

DRAFT

Shining Waters Regional Council

# Mapping the Future

EDGE: A Network for Ministry Development

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# Ministries

As of spring 2020, there were 166 pastoral charges within Shining Waters Regional Council, representing 178 congregations. In addition to these ministries, 2 ethnic missions, 10 seniors homes, 1 educational centre, 4 camps, 2 campus chaplaincies, and 14 community and social justice ministries make up the total ministry complement of Shining Waters [figure 15].

Because of the availability of data, the 166 pastoral charges were studied using their yearbook data from 2010 and 2019 to get a sense of how the region has changed over time, as well as data available from the General Council Office's Office of Vocation database.

One of the outcomes of this project was to very simply have a list of all the communities of faith within Shining Waters, and be able to see where they all are located. This has been achieved to the best of our abilities. The raw data is available.

## MINISTERS

With just 11 team ministry sites, the vast majority of communities of faith have solo ministers, and many of these positions are not full-time positions. Just over a quarter of communities of faith have ministry personnel who are not in full-time positions, with a further 18% having no ministry personnel.

When looking at how long a minister has been at a congregation [figure 16], just under one-fifth of congregations have had their longest-serving ministry personnel for more than 10 years, while 38% of congregations have had their ministry personnel for longer than 5 years. The data was not available for 23% of communities of faith.

## ATTENDANCE

Sunday attendance is not a marker of the health of a congregation, but it helps to understand the number of people who are participating on Sunday mornings, when compared to the rest of the ministry of a community.

For the congregations that had data available, 12% have grown their average Sunday attendance between 2010 and 2019, while a further 45% have had their attendance remain the same, or shrink only by about a third [figure 17].

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

The yearbook reports on Sunday school and christian education numbers, which can help helpful ways to gauge how communities of faith are at reaching the families in their neighbourhoods.

144 congregations reported having any number of children in their children's ministry programs, and of those, 28% reported that these numbers increased between 2010 and 2019 [*figure 17*]. A further 17% reported fewer children in their programs, but less than a third drop in numbers.

Recognizing that Christian education can mean programs for adults as well as children, this has been included in the children's ministry section because many of these numbers represent vacation bible school or other church-based summer camps.

## **ADULT MINISTRIES**

Adult ministries can take on many forms, but in the yearbook they are reported as men's groups and women's groups. Combining these, we can get a sense of how the community of faith is working with adults outside of Sunday morning.

Of the congregations which had adult ministry programs [*figure 19*], 14% have grown their numbers since 2010, reaching more adults, while 24% have seen smaller numbers up to a third less than in 2010.

## **ALL MINISTRY**

We can look at how these children's and adults' ministries are spread across any one community of faith's efforts. If we include baptisms (both adults and children), we can get a sense of what do congregations look like outside of just the number of people in the pews on a Sunday morning [*figure 20*].

With a quick glance, we can see how Christian education programs are popular throughout the region, with Sunday school and women's groups often highly participated in. One congregation's numbers for these ministries is solely in their men's group, whereas three communities have child baptisms being the place where people are participating in the congregation.

## **MINISTRY TYPES**

Congregations that have completed the affirming process and are known as affirming ministries represent 18% of the total communities of faith across the region, and ethno-culturally specific ministries are less than 7% of the

communities of faith. Shining Waters has 5 communities of faith that are known to be indigenous congregations.

Many worshipping communities' language of worship is unknown, but thanks to a survey done by Toronto Conference, some are known. The majority are in English, but there are worship services in 6 other languages known to take place throughout the region [*figure 21*].

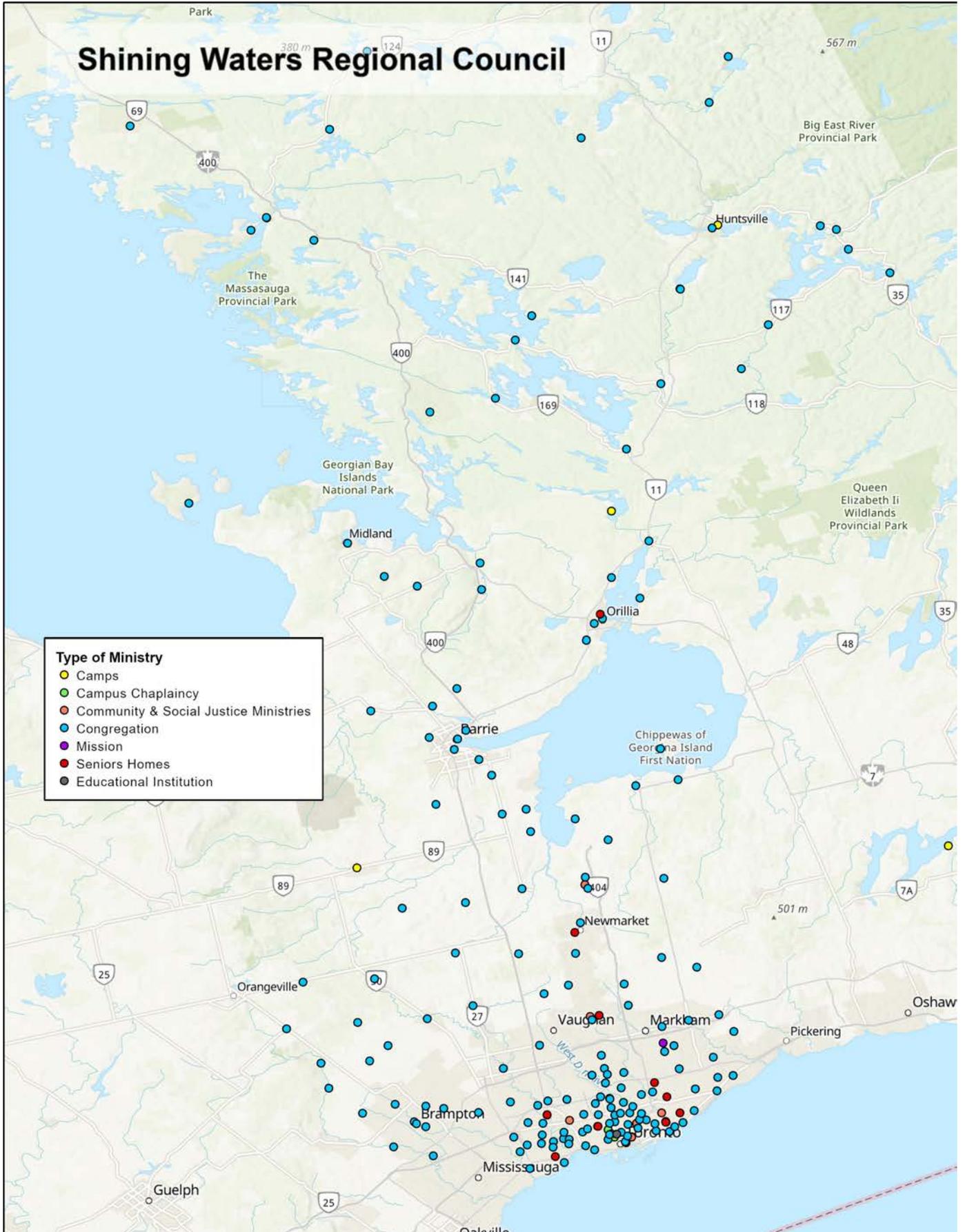


FIGURE 15: All ministries

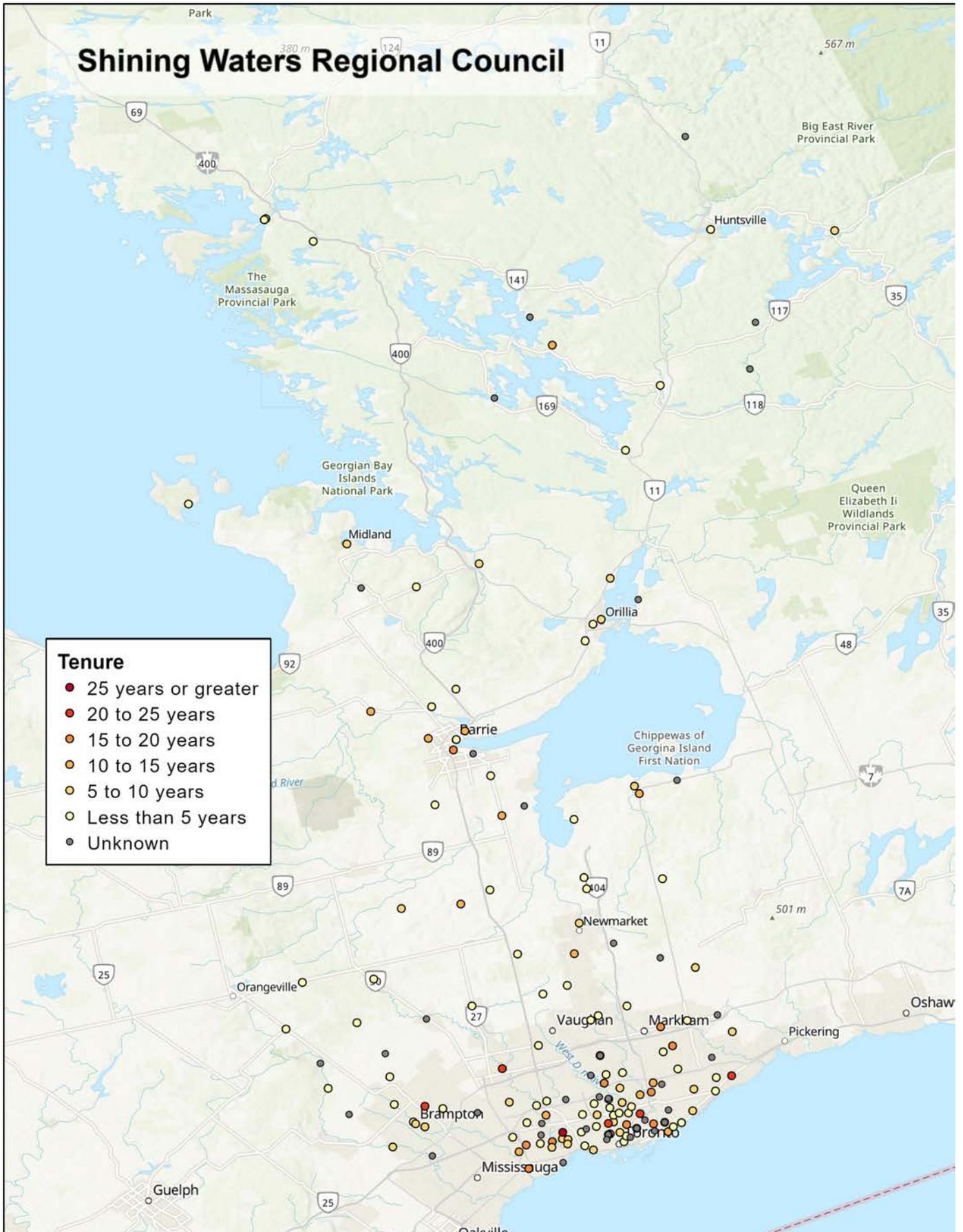


FIGURE 16: Tenure of ministry personnel





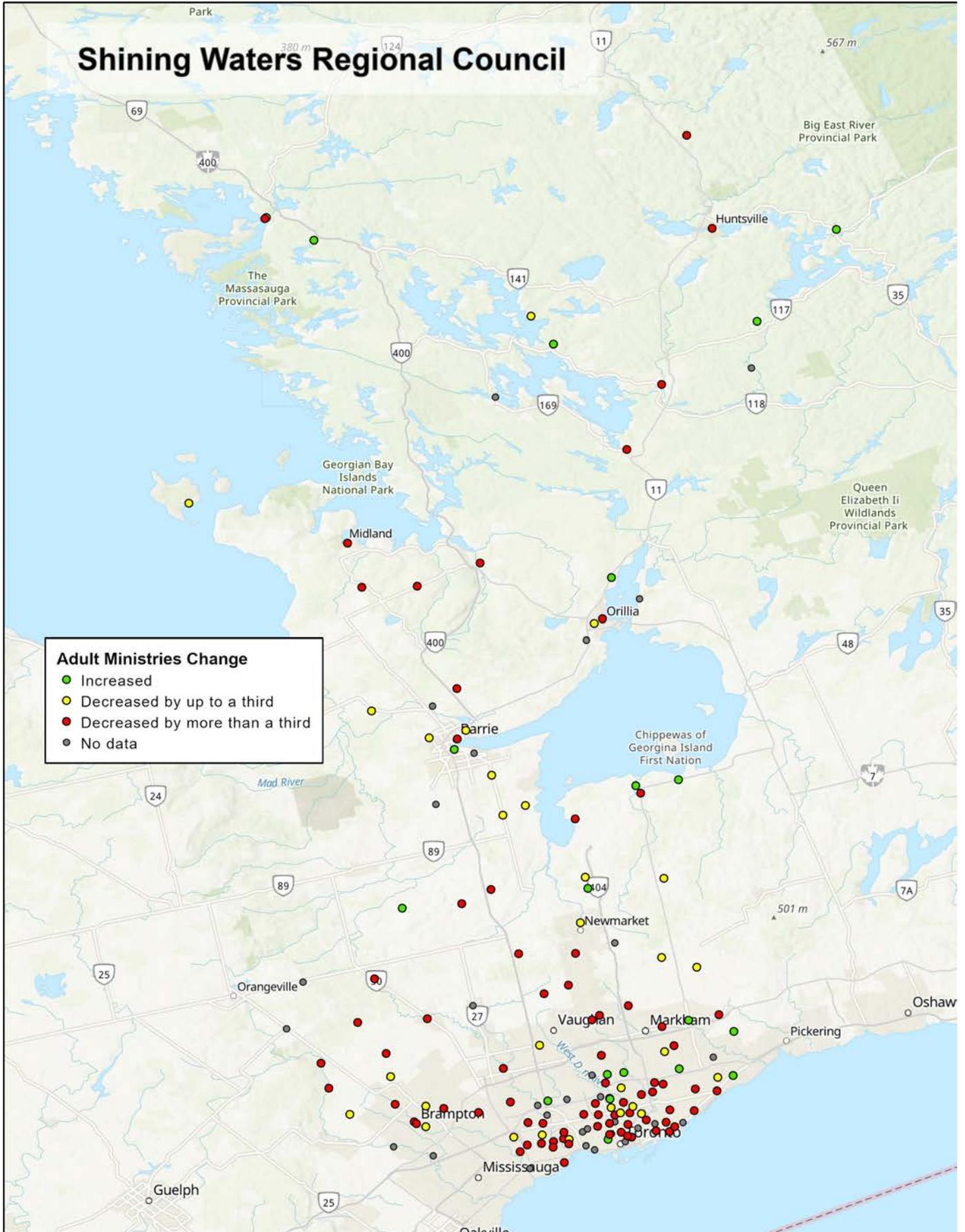


FIGURE 19: Adult ministry

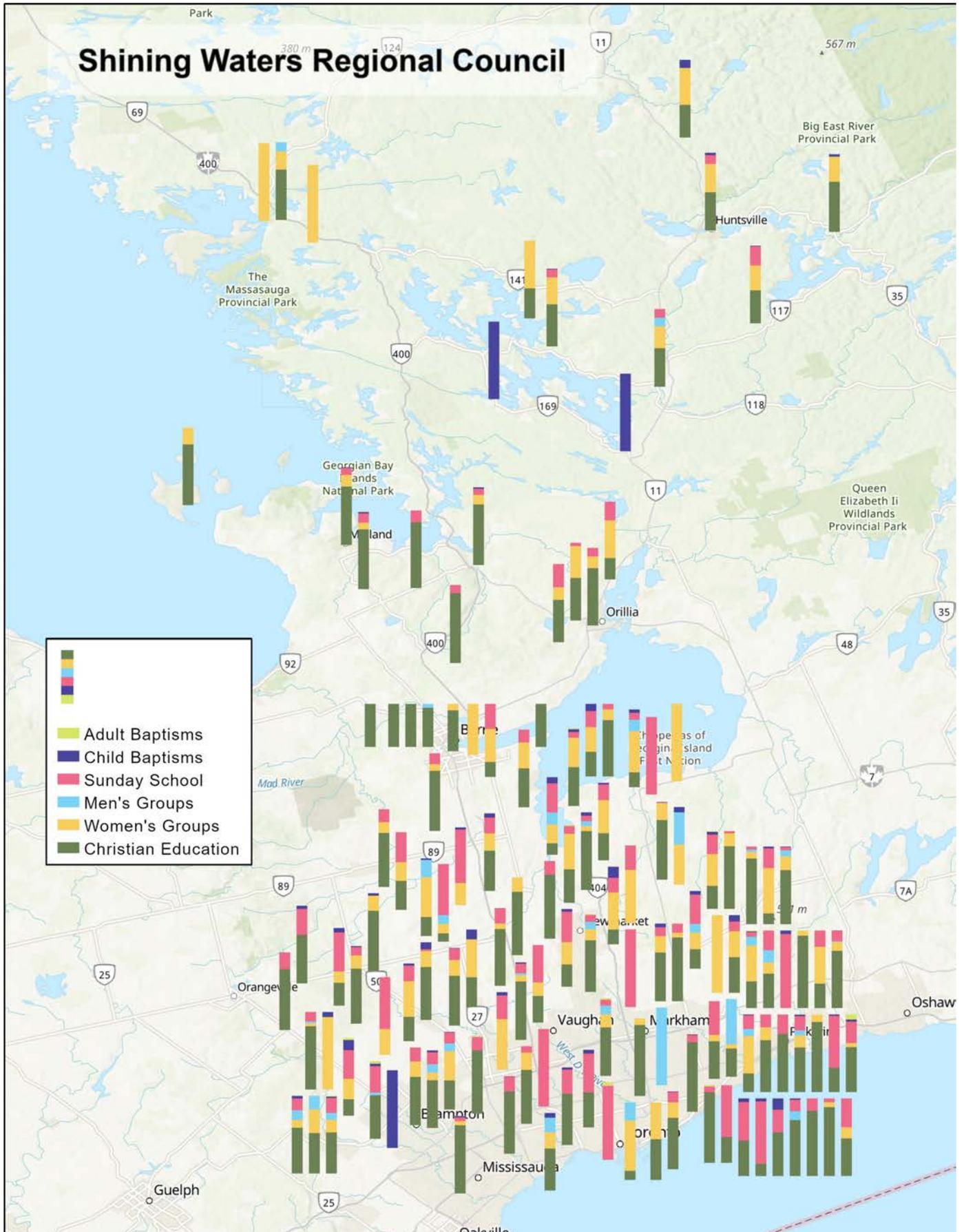


FIGURE 20

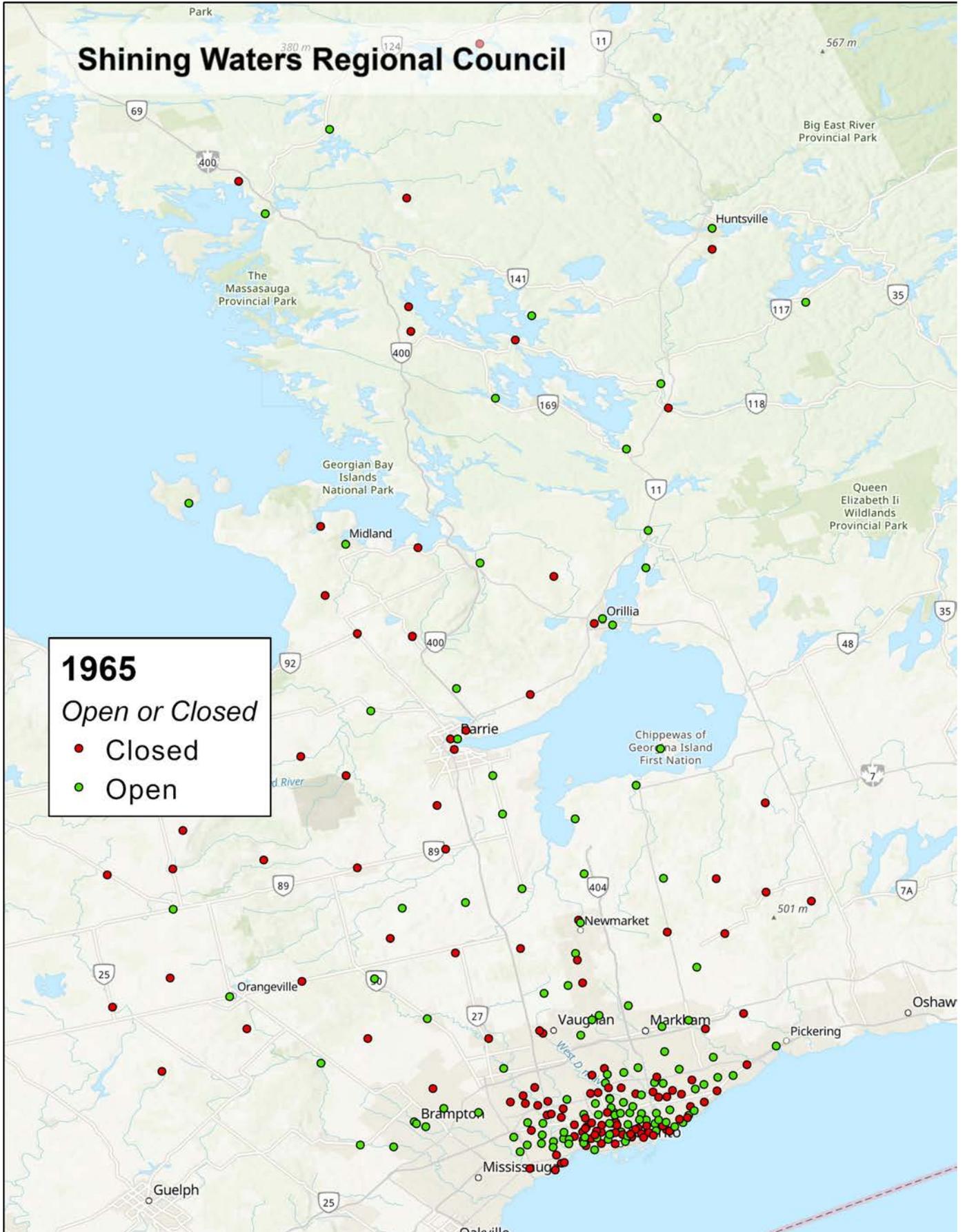


FIGURE 27: Pastoral Charges in 1965