

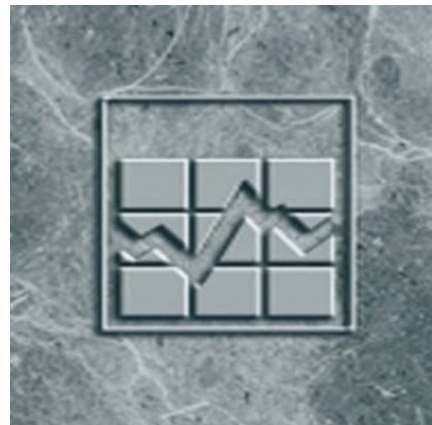
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## Income Research Paper Series

# Market Basket Measure Research Paper: Delineating Remote Regions for the Market Basket Measure

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# Market Basket Measure Research Paper: Delineating Remote Regions for the Market Basket Measure

by **Madeleine Steinmetz-Wood**

The Market Basket Measure (MBM) establishes poverty thresholds based on the cost of a basket of food, clothing, shelter, transportation and other items for a family of four that reflects a modest, basic standard of living. A family with a disposable income below the appropriate MBM threshold for the size of the family and the region where they live is considered to be living in poverty.<sup>1</sup>



During the consultations for the second comprehensive review of the MBM, as well as during the analysis leading to the creation of the 2018-base MBM, several MBM research items were identified as requiring further study. One of these items involved researching whether the MBM could be adjusted to better reflect the differential costs of living associated with residing in remote regions or communities.<sup>2</sup> Statistics Canada and Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) have begun to investigate whether adjustments to the MBM methodology could be made to account for the costs associated with living in these regions. The purpose of this paper is to foster engagement with users by reporting on the progress of this research item and to propose a methodology for identifying remote regions across Canada's provinces. The next phase of this research topic would propose adjustments to MBM thresholds to account for cost differences across remote communities and further evaluate whether there is a case for defining remote-region poverty thresholds for the MBM (See text box [Market Basket Measure thresholds for remote regions](#)).

This discussion paper is the first-of-two and describes a proposed methodology for delineating remote regions for the MBM. It also provides an opportunity for the public and stakeholders to provide feedback and comments on the proposed methodology. A forthcoming second discussion paper will explore the feasibility of producing poverty thresholds for the identified remote regions.

## Introduction

On August 21, 2018, the Government of Canada released [Opportunity for All, Canada's First Poverty Reduction Strategy](#), which outlined long-term commitments to guide current and future government actions and investments to reduce poverty. The [Poverty Reduction Act](#) legislates key commitments made in the Strategy. In addition, the [Poverty Reduction Act](#) mandates Statistics Canada to review the content of the MBM "to ensure that it reflects the up-to-date cost of a basket of goods and services representing a modest, basic standard of living in Canada".

As part of the second comprehensive review of the MBM, Statistics Canada, in collaboration with ESDC, held public consultations with Canadians, poverty experts, as well as federal, provincial, and territorial stakeholders to guide updates to the MBM.<sup>3</sup> During consultations, the production of poverty thresholds for remote areas was identified as one topic that would require further study, in preparation for the 2023-base comprehensive review.

Physical remoteness from social and economic centres can play an important role in shaping a community's socioeconomic opportunities and costs of living. Currently the MBM methodology applied in the provinces treats all rural communities within provinces equally for the purposes of determining MBM thresholds. Therefore, families that live in rural communities that are relatively accessible (e.g., Saint-Charles-sur-Richelieu, in Quebec) have the same poverty threshold as families that live in more isolated communities (e.g., Akulivik). The delineation of rural and remote communities would potentially allow for more robust poverty estimates.

1. For more information on the MBM's methodology please see, [Report on the second comprehensive review of the Market Basket Measure](#).  
 2. A complete list of research topics can be found in Appendix A.  
 3. For more information on the last comprehensive review please see, [An update on the Market Basket Measure comprehensive review](#).

This discussion paper describes the proposed methodology for delineating remote regions for the MBM with the future intent of using these areas to potentially construct MBM thresholds for remote communities. Readers are encouraged to provide feedback and comments.

## An overview of the MBM geographical regions

The 53 provincial MBM regions for the 2018-base MBM are comprised of 19 specific communities, and 34 sub-provincial regions defined by population size, which include 10 rural areas. Over time, the number and configuration of the MBM regions may change. For example, population growth announced in the 2016 Census resulted in three new 2018-base MBM regions being added compared to the 2008-base MBM methodology. Reserves<sup>4</sup> and the territories<sup>5</sup> are presently excluded from the provincial MBM methodology.

The MBM regions corresponding to specific communities include St. John's, Charlottetown, Halifax, Cape Breton, Fredericton, Moncton, Saint John, Québec City, Montréal, Ottawa, Hamilton/Burlington, Toronto, Brandon, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Regina, Edmonton, Calgary, and Vancouver.

Outside these communities, MBM regions in a province are created based on population size and density:

1. Rural areas include communities with a population of less than 1,000 or with a population density less than 400 persons per square kilometer that are located outside Census metropolitan areas (CMAs) or Census agglomerations (CAs);<sup>6,7</sup>
2. Population under 30,000 (CAs below 30,000 and population centres below 10,000 persons);
3. Population 30,000 to 99,999 (CAs with between 30,000 and 99,999 persons);
4. Population 100,000 to 499,999 (CMAs between 100,000 and 499,999 persons), and;
5. Population 500,000 and over (CMAs with 500,000 or more persons).

These urban and rural combinations result in the 53 MBM regions, which are currently used to apply 2018-base MBM thresholds in the provinces and estimate poverty rates in the provinces. The 2018-base MBM regions are illustrated in the Figure 1.<sup>8</sup>

4. The MBM methodology excludes 'On reserve' population. According to the 2016 Census definition, the following six census subdivision (CSD) types are associated with 'on reserve' populations: Indian reserve (IR), Indian settlement (S-É) (except for the four Yukon settlements of Champagne Landing 10, Klukshu, Two and One-Half Mile Village, Two Mile Village and Kloo Lake), Indian government district (IGD), terres réservées aux Cris (TC), terres réservées aux Naskapis (TK) and Nisga'a land (NL). CSDs associated with the 'on reserve' population represent about 1.1% of the population in the provinces. For more information on these CSDs, please see [Census subdivision types associated with 'on reserve' population](#).

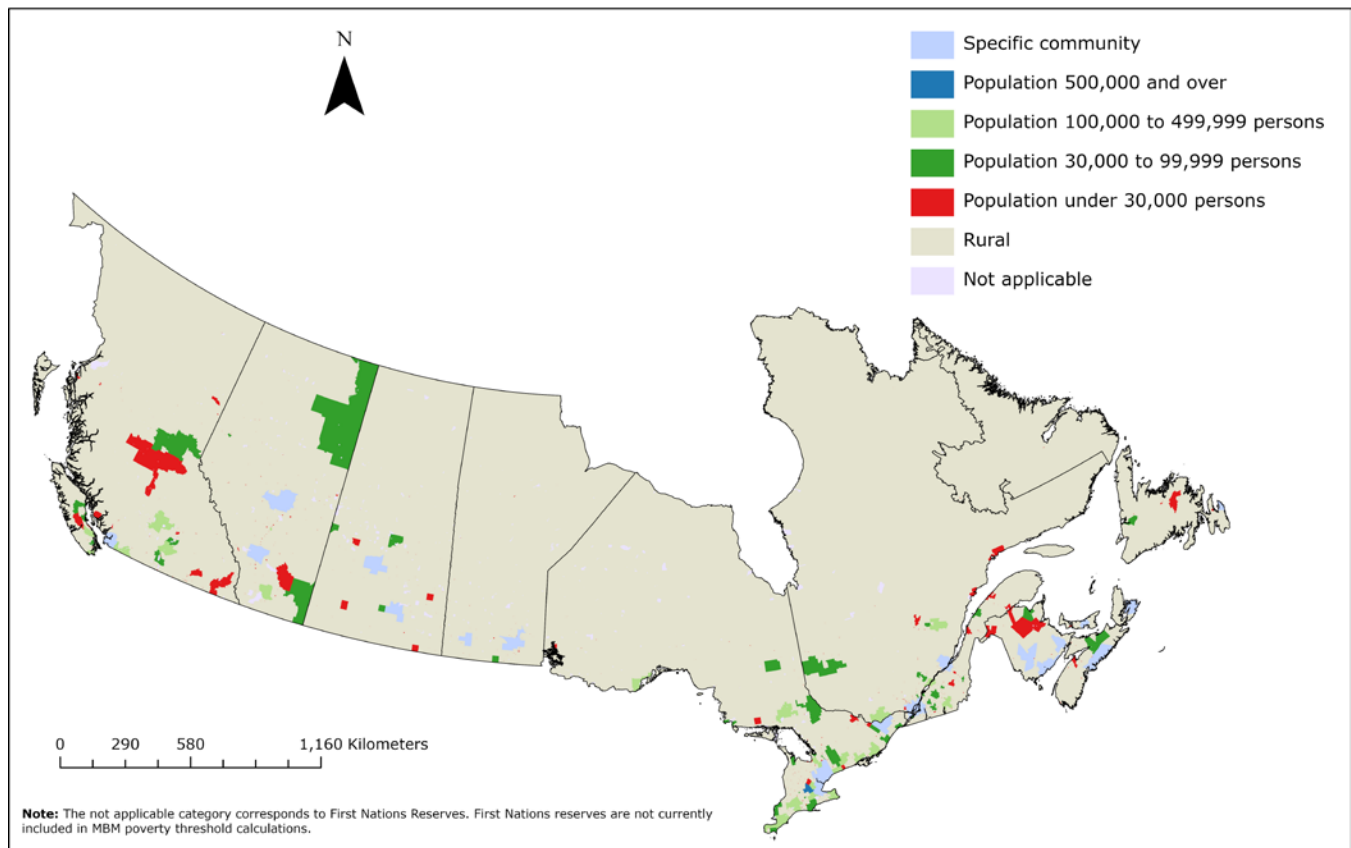
5. The territories are not in scope for this research topic since the Northern Market Basket Measure (MBM-N) methodology doesn't use the same geographical groupings to define MBM-N regions. It uses instead Census Division boundaries, while also taking into consideration other similarities between communities to delineate logical geographical regions.

6. Population centres are areas with a population of at least 1,000 persons and a density of at least 400 persons per square kilometre. For more information see [Population Centre and Rural Area Classification 2016](#).

7. For more information on CMAs or CAs, please see [Dictionary, Census of Population, 2016 - Census metropolitan area \(CMA\) and census agglomeration \(CA\)](#).

8. The complete list of MBM regions can be found in Appendix B.

**Figure 1**  
**Market Basket Measure (MBM) regions, 2018-base**



Source: Author's computations.

## Proposed methodology for identifying remote regions in the Market Basket Measure

It is proposed that remote areas would be based on the Index of Remoteness, an index developed by Statistics Canada to provide a better understanding of community access to goods, services, and economic opportunities.<sup>9</sup> The 2016<sup>10</sup> version of this index uses the 2016 Census population counts and geographical boundaries to derive the index. The index is calculated for every populated census subdivision (CSD) in Canada. CSD is the general term for municipalities or areas treated as municipal equivalents for statistical purposes.<sup>11</sup> The remoteness index is itself a continuous measure that provides a relative indication of remoteness for each CSD on a scale varying from 0 to 1, with 0 being the most accessible and 1 the least accessible. To allow for more specificity when delineating remote areas, especially for unorganized territories or municipalities with a large geographic area, it is proposed that kriging<sup>12</sup> be used to produce remoteness estimates at

### Market Basket Measure thresholds for remote regions

Including remote regions in the MBM would lay the foundation for the creation of MBM thresholds for remote regions. In general, thresholds for a 'remote' basket of goods and services (i.e., shelter, transportation, food, clothing and other necessities) would be an adaptation of the existing MBM methodology, but with adjustments to the contents of the basket to better reflect life and conditions in remote regions. The methodology of estimating remote basket costs and preliminary poverty estimates will be addressed in a second discussion paper.

9. For more information on this index please see [Index of Remoteness](#) and [Measuring remoteness and accessibility: A set of indices for Canadian communities](#).

10. The 2016 version of this index was used because the 2018-base MBM methodology and its associated regions relies on data from the 2016 Census.

11. For more information, please see [Dictionary, Census of Population, 2016 - Census subdivision \(CSD\)](#).

12. Kriging is a geostatistical interpolation method that uses a sample of points at known locations to create a continuous prediction surface.

the Dissemination Area (DA)<sup>13</sup> level. After using geospatial techniques and expert judgment, a DA with an index value that is greater than or equal to 0.53 was determined to be a 'remote area' for the purposes of the MBM. The proposed methodology for delineating remote areas is described in more detail in Appendix C.<sup>14</sup>

The proposed methodology did not identify any remote areas in Nova Scotia or Prince Edward Island. Therefore, remote region poverty thresholds could possibly be created for the following provinces: Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

According to the proposed methodology, 0.51% of the provincial population would be living in remote regions across the provinces according to the 2016 Census (See Table 1). The provinces with the most people living in remote areas were Newfoundland and Labrador (n=47,869), Quebec (n=40,828) and Ontario (n=31,816), respectively. The provinces with the highest proportion of their population living within remote areas were Newfoundland and Labrador (9.26%), Manitoba (1.04%) and Saskatchewan (0.83%).

**Table 1**  
**Descriptive statistics of dissemination areas identified as 'remote' and their corresponding population per province, in 2016**

Province	Dissemination Areas			Population		
	Remote number	MBM number	percent	Remote number	MBM number	percent
Newfoundland and Labrador	162	1,068	15.17	47,869	516,801	9.26
Prince Edward Island	0	290	0.00	0	142,311	0.00
Nova Scotia	0	1,615	0.00	0	913,543	0.00
New Brunswick	1	1,420	0.07	145	738,938	0.02
Quebec	150	13,534	1.11	40,828	8,120,215	0.50
Ontario	90	19,878	0.45	31,816	13,390,208	0.24
Manitoba	37	2,030	1.82	12,571	1,213,110	1.04
Saskatchewan	44	2,164	2.03	8,648	1,042,240	0.83
Alberta	31	5,657	0.55	16,705	4,014,035	0.42
British Columbia	72	7,068	1.02	18,307	4,565,142	0.40
<b>All provinces</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>54,724</b>	<b>1.07</b>	<b>176,889</b>	<b>34,656,543</b>	<b>0.51</b>

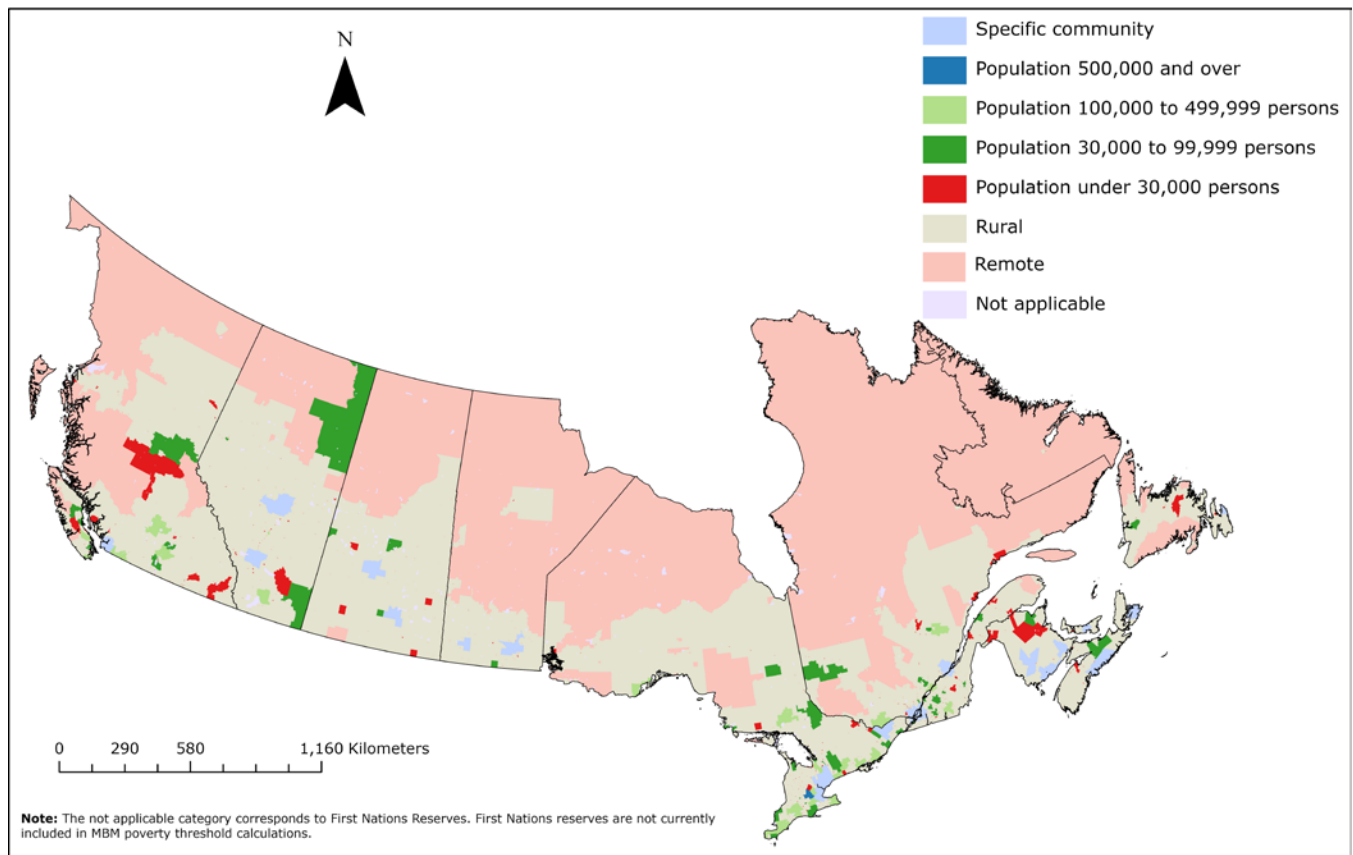
Source: Author's computations.

The proposed methodology would result in the reclassification of not only rural communities, but also some smaller communities with a population under 30,000. Overall, there would be 25 small population centres that would be reclassified into remote areas, mainly located in Ontario and Quebec. The names and 2016 Census population counts for these population centres are included in Appendix E. Figure 2 provides an illustration of the remote regions.

13. A DA is a small, relatively stable geographic unit composed of one or more adjacent dissemination blocks with an average population of 400 to 700 persons based on data from the previous Census of Population Program. It is the smallest standard geographic area for which all census data are disseminated. DAs cover all the territory of Canada. For more information, please see [Dictionary, Census of Population, 2016 - Dissemination area \(DA\)](#).

14. In addition, the proposed remoteness methodology was validated using the Proximity Measures database. Please see Appendix D for more information.

**Figure 2**  
**MBM regions using the 2016 Census, after the addition of the remote region category**



Source: Author's computations.

## Conclusion

This discussion paper is part of the research discussion paper series, that will help inform the next comprehensive review, scheduled to begin in 2023. The paper proposes a methodology for the creation of remote regions for the MBM methodology in the provinces. In addition, it lays the groundwork for the possible construction of poverty thresholds for remote regions, which will be discussed in a second discussion paper.

This paper series aims to foster engagement with the public and stakeholders, propose research topics that could help inform discussions for the next comprehensive review, improve the understanding of the MBM methodology and potentially expand analytical tools that involve or rely on the MBM. The proposed research discussion topics are intended to provide users with preliminary discussions on a wide variety of topics. We encourage users to ask questions, provide feedback and make suggestions for future work.

Persons interested in contacting us are encouraged to do so by sending an email to: [statcan.market.basket.measure-mesure.du.panier.de.consommation.statcan@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:statcan.market.basket.measure-mesure.du.panier.de.consommation.statcan@statcan.gc.ca).



## Appendix A: Forward Looking Research Agenda Items

**Table A.1**  
**List of forward looking research agenda items**

Research topic	Short description
Childcare expenses	Currently, childcare costs are represented in the MBM as a direct deduction from disposable income. This way, a family's needs are compared to an income measure that reflects their available resources. Experts have asked Statistics Canada if this is the best way to deal with childcare expenses in the MBM. Could childcare costs instead be treated as a separate basket item?
Remoteness	Statistics Canada will research whether adjustments should be made to the MBM to account for – higher costs faced by families living in remote regions and communities to derive (for example) better estimates for the northern parts of provinces.
Different family types Equivalization analysis	Currently, Statistics Canada estimates MBM thresholds for a family of four, and then uses the square root equivalization scale to derive thresholds for families of different sizes. Does this method lead to the best possible thresholds for smaller families and unattached individuals? Additional studies could also be conducted on whether it might be appropriate to construct separate basket values for families of the same size but with different compositions (e.g., lone parent family with three children versus a couple with two children) or other characteristics (e.g., age of family members).
Communications technology	Statistics Canada will look at how a separate communications component could best be added to the MBM. Presently, this need for communication goods and services is reflected in the “other” component.
The other component	The “other necessities” component is meant to represent the costs of goods and services other than food, shelter, transportation and clothing. The list of items that could potentially be included in the other component is large and could vary depending on the structure, age, location or other circumstances of a family. Ongoing research on the methodology underpinning the other component could verify whether the current method for setting the value of the other component is adequate or needs to be improved.
<a href="#">Poverty index</a>	Anchoring the MBM to specific base years, yet updating it regularly to reflect changes in the standards of living to ensure it remains relevant is an underlying strength of the MBM. However, periodically rebasing the MBM leads to the creation of various poverty lines which can make it difficult to track poverty trends over longer time periods. To improve transparency and to help track poverty trends over longer time periods, the implementation of a poverty reduction index will be considered.
Inverse correlation of shelter and transportation costs	Often, people in areas where shelter costs are relatively higher have transportation costs that are relatively lower, and vice versa. For instance, people in rural areas typically pay lower rents and/or mortgages but must spend more on fuel and seldom access public transportation. We propose to explore whether the MBM could be improved by more precisely taking into account these differences in costs.
Using the MBM with administrative data	As it currently exists, the MBM poverty rates can only be accurately calculated using a combination of survey and administrative data. We propose to explore the feasibility of applying MBM thresholds to only administrative data.
<a href="#">Additional MBM income inequality indicators</a>	Since the majority of the current MBM-based analytical products do not describe the full income distribution, since they typically compare the MBM threshold to disposable income, they do not fully describe income inequality. Proposed additional inequality indicators will be presented, which will allow to better identify income disparities among Canadians.

## **Appendix B: MBM Regions**

### **List of 2018-base Market Basket Measure (MBM) regions**

#### **Newfoundland and Labrador**

Rural  
Population under 30,000 persons  
Population 30,000 to 99,999 persons  
St. John's

#### **Prince Edward Island**

Rural  
Population under 30,000  
Charlottetown

#### **Nova Scotia**

Rural  
Population under 30,000 persons  
Population 30,000 to 99,999 persons  
Halifax  
Cape Breton

#### **New Brunswick**

Rural  
Population under 30,000 persons  
Population 30,000 to 99,999 persons  
Fredericton  
Saint John  
Moncton

#### **Quebec**

Rural  
Population under 30,000 persons  
Population 30,000 to 99,999 persons  
Population 100,000 to 499,999 persons  
Québec  
Montréal

## **Ontario**

- Rural
- Population under 30,000 persons
- Population 30,000 to 99,999 persons
- Population 100,000 to 499,999 persons
- Population 500,000 and over
- Ottawa
- Hamilton/Burlington
- Toronto

## **Manitoba**

- Rural
- Population under 30,000 persons
- Population 30,000 to 99,999 persons
- Brandon
- Winnipeg

## **Saskatchewan**

- Rural
- Population under 30,000 persons
- Population 30,000 to 99,999 persons
- Saskatoon
- Regina

## **Alberta**

- Rural
- Population under 30,000 persons
- Population 30,000 to 99,999 persons
- Population 100,000 to 499,999 persons
- Edmonton
- Calgary

## **British Columbia**

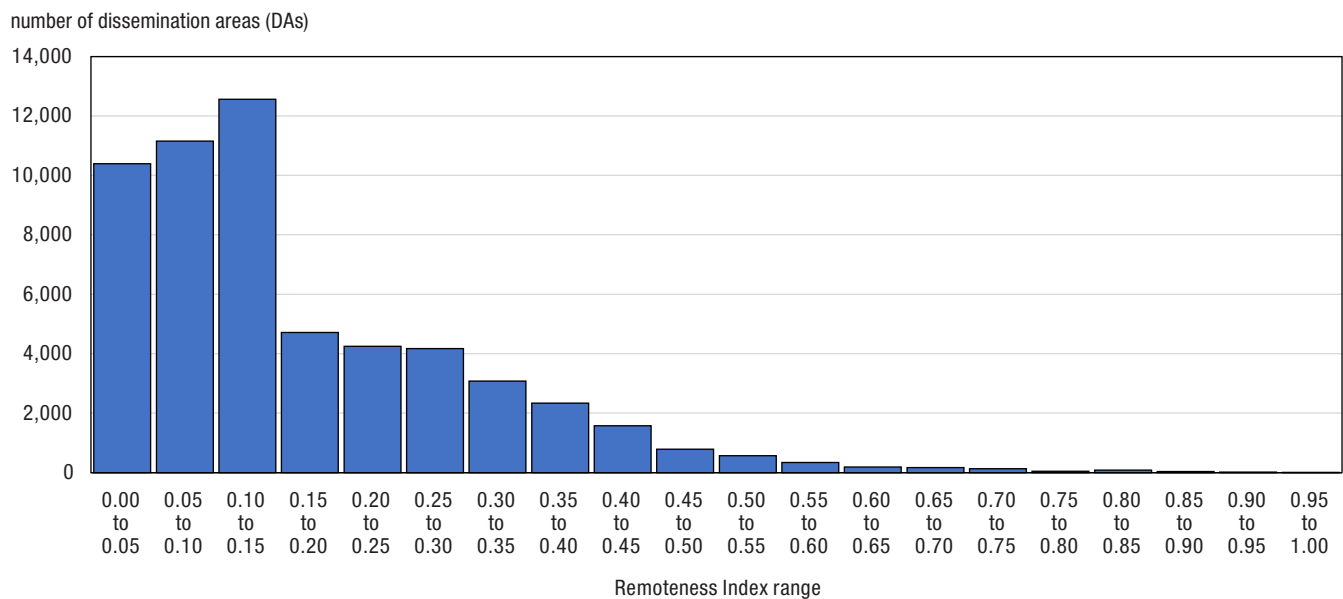
- Rural
- Population under 30,000 persons
- Population 30,000 to 99,999 persons
- Population 100,000 to 499,999 persons
- Vancouver

## Appendix C: Proposed Methodology for Delineating Remote Regions

The remoteness index is a continuous measure that provides a relative indication of remoteness for each CSD with a population on a scale varying from 0 to 1, with 0 being the most accessible and 1 the least accessible. Remoteness index values were available for 5,125 census subdivisions out of 5,162 census subdivisions in Canada in 2016.

To allow for more specificity when delineating remote areas, especially for unorganized territories or other municipalities with a large geographic area, it is proposed that estimates of the remoteness index at the dissemination area level be calculated. This would allow for small communities located in the most northern parts of large CSDs to be included in remote areas. Empirical Bayesian kriging would be performed using census subdivision representative points and index values to create a continuous remoteness surface with a cell size of one kilometre. The representative points of dissemination areas would then be used to extract the values of remoteness from the continuous surface. DA remoteness index values would then be re-scaled to have a minimum of 0 and a maximum of 1. Chart C.1 shows the distribution of these values for all DAs in Canada.

**Chart C.1**  
**Distribution of the Remoteness Index for dissemination areas in Canada**



Source: Author's computations.

It is proposed that the 'remoteness' threshold would be specified as greater than or equal to 0.53. To obtain this threshold, first each classification method outlined in Subedi et al. 2020<sup>15</sup> was used to classify the remoteness values. The manual method was chosen, which resulted in the threshold being specified manually. While manually specifying the threshold, the number of DAs located within Metropolitan influence zones<sup>16</sup> was considered (Table C.1), as well as the location of DAs that remained in Strong Metropolitan influenced zones as the threshold increased (i.e., were the DAs that remained in these zones located in large CSDs at a significant distance from any CA).

There were remote DAs that were located within CAs in the original set of MBM regions. It is proposed that these DAs retain their original MBM region. Remote DAs that were in a strong metropolitan influenced zone and were neighbouring a CA would also remain in their current region.

15. For more information on the classification methods see analytical study by Subedi et al. 2020, [Developing Meaningful Categories for Distinguishing Levels of Remoteness in Canada](#).

16. The Statistical Area Classification classifies census subdivisions according to whether they are part of a census metropolitan area, a census agglomeration, or a census metropolitan influenced zone. More information on the Statistical Area Classification is available in the [2016, Census Dictionary of Population](#).

**Table C.1**  
**Number of Dissemination Areas (DAs) in Metropolitan influenced zones at different remoteness thresholds**

	In a Census Agglomeration	Strong metropolitan influenced zone	Moderate metropolitan influenced zone	Weak metropolitan influenced zone	No metropolitan influenced zone
Number (0.50)	15	25	239	348	280
Number (0.51)	15	22	189	299	261
Difference	0	3	50	49	19
Percentage decrease	0.0	12.0	20.9	14.1	6.8
Number (0.51)	15	22	189	299	261
Number (0.52)	14	20	164	229	241
Difference	1	2	25	70	20
Percentage decrease	6.7	9.1	13.2	23.4	7.7
Number (0.52)	14	20	164	229	241
Number (0.53)	12	18	151	187	233
Difference	2	2	13	42	8
Percentage decrease	14.3	10.0	7.9	18.3	3.3

Source: Author's computations.

Table C.2 provides average and median remoteness values and population numbers for all MBM regions, remote regions, and other MBM regions (aggregation of all MBM regions that are not remote). The average and median number of people living in remote regions was lower than in other MBM regions, as expected.

**Table C.2**  
**Average and median Remoteness Index values and population for selected geographies in the Market Basket Measure (MBM), 2016**

	Remoteness Index		Population	
	average (SE)	median	average (SE)	median
All MBM regions	0.1573 (0.1271)	0.1197	633.0 (541.8)	523
Remote regions	0.6331 (0.0940)	0.6055	301.3 (276.4)	296
Other MBM regions	0.1521 (0.1173)	0.1186	636.9 (542.8)	524

Note: Other MBM regions includes all MBM regions (e.g., rural, population <30,000 persons, Population 30,000 to 99,999 persons etc.) that are not remote regions. It is not possible to compare the DA level remoteness values for remote regions to every MBM region individually, as some MBM regions are defined at the block level (i.e., rural, population <30,000 persons).

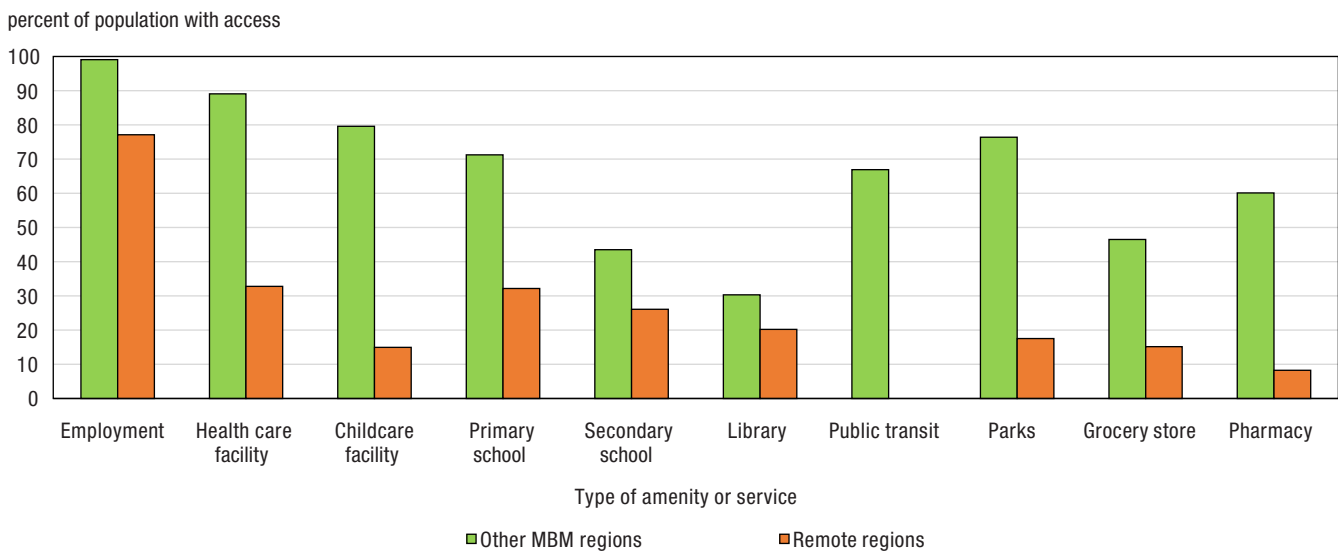
Source: Author's computations.

## Appendix D: Validation using the Proximity Measures database

For validation purposes, the Proximity Measures database<sup>17</sup> was used to examine the accessibility of goods and services within remote MBM regions. Results from this analysis indicate that a lower proportion of the population residing in remote regions had access to services and amenities, when compared to the population living in other MBM regions. The population with access to a service or amenity is based on predefined specifications which vary depending on the service or amenity being evaluated. Chart D.1 compares the proportion of the population that has access to the services and amenities included in the Proximity Measures database in remote regions to the proportion of the population that has access in other MBM regions.

**Chart D.1**

### Access to services and amenities in remote regions and in other MBM regions, based on data from the Proximity Measures database



**Note:** Other MBM regions includes all MBM regions that are not included in remote regions. The population with access to a service or amenity is the population that has access given the specifications that were used in the computations. The population with access to employment live within a 10-kilometre driving distance from a source of employment. The population with access to a grocery store, pharmacy, parks, or public transit stop live within a 1-kilometre walking distance of these amenities or services. The population that has access to a childcare facility, primary school, secondary school, or library live within a 1.5-kilometre walking distance of these services. The population with access to a health care facility live within a 3-kilometre driving distance of a healthcare facility.

**Source:** Author's computations.

17. The Proximity Measures Database is a database that provides proximity measures computed at the dissemination block level. For more information on this database please see [Measuring proximity to services and amenities: An experimental set of indicators for neighbourhoods and localities](#).

**Table D.1**  
**Access to amenities and services in MBM remote regions**

Proximity Measure	Other MBM Regions		MBM Remote Regions	
	percentage of the population with access	95% Confidence Intervals	percentage of the population with access	95% Confidence Intervals
Employment	99.02	99.02-99.03	77.05	76.85-77.26
Public transit	66.91	66.89-66.92	0.00	0.00-0.00
Pharmacy	60.08	60.06-60.09	8.24	8.10-8.38
Childcare facility	79.55	79.54-79.56	14.90	14.73-15.08
Primary school	71.24	71.22-71.25	32.11	31.88-32.34
Secondary school	43.45	43.43-43.46	26.09	25.87-26.31
Grocery store	46.42	46.41-46.44	15.10	14.93-15.28
Health care facility	89.05	89.04-89.07	32.72	32.49-32.96
Library	30.27	30.25-30.28	20.12	19.93-20.32
Parks	76.31	76.30-76.32	17.52	17.33-17.71

**Note:** The population with access to a service or amenity have access given the specifications that were used in the computations. The population that has access to employment are living within a 10-kilometre driving distance from employment. The population that has access to a grocery store, pharmacy, parks, or public transit are living within a 1-kilometre walking distance. The population that has access to a childcare facility, primary school, secondary school, or library are living within a 1.5-kilometre walking distance. The population that has access to health care are living within a 3-kilometre driving distance.

Other MBM regions include all geographies of the MBM that weren't within remote areas.

0.2% of the population from other MBM regions and 10.05% of the population from remote regions were living in areas where index values were suppressed for all proximity measures. Index values were suppressed when there were inconsistencies between data sources. These calculations were performed with the data from areas where there was no suppression.

**Source:** Author's computations.

## Appendix E: Population Centres reclassified as Remote Regions

**Table E.1**  
**The population and province of the 25 population centres located in remote regions, 2016**

Province	Population Centre	Population
Newfoundland and Labrador	St. Anthony	2,049
Newfoundland and Labrador	Burgeo	1,307
Ontario	Wawa	2,610
Ontario	Atikokan	1,944
Ontario	Geraldton	1,828
Ontario	Factory Island	1,807
Ontario	Manitouwadge	1,708
Ontario	Longlac	1,434
Ontario	Moosonee	1,405
Ontario	Red Lake	1,177
Ontario	Chapleau	1,170
Ontario	Golden	1,154
Quebec	Cap-aux-Meules	2,028
Quebec	Matagami	1,396
Quebec	Kuujuuaq	1,353
Quebec	Inukjuak	1,312
Quebec	Salluit	1,075
Quebec	Rivière-au-Renard	1,074
Quebec	Puvirnituq	1,038
Manitoba	Cross Lake 19A	2,018
Manitoba	Moose Lake	1,225
Manitoba	Gillam	1,036
Saskatchewan	Pelican Narrows	1,942
Saskatchewan	Stanley 157	1,545
Alberta	La Crête	1,860

**Note:** First Nations reserves are not currently included in MBM poverty threshold calculations. For population centres located partially within a First Nations reserve, the population centre was included in this list if at least one remote block from the population centre was located outside of a First Nations reserve.

**Source:** Author's computations.



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