

**Family Structure, 1996 — Common-law Couple Families**

Since 1981, common-law unions have been steadily increasing. This is particularly true in the province of Quebec. In 1981, 8% of Quebec couples lived common-law, compared to 25% in 1996. The rest of Canada has also seen a marked, but lower, increase from 6% in 1981 to 10% in 1996. Common-law unions are prevalent among the Aboriginal peoples of Canada. Of the couples living in the Territories, 31% were in common-law unions in 1996.

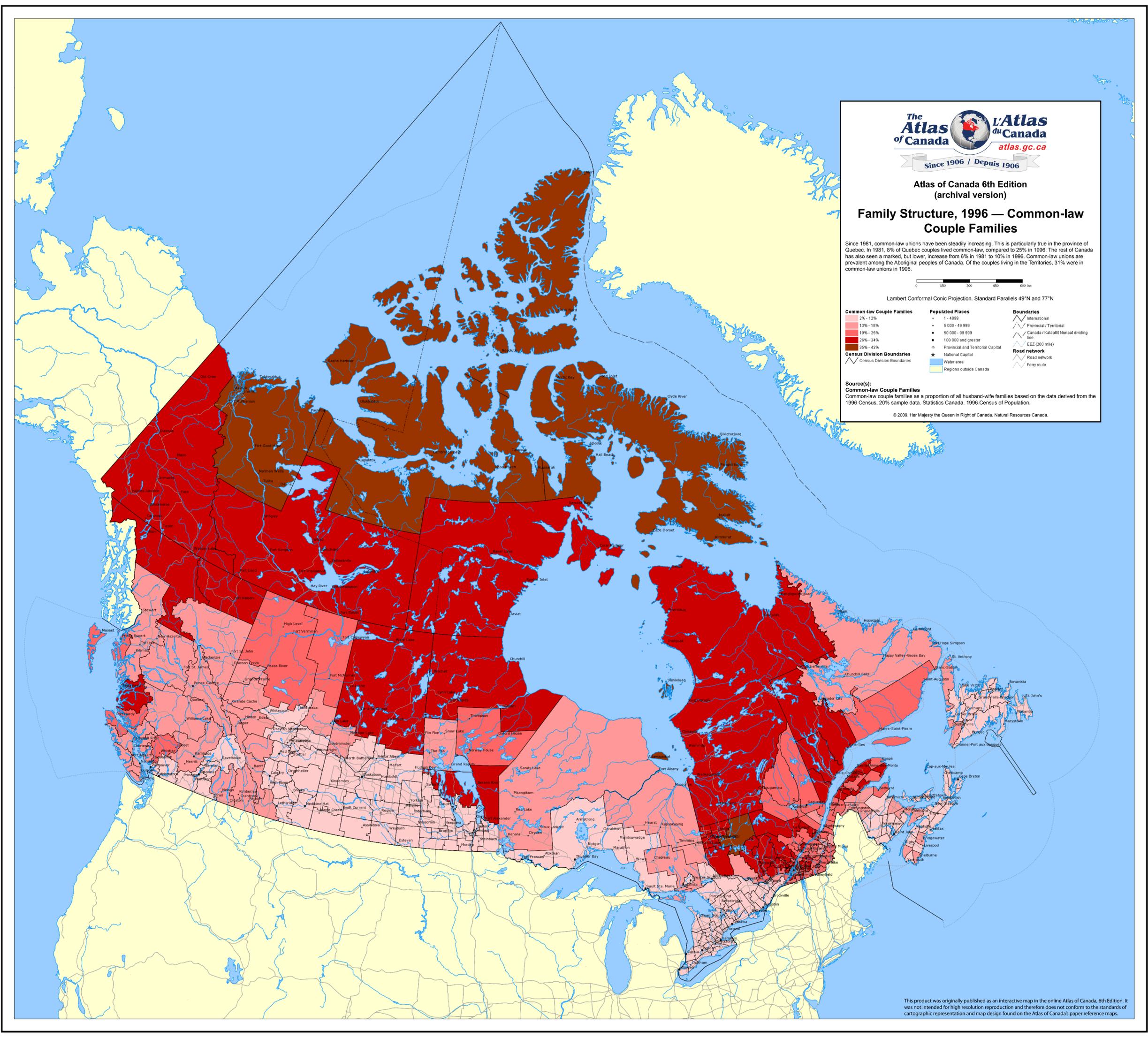
0 100 200 400 600 km

Lambert Conformal Conic Projection. Standard Parallels 49°N and 77°N

<p><b>Common-law Couple Families</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2% - 12%</li> <li>13% - 18%</li> <li>19% - 25%</li> <li>26% - 34%</li> <li>35% - 43%</li> </ul>	<p><b>Populated Places</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 - 4 999</li> <li>5 000 - 49 999</li> <li>50 000 - 99 999</li> <li>100 000 and greater</li> <li>Provincial and Territorial Capital</li> <li>National Capital</li> <li>Water area</li> <li>Regions outside Canada</li> </ul>	<p><b>Boundaries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International</li> <li>Provincial / Territorial</li> <li>Canada / Kalaallit Nunaat dividing line</li> <li>EEZ (200 mile)</li> <li>Road network</li> <li>Ferry route</li> </ul>
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**Source(s):**  
 Common-law Couple Families  
 Common-law couple families as a proportion of all husband-wife families based on the data derived from the 1996 Census, 20% sample data. Statistics Canada, 1996 Census of Population.

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