

DECIDING WHERE IN CANADA'S NORTH TO PLACE CHURCH DEVELOPMENT TEAMS



EVERY INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY NEEDS CHRIST. Imagine it's up to you to determine which community to send a church development team to first.

Deciding where to strategically place a team is super important. As an added challenge, the team may need to learn the language and the culture of a chosen community. The team may even have to invest more than a decade to translate the Bible for the people they serve. Now to make the situation even more difficult, some of the languages are disappearing. For example, the children of the community may no longer speak the language of their elders and the culture and traditions of many communities are becoming a mix of numerous indigenous groups.

You definitely don't want a team to invest 10 years in a language that will be forgotten in 15. And that's just one variable. If you're looking at the 50+ indigenous languages of Canada, with people living in over 600 communities and in the larger urban areas as well, you can appreciate the variables that need to be considered to make wise decisions.

As you can see, allocating God's resources appropriately requires much wisdom and experience. We are thankful that God has blessed Ethnos Canada (FirstStory) with people who have the know-how and experience to navigate scenarios similar to those mentioned above.

Building on 70 Years of Experience

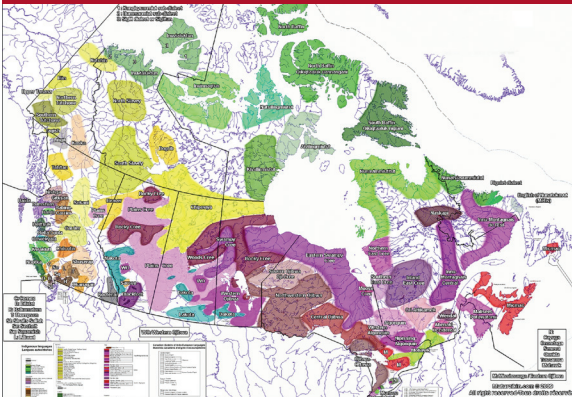
For almost 70 years, Ethnos Canada and our global partners have been conducting Ministry Opportunity Assessments (MOAs), in one form or another. This has allowed the ministry to develop an effective model that can be used over and over. The system has become more strategic and faster, but continues to remain flexible enough to work in many different areas of the world. FirstStory Ministries is now using them in Canada.

An MOA is an in-depth analysis that helps us position church development teams where they can be most effective. FirstStory looks to answer the following four questions with each MOA:

1. Are the people receptive to a church development team working among them?
2. Can we identify specific goals?
3. Will we have a distinct impact?
4. Will the impact be lasting?

If we can answer "yes" to those questions, then the community may be ready for a church development team to move in and begin building relationships.

Aboriginal Languages in Canada



Dive Into the Data

As a practice of good stewardship, we begin the research by looking over the information that's freely available. Census Canada has already done a lot of research that is useful for us.

- **Internet** — Scour the web for relevant data.
- **Library** — Resource printed content.
- **Interviews** — Speak with members of the communities, community leaders and with those who live close by.

Can We Assist the Local Church?

Sometimes we look for a location where there is an opportunity to assist a local church. With a "How can we serve with you?" approach, FirstStory can partner with the local church to spread the Good News. These considerations are a major part of the MOA because working with believers willing to make disciples will have the greatest impact.

- **History of Mission** — Have Christians worked in this community in the past?
- **Current Work** — Are there believers willing to help make more disciples?
- **Which Group is Receptive?** — Research those most willing to receive church development teams.

Send in the MOA Team

In some cases FirstStory will partner with Ethnos360 Aviation in order to fly into remote areas. The MOA Team will visit multiple communities in a particular area and meet with local leadership, all the while,

- **Praying** — prayerfully looking for open doors and open hearts,
- **Evaluating** — what information is still unknown; what needs to be investigated further,
- **Trusting God** — the team must trust God to reveal where He wants the church development teams located.

A mission team is sent to serve

Once all the data is collected, recommendations are made to leadership for strategically selecting locations of greatest impact. The research can be acted upon and a team is positioned to serve.

Typically three families are sent because there are a number of responsibilities that have to be met (i.e. translation, teaching, discipleship, community development, etc.) A team of this size is able to accomplish more and can also encourage each other, which is very much needed in these isolated communities of northern Canada.

“While visiting several communities in northern Ontario, a common need expressed by local leadership was a lack of things for youth to do—and the social problems that result. We also found a very limited understanding of God’s truth. Many community leaders expressed the need for spiritual teaching to help people deal with life’s challenges.

As we discussed the ministry of FirstStory, there was an openness to the help FirstStory missionaries could bring into the community. There was an interest in missionaries coming into the community as teachers or as community resource people to help with community sustainability projects such as community gardens, etc.”

— Allan Giesbrecht, MOA team member



Please help FirstStory continue to move forward.

Identifying the best places to locate church development teams is one of the critical steps in seeing thriving churches established among the indigenous peoples in Canada. Any gift moves us closer to reaching the next community.

ADVANCING CHURCH DEVELOPMENT THROUGH MOAs _____.

FirstStory would like to do four more assessments in 2018. At an average cost of \$4,500, we are trusting the Lord to provide \$18,000 through His Church for this need.

Your partnership will enable FirstStory to successfully complete MOAs so that church development teams can move into the most needy and strategic communities.

Thank you for the part you are playing in helping FirstStory establish thriving churches in Canada.



Yes! I want to help establish thriving churches in Canada.

☐ I want to give \$_____ to FirstStory Ministries.

☐ Please sign me up for prayer **emails** from FirstStory.
(please provide name and email below)

☐ Please use this gift of \$_____ to help strategically place church development teams.

☐ I would like to learn more about serving with FirstStory Ministries. Please contact me. (please complete *Contact Form below*)

Contact Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov _____ Postal Code _____

Email _____ Phone _____ ☐ Cell _____

You can also give with your credit card online:

firststoryministries.ca/give
or call toll free **844-855-6862**.

Gifts to Ethnos Canada will be acknowledged immediately and qualify for an annual official receipt for income tax purposes.

Please make cheques payable to:
Ethnos Canada
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Credit Card Form

I authorize Ethnos Canada to charge my credit card for the total amount of \$_____ . Date_____

Name on Card _____ Signature _____

Card Number: _ _ _ _ - _ _ _ - _ _ _ _ _ Expiry Date: _ _ / _ _ CSV code: _ _ _