



# A ministry of the whole church by the whole church

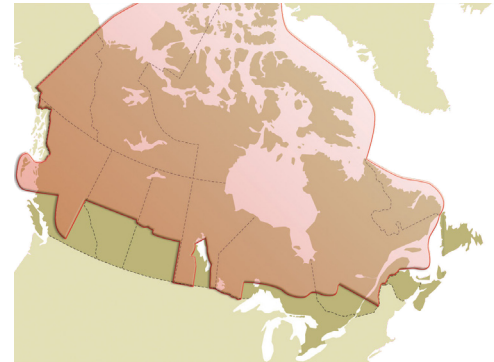


The Council of the North

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FAQs

### **What is the Council of the North?**

The Council of the North is a grouping of financially supported dioceses in the sparsely-populated, northern regions of Canada. The Council is a ministry of the whole church by the whole church and it is supported through grants from The General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada.



Geographic region of the Council of the North

### **Can you describe the purpose of the Council of the North?**

The purpose of the Council is to respond, with faith and vision, to God's call to mission and ministry in the North and to provide pastoral and sacramental ministry to all who are living in the northern regions of Canada. With a commitment to Gospel-based, culturally-sensitive ministry, the Council nurtures and encourages local initiatives, while carefully evaluating their impact and effectiveness. At present, the Council has a special focus on emerging forms of leadership, especially among youth.

### **How did the Council of the North come to exist?**

The Council of the North began when the National Executive Council (in 1970) of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada appointed a taskforce to consider the challenges and opportunities for ministry in the northern parts of Canada. The following year this taskforce was replaced with the Primate's Taskforce on the Church in the North. In 1973 this taskforce became the Primate's Council on the North. By 1976 this body evolved into the present day Council of the North. The Council includes the dioceses of: Caledonia, the Yukon, the Arctic, Athabasca, Saskatchewan, Brandon, Keewatin, Moosonee, Quebec, the Archdeaconry of Labrador and the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior.

### **Is the Council of the North a registered charity?**

The Council of the North is not, itself, a registered charity. The Council receives its funding through the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada which is a registered charity. People and parishes wishing to support the Council are asked to donate to the General Synod with instructions to designate their gift to the Council of the North. Charitable tax receipts for gifts over \$10 are issued by the General Synod.

### **How does the Council of the North respond to the needs of people in the north?**

While the needs and character of each diocese and region in the Council are very diverse, a number of common themes have emerged, which include: equipping lay and ordained ministry in multi-point parishes and ecumenical



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## FAQs - continued -

or shared ministry parishes; congregational development and stewardship initiatives designed to re-engage local ownership of ministry; identification and training of lay ministers and locally-raised clergy; growing the Church's ministry with First Nations and encouraging and enabling self-determination among indigenous populations; ensuring support for local outreach and community service.

Many of the dioceses of the Council of the North also operate theological schools for the purposes of training lay ministers as well as locally identified clergy. These schools enable the dioceses to identify and respond to locally expressed needs for theological training. Local or regional delivery of training is less disruptive to the worship and cultural life of congregations, and is less costly for the student. It also enables theological training to be interpreted and applied more effectively in the local context.

### **Who are the members of the Council of the North?**

Membership in the Council includes all bishops of the assisted dioceses. These bishops meet in person once a year to share information about the unique challenges faced by smaller ministries in the north and to administer the General Synod's grants for northern mission.

### **How does the Council of the North know that grants are used as they were intended to be used?**

Each diocese applies to the Grants Committee for a share of the General Synod Grant to the Council. These grants are allocated on the basis of:

- **Objective criteria:** size, attendance, diocesan income, number of bishops.
- **Subjective criteria:** ministry stories, case for support, broader narrative.

In addition to the process of applying for funding, each diocese must submit an accountability report that outlines the ministries that have been highlighted by the diocese over the past year and how the funds have been used.

### **Can funds given to the Council of the North be designated for a particular project?**

In addition to core funding, the Council of the North does, from time to time, encourage and receive donations for special projects and specific ministries. For example, since 2010 the Council of the North, with the support of the General Synod (through the Gifts for Mission catalogue), has called for donations to support non-stipendiary ministry in the north as well as training and education for clergy and laity.

However, beyond these special projects, only gifts with the simplest of conditions can be considered by the Council of the North. Factors such as administration time and costs the conditions would entail; the ability to meet the conditions over time; and the complexity of the conditions must always be weighed.



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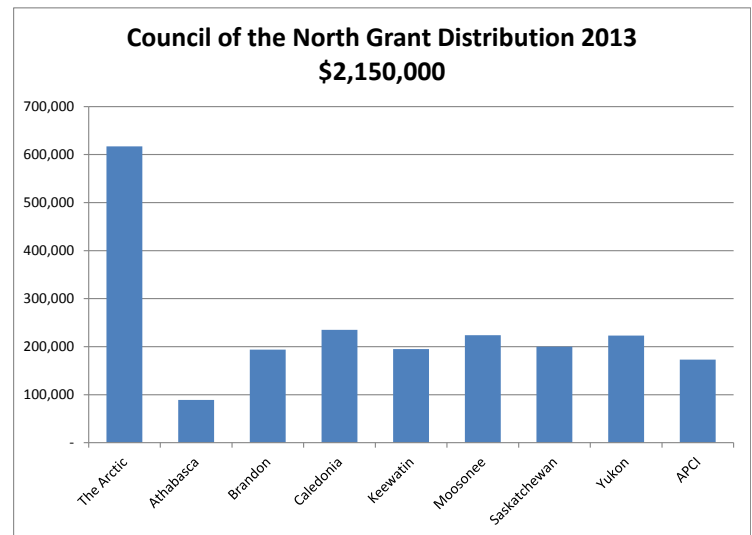


FAQs  
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## Where does Council of the North funding come from?

One of the most significant commitments of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada is its yearly grants to the Council of the North, which provide the vast majority of funding to the Council, approximately \$2.15 million(2013).

In addition to the General Synod grants, the Council of the North also receives designated donations to its core program from people and parishes across the country. This amount varies considerably from year to year and is highly dependent upon response to the Anglican Appeal and to the levels of parish participation in the *Council of the North Sunday* initiative. In 2012, the total amount of general donations was just over \$80,000. Additionally, there were donations in excess of \$10,000, designated to a small handful of named initiatives the Council has undertaken, such as support for non-stipendiary ministry.



## Does the Council of the North fund individuals or individual parishes?

It is not among the primary functions of the Council to accept funds for individuals or for specific parishes, as they do not have administrative capacity to effectively oversee a direct parish sponsorship program, which must be accountable to donors. **The Council prefers to encourage undesignated gifts, as it allows them to focus on building up ministry as a whole, rather than singling out specific individuals or parishes for financial support.**

## Does the Council of the North accept material donations?

The Council affirms the initiatives our supporters undertake on our behalf, including material donations; however, they must meet certain criteria before being approved. Firstly, if it is cost-prohibitive to ship the goods in question to the designated communities—if costs exceed the value of the goods—a material gift would not be advised. Secondly, if there are inconsistencies between perspectives on material donations—perceived value by people in the South versus actual value to communities in the north—such a gift would also be discouraged. Anglican parishes do participate in parish-to-parish outreach or assistance projects; however, generally-speaking, these activities take place on their own as the Council of the North does not have the staff to oversee such programs effectively.



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FAQs  
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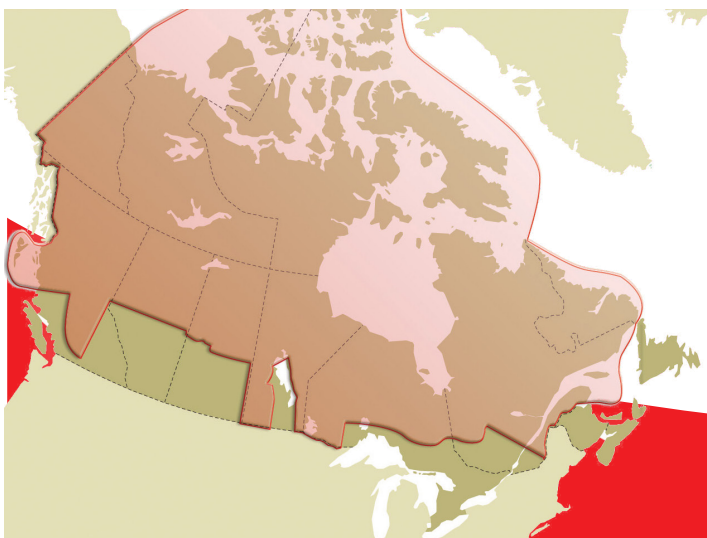
### How can I get involved with the Council of the North?

In addition to making a financial gift in support of the Council of the North, there are many ways to become involved. First, join our Facebook page where you can read stories of northern ministry, share your own stories and learn more about the work of the Council of the North. You can encourage your parish to hold a Council of the North Sunday, you can pray for our ministry and all of the people and parishes in the north using the Council of the North Cycle of Prayer (available on our website), and you can designate your financial support to the Council in the following ways:

- Support Council ministries in Gifts for Mission, the annual gift catalogue of the Anglican Church of Canada;
- Give through The Anglican Appeal, with a special designation to: Council of the North;
- Give any time during the year by making a gift to The General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada, with a special designation to: Council of the North.
- Please send all Donations to:

Council of the North  
c/o Anglican Appeal  
80 Hayden Street  
Toronto, ON M4Y 3G2

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