



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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**Compiled by Dan Smith <[cag@geog.uvic.ca](mailto:cag@geog.uvic.ca)>**

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**U Regina's Joe Piwowar Discovers Native Prairie Thriving Under Climate Change:** One might assume southern Saskatchewan's native grasslands to have suffered stress under climate pressures over the past 30 years -- and one might be wrong, a new study suggests. The province's south has experienced "much drier weather and some very significant droughts overall" in the past three decades, according to University of Regina geography professor Joe Piwowar. However, he said in a release Wednesday, his research shows native prairie in the region has in fact been getting greener. "This is totally unexpected," said Piwowar, the university's Canada research chair in geomatics and sustainability. [Grainews](#)

**UNBC's Greg Halseth Named Top Level Research Canada Chair:** University of Northern British Columbia professor Greg Halseth has been named a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair. An expert in the field of rural and small town studies, he, along with UNBC colleague Don Manson, has visited Clearwater and area regularly over the past few years and helped develop the municipality's community economic development strategy. "We are very thrilled to announce the appointment of Greg Halseth as our first Tier 1 CRC," says UNBC's vice president of research Gail Fondahl. "Dr. Halseth's expertise in rural and small town development is already widely recognized throughout northern British Columbia and is now receiving international recognition." Halseth's research examines rural and small town community development, and the social geography of community change, all with a focus upon northern BC's resource-based towns. [UNBC News](#) | [ClearwaterTimes.com](#)

**McGill Researchers Hoping for Clear Picture of Northern Food Habits:** Researchers Maude Beumier and Marie-Pierre Lardeau at McGill University in Montreal are using an unusual technique to learn more about what people in the Arctic eat. At the end of the project, researchers hope they'll have a clear picture of the situation. [APTN News Video](#)

**UT Mississauga's Luka Medved and Nathan Basiliko on Holland Marsh Energy Plan:** Luka Medved, a third-year student, is hosting a lecture series called "Project Trident" to raise awareness about the environmental consequences of building a natural gas plant at the legislatively protected Holland Marsh. Held at UTM, "Project Trident" takes issue on Veresen Inc.'s York Energy Centre, which will be built on Holland Marsh, a fertile 2,900 hectare land that yields approximately \$50 million in harvest and crops per year. It will be directly on top of a flood plain and near a local canal that drains in to Cook's Bay, a branch of Lake Simcoe. "It sounds like this is just a case of the province pushing a poor location for this plant. They should instead find municipalities that want such a plant built, not force one where the local residents and politicians are in opposition," said UTM geography professor, Nathan Basiliko, who plans to attend Medved's first lecture. Basiliko said that he is delighted that a student has gone beyond the classroom to raise an environmental issue. [The Varsity](#)

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**CAGONT 2011 @ Lakehead University - Orillia Campus:** Lakehead University-Orillia Campus will host the Canadian Association of Geographers - Ontario Division (CAGONT) 2011 Annual Meeting from October 21-22. The meeting will take place at the new campus site, 500 University Avenue, in Orillia, Ontario. Graduate and undergraduate students are particularly welcome! Lakehead University-Orillia Campus is Canada's first Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) Platinum campus designed and built to the highest standard of energy efficiency. [Final Conference Program](#) and [Conference Book of Abstracts](#)

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### **Geographer of the Week: Michele-Lee Moore, University of Victoria**

[Michele-Lee Moore](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria. Her research and methodological interests include: global water governance, drought, social network analysis, grounded theory, networked governance, environmental governance, social innovation, complex social-ecological systems, resilience, transition management, environmental security, environmental justice, and the science-public policy interface. Her most recent research has focused on the role of a transnational network in supporting and enabling governance innovation within river basins in Australia, Thailand, and Canada. Upcoming projects will build on this work, exploring both local and international case studies where substantial shifts are occurring in water governance.

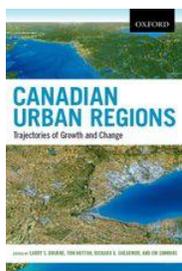
Michele-Lee Moore and Frances Westley. 2011. [Surmountable chasms: networks and social innovation for resilient systems](#). Ecology and Society 16(1):5

Michele-Lee Moore and Frances R. Westley. 2011. [Public Sector Policy and Strategies for Facilitating Social Innovation](#). Horizons. Policy Research Initiative.

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### **New Publications**

Larry S. Bourne, Tom Hutton, Richard G. Shearmur and Jim Simmons (Editors). 2011. [Canadian Urban Regions: Trajectories of Growth and Change](#). Toronto: Oxford University Press



Bringing together some of the most respected scholars in the discipline, *Canadian Urban Regions: Trajectories of Growth and Change* is an innovative exploration of current trends and developments in urban geography. Combining theoretical perspectives with contemporary insights, the text reveals how the economic welfare of Canada is increasingly determined by the capacity of its cities to function as sites of innovation, creativity, skilled labour formation, specialized production, and global-local interaction. The text moves from building a contextual framework, on to practical case studies about evolving political, economic, and urban changes in five of Canada's major cities - Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary, and Vancouver - before finally moving on to a discussion of the future of the discipline.

## [Panorama des régions du Québec. Édition 2011](#)



le Panorama des régions du Québec dresse un portrait socioéconomique des 17 régions administratives et des municipalités régionales de comté (MRC) et des territoires équivalents (TE) qui les comprennent. L'édition 2011 contient :

- un dossier thématique, dont la matière varie avec les années suivant les sujets d'intérêt général. Pour cette troisième édition, M. Christopher Bryant, de l'Université de Montréal, commente les dynamiques des agricultures périurbaines autour de Montréal, afin d'avoir une meilleure compréhension des défis et opportunités au service de la société métropolitaine;
- onze thématiques variées sont analysées d'après les plus récentes statistiques : démographie, marché du travail, comptes économiques, industrie manufacturière, investissements et permis de bâtir, mines, industrie bioalimentaire, conditions de vie et bien-être, utilisation des technologies de l'information, santé, ainsi que la culture et les communications;
- une section spéciale consacrée aux statistiques par MRC et TE dans laquelle nous analysons l'évolution de trois indicateurs clés, à savoir la population, le revenu personnel et le taux de travailleurs;
- un portrait statistique de chaque région administrative disponible en un coup d'œil.

[Panorama des régions du Québec. Édition 2011](#) (version complète 5,3 mo)

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### Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Achim A. Beylich, Scott F. Lamoureux and Armelle Decaulne. 2011. [The SEDIBUD \(Sediment Budgets in Cold Environments\) Programme: Ongoing activities and selected key tasks for the coming years](#). Geomorphology. doi:10.1016/j.geomorph.2011.10.016

Ron N. Buliung. 2011. [Wired people in wired places: stories about machines and the geography of activity](#). Annals of the Association of American Geographers 101(6):1365-1381.

L. Järvi, C.S.B. Grimmond and A. Christen. 2011. The Surface Urban Energy and Water Balance Scheme (SUEWS): Evaluation in Los Angeles and Vancouver. Journal of Hydrology. [doi:10.1016/j.jhydrol.2011.10.001](#)

Brian N. Mills, Jean Andrey and Derrick Hambly. 2011. [Analysis of precipitation-related motor vehicle collision and injury risk using insurance and police record information for Winnipeg, Canada](#). Journal of Safety Research. doi:10.1016/j.jsr.2011.08.004

Scott J. Ketcheson and Jonathan S. Price. 2011. [The impact of peatland restoration on the site hydrology of an abandoned block-cut bog](#). Wetlands. DOI: 10.1007/s13157-011-0241-0

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Stephanie A. Prince, Elizabeth A. Kristjansson, Katherine Russell, Jean-Michel Billette, Michael Sawada, Amira Ali, Mark S. Tremblay and Denis Prud'homme. 2011. [A multilevel analysis of neighbourhood built and social environments and adult self-reported physical activity and body mass index in Ottawa, Canada.](#) International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health 8:3953-3978.

J. Richards, R.D. Moore and A.L. Forrest. 2011. [Late-summer thermal regime of a small proglacial lake.](#) Hydrological Processes. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.8360

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### Recent Theses and Dissertations

Raktim Mitra. 2011. School travel mode choice behaviour in Toronto, Canada. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation. Department of Geography & Program in Planning, University of Toronto. Supervisors: Ron Buliung and Paul Hess.

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### Other "Geographical" News

**Urban 'Heat Island' Effect is a Small Part of Global Warming; White Roofs Don't Reduce It:** Cities release more heat to the atmosphere than the rural vegetated areas around them, but how much influence these urban "heat islands" have on global warming has been a matter of debate. Now a study has quantified the contribution of the heat islands for the first time, showing that it is modest compared with what greenhouse gases contribute to global warming. "Between 2 and 4 percent of the gross global warming since the Industrial Revolution may be due to urban heat islands," said Mark Z. Jacobson. He and John Ten Hoeve compare this with the greenhouse gas contribution to gross warming of about 79 percent and the black carbon contribution of about 18 percent. [EurekAlert!](#)

**Russian Ship Finds Tsunami Debris Where Scientists Predicted:** Ever since the great Japan tsunami on March 11 washed millions of tons of debris into the Pacific, scientists at the International Pacific Research Center have been trying to track the trajectory of this debris that can threaten small ships and coastlines. Warned by maps, the Russian sail training ship, the STS Pallada, found an array of unmistakable tsunami debris on its homeward voyage from Honolulu to Vladivostok. Soon after passing Midway Islands Pallada spotted surprising number of floating items. " on September 22, iwe picked up on board the Japanese fishing boat. Radioactivity level – normal, we've measured it with the Geiger counter," writes Natalia Borodina, "At the approaches to the mentioned position we also sighted a TV set, fridge and a couple of other home appliances." [EuerkAlert!](#)

**Google Earth Typhoid Maps Reveal Secrets of Disease Outbreaks:** In the mid-nineteenth century, John Snow mapped cases of cholera in Soho, London, and traced the source of the outbreak to a contaminated water pump. Now, in a twenty-first century equivalent, scientists funded by the Wellcome Trust working in Kathmandu, Nepal, have combined the latest in gene sequencing technology and global positioning system case localisation to map the spread of typhoid and trace its source. The researchers found extensive clustering of typhoid infections in particular locations. Yet, perhaps counter-intuitively for a disease that spreads amongst humans, this clustering was unrelated to the density of the local population. In fact, the study showed that people living near to water spouts, for whom these provide their main source of water, and people living at a lower elevation are at substantially greatest risk of contracting the disease. [ScienceDaily](#)

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**World's Highest Webcam Brings Everest to Internet:** The world's highest webcam has been installed in the Nepalese Himalayas, beaming live images of Mount Everest back to scientists studying the effects of climate change on the planet's tallest peak. The solar-powered camera will withstand temperatures as low as minus 30 degrees Celsius. The webcam operates from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm Nepalese time (0015 to 1215 GMT) from the Kala Patthar summit, recording stunning images of 8,848-metre Mount Everest as well as the South Col. The image is updated every five minutes, allowing climatologists to track the movement of the clouds around the mountain's summit. [Yahoo!News](#)

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**Some not so "Geographical" News**



**GeogNews Archives:** <http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/cag/geognews/geognews.html>

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