

**Statistical Trends in the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada**  
**By the Venerable Doctor Geoff Peddle**  
**August 7, 2012**

The following paper is derived directly from diocesan statistical reports deposited with the Anglican Church of Canada for the years 1976 to 2010. It is intended to describe the trends affecting the Anglican Church in the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada during those years but is not intended to evaluate the underlying dynamics creating those trends within each diocese and province. An evaluation of that nature would require additional quantitative and qualitative data.

For the sake of consistency among dioceses and among sources, unless otherwise indicated, all data considered in this report was provided to me by the Anglican Church of Canada. In the case of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, due to significantly large fluctuations in the records, additional information was requested by me and compiled by Canon Gordon Redden, Diocesan Executive Director, dated December 9, 2010. Such changes are indicated with (GR). Where comparisons are made with provincial statistics on population, live births, weddings and deaths, the data considered is from Statistics Canada and also provincial statistical records. Care has been taken to ensure that all comparisons presented are consistent as to the nature of data under consideration as well as the relevant year. Metrics considered to be indicative of affiliation and participation in the Anglican Church are rates of membership, rates of baptisms, rates of weddings, and rates of funerals. This report begins in 1976 when the three dioceses in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador were established.

Having now reviewed the available statistical data from the Anglican Church of Canada the first comment I will make is on the limited quality of the statistical data compiled by the Anglican Church, particularly from 2006 onward. To place this in historical perspective, in 2001 the Anglican Church of Canada ceased systematic collection of statistical data from its dioceses. In 2009, during the writing of my PhD dissertation on statistical trends affecting the Anglican Church of Canada, the Episcopal Church in the United States of America, and the Church of England, I requested from each of these Churches their statistical records for 50 years from 1960 onward so that I could make the appropriate comparisons. The Episcopal Church in the United States of America and the Church of England were able to provide most of the data I requested but it was then that I discovered a nine-year lag on the part of the Anglican Church of Canada. I contacted the Office of the Primate who wrote a letter on my behalf endorsing my research as I then contacted each diocese in Canada directly requesting the appropriate information. Subsequently, in 2010, the Anglican Church of Canada created the Statistics Working Group so that the statistical data for the Church could be compiled centrally. At that point, so as not to burden dioceses with needing to respond to two separate requests for information, I terminated my own search for diocesan data, hoping to be able to utilize the data compiled by the Statistics Working Group of the Anglican Church of Canada. The data contained therefore in this report is directly from the Summary Reports of the Statistics Working Group, however, as can be seen from the tables, is of limited quality after 2006. In fact, those Summary Reports sometimes list the same figures five years in a row for certain dioceses as can be seen from 2006 to 2010 for the Diocese of Montreal, the Diocese of Quebec, and the Diocese of Central Newfoundland. Sometimes the Summary Reports even contradict the internal reports of the Dioceses themselves. For that reason, even though I will list all the data in tables in this report, I will not compile it into charts after 2006, nor index it beyond 2006. I do not believe the data beyond 2006 to be reliable enough to do that.

In my opinion, and based upon observed trends since 1976, the decline in all metrics considered for all Dioceses is greater after 2006 but I cannot show the precise degree of that decline. However, because I do have various data after 2006 from some of the Dioceses considered I am able to compare my figures for those Dioceses with

those of the Anglican Church of Canada. In those cases the variance between what the Anglican Church of Canada is reporting and what I am finding in those Dioceses is generally greater than 10% with my figures being 10% or more lower. A case in point is the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador, with the Anglican Church of Canada reporting a membership of 38,884 in 2009 while the Diocese itself reports a membership figure for the same year of 34,342.

With reference to the graphs presented on pages 3-6, the first metric considered is membership. The absolute numbers are presented first followed by a graph showing church membership as a percentage of the total population for each province; beneath that is a second graph showing the index change for population by diocese and province (the percentage change of the relevant population by year). In all cases provincial statistics on population, live births, weddings and deaths are indexed against church membership figures and the number of baptisms, marriages and funerals to demonstrate decline or growth. A linear regression was used to approximate the trend demonstrated by the data. The figures from Statistics Canada for purposes of comparison are included on Page 7.

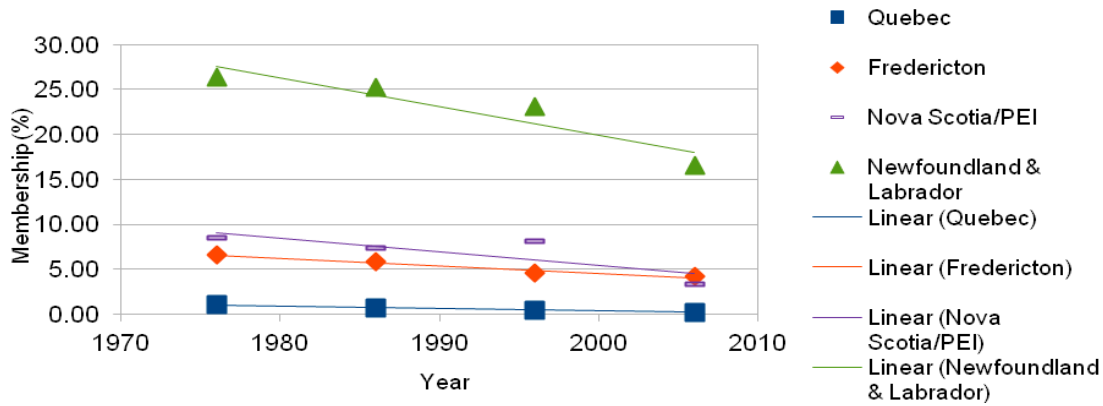
With reference to the same graphs on pages 3-6, the Dioceses of Montreal and Quebec are combined and comparisons are made with the Province of Quebec as a whole. In the case of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island comparisons are made with both provinces combined. In the case of the Dioceses of Western Newfoundland, Central Newfoundland, and Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador the three Dioceses are also combined and comparisons are made with the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador as a whole. These combinations were necessary because the data from Statistics Canada on population, live births, weddings and deaths is compiled by province and cannot be precisely matched against diocesan boundaries except in the case of the Diocese of Fredericton. Four statistical groupings emerge for such analysis: Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador. This method will be used in the graphs on membership, baptisms, weddings and funerals. Church membership will be compared against total provincial population, baptisms will be compared against total live births, weddings against the total number of weddings, and funerals against the total number of deaths.

The most recent census numbers for religion in Canada are from the 2001 census. The table below represents those self-reporting to Statistics Canada membership in the Anglican Church for the Atlantic Provinces and Quebec in 2001. These numbers are higher than those reported by each Diocese for official membership and instead provide an indicator of affiliation with the Anglican Church.

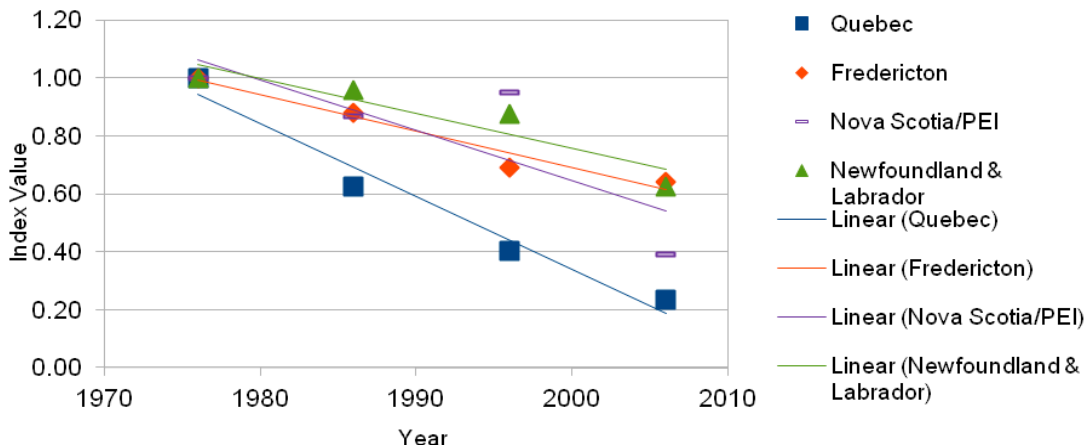
<b>Province</b>	<b>Anglicans</b>	<b>Percentage of Population</b>
Newfoundland Labrador	132,700	26.1%
Nova Scotia	120,300	13.4%
New Brunswick	58,210	8.1%
PEI	6525	4.9%
Quebec	85,500	1.2%

Total Membership by Diocese	1976	1986	1996	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Montreal	51,126	32,131	21,540	15,105	“	“	“	“
Quebec	14,316	10,633	8583	3576	“	“	“	“
Fredericton	44,864	41,329	33,833	31,032	31,032	20,052	“	“
Nova Scotia/PEI	80,289	73,429	84,151	34,854(GR)	19,019	31,243	18,369	33,807
Western Newfoundland	45,562	45,812	35,301	20,100	18,701	15,039	14,330	“
Central Newfoundland	40,637	34,720	33,884	21,432	“	“	“	“
Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador	60,868	62,865	58,235	41,907	38,884	“	“	“

Anglican Membership by Province  
As Percentage of Total Population

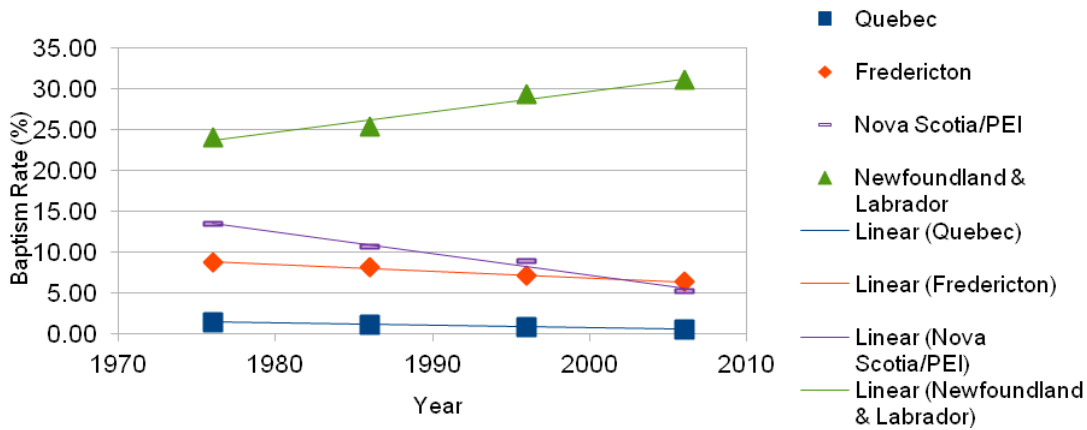


Anglican Membership Index

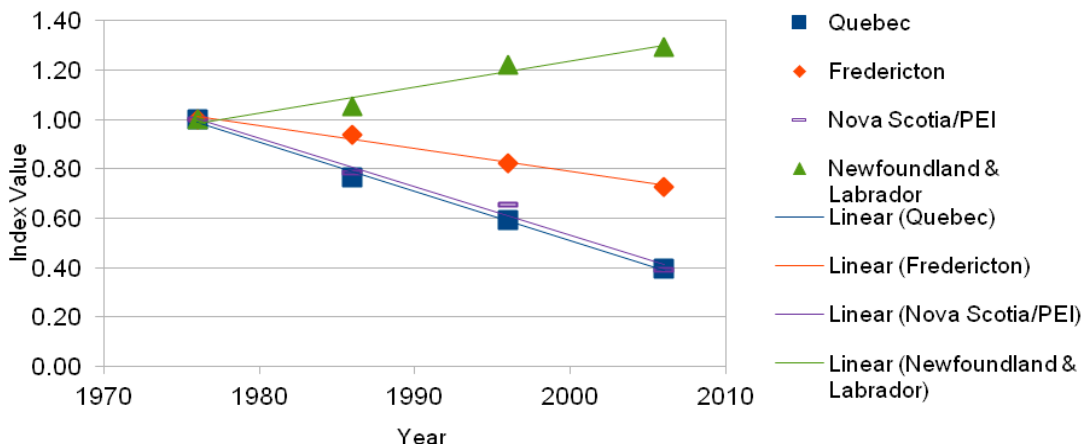


<b>Baptisms by Diocese</b>	<b>1976</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Montreal	1079	739	577	376	“	“	“	“
Quebec	290	183	141	84	“	“	“	“
Fredericton	1027	800	585	446	446	299	“	“
Nova Scotia/PEI	1987	1511	1084	519(GR)	340	344	432	505
Western Newfoundland	832	619	495	346	339	327	322	“
Central Newfoundland	747	489	407	294	“	“	“	“
Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador	1092	941	784	769	706	“	“	“

Baptism Rate  
As Percentage of Live Births

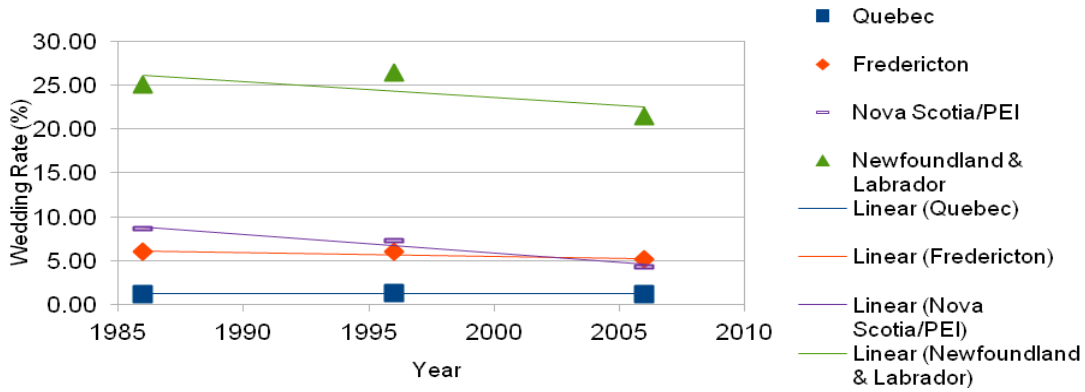


Baptism Index

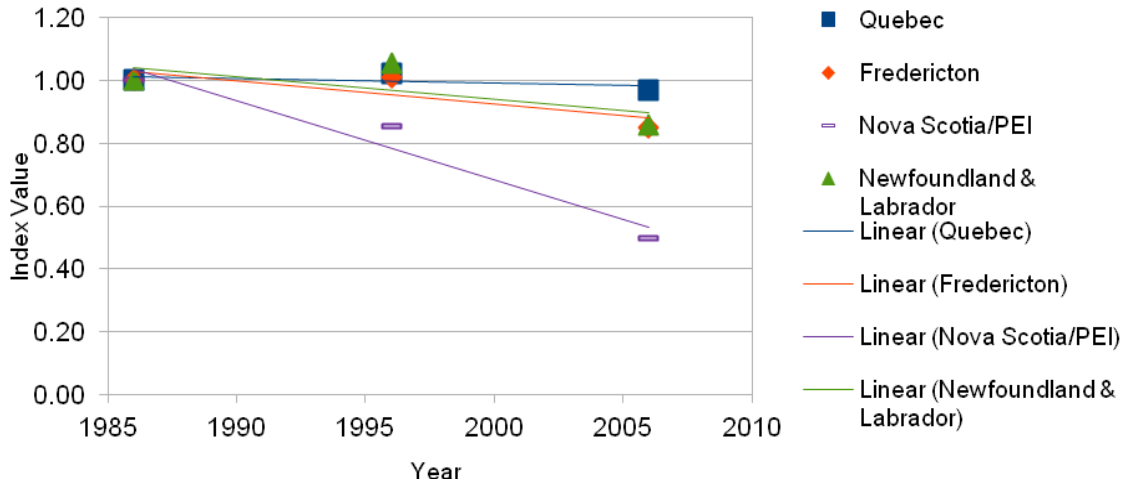


Weddings by Diocese	1976	1986	1996	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Montreal	668	342	238	223	“	“	“	“
Quebec	135	64	63	38	“	“	“	“
Fredericton	415	297	264	196	196	172	“	“
Nova Scotia/PEI	792	637	463	239(GR)	140	155	217	207
Western Newfoundland	293	254	282	169	162	129	143	“
Central Newfoundland	255	203	210	123	“	“	“	“
Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador	441	400	352	280	284	“	“	“

Wedding Rate  
As Percentage of Total Recognized Unions

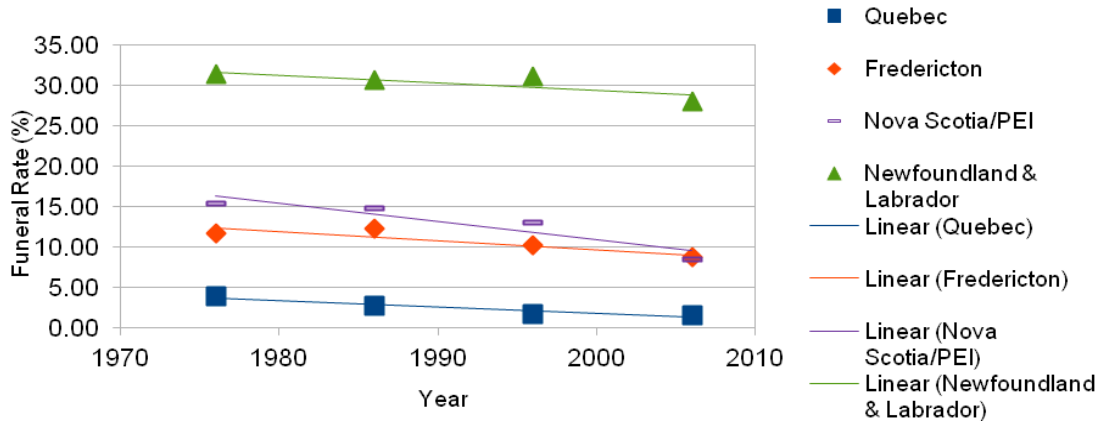


Wedding Index

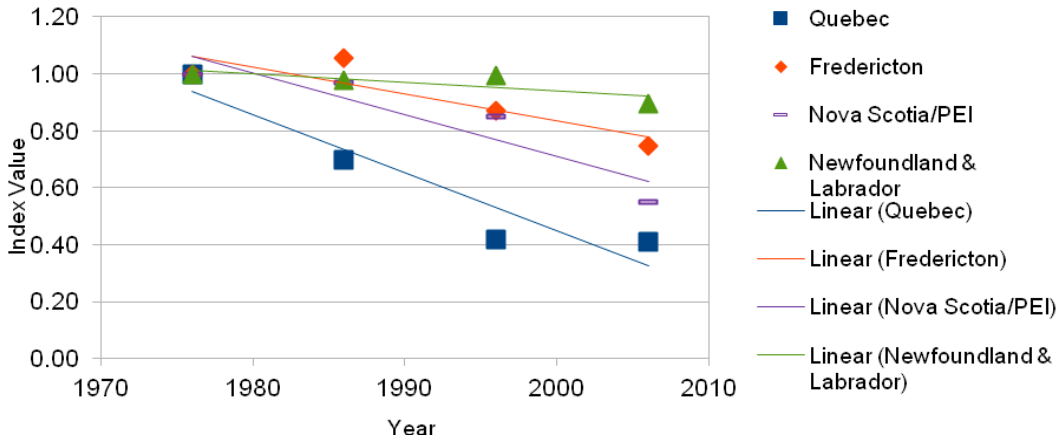


<b>Funerals by Diocese</b>	<b>1976</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Montreal	1331	990	619	742	“	“	“	“
Quebec	335	276	227	122	“	“	“	“
Fredericton	605	670	598	521	521	639	“	“
Nova Scotia/PEI	1231	1241	1173	781(GR)	392	577	922	967
Western Newfoundland	235	328	349	348	341	372	340	“
Central Newfoundland	335	274	337	371	“	“	“	“
Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador	470	482	534	540	545	122	“	“

Funeral Rate  
As Percentage of Total Deaths



Funeral Index



## Provincial Statistics from Statistics Canada and Provincial Statistics Offices

<b>Population</b>	<b>1976</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2010</b>
Quebec	6,234,445	6,532,460	7,138,795	7,546,131	7,773,378	7,929,396
New Brunswick	677,250	709,445	738,133	729,997	747,935	754,105
Nova Scotia and PEI	946,795	999,815	1,043,839	1,049,313	1,078,963	1,090,601
Newfoundland Labrador	557,720	568,350	551,790	505,469	507,612	511,057
<b>Live Births</b>	<b>1976</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2010</b>
Quebec	96,342	84,634	85,226	81,939	87,870	88,250
New Brunswick	11,811	9788	8176	7030	7402	7373
Nova Scotia and PEI	14,762	14,286	12,267	9898	10,671	10,731
Newfoundland Labrador	11,130	8100	5747	4542	4898	4862
<b>Weddings</b>		<b>1986</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2010</b>
Quebec		33,083	23,968	21956	22053	23,199
New Brunswick		4962	4366	3845	3624	3474
Nova Scotia and PEI		7415	6316	5596	5452	
Newfoundland Labrador		3421	3194	2665	2706	2657
<b>Deaths</b>	<b>1976</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2010</b>
Quebec	43,011	46,892	52,341	54,242	57,112	58,350
New Brunswick	5203	5458	5896	6010	6450	6761
Nova Scotia and PEI	8050	8376	9019	9260	9421	10,039
Newfoundland Labrador	3323	3540	3928	4493	4539	4760

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