



### Agenda

- Motivation
  - Other Inquiries
- Data and Methodology
- Context
- GIS Analysis
- Conclusion

### Motivation

- 1. What do homestead records show about the development of the Canadian prairies?
- 2. Is the number of homestead entries a good indicator of the region's economic development?
- 3. Can HGIS show WC's transformation in time and space?

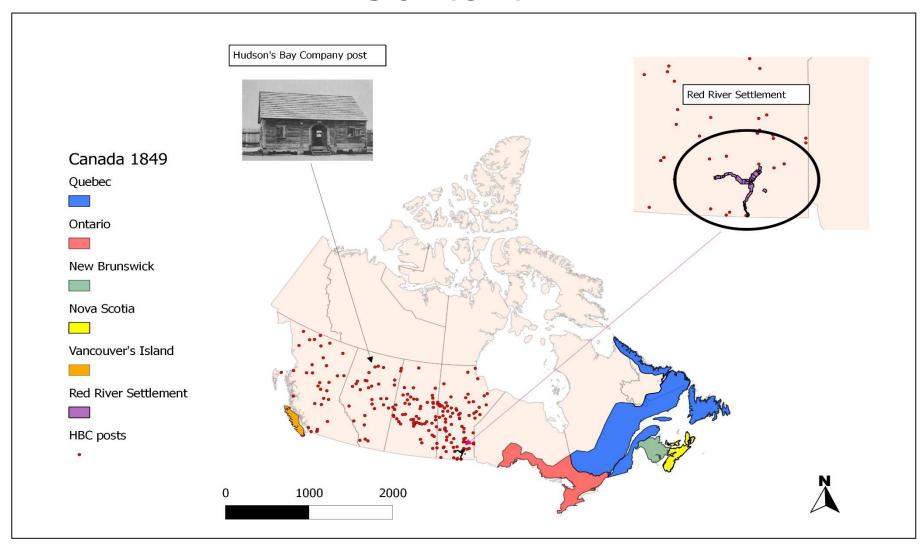
# Other inquiries

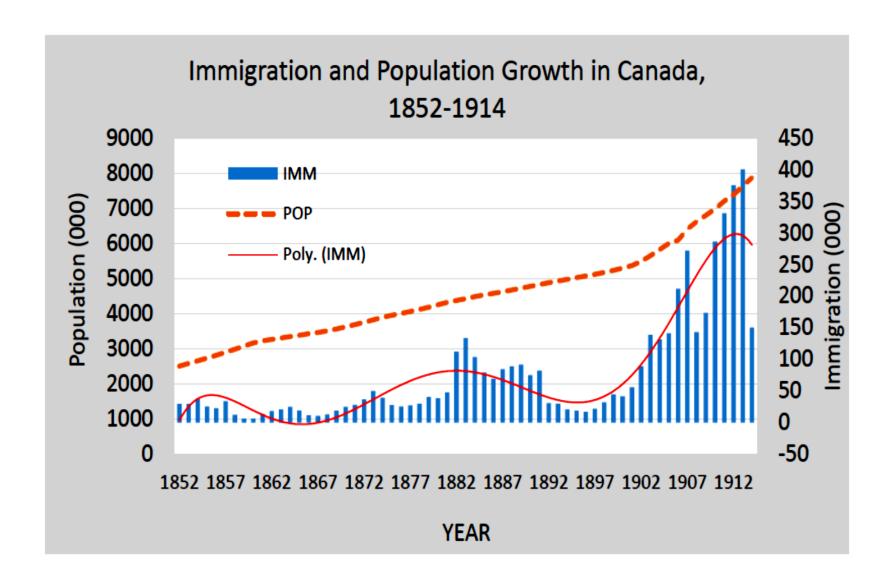
- Census Records
- Dominion Lands Office (Aggregated data)
- Econometrics
- Revision of homestead entries/cancellations

# Data and methodology

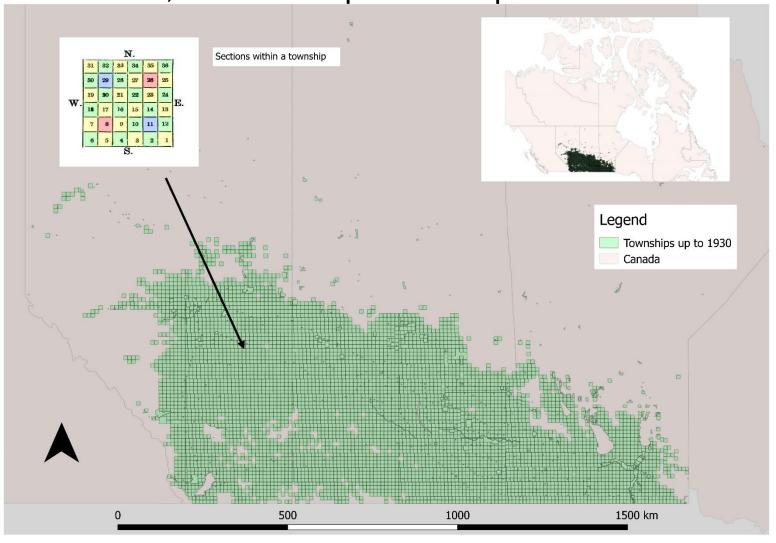
- •Dominion Land Offices Records- Dep. of the Interior Reports
- Post offices records.
- Historical maps from U of M digital collection at Flickr
- •Geographical Names, topographic maps and railroad network. Natural Resources Canada (GeoGratis)
- Atlas Canada and the Canadian Century Research Infrastructure (CCRI)
- •GIS maps and spatial analyses produced with QGIS

### Context

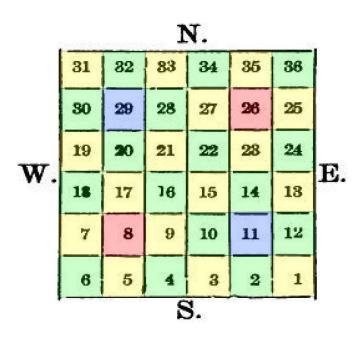


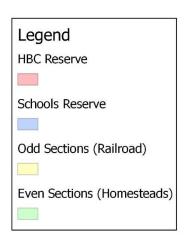


~50,000 townships of 36 sq. miles

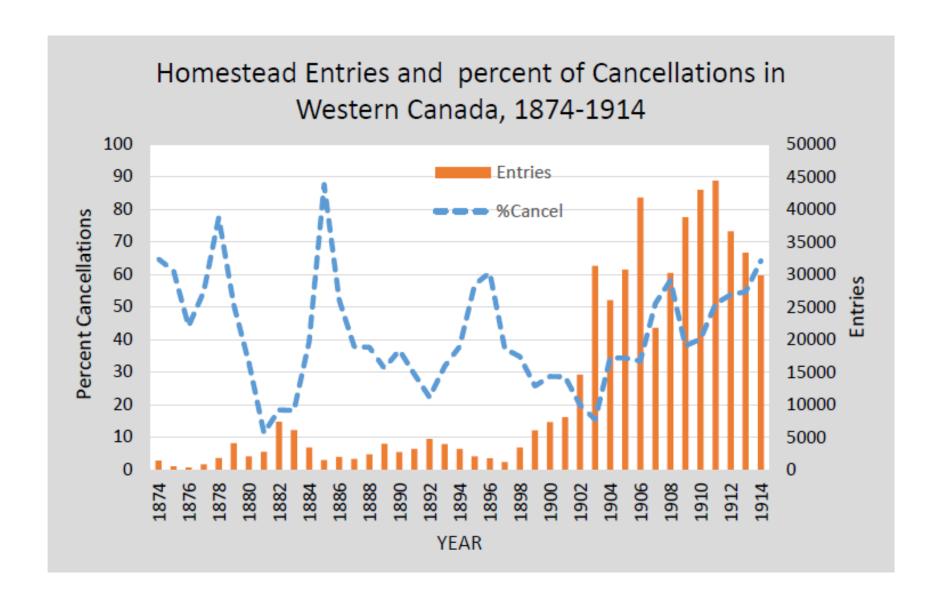


#### Dominion Lands Act 1872





Source: Based on Canada. Statutes. An Act Respecting the Public Lands of the Dominion. (Ottawa: Brown Chamberlin, 1872), 58.



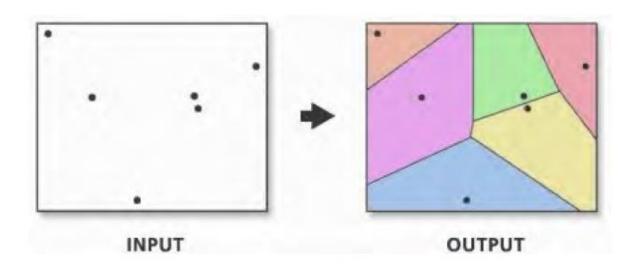
### Reconstructing the geography of the past

Using GIS to recreate history

Spatial analysis

Limitations

#### Thiessen Triangulation



# **Analysis**

### **Homesteads**

**Dynamic exploration** 

### Conclusion

State in Motion

Frontier of Settlement

- Transportation networks
- Space and beyond

