



GeogNews

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UBC's Daniel Heibert Shows New Canadians Struggling to Find Adequate and Affordable Housing:

With housing prices at record levels, a University of British Columbia-led study finds that new Canadians are struggling to find adequate and affordable housing in the country's three largest cities. The study of 600 immigrants and refugees using settlement services in Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal finds that half of those surveyed reported living in crowded dwellings with hazards such as dampness and mould, broken plumbing, insect infestation and inadequate heat. "While the majority of immigrants to Canada see major improvements in their housing situation over time, for some, housing remains a critical issue for a very long time," says Daniel Heibert, a professor in UBC's Dept. of Geography and lead author of the study published today online by Metropolis BC, a centre of excellence for research on immigration and diversity. "For this group, there is a persistent need for affordable housing," says Heibert, adding that refugees, temporary residents, single parents, large families and people who do not speak English or French face the greatest challenges. "This goes contrary to the myth that all immigrants do better over time – that they start under difficult circumstances and gradually things get better for them." [UBC Media Release](#) | [The Province](#)

Queen's U PhD Student Ronald Roy Interviewed on Decision to Cut Funding to Metropolis:

Ronald Roy, a PhD Geography at Queen's University was interviewed by Radio-Canada during the final Metropolis Conference in Toronto the first week of March. Roy responded to the government's decision to cut funding to Metropolis during the final Metropolis Conference in Toronto the first week of March. [Listen @ Radio-Canada](#)

U Waterloo's Jonathan Price Leading Project to Rebuild Peatlands in Oil Sands Country:

A University of Waterloo geographer is leading a trailblazing effort to reclaim environmentally important peatlands that once covered more than half the Athabasca landscape but have been scraped away by oil sands mining. Jonathan Price, a professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management, and his group of researchers recently received \$6.7 million in funding for the project. It's one of the largest-ever Collaborative Research and Development Grants, a grant program that combines funding from industry and NSERC. \$2.65 million is from NSERC, and the rest from Suncor Energy, Imperial Oil Resources, and Shell Canada Energy. The team includes Price; Richard Petrone, at Wilfrid Laurier University's Department of Geography and Environmental Studies and Maria Strack, assistant professor at the University of Calgary's Department of Geography. [Physorg.com](#) | [Exchange](#)

U Winnipeg Geography Student Sara Kuleza on Youtube:

Former U Winnipeg Geography Student Sara Kuleza has recorded a video of her field work in Churchill to be presented at the International Polar Year conference in Montreal April 22-27, 2012. Title of her work is *Carbon dioxide gas exchange response to experimental warming in dry upland tundra subarctic environments*. You can view Sara's work on [Youtube](#).

SFU Geography Students Mapping Hazards on Highway 99: Despite an extensive upgrade completed in 2009 that brought numerous improvements to the Sea to Sky Highway, the area can still be a dangerous place for cyclists. Narrow bike lanes, poorly-placed drains and points where the bike lanes just end entirely are issues that cyclists face each time they venture up or down the popular route. And with that in mind, five fourth-year geography students from Simon Fraser University have undertaken a project to map out those hazards for cyclists, with the hopes that their information will later be used to further upgrade the highway. “Basically we’re just trying to find the dangerous areas and highlight those on a map and see those mitigations made to improve cycling safety,” said Mike Gamon, one of the student researchers. The project was thought up by Nadine Schuurman, a geography professor at SFU and academic assistant Ann Yew. [Whistler Question](#)

Mount Allison U Undergraduate Student Recognized for Contributions to Development

Organization: Daniela Fernandez is one of only a dozen student leaders from across North America to be recognized by Global Brigades for their exceptional dedication to the organization. Fernandez has taken on increasingly important roles with Global Brigades at Mount Allison each year. Last year she was the Spanish and education co-ordinator, educating people on the context they would be working in on their mission to Honduras, as well as helping them learn Spanish language and culture. This year she is the vice-president of the public health brigade. Fernandez is graduating this spring with an honours degree in environmental studies with a major in geography. [Mount Allison News](#)

UBC’s David Ley and Nicholas Lynch on Growing Polarization in Vancouver: Vancouver has gone from being a solidly middle-class town to a city on the verge of extremes, with neighbourhoods starkly segregated by race and income. Though the polarization of neighbourhoods has not been not as pronounced as in Toronto, the numbers are evidence of an alarming trend, said David Ley, who co-authored the study with fellow UBC geographer Nicholas Lynch. “Growing inequality, growing polarization do not make for social stability, or even fairness,” he said in an interview. “You can look at it as an ethical issue or as a political concern, and I think you reach the same conclusion: that these are problematic developments.” The study does not explore the underlying causes of the growing income inequality and economic segregation in Vancouver, but Ley suspects that some of the same forces that are deepening the rich poor-divide around the world are likely at play. Ley posits that Vancouver has experienced less income polarization than Toronto in part because a greater proportion of head offices -- and sky-high salaries -- are located in Canada’s biggest city. Still, he says deepening economic segregation in Vancouver is likewise cause for concern. [Huffington Post](#) | [Canoe.ca](#)

U Alberta’s Robert Summers on New Community Planning Program: Robert J. Summers, acting director of the recently established Community Planning Program at the University of Alberta, says that the new undergraduate program will produce outstanding planners to work in Canada and throughout the world. The program will help address the current shortage of professional planners in Alberta where the scarcity of planners stymies development, he says, and can result in projects that fail to achieve their full potential to improve the quality of life for Albertans. [U Alberta News](#) | [Edmonton Journal](#)

Thompson Rivers U’s Geography Department Sponsors Community Presentation on Air quality and the Ajax Mine: Dr. Douw Steyn, a world-renowned expert in the field of air pollution, addressed the proposed Ajax mine at a recent community presentation. Steyn said it is important to realize the air we breathe when outdoors depends on three things: strength of emissions, weather and the way weather interacts with the landscape. He spoke cautiously about how winds might affect large waste rock piles produced by the mine. “It’s possible—highly possible—that the mineral dust will contain heavy metals. “I would not say air pollution in Kamloops is a disaster—I would say it’s substantially degraded. Dr. Steyn’s presentation sponsored by the Thompson Rivers University Faculty Association, the faculty of science and the department of geography. [The Omega](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Derek H. Alderman, Paul Kingsbury and Owen J. Dwyer, 2012. [Reexamining the Montgomery bus boycott: Toward an empathetic pedagogy of the civil rights movement](#). The Professional Geographer. DOI:10.1080/00330124.2012.

Aurélien Hénon, Patrice G. Mestayer, Jean-Pierre Lagouarde and James A. Voogt. 2012. [An urban neighborhood temperature and energy study from the CAPITOUL experiment with the Solene model. Part 2: influence of building surface heterogeneities](#). Theoretical and Applied Climatology. DOI: 10.1007/s00704-012-0616-z

Alice J. Hovorka. 2012. [Women/chickens vs. men/cattle: Insights on gender–species intersectionality](#). Geoforum. doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2012.02.005.

Kate Johnson and Dan J. Smith. 2012. [Dendroglaciological reconstruction of late-Holocene glacier activity at White and South Flat Glaciers, Boundary Range, northern British Columbia Coast Mountains, Canada](#). The Holocene. doi: 10.1177/0959683612437866

Karen E. Kelley and Gita J. Ljubicic. 2012. [Policies and practicalities of shipping in arctic waters: Inuit perspectives from Cape Dorset, Nunavut](#). Polar Geography. DOI:10.1080/1088937X.2012.666768

Philip F. Kelly. 2012. [Class, migration, and identity in a Philippine village](#). International Perspectives on Migration 2(1):53-70.

Deborah Leslie and John Paul Catungal. 2012. [Social justice and the creative city: Class, gender and racial inequalities](#). Geography Compass 6(3):111–122.

Other “Geographical” News

Report Highlights Myth of Africa's Urbanization: In a study Dr. Deborah Potts, a Reader in Human Geography at King's, says that although the population levels of numerous urban areas in Africa are growing rapidly, this is mainly in line with rates of urban natural increase (births exceeding deaths) rather than because of significant net in-migration. This challenged data from UN-Habitat and the World Bank. Dr. Potts says that both organizations often failed to account for a decline in the rate of urbanisation and assumed it was still very rapid. [Pgysorg.com](#)

Study Disputes Oil Sands ‘Restoration’ Pledge: Most television viewers in Canada have witnessed attempts by the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers to buff the environmental image of oil sands. [One of its commercials](#) depicts a pleasant forest that an oil company manager says was created on land reclaimed from an oil sands open pit mine. But a study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences disputes the oil industry's contention that its planted forests may actually be better than the boreal forest they replace. By reducing the amount of wetlands in the region, the authors add, the reclaimed forests will add to the greenhouse gas problems created by the oil sands. [The New York Times](#)

Explorer Finds Lost Section of the Great Wall of China: British explorer William Lindesay has discovered a previously uncharted section of the Great Wall of China "marooned" in the deserts of Mongolia, the first part believed to have been found outside of the country. The section of the wall he discovered runs for around 62 miles, built from a mash of earth and branches of "saksoul", a local shrub. Lindesay believes this section of the wall may originally have been built in the Han dynasty, around 120 BC, to defend the area against the Xiongnu, a federation of nomad warriors that China had been battling. [The Telegraph](#)

Some not so "Geographical" News



[Toronto Star](#)

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