



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers

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McGill U's Benjamin Forest on Why It's Time for Effective Representation for National

Minorities: Aboriginals and francophones outside Quebec have long been shut out of parliamentary representation. We argue that it is time to address this problem. If Canada tolerates "small ridings" to protect the interests of smaller provinces, rural areas and northern residents, it should tolerate them for national minorities. Creating single ridings from communities in different parts of a province would allow boundary commissioners to form francophone or aboriginal majorities without resorting to extremely small ridings. Aboriginals may stand to gain the most from such strategies. In the 2003 representation, aboriginals held majorities in only four ridings yet constituted more than four per cent of Canada's population. This is not reassuring for a segment of the population that too often faces the harshest of social problems. [Montreal Gazette](#)

Newly Appointed Guelph Executive City Director, UBC and U Waterloo Graduate: It was recently announced that Albert Horsman was to be appointed as the City of Guelph's first executive director/chief financial officer of the newly created finance and enterprise service area. Mr. Horsman holds a Master in Arts in Administration (commerce and economics) and a Bachelor of Arts (geography and mathematics) from the University of British Columbia and a Master of Arts in Urban Geography and Transportation Planning from the University of Waterloo, and is a graduate of Queen's University's executive development program. [The Fountain Pen](#)

UVic's Rosaline Canessa Researches Small Oil Spills from Ships: Dr. Rosaline Canessa is a geographer, Director of the Coastal and Ocean Resource Analysis Lab, and a professor at the University of Victoria. In this video she describes her research into small oil spills from ships, and their influence on the environment. She explains the importance of the full understanding of coastal resources and activities in a [YouTube presentation](#).

WLU's Christopher Lemieux Reports Wildlife Can Best Weather Climate Change in Our Parks: Federal and provincial parks and other conservation areas provide animals, birds and plants with the best chance of weathering rapid climate change "A lot of the solutions to the climate change problem are found in parks," said Christopher Lemieux, a postdoctoral fellow at WLU's department of geography and environmental studies. He said it is imperative to drive that message home to politicians and policy makers at all levels of government. "Parks provide safe havens for wildlife. They allow the space for species to adapt. They're basically refuges," Lemieux said. "We need to get the message out that if we want to adapt successfully or if we want to give species the best opportunity to adapt, we really need a greater commitment towards conservation and parks." [The Sun Times](#)

Latest Issue of UBC Geographer: Features include an article *entitled Fixities and Fluidities: Asia-Pacific Scholars in Motion* detailing the activities of a contingent of seven UBC graduate students at a recent interdisciplinary conference hosted by the National University of Singapore; a note of congratulations to Derek Gregory who will be awarded the Frithjof Voss Prize, which is described as the International Scientific Prize awarded by the Frithjof Voss Foundation in Berlin to honour the life work of a foreign geographer who has rendered outstanding service to geographical knowledge. Derek will be the first laureate, and the Prize and medal will be presented at the International Geographical Congress in Cologne in August 2012, where he will be giving the Keynote Address; a description of a community-based research in initiative by students in Geog 419 (Research in Environmental Geography); features on visiting professor Akira Yamasaki and PhD student Shawn Chartrand; a note detailing the GeoGarden Team who are establishing a community garden in the back court yard of the geography building; and, a review of the annual GeoGala to celebrating graduating students and to commemorate the end of another successful school year. [UBC Geographer 7\(7\)](#)

UVic's Reuben Rose-Redwood Argues Against Selling the City of Victoria: A study by University of Victoria geographer Dr. [Reuben Rose-Redwood suggests](#) there is a low economic return on the selling of naming rights in small- to medium-sized cities. Rose-Redwood has studied the selling of naming rights in Winnipeg, and his results show that since the inception of a sponsor program in that city in 2007, naming rights agreements have not brought in the level of revenue anticipated by municipal policymakers. Rose-Redwood suggests a similar outcome may be in store for Victoria as city hall considers whether to sell naming rights of major landmarks. "Winnipeg's lackluster record in generating revenues through naming rights agreements for public facilities is an indication that much of the hype over naming rights as a windfall for municipal governments is unfounded," says Rose-Redwood. He maintains that "the economic benefits from naming rights deals is not large for small- to medium-sized cities such as Victoria." Rose-Redwood highlights the comparatively small revenues generated from the naming rights agreement for the Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre, one of Victoria's major landmarks. [UVic Media Release](#) | [Times Colonist](#)

Memorial U's Alistair Bath Says it is Possible to Live with Coyotes in St. John's: A Memorial University of Newfoundland professor says St. John's should look at how other Canadian cities are dealing with coyotes now that the animals are being spotted in and around the provincial capital. "There are thousands of coyotes living in Vancouver, hundreds in Calgary ... and they seem to be able to co-exist with people They don't shoot the coyotes all the times that they come into the city," said geography Prof. Alistair Bath, who specializes in trying to understand people's attitudes towards wildlife. "Most cities have moved toward co-existence campaigns." Bath said conflicts between coyotes and people are uncommon across North America. He said there have been reports of the animals attacking people in both the U.S. and Canada and there has been one coyote fatality in Canada. Bath said research in Newfoundland and Labrador has found people agree with killing coyotes that wander into residential areas. "We did a study a couple of years ago and there is certainly public support for killing coyotes when they get into people's backyards. There is a lot of fear in this province about coyotes, and that could be what is driving the attitudes. We see much less fear towards large carnivores in other parts of the world," he said. [CBC News](#)

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Jordan Blair Reglin Eamer. 2012. [Detecting geomorphic responses following invasive vegetation removal: Wickaninnish Dunes, Pacific Rim National Park Reserve, British Columbia, Canada](#). MSc thesis. Department of Geography, University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Robin Davidson-Arnott. 2011. [Wave-dominated coasts](#). Chapter 3.04 in, Wolanski E. and McLusky, DS (eds.) Treatise on Estuarine and Coastal Science 3:73-116. Waltham: Academic Press.

Joan Bunbury and Konrad Gajewski. 2012. [Temperatures of the past 2000 years inferred from lake sediments, southwest Yukon Territory, Canada](#). Quaternary Research 77(3):355–367.

Simon Donner. 2012. [Sea level rise and the ongoing Battle of Tarawa](#). EOS, Transactions American Geophysical Union 93(17):169.

John England, Arthur S. Dyke, Roy D. Coulthard, Roger Mcneely and Alec Aitken. 2012. [The exaggerated radiocarbon age of deposit-feeding molluscs in calcareous environments](#). Boreas DOI: 10.1111/j.1502-3885.2012.00256.x

Jutta Gutberlet. 2012. [Commentary on Victoria Lawson with Middle Class Poverty Politics Research Group's 'Middle class alliances to end poverty? Decentring poverty studies: middle class alliances and the social construction of poverty'](#). Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography 33(1):20-24.

Elizabeth Lee and Geraldine Pratt. 2012. [The spectacular and the mundane: racialised state violence, Filipino migrant workers, and their families](#). Environment and Planning A 44:889–904.

Camille Mellin, Lael Parrott, Serge Andréfouët, Corey J.A. Bradshaw, M. Aaron MacNeil and M. Julian Caley. 2012. [Multi-scale marine biodiversity patterns inferred efficiently from habitat image processing](#). Ecological Applications 22:792–803

Verena Seufert, Navin Ramankutty and Jonathan A. Foley. 2012. [Comparing the yields of organic and conventional agriculture](#). Nature. doi:10.1038/nature11069

Kevin Shook and John Pomeroy. 2012. [Changes in the hydrological character of rainfall on the Canadian Prairies](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.9383

Benjamin P. Stewart, Trisalyn A. Nelson, Michael A. Wulder, Scott E. Nielsen and Gordon Stenhouse. 2012. [Impact of disturbance characteristics and age on grizzly bear habitat selection](#). Applied Geography 34:614–625.

Ashlee Cunsolo Willox, Sherilee L. Harper, James D. Ford, Karen Landman, Karen Houle, and Victoria Edge. 2012. ["From this place and of this place:" climate change, sense of place, and health in Nunatsiavut, Canada](#). Social Science & Medicine. doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2012.03.043

Chaoyang Wu, Jing M. Chen, Jukka Pumpanen, Alessandro Cescatti, Barbara Marcolla, Peter D. Blanken, Jonas Ardö, Yanhong Tang, Vincenzo Magliulo and Teodoro Georgiadis. 2012. [An underestimated role of precipitation frequency in regulating summer soil moisture](#). Environmental Research Letters 7(2).

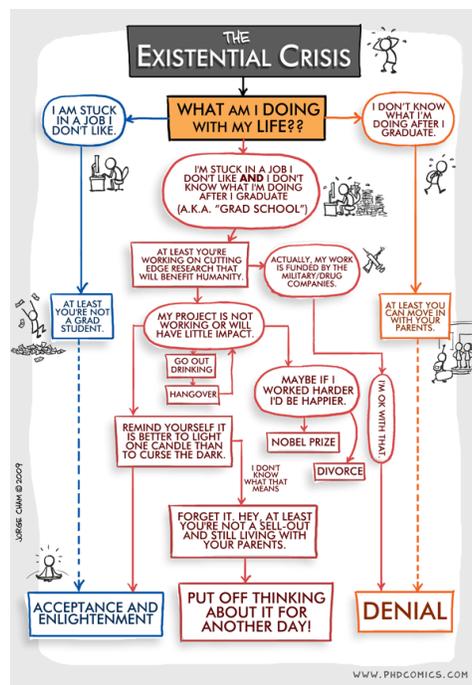
Other “Geographical” News

Gender Relations and Women's Vulnerability to Climate Change: Based on a recognition of the significance of inequitable gender relations in terms of women’s vulnerability to climate change, and

with the objective of investigating the possibilities of adaptation measures for contributing to greater gender equality, this study analyzes the way in which an adaptation measure carried out in the Mexican state of Tabasco has contributed to modifying gender relations. In the relocation program analyzed, implemented in response to severe flooding in 2007, the housing units built were granted to women. The study is focused on strategic gender interests in three spheres in which this policy may have an impact. Specifically, women's control over housing may: expand their access to economic resources through the establishment of businesses and access to credit; contribute to more equal decision-making and diminished control by men over women; and be a tool for reducing the level of intrafamily violence. The results demonstrate that granting housing to women indeed contributes to establishing the foundations for greater gender equality. [Sustainable Development COP 17](#)

Visualizing BC's Climate Changed Future: The team at UBC's Collaborative for Advanced Landscape Planning are working to bypass the inherent time-blindness of human societies by making the future visible in the present, including a dark forecast for B.C. at the behest of climate change. To help students and the wider public, the team developed a range of simple tools and techniques that use off-the-shelf software packages like Google Earth. Though the process is straightforward, the images can drive a conversation about complex climate change effects. "We've found that when we present scientific and engineering data in a place that people recognize, things happen, lights turn on and people can tap into their emotions." "Translating scientific data into images is a dramatically different approach for communicating scientific findings", Sheppard says. "Most scientists are timid in taking the leap to translating their models into 3D. We're taught in school that specific people are good at art and the rest can't do it." [The Tye](#)

Some not so "Geographical" News



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