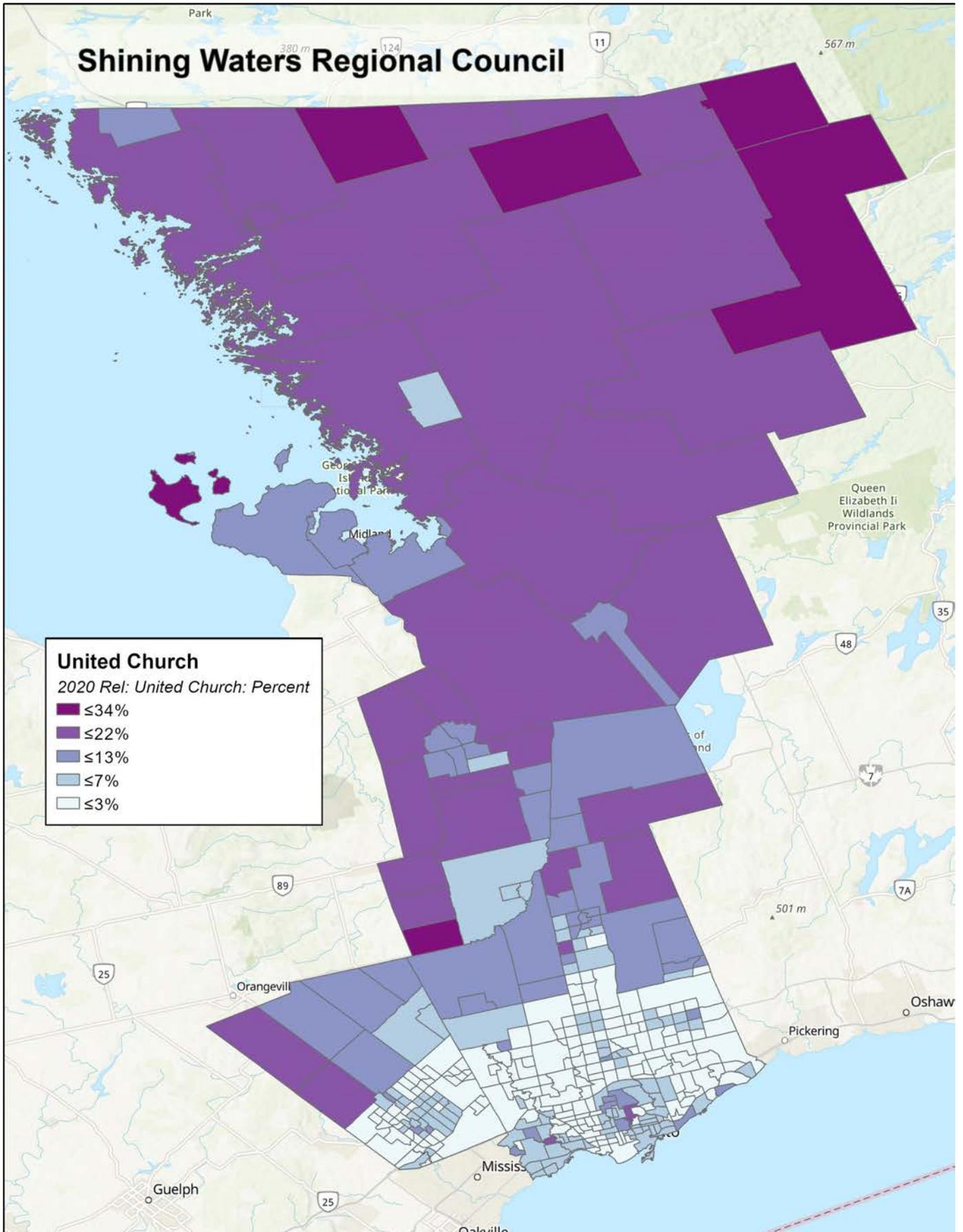


FIGURE 4: United Church of Canada

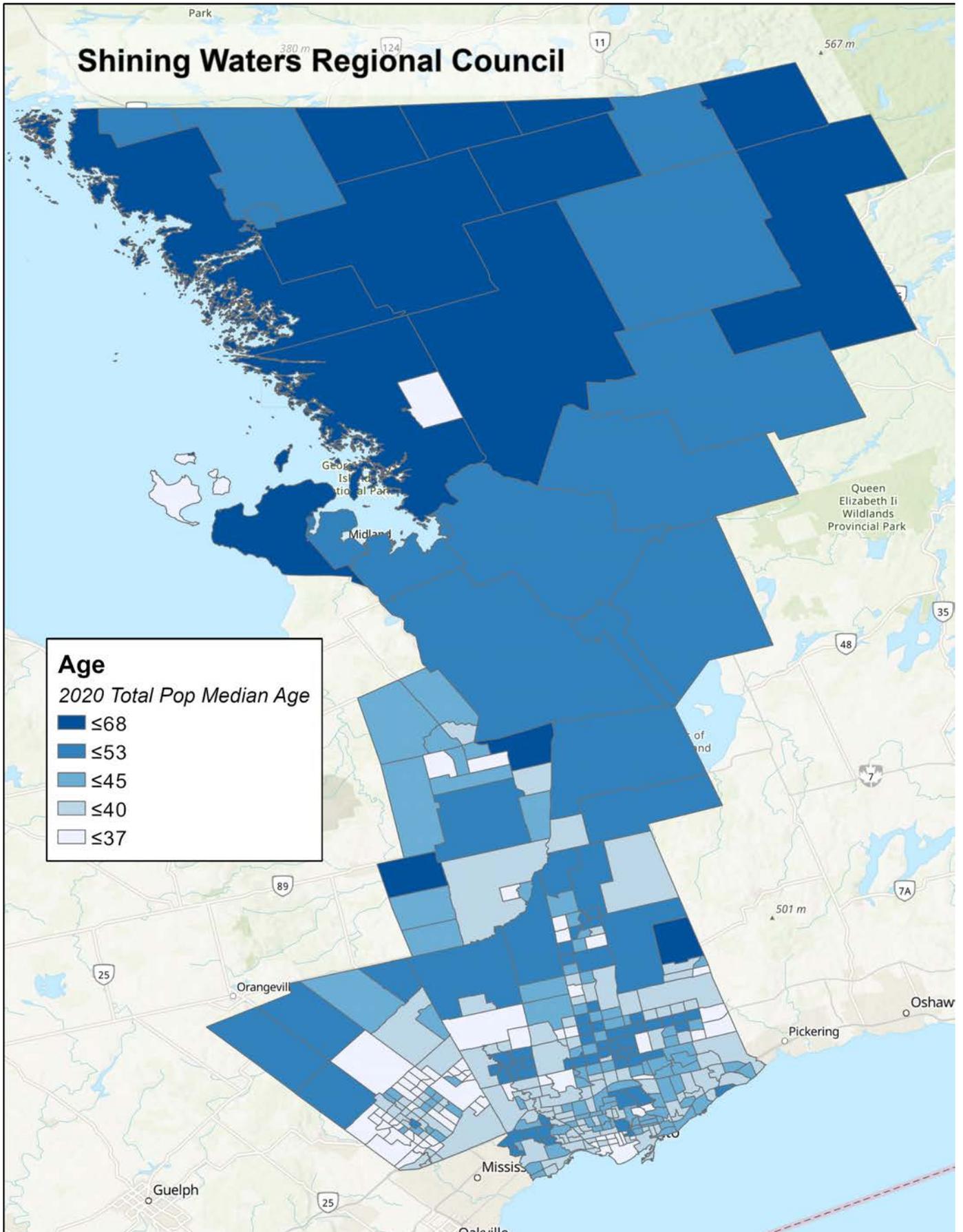


FIGURE 5: Median Age

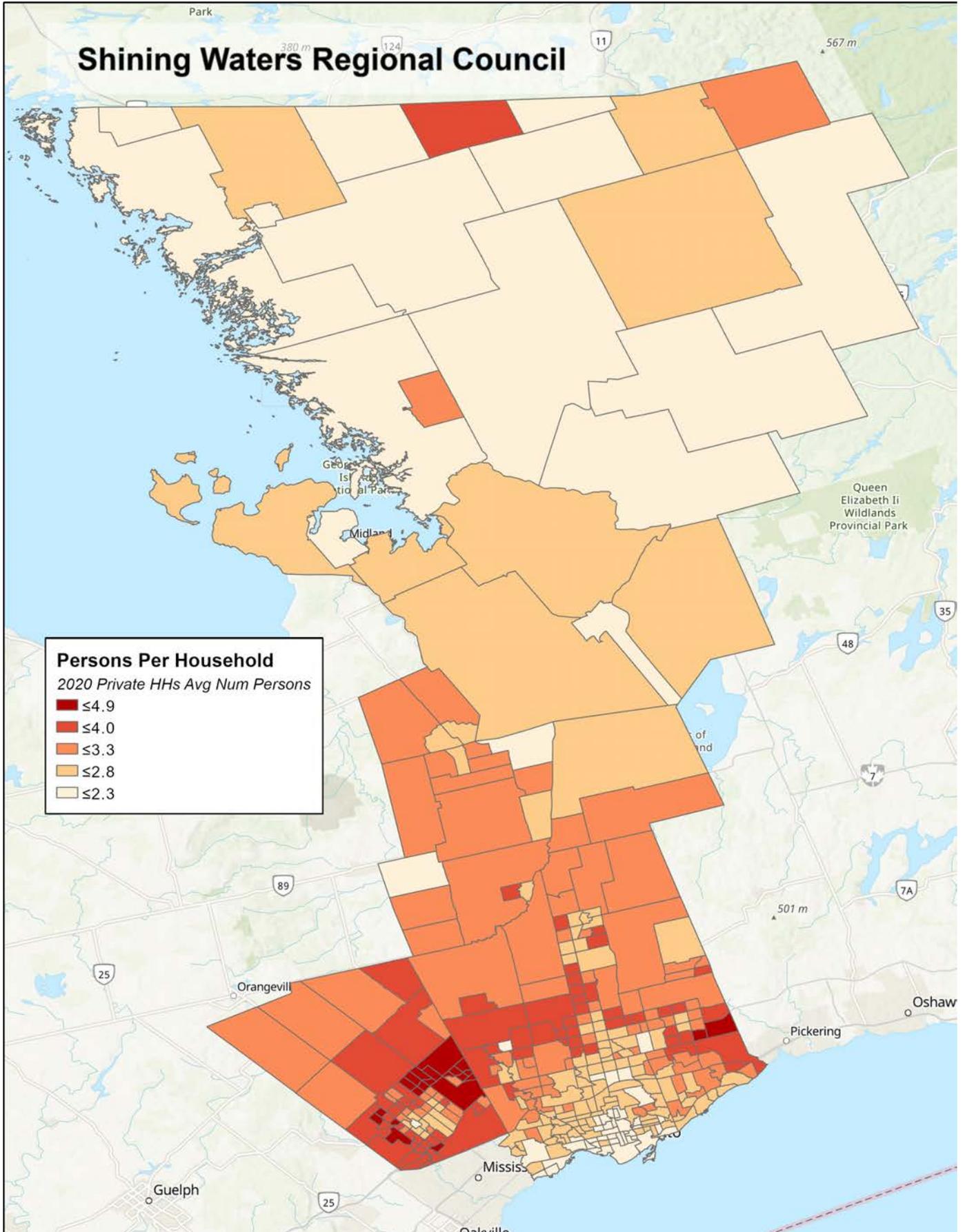


FIGURE 6: Persons per household

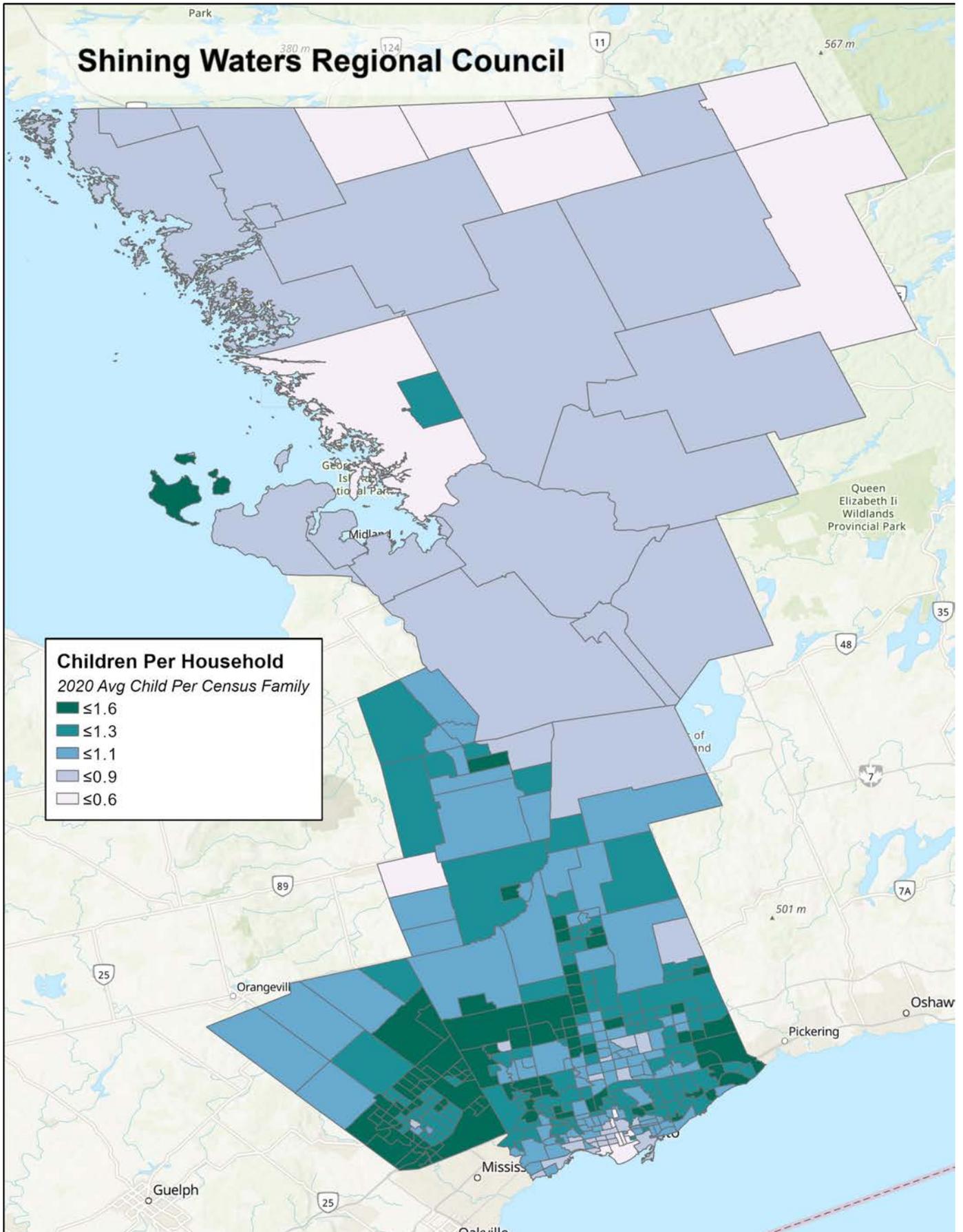


FIGURE 7: Children per household

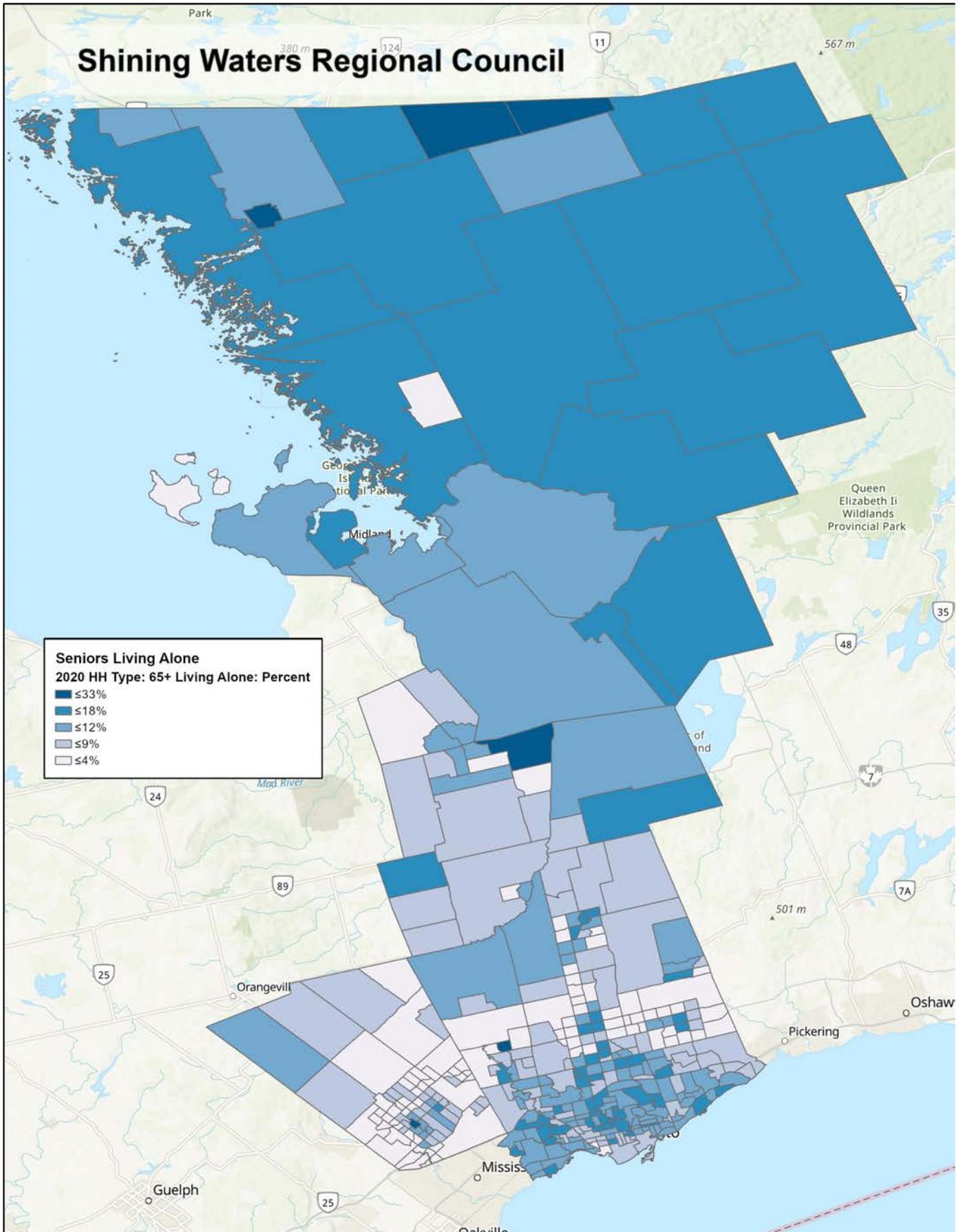


FIGURE 8: Seniors living alone

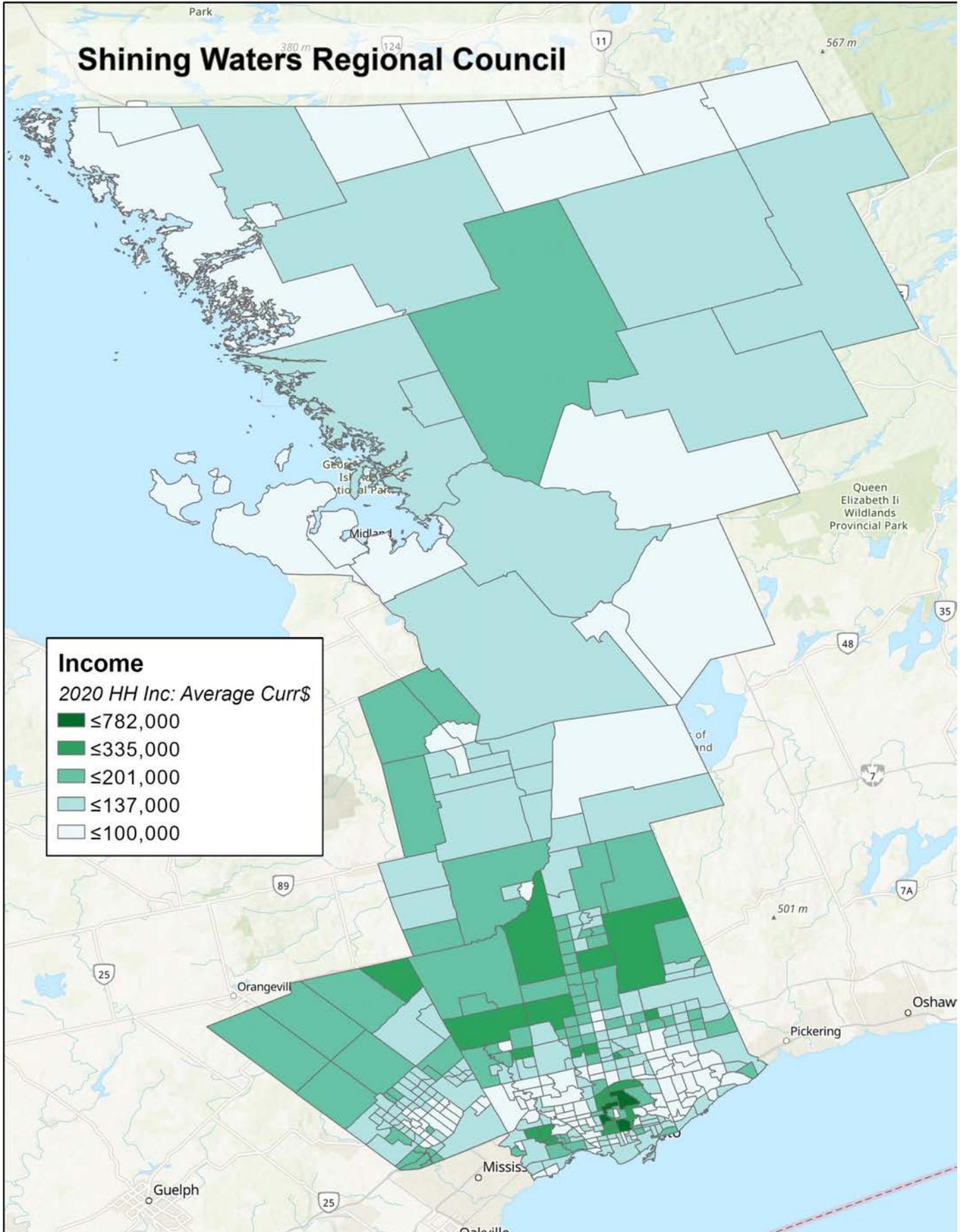
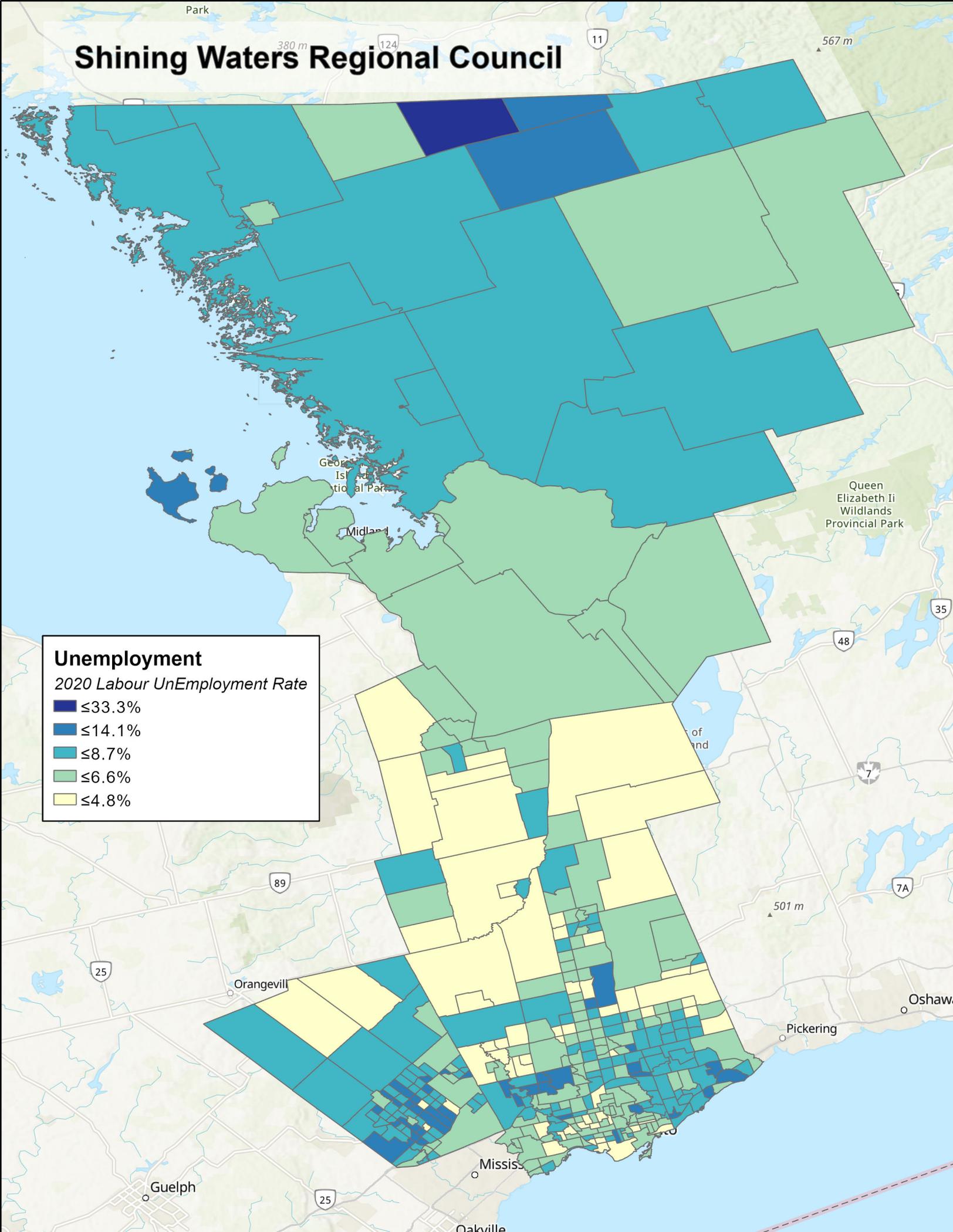


FIGURE 9: Income

Shining Waters Regional Council



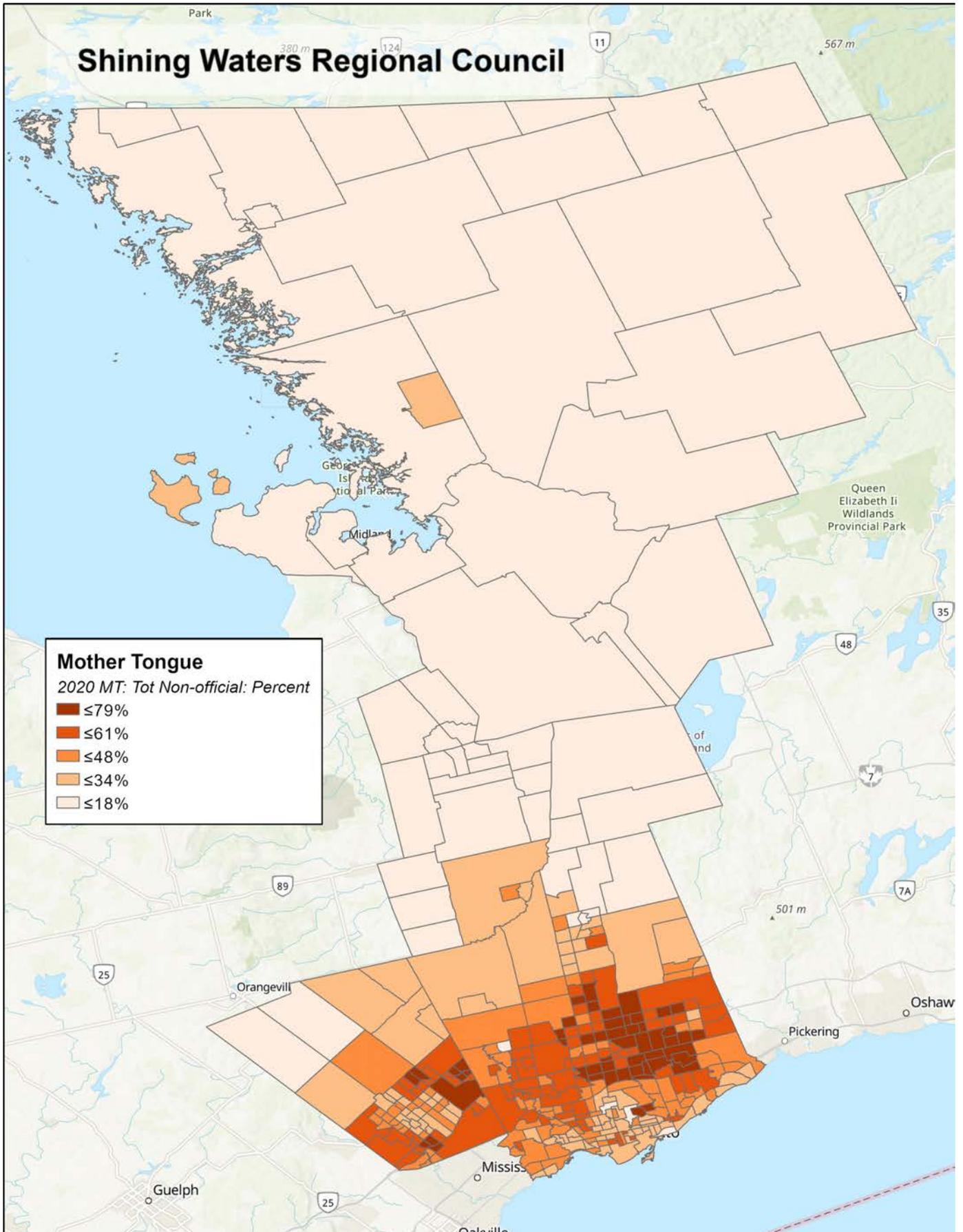


FIGURE 11: Mother tongue

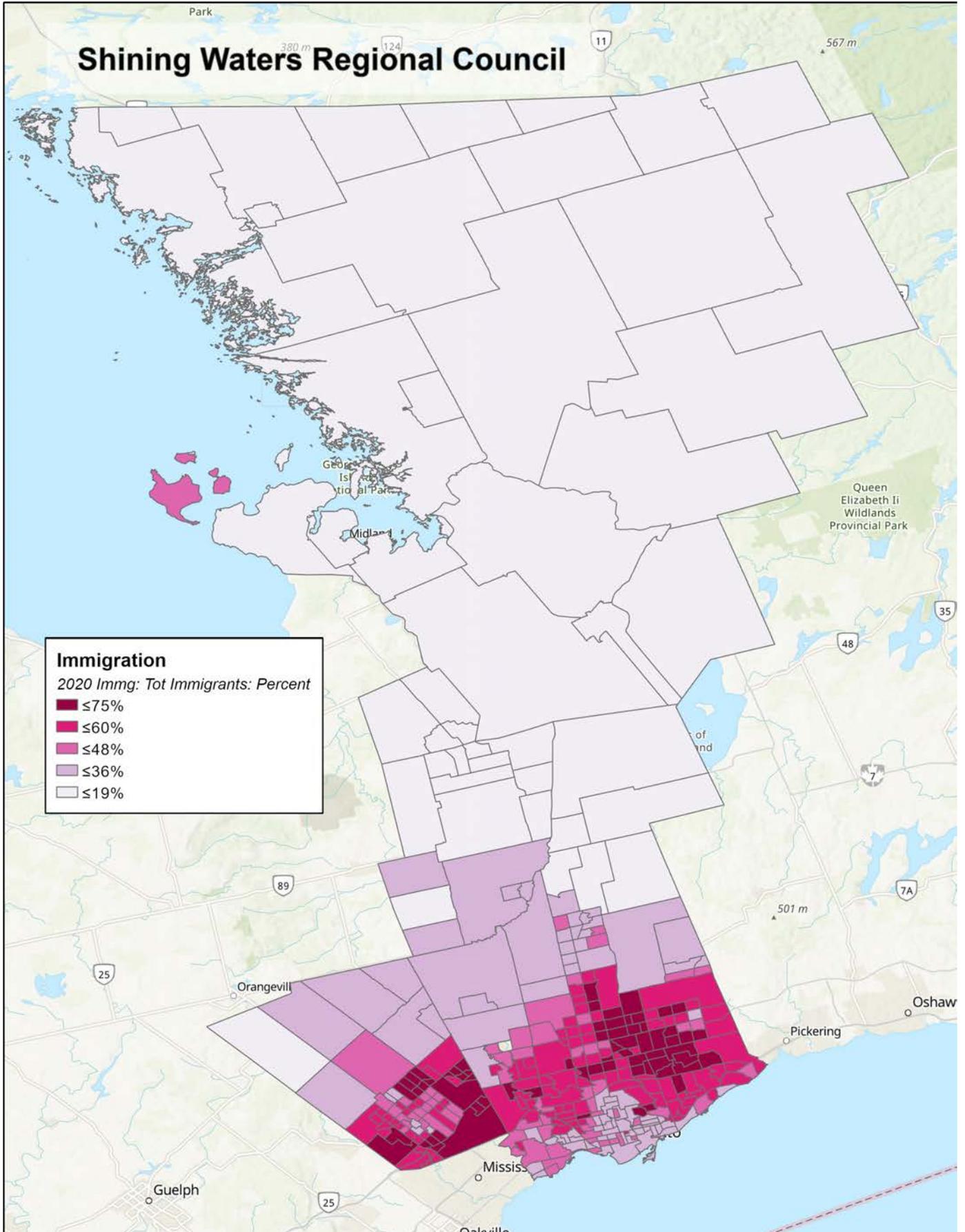


FIGURE 12: Immigration

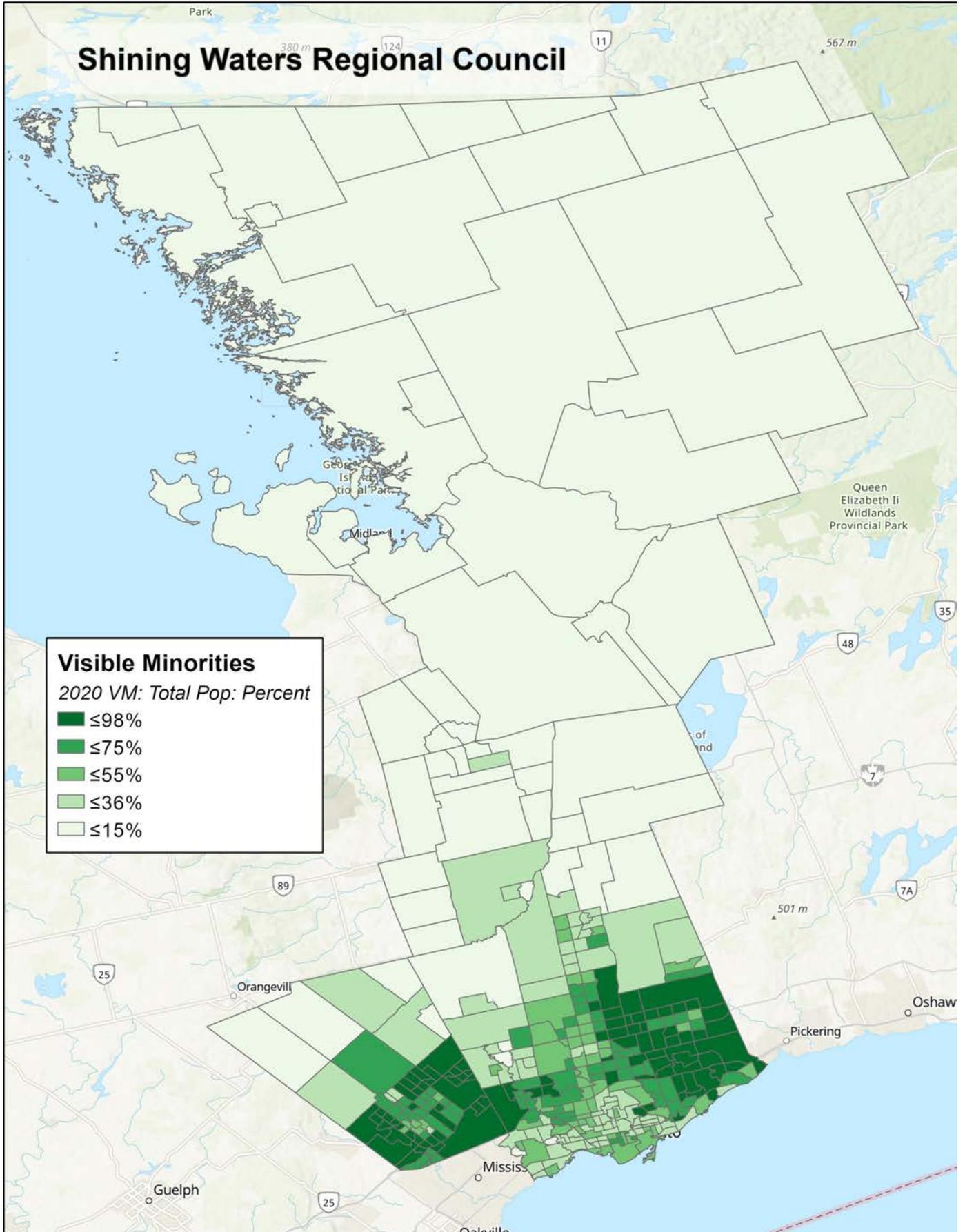


FIGURE 13: Visible Minorities

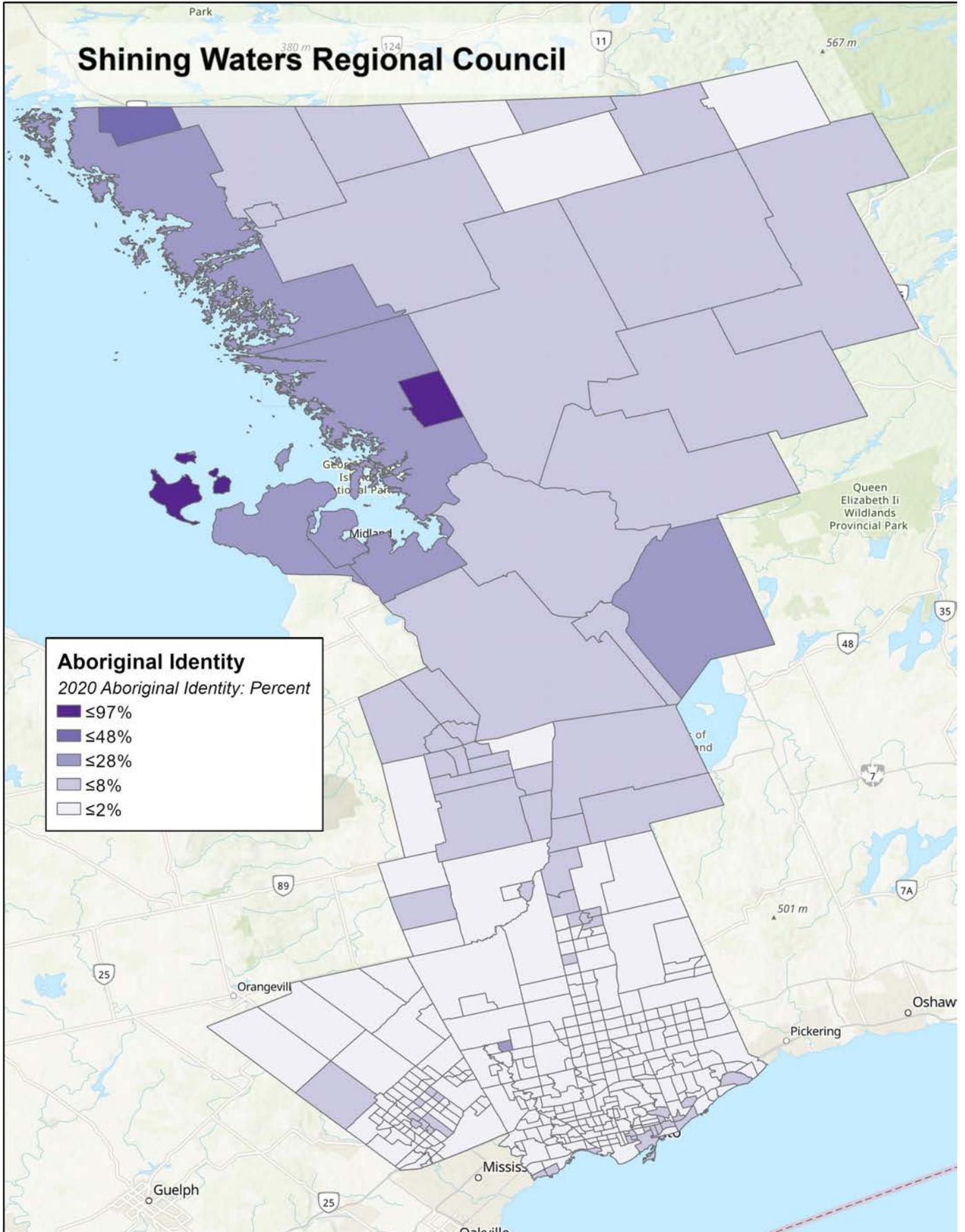


FIGURE 14: Aboriginal identity

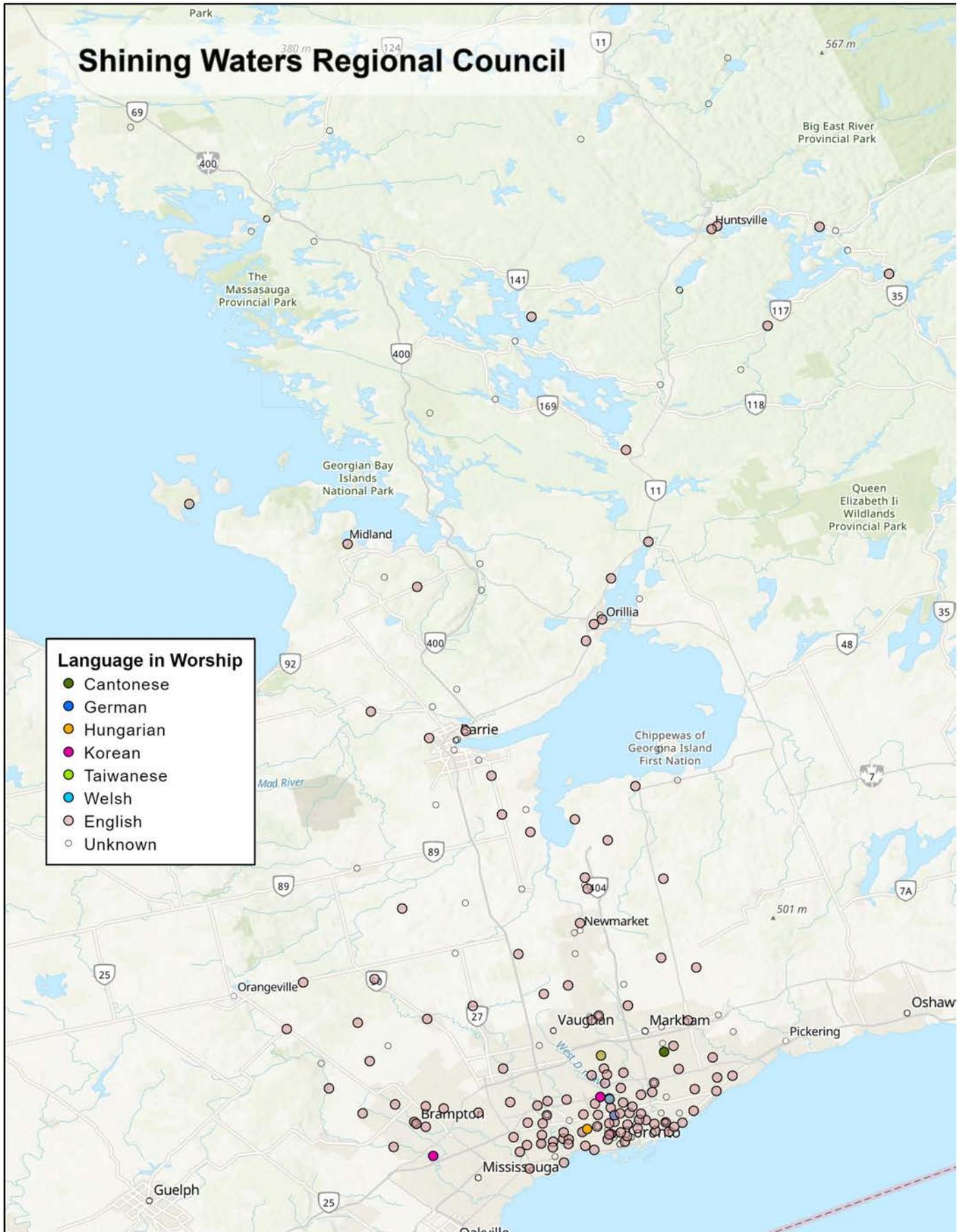


FIGURE 21: Languages in worship