



Source: iStock Photos

2.

THE REGION

The first part of the paper discusses the importance of the research and the objectives of the study. It then presents a literature review of the existing research on the topic. The second part of the paper describes the methodology used in the study, including the data collection and analysis techniques. The third part of the paper presents the results of the study, and the fourth part discusses the conclusions and implications of the findings.

The study was conducted using a quantitative research design. Data was collected from a sample of 100 participants using a survey questionnaire. The data was then analyzed using statistical software to determine the relationships between the variables.

The results of the study show that there is a significant positive relationship between the variables. This finding is consistent with the previous research in the field. The implications of the findings suggest that the variables are important factors in the study of the topic.

In conclusion, the study has shown that the variables are important factors in the study of the topic. The findings have implications for future research and for the understanding of the topic.

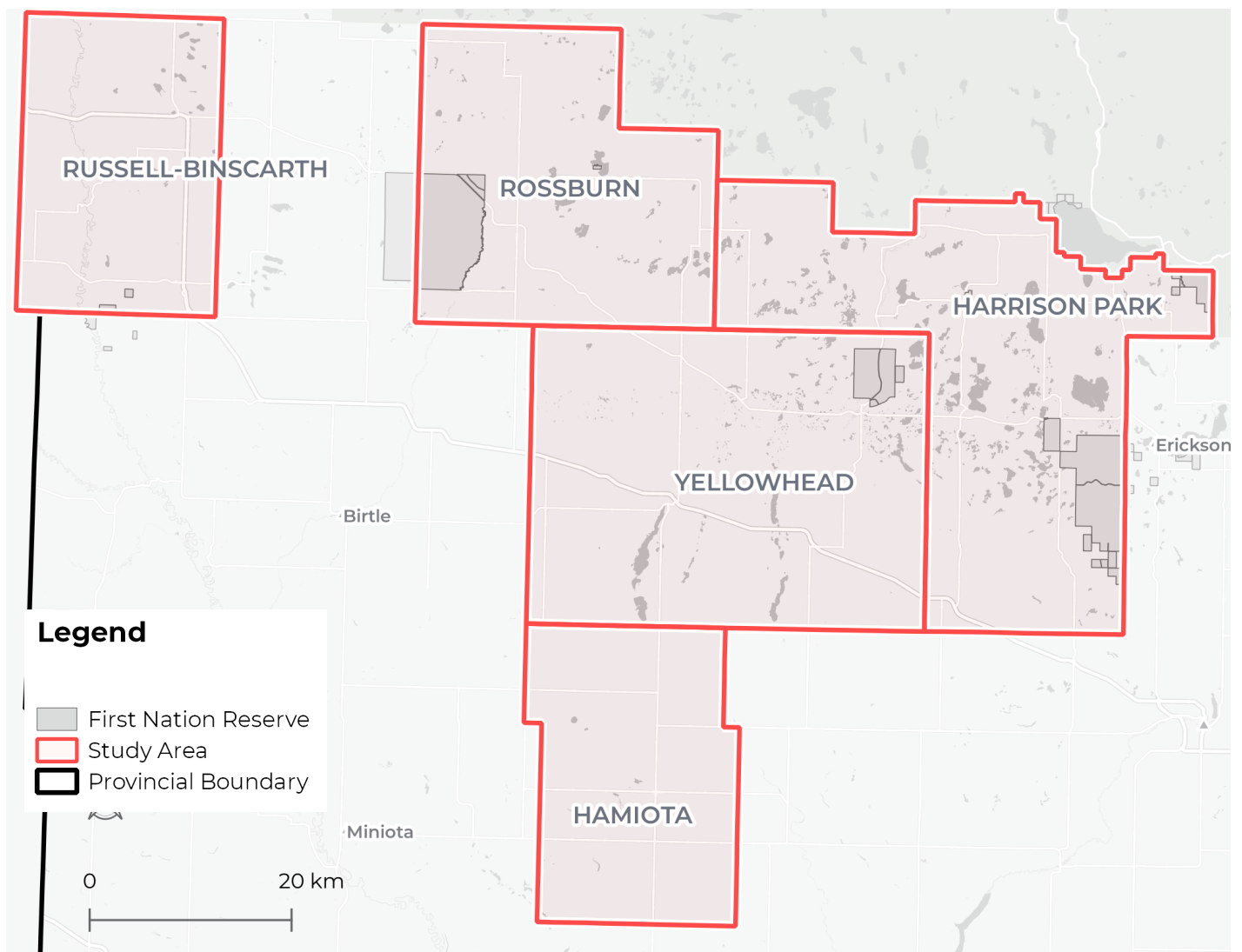
Location

Our study region is located in Western Manitoba and spans from the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border in the west to Highway 10 in the east, and from Riding Mountain National Park in the north to the Trans-Canada Highway in the south (see Figure 2-1). At its closest points, the region is about 250km west of Winnipeg, and about 90km north of Brandon.

Population and Aging Trends

The study region is aging at a faster rate than the province as a whole. This means that municipalities in the region have a higher proportion of people aged 65 and over compared to those aged 15 or younger. Figure 2-2 shows that older

Figure 2-1. Overview of the region



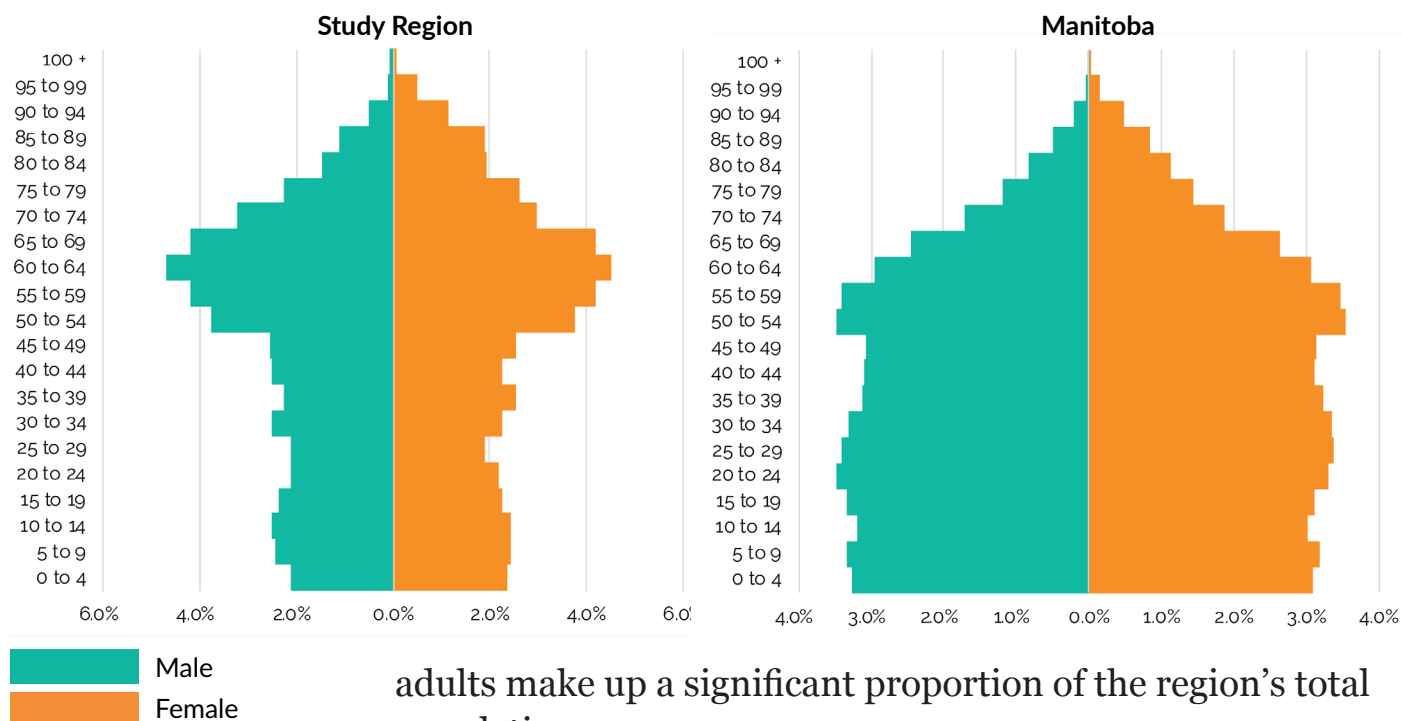


Figure 2-2. Regional & provincial population pyramids

adults make up a significant proportion of the region's total population.

While the five municipalities studied in this report cumulatively saw more than 13% decline in total population between 1996 and 2016, the trend has not been consistent

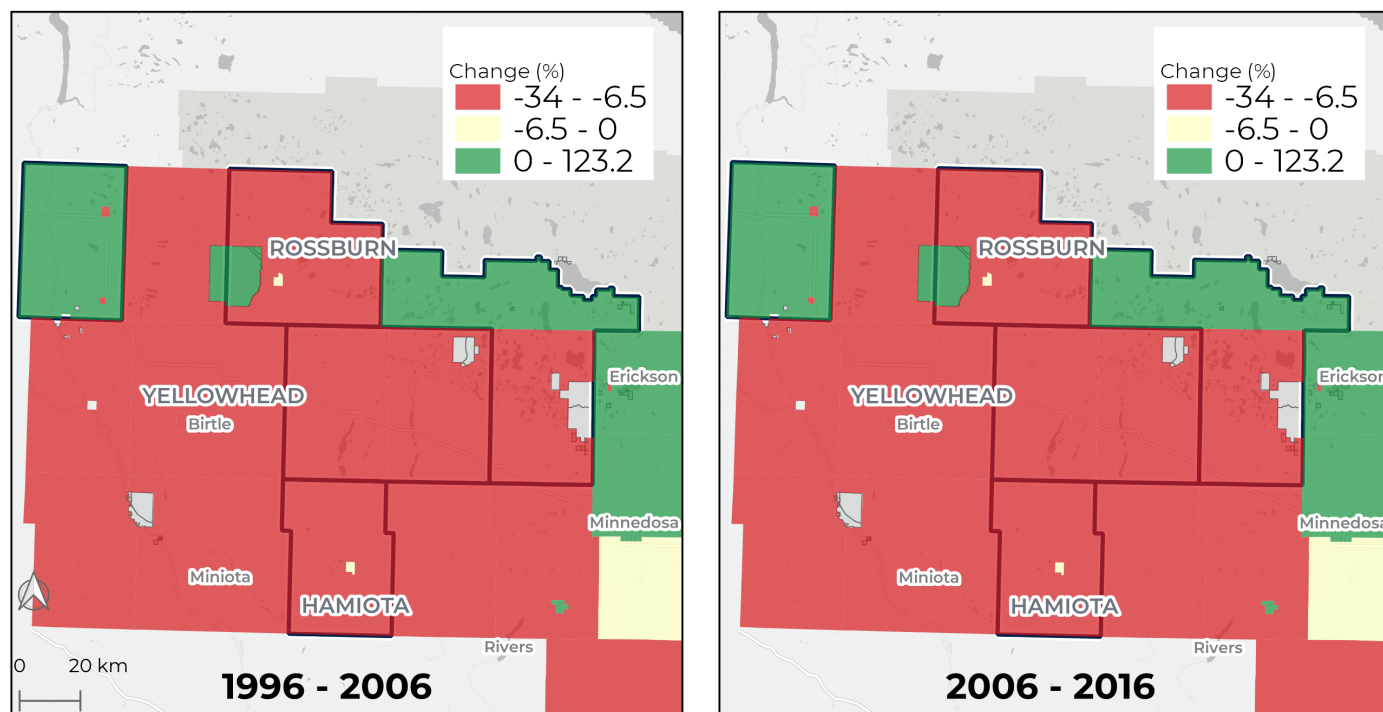


Figure 2-3. Map of regional population change

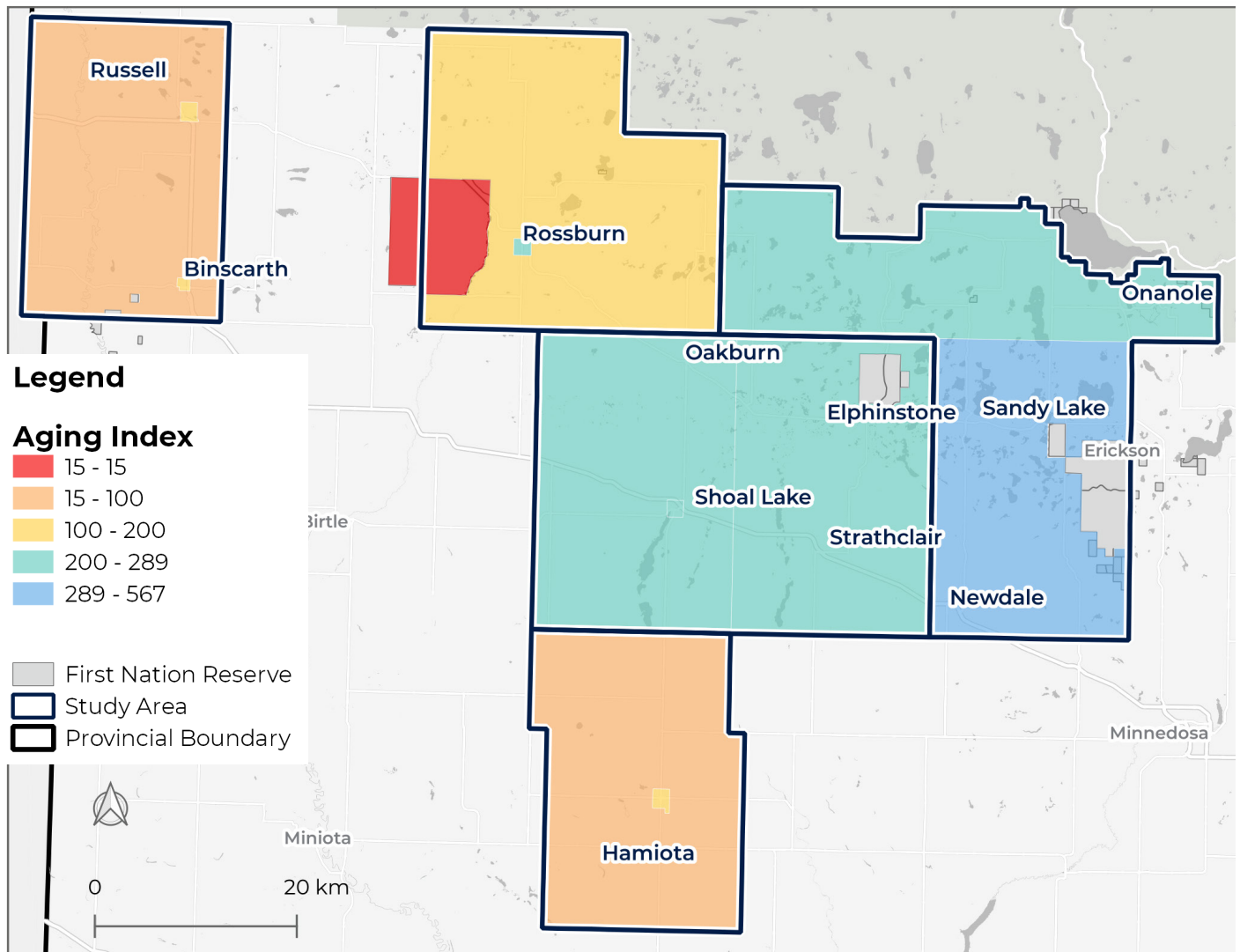


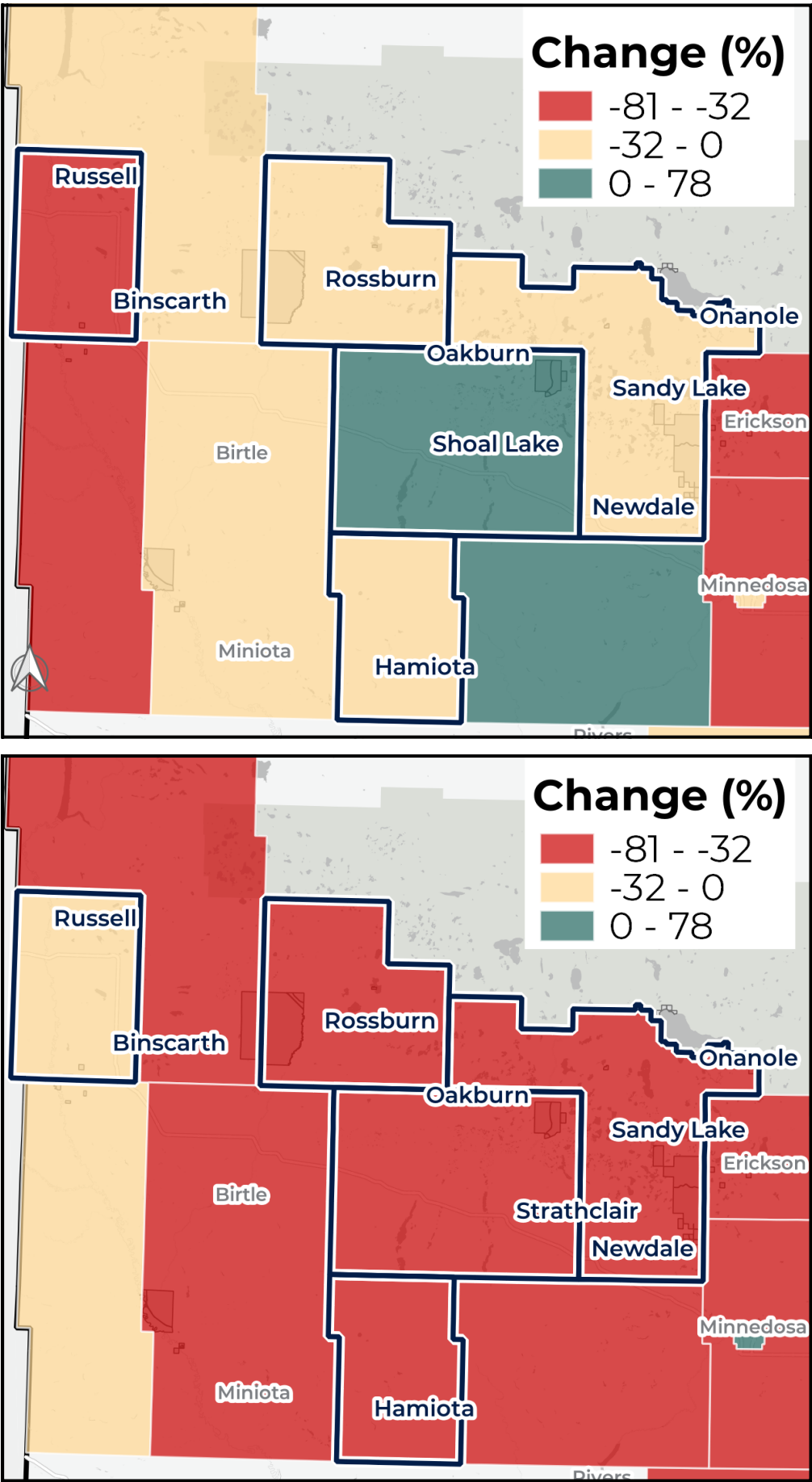
Figure 2-4. Aging index map

across the region. Figure 2-3 shows that some parts of the region, particularly around some urban areas, have seen growth while other areas have seen population decline or remained relatively stable.

The Aging Index is a ratio that refers to the number of people over 65 years old in a given population, relative to the number of people under 15 years old - the higher the Aging Index, the more the population is aging in that region. Figure 2-4 shows how the Aging Index varies across the region. The aging index for Manitoba as a whole is 82, so most of this region is aging more than the provincial average.

Province-wide, there has been a continuous decline in the agriculture-related labour force. The region showed a similar reduction, but it was uneven across the communities and

Figure 2-5. Maps of agriculture-related labour force changes



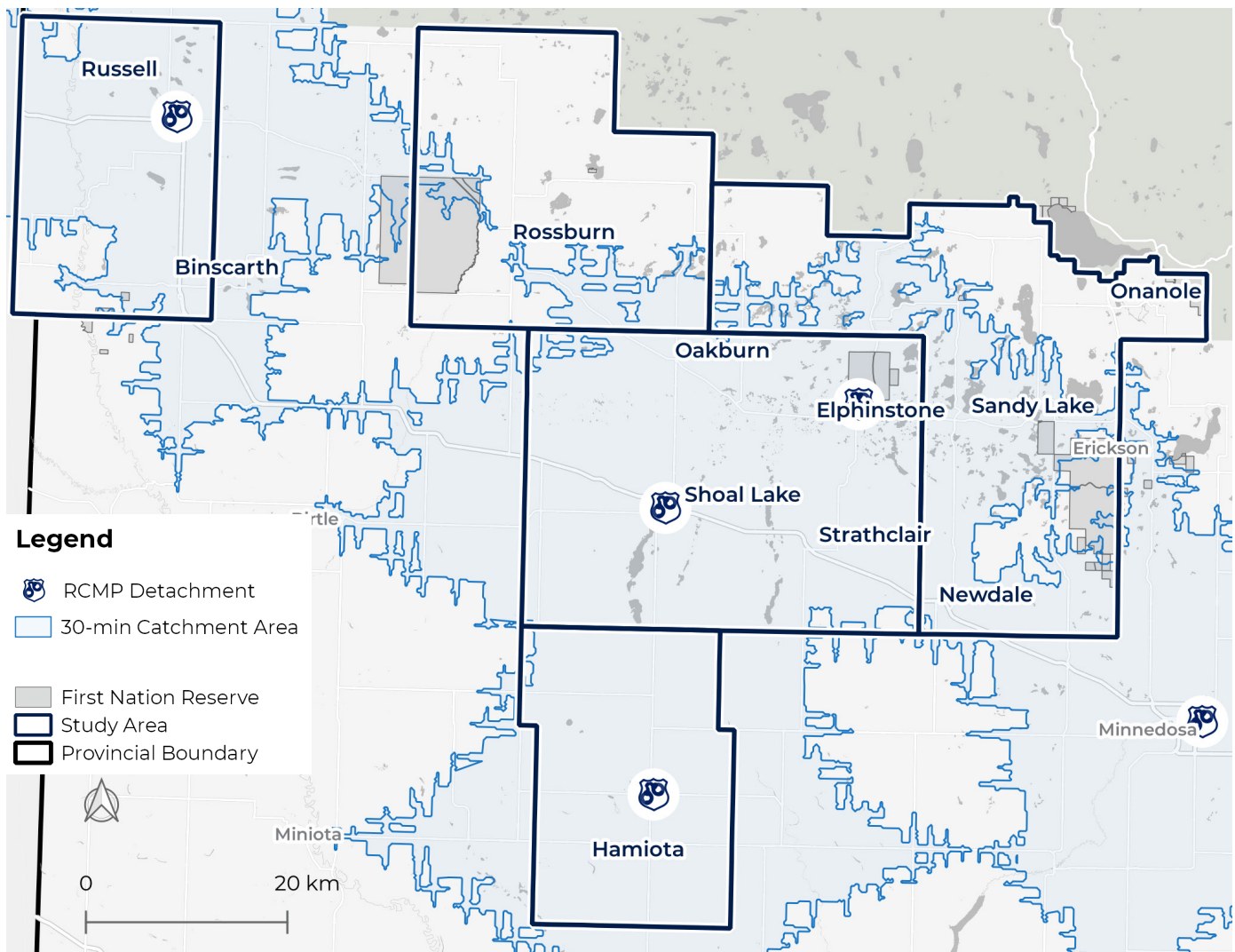


Figure 2-6. Map of regional RCMP detachment locations

unrelated to population growth (see Figure 2-5). Despite the increase of this labour force in Yellowhead in 2006, it continued to shrink in all communities by 2016.

The region has seen some changes to some service levels in recent years. In our discussions with community groups, we heard that closures of some emergency services, such as Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) detachments and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) stations affects seniors' perceptions of safety and security in the region (see Figures 2-6 & 2-7).

Nearby Destinations and Amenities

The region is located near major tourist attractions, including Asessippi Ski Resort, Riding Mountain National

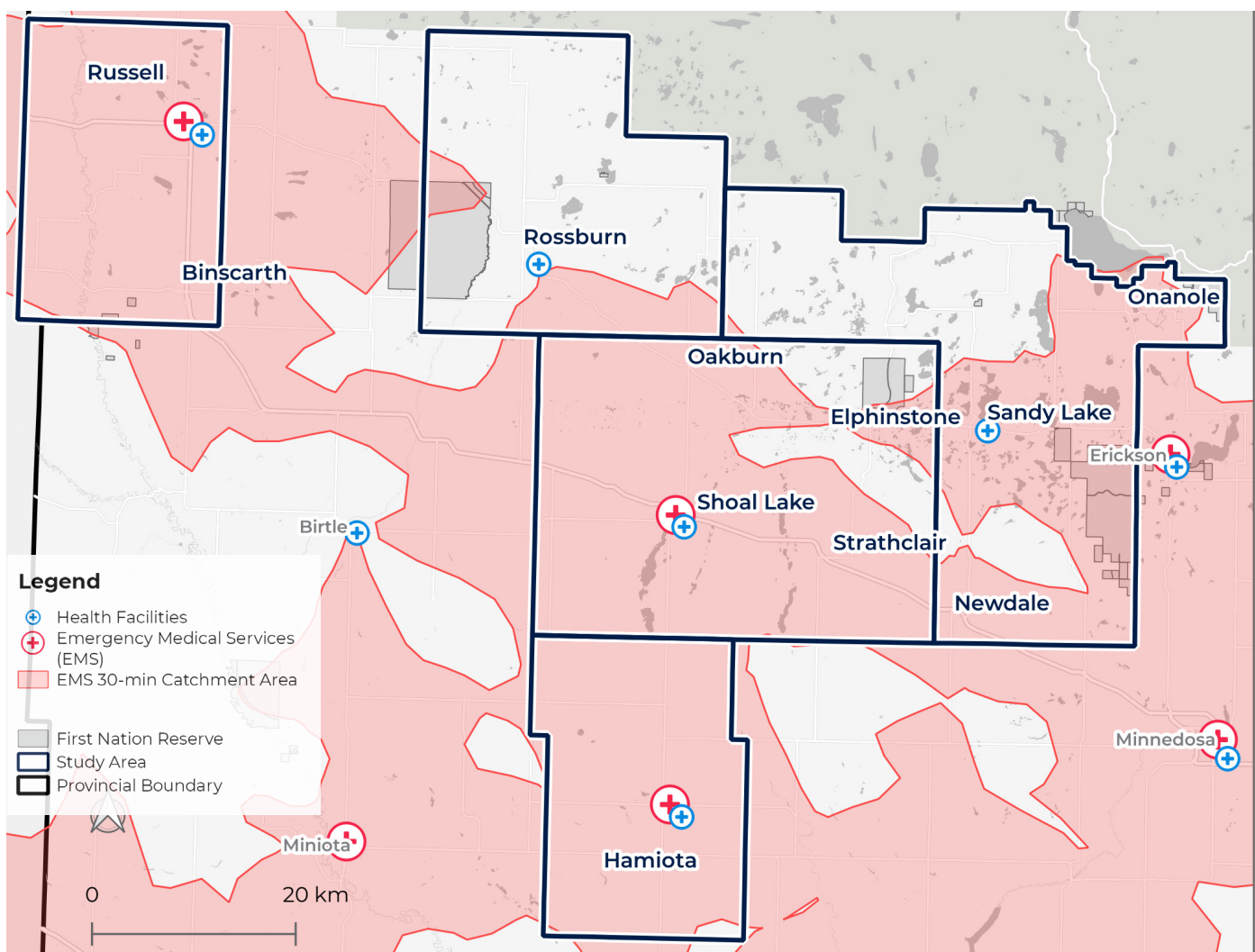
Park (RMNP), and a number of local camping and RV sites. The Great Trail, previously known as the Trans-Canada Trail, passes through the region. There are many other local trails and walking paths in the region as well (see Figure 2-10).

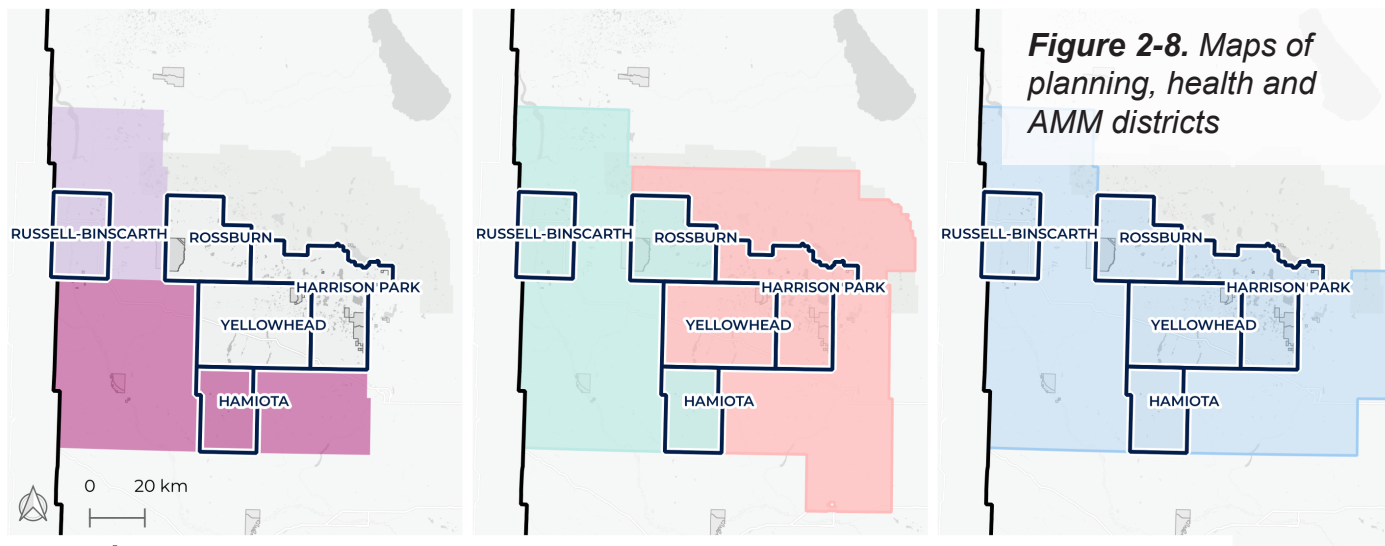
Policy and Municipal Governance Overview

All five study municipalities within the region have experienced recent amalgamations (see Table 1).

There is no regional government or organization that represents all five of the study municipalities or the wider region. The region is split between two health districts: Asessippi and Little Saskatchewan. Two of the five municipalities - Hamiota and Russell-Binscarth - are

Figure 2-7. Map of regional EMS stations





Legend

Planning Districts

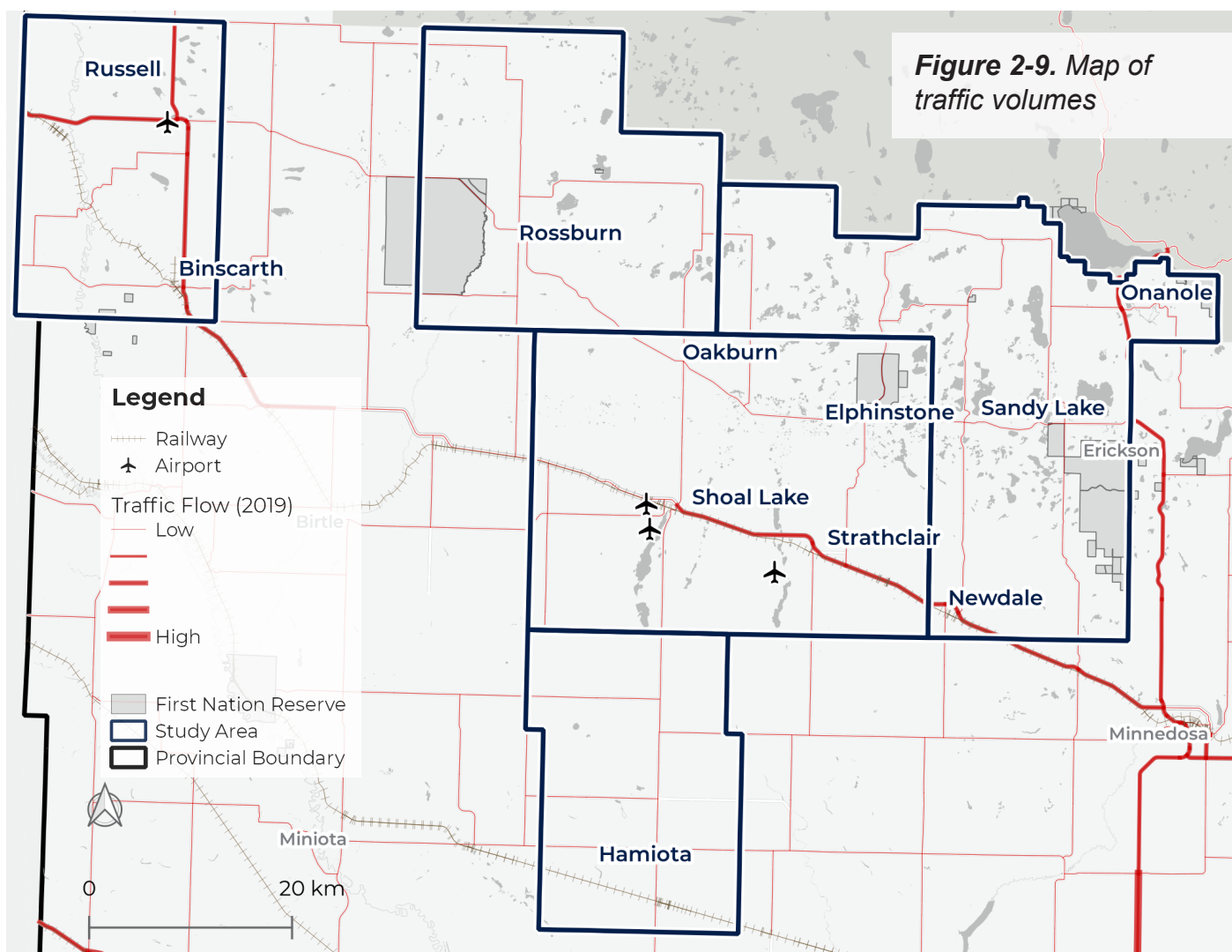
- MID-WEST
- TRI-ROADS

Health Districts

- Asessippi
- Little Saskatchewan

AMM

- Midwestern District



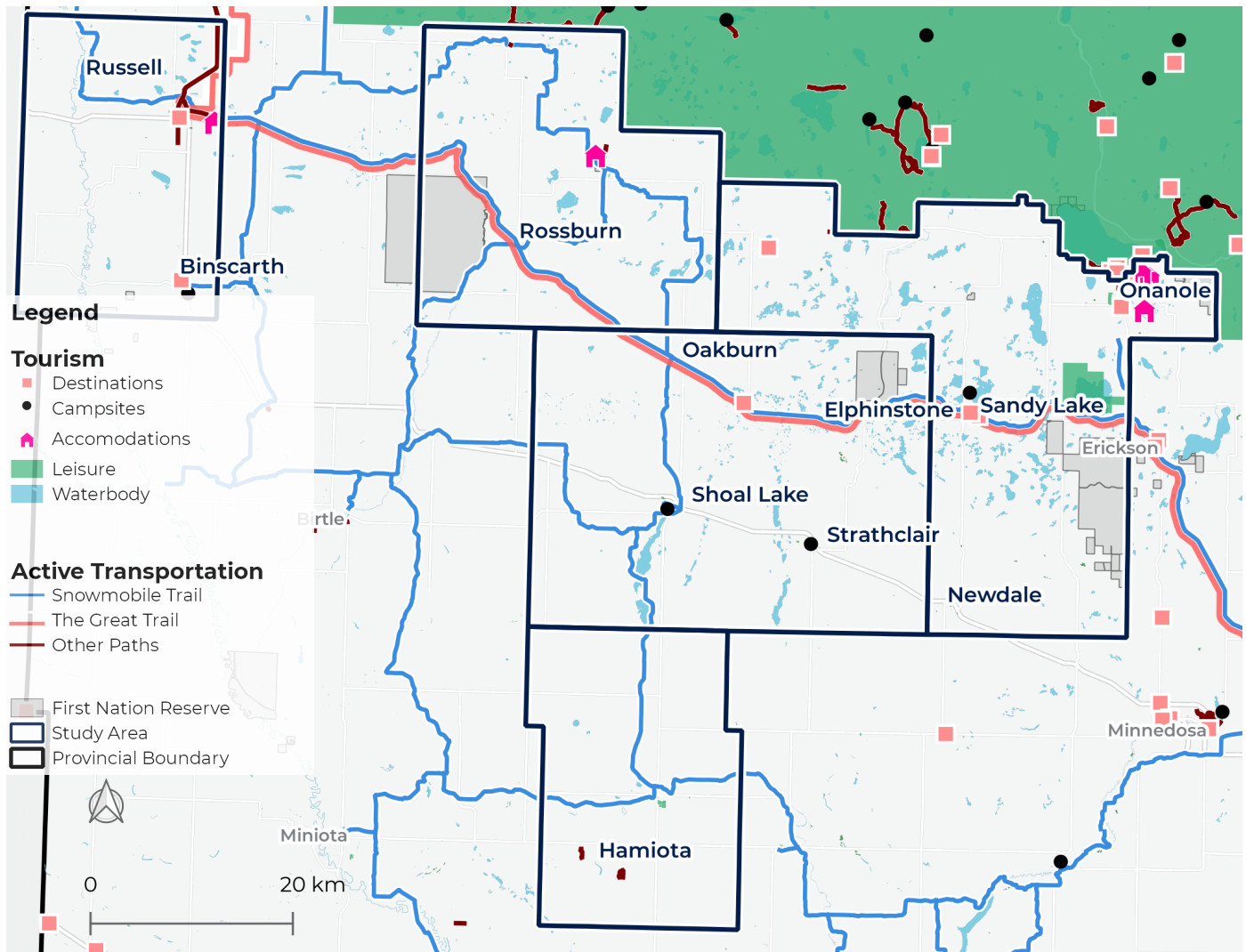


Figure 2-10. Map of tourism destinations and trails

Table 1: Summary of Municipal Amalgamations

Current Municipality Name	Pre-Amalgamation Municipalities	Amalgamation Year
Municipality of Hamiota	Town of Hamiota Rural Municipality of Hamiota	2015
Municipality of Harrison Park	Rural Municipality of Harrison Rural Municipality of Park	2015
Rural Municipality of Yellowhead	Town of Shoal Lake Rural Municipality of Strathclair	2015
Municipality of Russell-Binscarth	Town of Russell Rural Municipality of Russell Village of Binscarth	2015
Rural Municipality of Rossburn	Town of Rossburn Rural Municipality of Rossburn	2015

Source: Goldsborough, 2015; Goldsborough, 2019; Goldsborough 2019

members of planning districts. The entire study region falls within the Midwestern District of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) (see Figure 2-8). Figures 2-11 and 2-12 show the locations of community resource centres in the region, and the services they offer.

Transportation

The Yellowhead Highway (Hwy 16) passes through several towns in the region, and serves as a connection from

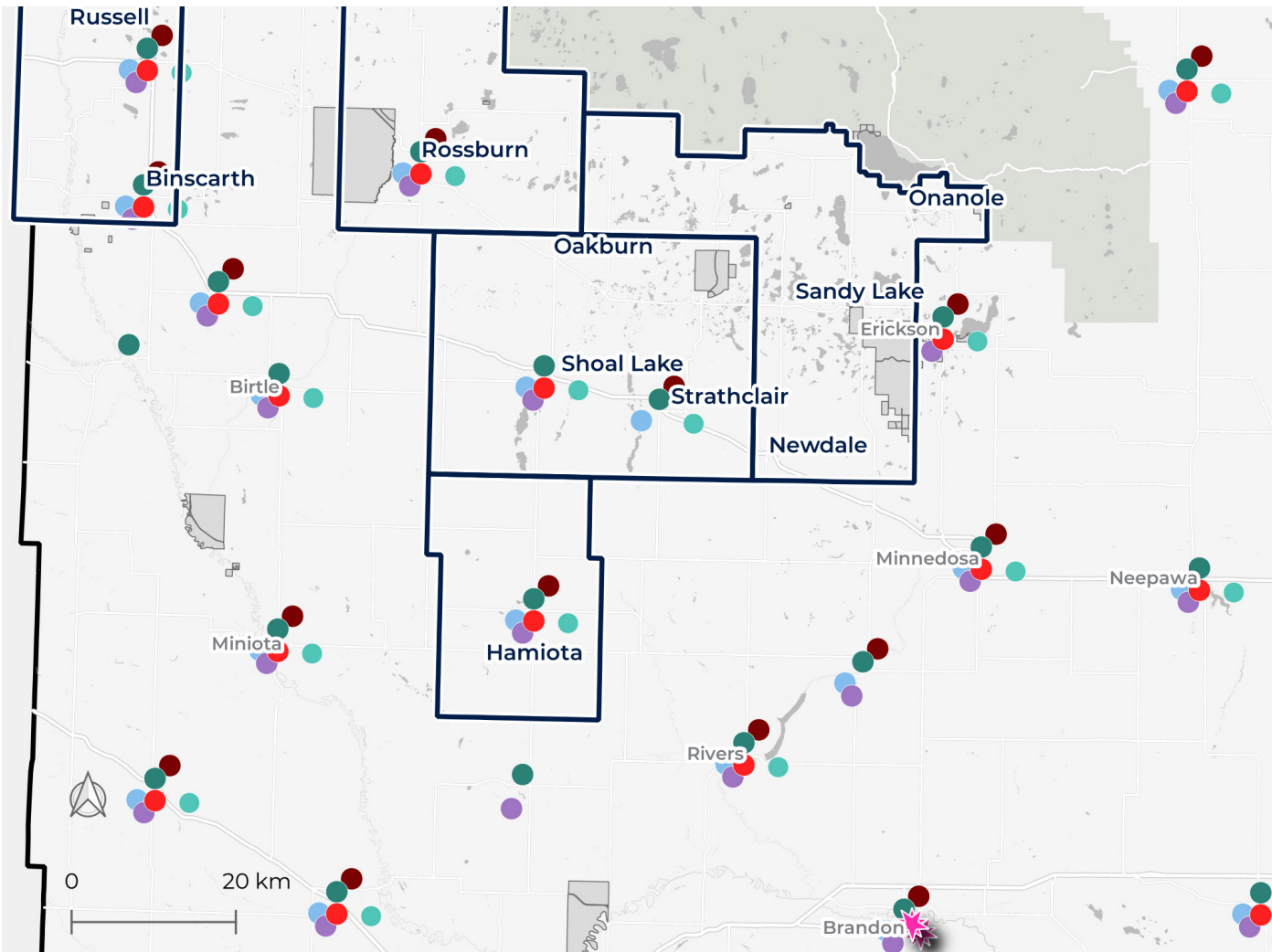
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Community Resource Councils and Centres

Transportation + Social + Food

- | | |
|---|---|
|  Rural Senior Centers |  Daily Telephone Hello |
|  Meal Delivery |  Congregate Meals |
|  Handivan Transportation |  First Nation Reserve |
|  Friendly Visiting |  Study Area |
|  Errands and Shopping |  Provincial Boundary |

Figure 2-11. Map of Community Resource Councils and Centres, transportation, social and food services



Winnipeg and points further east to Saskatoon, Edmonton and Jasper National Park in the west. Highways 10, 21 and 45 connect to most other towns and villages in the region, but carry lower traffic volumes than Highway 16 (see Figure 2-9).

Figure 2-12. Map of Community Resource Councils and Centres, home care and health services

