

4. The Print Composer

Purpose

- Learn how to use a Print Composer to export your map to an image, a PDF, or a vector drawing format.
- Learn how to create and manage multiple Print Composers

QGIS Project Edit View Layer Settings Plugins Vector Raster Database Web Processing Window Help

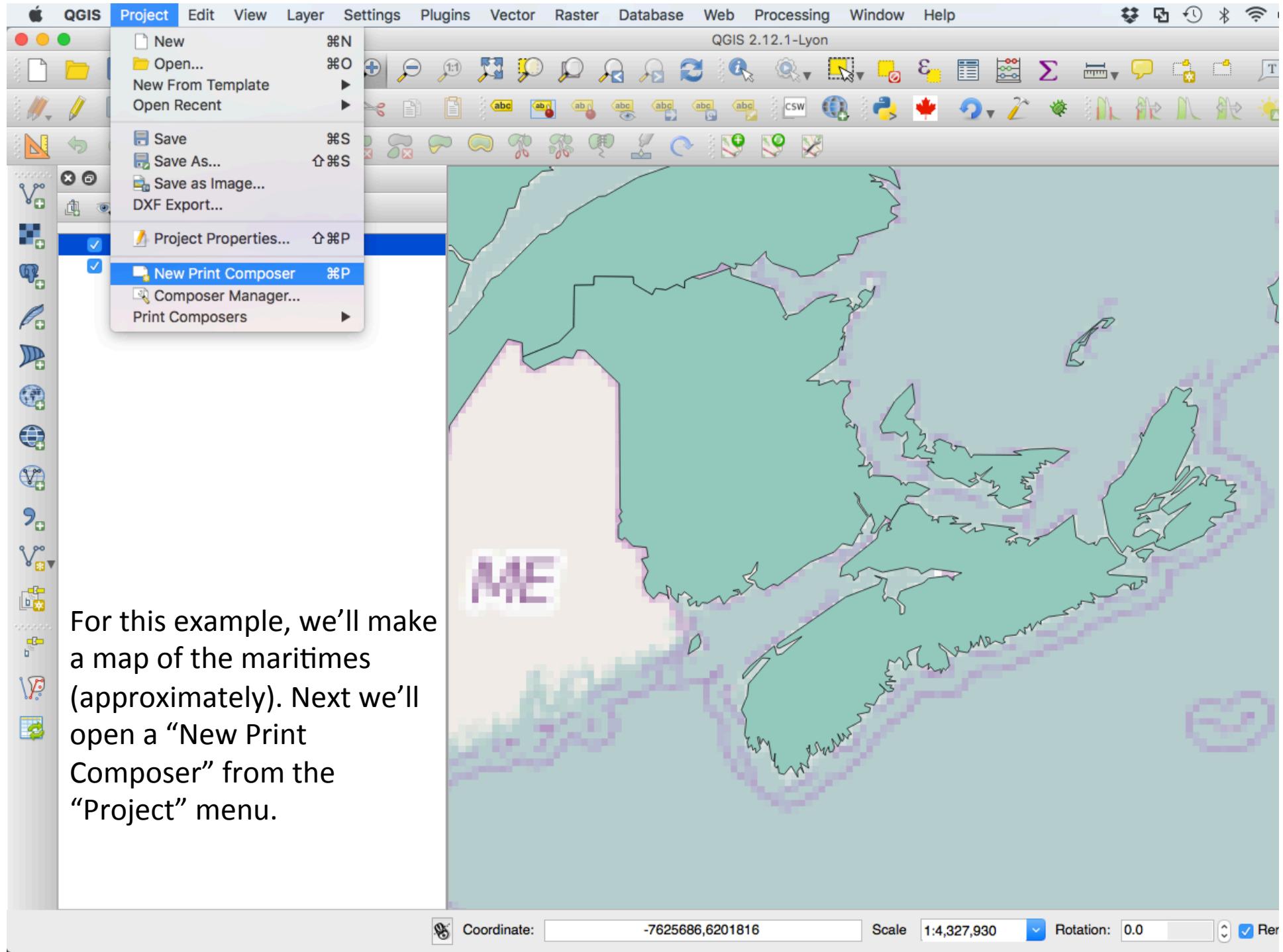
QGIS 2.12.1-Lyon

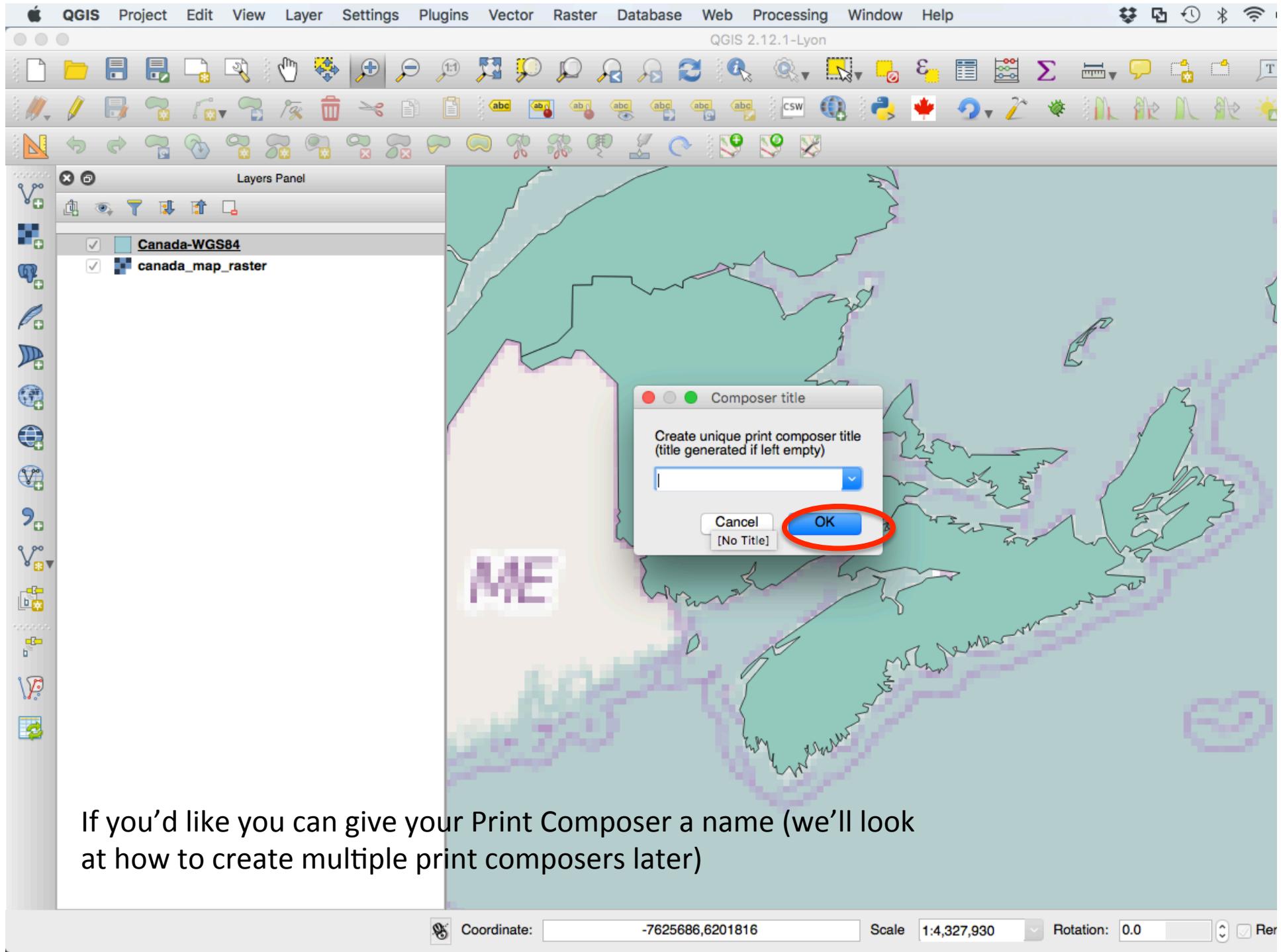
Layers Panel

Canada-WGS84
canada_map_raster

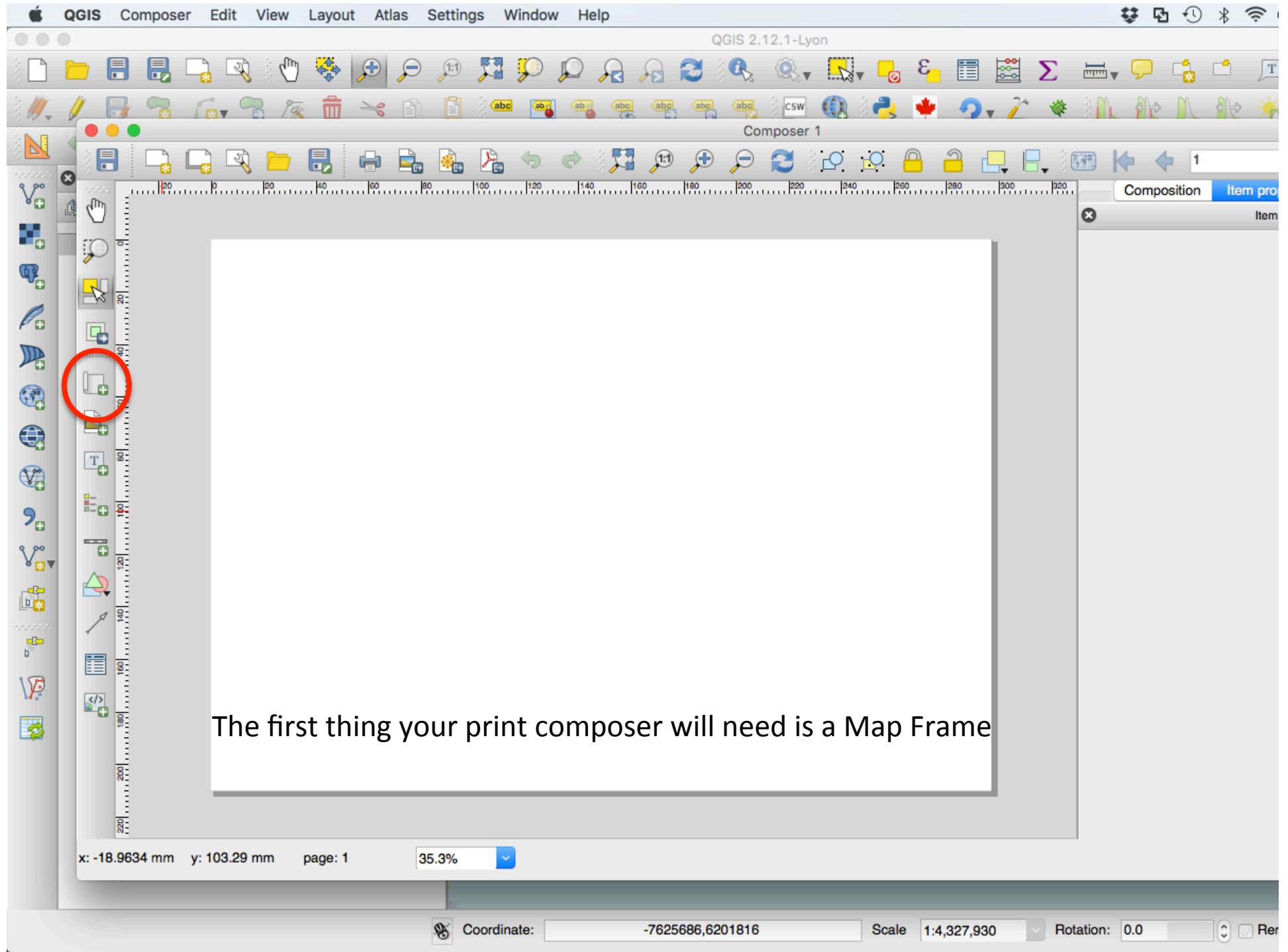
To export your map as a PDF or image, we need to use the Print Composer. Start by panning and zooming to the approximate place you'd like your exported map to be.

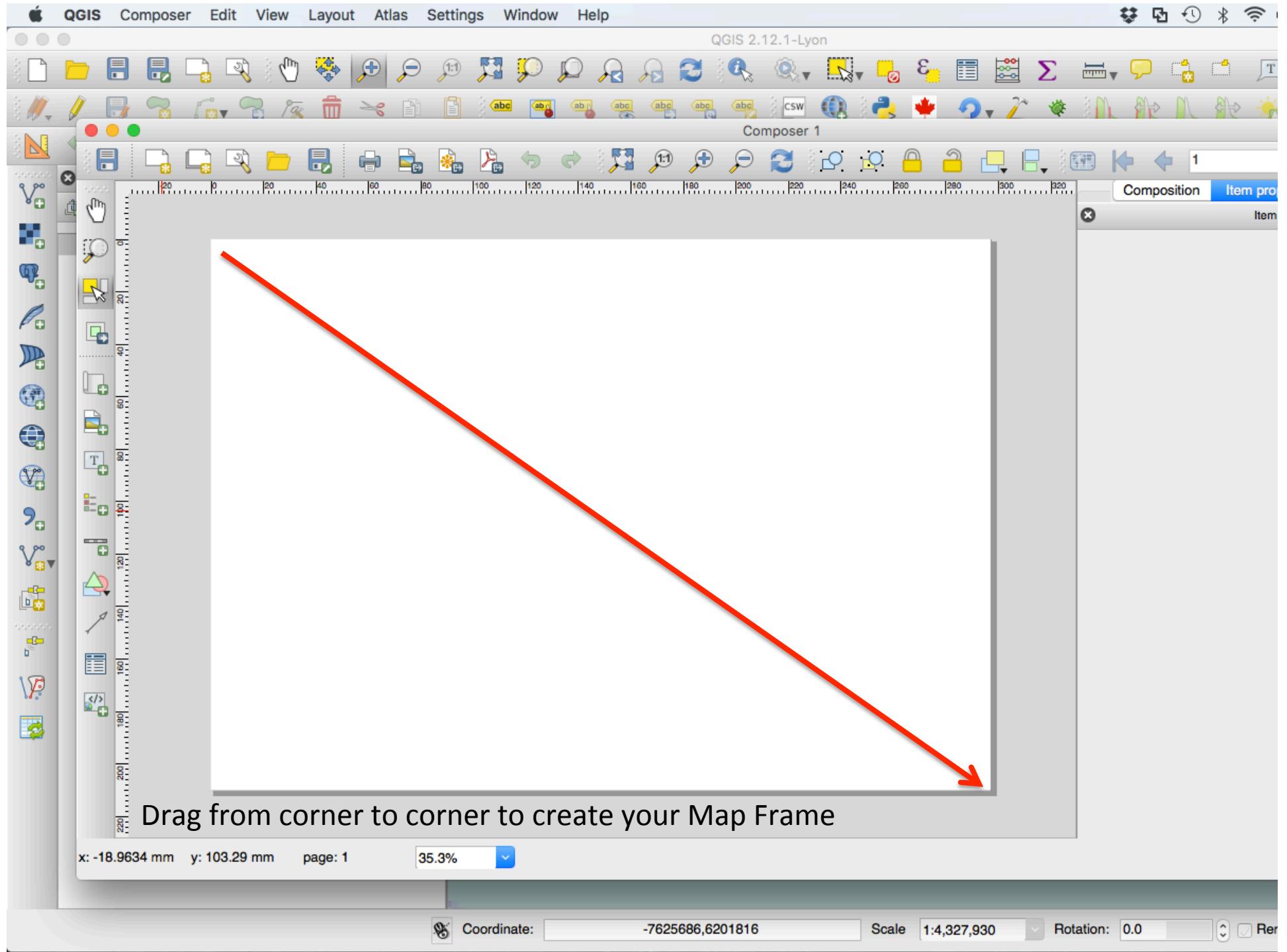
Coordinate: -10662349, 11547079 Scale: 1:54,176,409 Rotation: 0.0 Ready

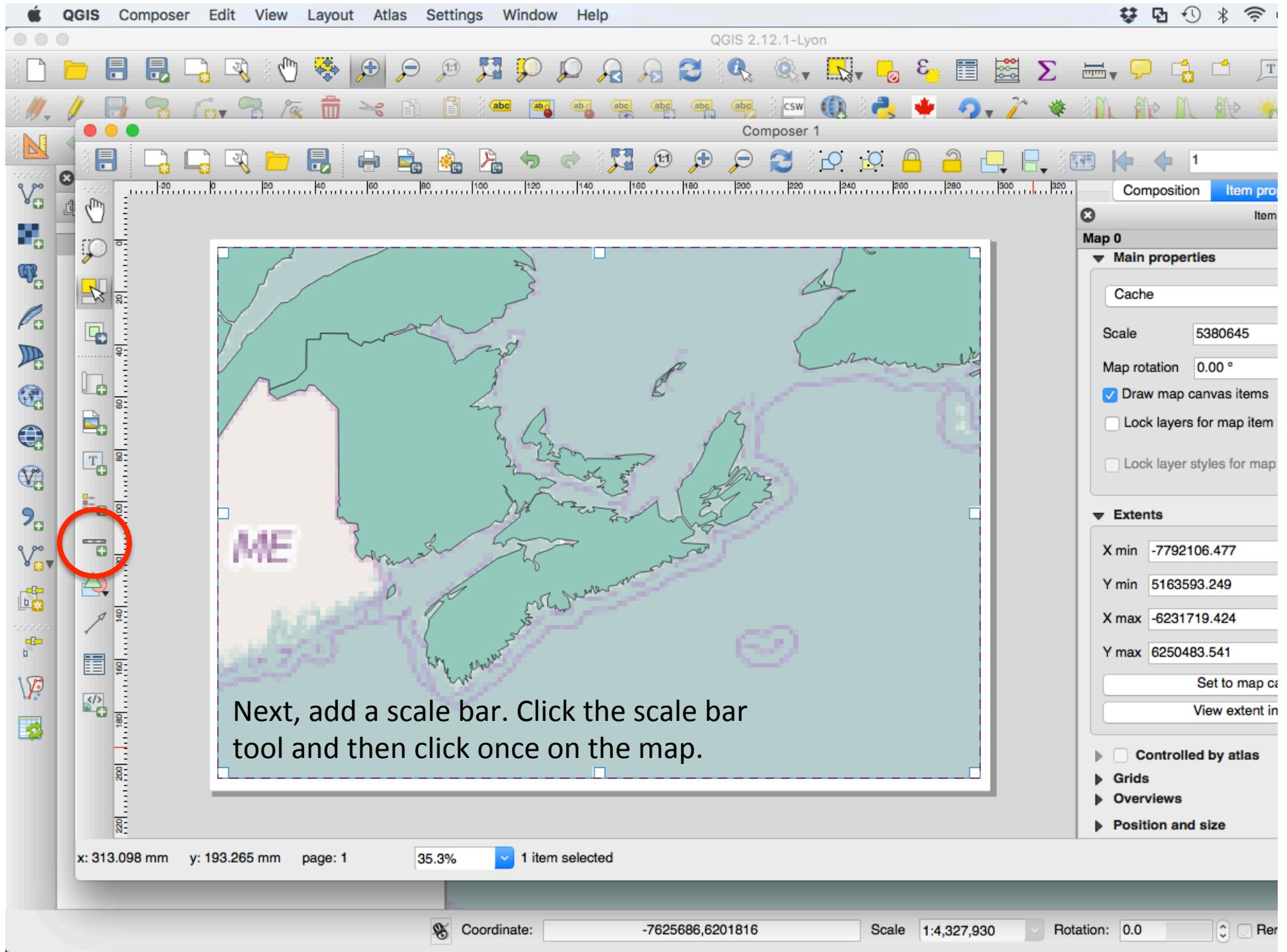




If you'd like you can give your Print Composer a name (we'll look at how to create multiple print composers later)







QGIS Composer Edit View Layout Atlas Settings Window Help

QGIS 2.12.1-Lyon

Composer 1

Composition Item properties

Scalebar

Main properties

Map Map 0
Style Single Box

Units

Scalebar units Meters
Label unit multiplier 1000.000000
Label for units km

Segments

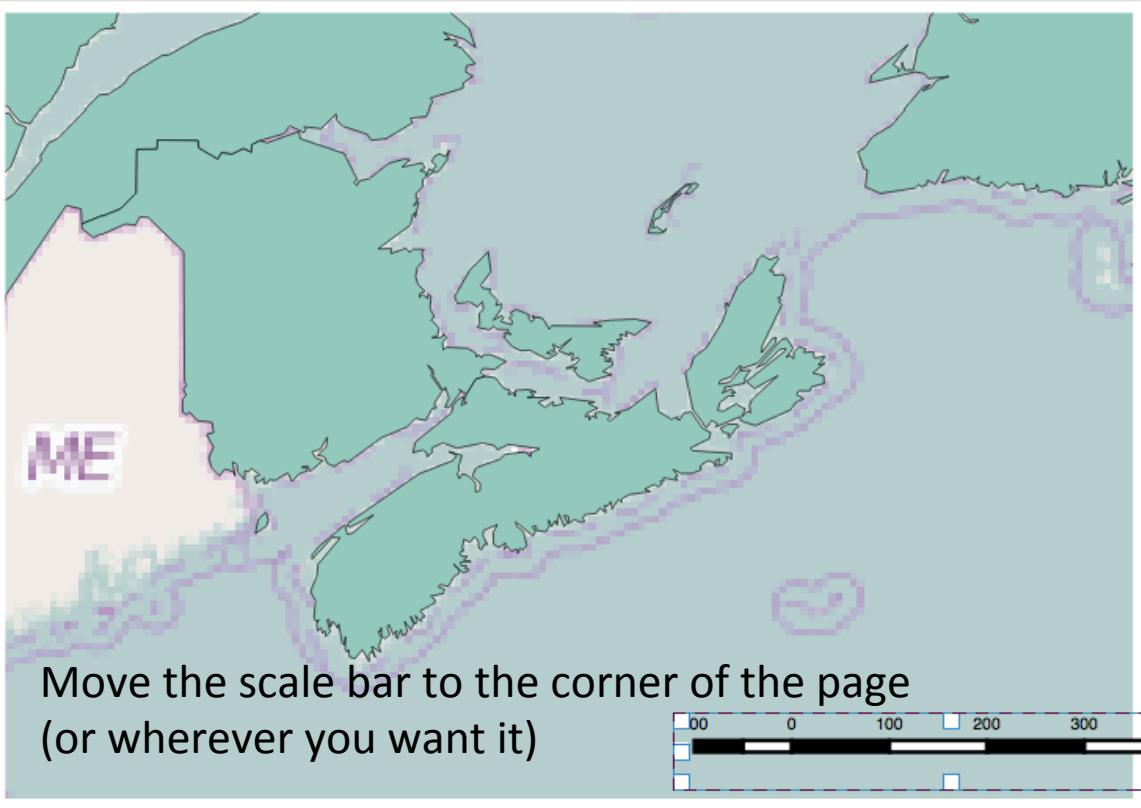
Segments left 2 right 4
Fixed width 100000.0
Fit segment width min 50 m max 150
Height 3 mm

Display
Fonts and colors
Position and size
Rotation
 Frame

Move the scale bar to the corner of the page
(or wherever you want it)

x: 231.192 mm y: 173.092 mm page: 1 87.4% 1 item selected

Coordinate: -7625686,6201816 Scale 1:4,327,930 Rotation: 0.0 Render



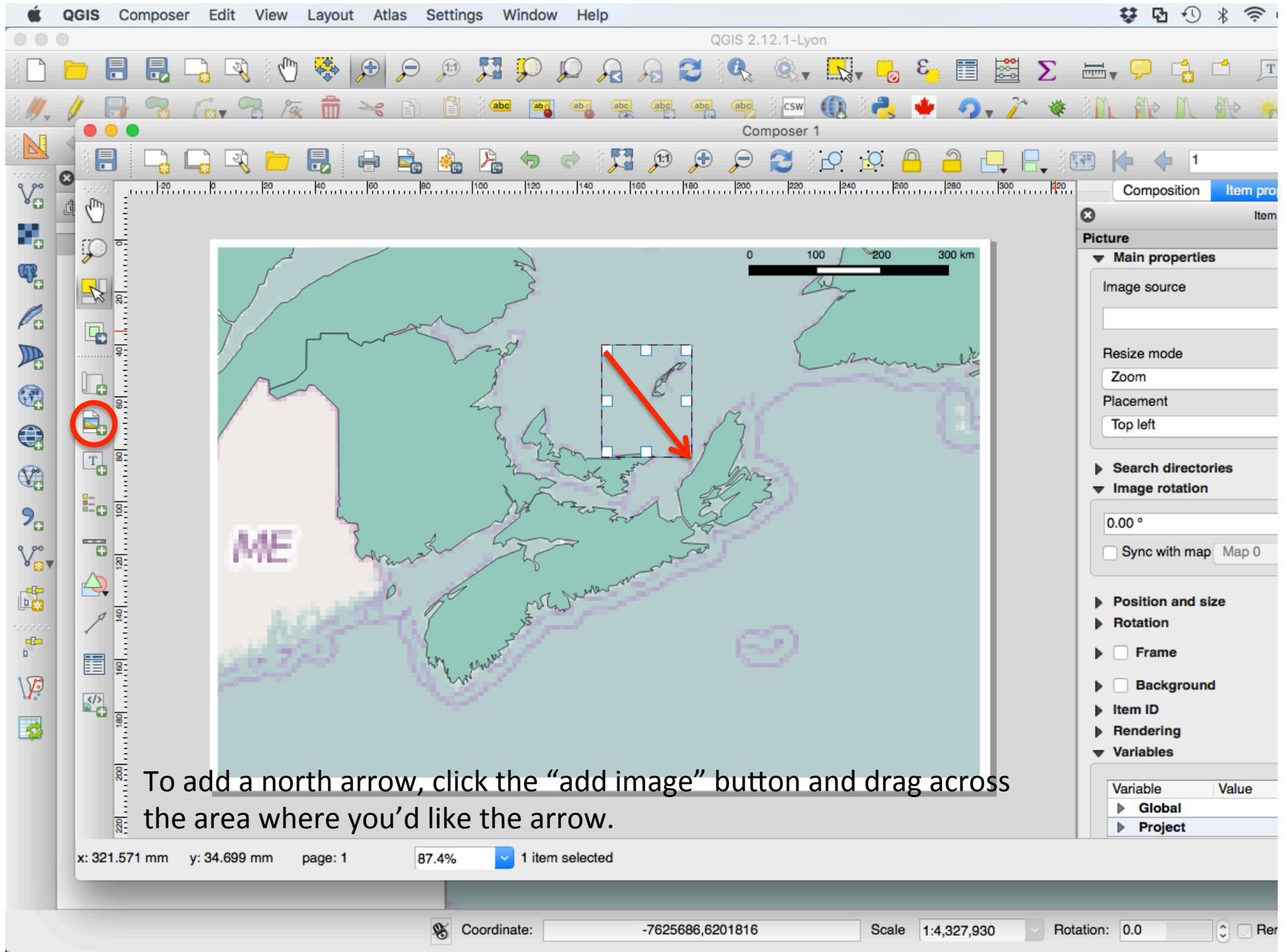
The screenshot shows the QGIS Composer interface. A map of Maine is displayed in the center, featuring green land areas and purple water bodies. A scale bar is positioned at the bottom of the map frame. A text box with a light blue background and dark blue border contains the instruction: "Move the scale bar to the corner of the page (or wherever you want it)". The bottom status bar shows coordinates (-7625686, 6201816), a scale of 1:4,327,930, and a rotation of 0.0 degrees. The bottom right corner has a checkbox labeled "Render". The top menu bar includes options like File, Edit, View, Layout, Atlas, Settings, Window, and Help. The toolbar on the left contains various tools for editing and styling. The right panel displays the "Scalebar" properties, including "Main properties" (Map: Map 0, Style: Single Box), "Units" (Scalebar units: Meters, Label unit multiplier: 1000.000000, Label for units: km), and "Segments" (left 2 segments, right 4 segments, Fixed width: 100000.0, Fit segment width: min 50 m, max 150, Height: 3 mm). The "Display" section includes checkboxes for "Frame", "Fonts and colors", "Position and size", and "Rotation".

The screenshot shows the QGIS 2.12.1-Lyon interface with the 'Composer 1' tab selected. A scale bar is visible in the top right corner of the map canvas, showing segments for 100, 200, and 300 meters. The 'Scalebar' item properties dialog is open on the right, with the 'Item properties' tab selected. The 'Segments' section contains two segments: 'left 0' and 'right 3'. The 'right 3' segment is highlighted with a red oval. The 'Style' is set to 'Single Box'. The 'Scalebar units' are 'Meters'.

Customize the length of the scale bar by changing the number of segments.

mm page: 1 87.4% 1 item selected

Coordinate: -7625686,6201816 Scale 1:4,327,930 Rotation: 0.0 Render EPSG:3395 (OTF)



To select which image you'd like to display, click the "... next to Image Source.

Item properties

Picture

Main properties

- Image source (button circled in red)
- Resize mode: Zoom
- Placement: Top left

Search directories

Image rotation: 0.00 °

Sync with map: Map 0

Position and size

Rotation

Frame

Background

Item ID

Rendering

Variables

Variable	Value
Global	
Project	

Coordinate: -7625686,6201816 Scale: 1:4,327,930 Rotation: 0.0 Render: EPSG:3395 (OTF)

QGIS Composer Edit View Layout Atlas Settings Window Help

QGIS 2.12.1-Lyon

Composer 1

Search

Favorites

- Applications
- thesis
- Desktop
- Documents
- Downloads
- Dropbox
- dewey

Devices

- Dewey's MacB...

Shared

- All...

Media

- Music
- Photos

02-03 First Map Data
05 Wolfville Data
06 Basemap Data
07 Alta Lake Data
08 NS Study Site Data
09-10 Interp...n Contouring
GIS Course Outline 2016
north_arrow_orienteering.svg
north_arrow.svg
QGIS Intro Jan 2016.Rproj
r
resources
rosm.cache
Tutorial PDF
Tutorials

Created 2012-03-08
Modified 2012-03-08
Last opened 2012-03-08
Dimensions --
Add Tags...

New Folder Cancel Open

ME

Coordinate: -7625686,6201816 Scale 1:4,327,930 Rotation: 0.0

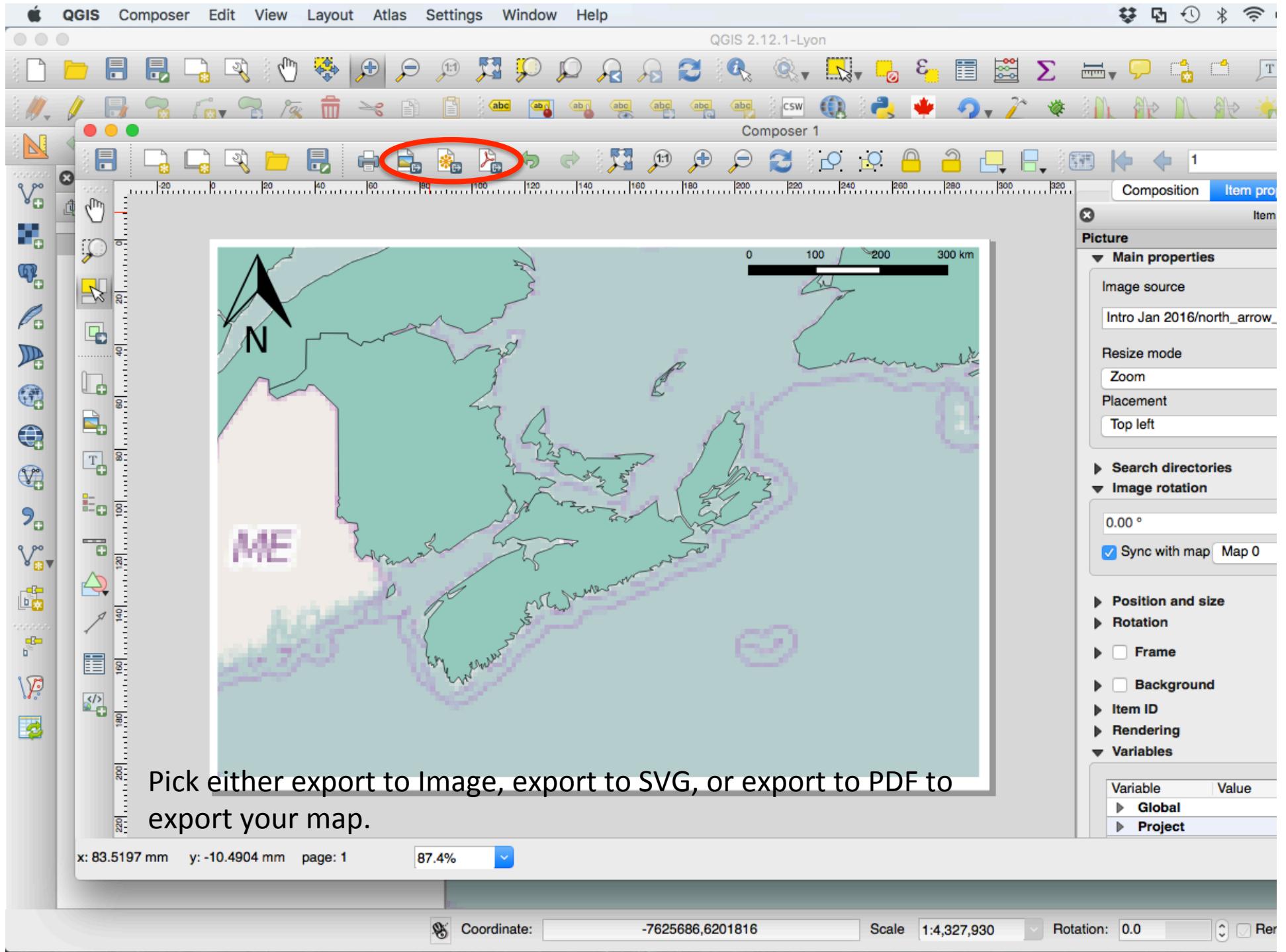
Select “north_arrow_orienteering.svg” from the GIS Short Course folder.

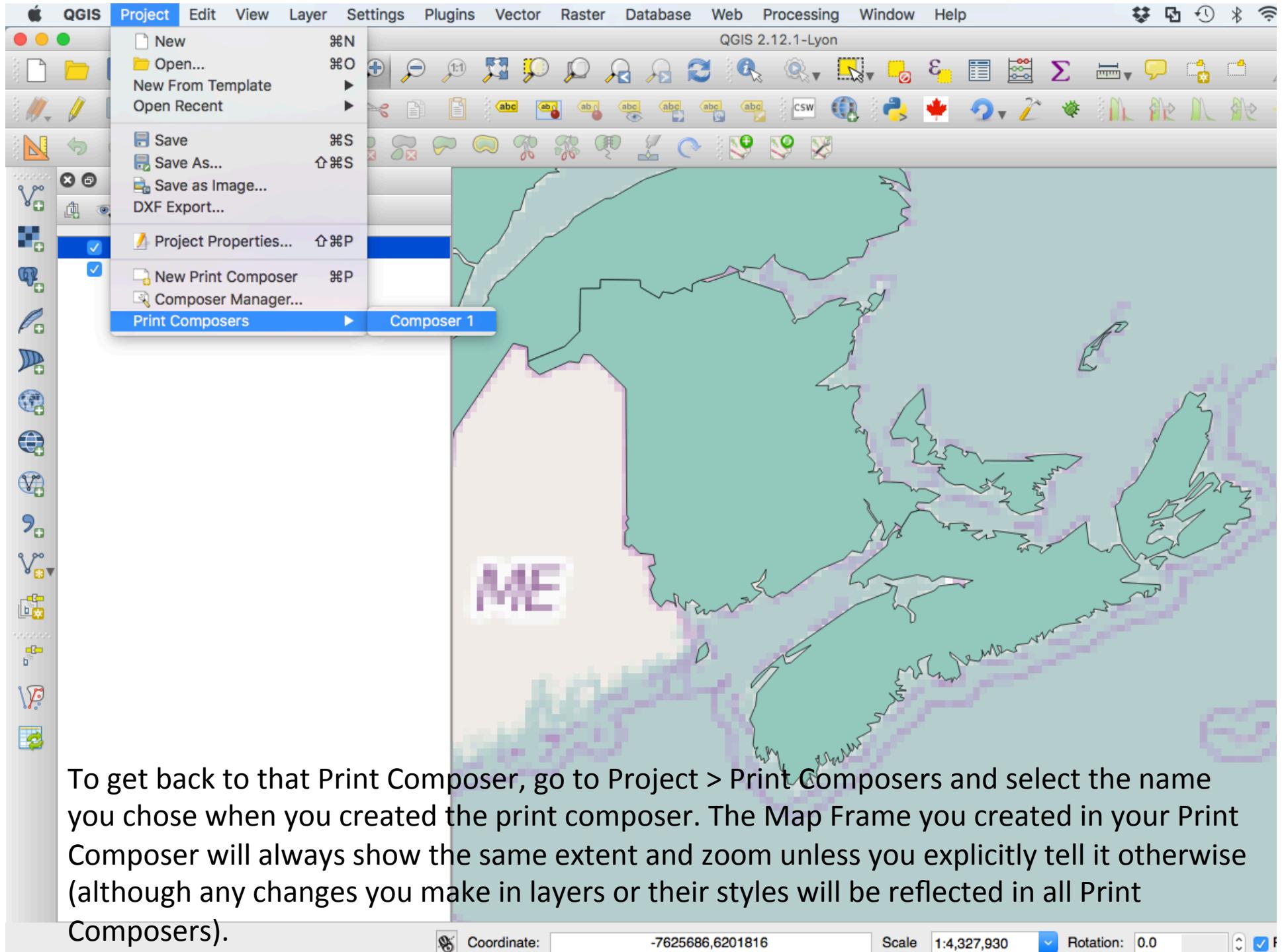
The screenshot shows the QGIS application interface. The main window displays a map of a coastal region with green land areas and blue water bodies. A black north arrow is positioned in the upper left corner of the map area. A floating text box contains the following text:

For this projection, North is straight up for all points on the map. This may not be true for other projections, so it's a good idea to link the rotation of the map

The right side of the interface features the "Composer 1" panel, which includes a toolbar at the top and a "Picture" item in the "Item properties" tab. The "Image rotation" section of the properties panel is highlighted with a red oval, showing the setting "Sync with map Map 0". Below this, under "Position and size", there are checkboxes for "Frame" and "Background".

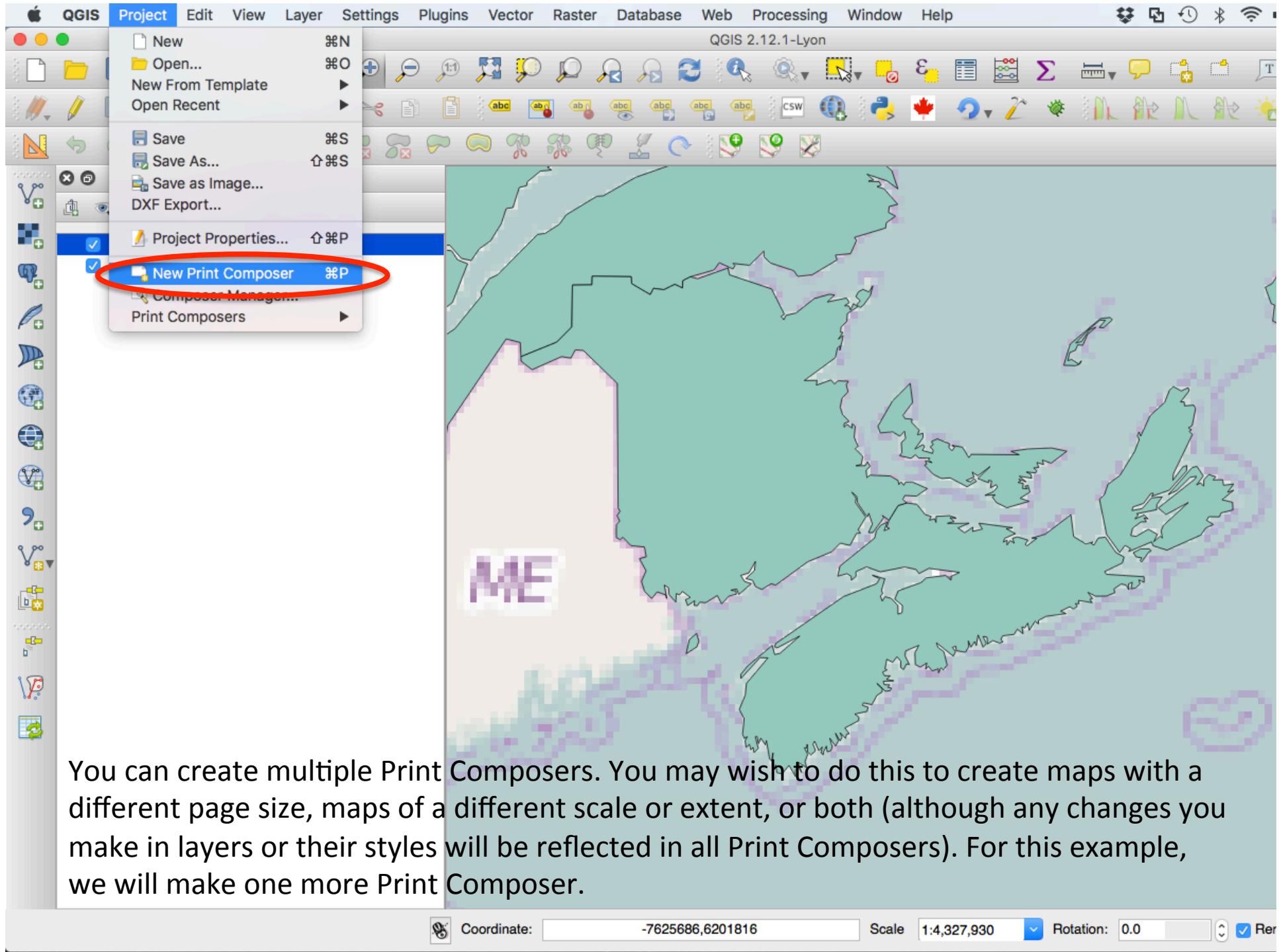
At the bottom of the screen, the status bar shows "mm page: 1", "87.4%", "1 item selected", "Coordinate: -7625686,6201816", "Scale 1:4,327,930", "Rotation: 0.0", "Render", "EPSG:3395 (OTF)", and a message icon.

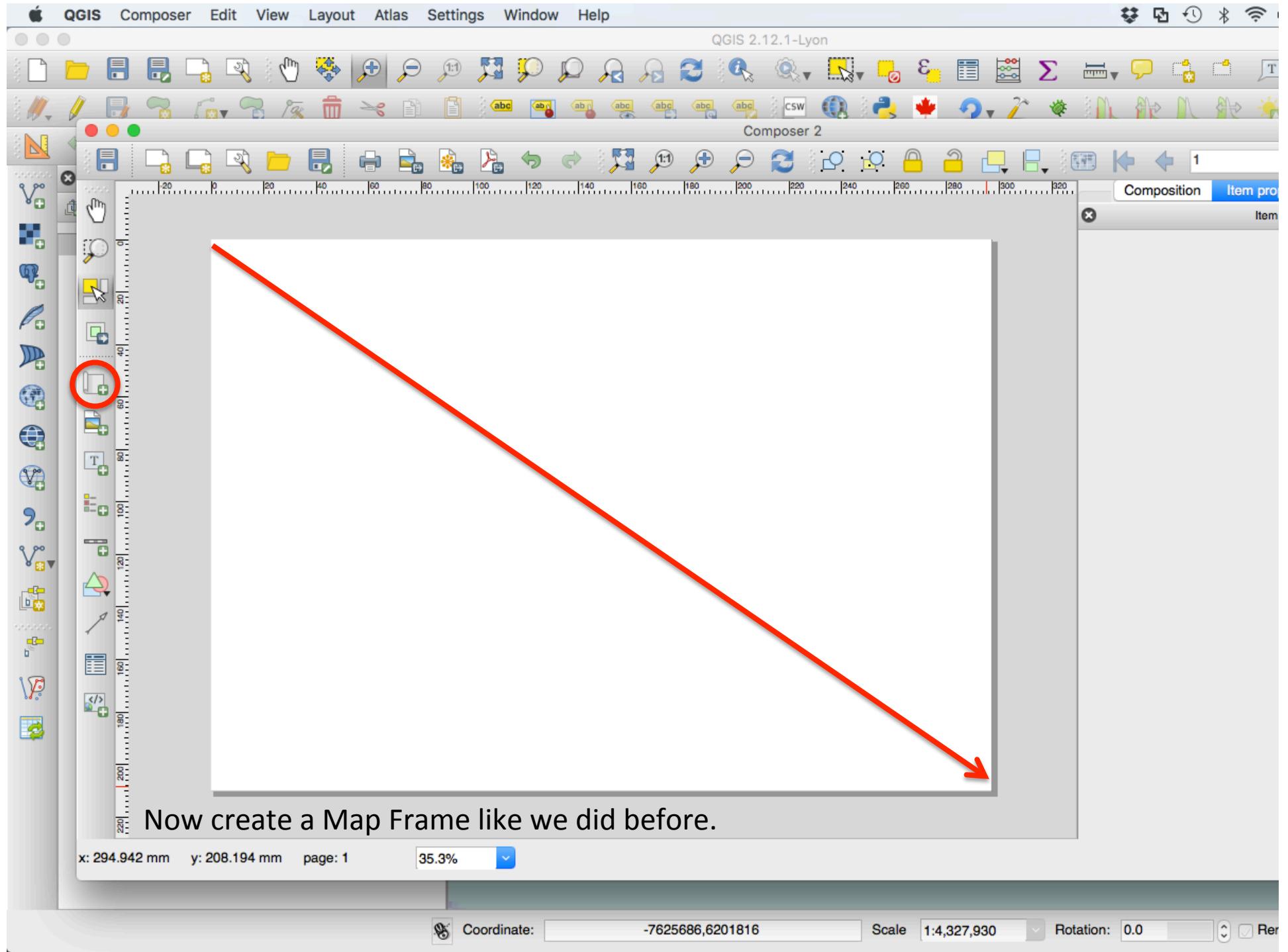




To get back to that Print Composer, go to Project > Print Composers and select the name you chose when you created the print composer. The Map Frame you created in your Print Composer will always show the same extent and zoom unless you explicitly tell it otherwise (although any changes you make in layers or their styles will be reflected in all Print Composers).

Multiple Print Composers





Now create a Map Frame like we did before.

QGIS Composer Edit View Layout Atlas Settings Window Help

QGIS 2.12.1-Lyon

Composer 2

Composition Item properties

Map 0

Main properties

- Cache
- Scale **5343791**
- Map rotation **0.00 °**
- Draw map canvas items
- Lock layers for map item
- Lock layer styles for map

Extents

- X min **-7792106.477**
- Y min **5163593.249**
- X max **-6231719.424**
- Y max **6259070.461**
- Set to map canvas
- View extent in

- Controlled by atlas
- Grids
- Overviews
- Position and size

Move item content

ME

Usually when we create the Map Frame, the extent isn't exactly what we'd like. Luckily, QGIS makes it easy for us to manipulate the extent and scale of our Map Frame using the "Move Item Content" and "Scale" parameters.

x: 0 mm y: 108.939 mm page: 1 35.3% 1 item selected

Coordinate: -7625686,6201816 Scale 1:4,327,930 Rotation: 0.0

The screenshot shows the QGIS Composer 2 interface. A map frame is displayed with a scale of 5343791. The map frame contains a text box with the text 'Usually when we create the Map Frame, the extent isn't exactly what we'd like. Luckily, QGIS makes it easy for us to manipulate the extent and scale of our Map Frame using the "Move Item Content" and "Scale" parameters.' A red circle highlights the 'Scale' parameter in the 'Main properties' section of the right-hand panel. Another red circle highlights the 'Move item content' icon in the toolbar on the left. The bottom status bar shows coordinates, scale, and rotation information.

QGIS Composer Edit View Layout Atlas Settings Window Help

QGIS 2.12.1-Lyon

Composer 2

Composition Item properties

Map 0

Main properties

- Cache
- Scale 10343791
- Map rotation 0.00 °
- Draw map canvas items
- Lock layers for map item
- Lock layer styles for map

Extents

X min	-8799495.396
Y min	5274759.844
X max	-5779108.421
Y max	7395237.002

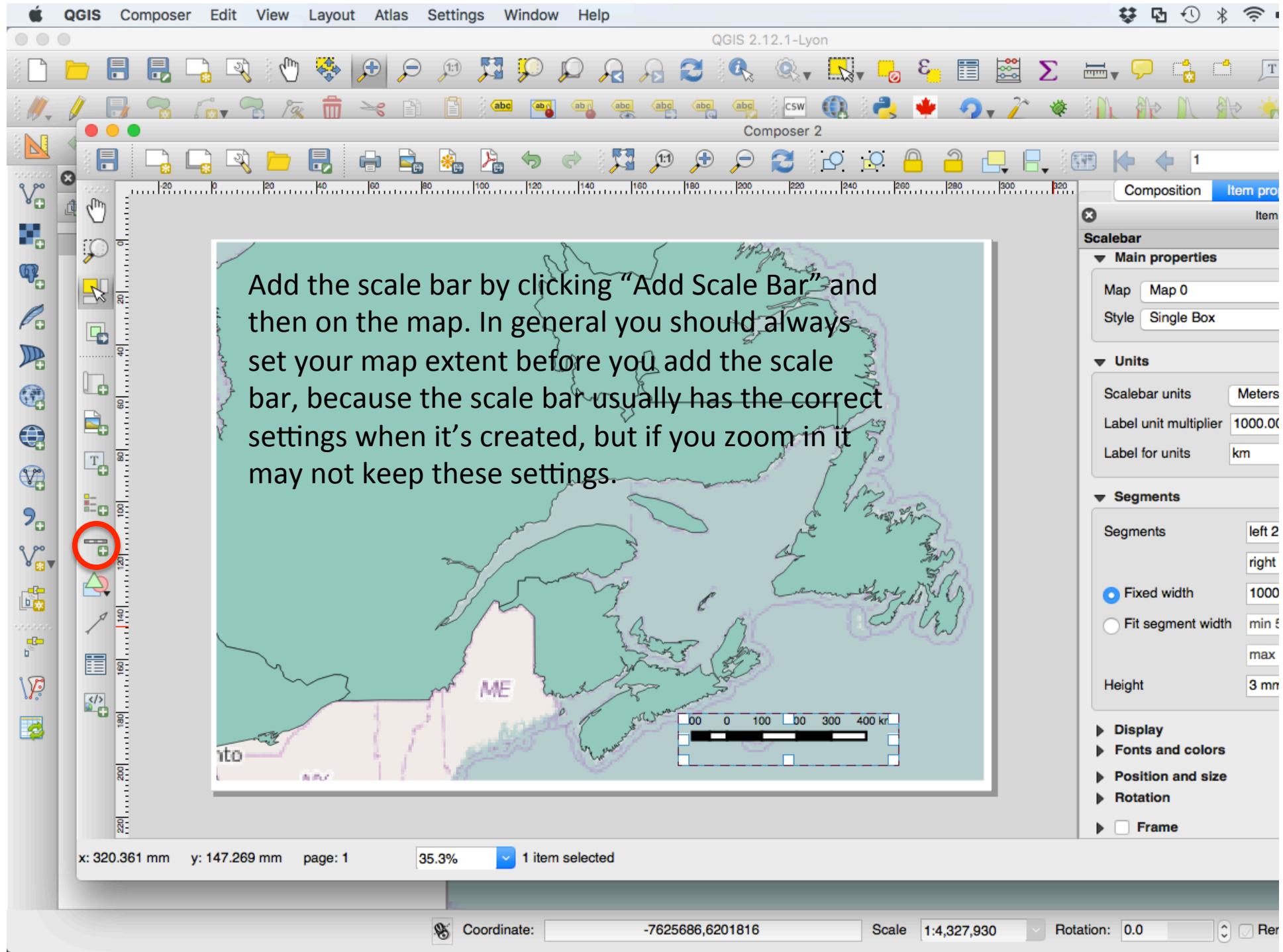
Set to map canvas
 View extent in

Controlled by atlas
Grids
Overviews
Position and size

x: 136.375 mm y: 90.3788 mm page: 1 35.3% 1 item selected

Coordinate: -7625686,6201816 Scale 1:4,327,930 Rotation: 0.0

Zoom (by changing the “scale”) and pan (by dragging using the “move item content” tool) to “the east coast”, or if you want choose another extent.



QGIS Composer Edit View Layout Atlas Settings Window Help

QGIS 2.12.1-Lyon

Composer 2

Composition Item properties

Picture

Main properties

- Image source Intro Jan 2016/north_arrow_
- Resize mode Zoom
- Placement Top left

Search directories

Image rotation 0.00 °

Sync with map Map 0

Position and size

Rotation

Frame

Background

Item ID

Rendering

Variables

Variable	Value
Global	
Project	

x: -6.05215 mm y: 64.1528 mm page: 1 35.3%

Coordinate: -6282104,5752937 Scale 1:4,327,930 Rotation: 0.0

Customize the scale bar and add a North arrow as we did in the last composer.

