



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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U Calgary's Bryon Miller Notes Calgary Not Environmentally Lily White: The bustling epicentre of Canada's energy industry is being heralded as the top ecological city in the world by a prestigious international think-tank. The latter would probably come as a surprise to many Calgary motorists who battle daily bumper-to-bumper traffic snarls and see the brown haze of pollution. Calgary isn't quite as lily white environmentally as the survey would suggest, said Byron Miller, a University of Calgary geography professor, who specializes in urban planning and sprawl. Miller is puzzled why things such as per capita energy use would not be considered or the problem of urban sprawl. Calgary ranks far worse than much larger cities such as New York on that front. [iNews880AM](#) | [Oilweek Magazine](#)

UBC's David Ley on British Columbia as a Destination Province: B.C.'s population will grow faster than that of any other province in Canada over the next 25 years -- potentially topping seven million by the year 2036. Statistics Canada's projection is based on two main factors. One is that B.C., along with Ontario and Quebec, is the destination for roughly 90 per cent of all immigrants to Canada. The second is that, over time, people within Canada tend to move west. University of B.C. geography professor David Ley said B.C. is particularly popular among retirees, because of its mild climate. And as millions of baby boomers retire nationwide over the next two decades, he said, many of them will end up here. [The Vancouver Sun](#)

UVic Geography Grad Karen Belsford in a New York State of Mind: Until moving to New York, Brelsford had spent most of her life in Victoria -- where she was born and raised. She was an avid athlete while attending Claremont high school. Brelsford chose to study the sciences when she attended the University of Victoria, earning a master's degree in geography, specializing in dendrochronology -- the dating of tree rings. Brelsford, known for hilarious characters like Kitty of the Cougar Ladies in Victoria's Atomic Vaudeville cabaret, moved to the Big Apple four years ago to study acting. In the years since, she has discovered a talent and passion for costuming in one of the world's most fashionable cities. [Time Colonist](#)

UNBC's Catherine Nolin Leads Field School Delegation to Guatemala: Geography professor Catherine Nolin led her fourth Field School Delegation to Guatemala from May 9th - 27th, 2010. Dr. Nolin & Grahame Russell of Rights Action, along with 4 undergrad and 5 grad students, visited regions affected by historical & contemporary violence and mining in that country. Additionally, they met with UNBC adjunct professor Fredy Peccerelli and the FAFG team conducting exhumations of mass graves in urban and rural Guatemala. [Guatemala 2010](#)

U Winnipeg's William Carlyle Celebrates 40th Year of Teaching: Dr. William Carlyle celebrating his 40th year of teaching with the Department of Geography at the University of Winnipeg. Dr. Carlyle specializes in rural and agricultural geography of the Canadian Prairies. [William Carlyle Homepage](#)

U Alberta's Martin Sharp and Christian Haas to use Satellites for Space-Eye-Views of Arctic Ice: Martin Sharp and Christian Haas, researchers in the U of A's Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, will play lead roles making sure CryoSat 2, launched earlier this month by the European Space Agency, provides accurate readings. Haas will compare CryoSat's calculations of sea-ice volume with data he's collected with electronic monitoring equipment over the years on numerous low altitude flights. Last spring, Haas zigzagged his way across the Arctic, just 60 metres above the sea ice, covering the vast area between Greenland and Alaska. Haas will update his own research next month with a series of helicopter flights over the ice. [ExpressNews](#)

U Windsor's Frank Simpson Participates in Gully Erosion Symposium: Frank Simpson, an Earth and Environmental Sciences professor at the University of Windsor, was an invited member of the Scientific Committee of "Human Impact on Gully Erosion", the Fifth International Symposium on Gully Erosion, Lublin, Poland, organized by the Institute of Earth Sciences of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, the Association of Polish Geomorphologists and the Polish Geographical Society (April 20-25, 2010). On May 7, 2010, Frank received the Gold Cross of Merit of the Republic of Poland. [Windsor News](#)

Søren Rysgaard Joins U Manitoba CEOS in Department of Environment and Geography: The University of Manitoba received a \$10-million Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Arctic Geomicrobiology and Climate Change, transforming its sea ice research group into the world's most comprehensive and innovative climate change institution. The new chair holder is Søren Rysgaard, professor and head of the Greenland Climate Research Centre at the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources. Rysgaard will join the Centre for Earth Observation Science (CEOS) within the department of environment and geography. [The Bulletin](#)

WLU Enters \$2-Million Environmental Science Research Partnership with NWT: Wilfrid Laurier University is entering a \$2-million partnership agreement with the Government of the Northwest Territories to support environmental science research that will provide important data for effective freshwater-resource management and the sustainability of northern ecosystems. Under the agreement, the Government of the Northwest Territories will provide \$2 million over five years (2010-15) to support the Canadian Aquatic Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Boreal Ecosystem Research (CALIBER) program, which is based at Laurier and involves researchers from the Laurier Institute for Water Science and Laurier's [Cold Regions Research Centre](#) housed in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. [Laurier Communications](#)

Geographer of the Week: Dr. Brian Ray, University of Ottawa

Dr. [Brian Ray](#) arrived at the University of Ottawa in July 2004 after several years in Washington (DC) at the Migration Policy Institute. Previously, Dr. Ray was a senior analyst with the Metropolis Project and the Strategic Planning, Policy and Research Division (Department of Citizenship and Immigration), the Research Manager at the National Secretariat on Homelessness, and a professor at McGill University in Montréal. Brian holds a PhD in social geography from Queen's University (Kingston), a MA from the University of Toronto and a Bachelor of Environmental Studies degree from the University of Waterloo. Brian Ray is a social geographer who is interested in the diverse ways that urban people organize their everyday lives in multi-ethnic cities. His research projects have emphasized the following issues: the importance of cultural identity and gender in integration processes among new immigrants, housing affordability and homeownership trends among refugees and ethno-cultural groups, the social networks of immigrant women, the spatial segregation of immigrant and ethnic groups in large cities, geographies of employment and social mobility, and the social construction of 'race' and racist practices. For more information on Dr. Ray's research, check out [his webpage](#).



U Montréal's Rodolphe De Koninck interviewé sur la crise en Thaïlande. [Radio Canada](#)

Other "Geographical" News

St. John's Eyes National Geographic Status: St. John's council's tourism advisory committee wants the city to join forces with National Geographic to establish eastern Newfoundland as an official National Geographic "geotourism" destination. If the project goes ahead, the partners would have to sign National Geographic's geotourism charter, which commits signatories to allowing only tourism that "sustains or enhances the geographical character of a place." In exchange, National Geographic would work with the partnership group on the creation of a National Geographic-branded map outlining eastern Newfoundland's unique character. [CBC News](#)

Manitoba: Life and Times: The Manitoba Library Consortium and its partners have created a rich website of historically significant documents and publications so that everyone can learn about Manitoba. Even the name of the website, Manibotia, indicates its high aspirations, as the word Manibotia is the combination of the word Manitoba and utopia. Visitors will find the history of Manitoba divided up by significant events or "Historical Themes", instead of just by decades or wars. [Manitoba: Life and Times](#)



GIS for Public Safety: An Annotated Guide to ArcGIS Tools and Procedures

This book, GIS for Public Safety, focuses on ESRI's ArcGIS functionality (the most popular GIS software, worldwide) and presents many of the tools and techniques that are commonly used by public safety researchers, analysts, and practitioners. It gives simple steps for descriptive, exploratory, and explanatory mapping tasks and includes concise but meaningful discussions to let you critically assess and accurately apply the software to your own unique specialty. Its comprehensive content makes it the perfect coursebook or reference manual for students, researchers, crime analysts, and other GIS users at all skill levels.

Big Questions Geographers Ask: The [National Research Council](#) recently published a report that defines 11 major geographical science questions for the next decade. The questions are not only intellectually interesting, but have significant import for the way we and our children will live. Of the questions, can you figure out which are the 11 questions this geographical committee decided on? (Four are not on the list.). [Gustavus Adolphus College](#)

Greek Geographers from 30 B.C. Map Ancient Alexandria's Royal Quarters: Plunging into the waters off Alexandria Tuesday, divers explored the submerged ruins of a palace and temple complex from which Cleopatra ruled, swimming over heaps of limestone blocks hammered into the sea by earthquakes and tsunamis more than 1,600 years ago. An research team is surveying ancient Alexandria's Royal Quarters and confirming the accuracy of descriptions of the city left by Greek geographers and historians more than 2,000 years ago. [Lake Wylie Pilot](#) | [The Herald](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News

University of Alberta Looking to Axe Professor Landlines: As dozens of departments at the University of Alberta slash their budgets in a difficult year, some are considering what might be a Canadian first, eliminating landline phones from faculty offices. Due to a \$59-million budget deficit, departments are being asked to cut five per cent from their individual budgets to help make ends meet. As phones are considered a departmental expense, many departments see them as one way to cut operating costs, rather than laying off more teaching staff. [The Brock Press](#)

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