



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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**U Western's Gordon McBean warns Vancouver vulnerable to the ravages of global warming:**

While B.C. is not prone to hurricanes, climate change experts say the province will likely see similar violent weather, including more frequent, more intense storms as the planet gets warmer. "If you have a warmer atmosphere, you're probably going to get more rain, so in the mid-latitude you could get a sequence of big storms," said Gordon McBean, professor at Western University and director for research at the centre for environment and sustainability. "The first couple of them could deposit all of their rain over the Interior of B.C., making the flow down the Fraser even larger, then at the same time, the winds blow the ocean over Georgia Strait, then you've got this extra water in the Fraser River running past New Westminster and hitting Ladner, the airport and areas under the Oak Street Bridge. "This water is coming down the river at the same time as the wind is pushing the water from the Georgia Strait towards it so you get this kind of double effect." [Vancouver Sun](#)

**Carleton U's Derek Mueller appalled by risk posed by rogue 'Ice Islands' in the Arctic:**

Glaciologists were appalled in 2010 when Greenland's Petermann Glacier discharged a slab of ice four times the size of Manhattan into Baffin Bay. Derek Mueller is appalled by a more immediate risk, however. After they break off, these enormous slabs of ice — sometimes as much as 300 feet thick — can potentially wander into shipping lanes or slam into drilling rigs before they eventually break up. "People have this misguided view that climate change is reducing ice hazards," said Mueller, a geographer at Carleton University in Ottawa, said in an interview. "But the danger from these 'ice islands' is increasing." To try and get a handle on the disintegration process, Mueller and his colleagues tracked down a fragment of the 2010 Petermann discharge known as PIIB, about 1,500 feet long and half as wide, which by the summer of 2011 had drifted down to the coast of Labrador on the northeast coast of Canada. [Climate Central](#)

**York U's Tricia Wood urges TTC to follow the example of other cities and adopt time-based transfers:**

Having the ability to travel on the entire TTC system without limit on the same fare within a fixed time-frame would greatly benefit women who disproportionately rely on public transit, a York University geography professor told the city's budget committee. Tricia encouraged the TTC to follow the example of other cities and adopt time-based transfers as a way to prevent the penalization of riders, like women, who use the transit service in a "chain fashion" several times in a given day. While the TTC issues time-based transfers on the 512 St. Clair West streetcar service for trips made within a two-hour window, Wood wants to see the practice exported to the entire system which would come as a welcome relief for women who must juggle work and family responsibilities, she said. "You can go very short distances to pick up or drop off kids or grab milk, or anything like that, and you have to pay a fare every single time," said Wood following her deputation on behalf of the advocacy group Women in Toronto Politics, which seeks to get women more involved in city issues. Wood acknowledged the "tight corner" the TTC is in having to deliver service on a limited budget with the lowest level of government subsidy in North America. [InsideToronto.com](#)

**Université de Montréal's Thora Herrmann and penguins in Antarctica:** Thora Herrmann, Département de géographie, is part of the German-Russian expedition in Antarctica, Canada, King George Island in December 2012. The expedition is based at the Russian Antarctic station "Bellingshausen" where Thora will conduct a research project on the impact of climate change on environmental and penguin colonies, albatross and skua in the Bay Area in cooperation with the Maxwell Institute of Ecology of the University of Jena (Germany) and the Russian Antarctic Institute (St. Petersburg, Russia). The bird community of this region, which includes the Fildes Peninsula and several other islands (Ardley Island Nelson) is unique biogeographical interest. The region is one of the few places where three species of penguins pygoscelid cohabit together: the gentoo penguin (*Pygoscelis papua*), the Adélie penguin (*Pygoscelis adeliae*) and chinstrap (*Pygoscelis antarctica*). [UM Communiqués](#)

**U Waterloo's Daniel Scot discusses challenges to the ski industry:** The sport skiers have had to master in recent years has been chasing the snow. Coastal resorts, like those in California, are more likely than some inland resorts to have real precipitation because they are close to the ocean. But as temperatures warm, that may not be a good thing — it is likely to arrive as rain, said Daniel Scott, Associate Professor of Geography and Canada Research Chair in Global Change and Tourism at the University of Waterloo. [The New York Times](#)

**Trent U field course in the Canadian Rockies:** Trent University geography students recently presented findings from their fall term field course. Led by Prof. Peter Lafleur and Emeritus Prof. John Marsh, the highlight of the course was a week in Canmore, Alberta, conducting human and physical geography projects ranging from dendrochronology (trees) to till formations (glaciers) to fair trade (public awareness). [Trent Geography News](#)

**U Saskatchewan SENS students trade their textbooks for trekking:** For many, canoeing, fireside storytelling and hiking along forest trails are preferred ways to spend a summer vacation but for School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS) graduate students, all these activities were part of their coursework on a recent September field trip to the U of S Emma Lake Kenderdine campus and Prince Albert National Park. "This year, we overhauled the course content for our class Human Dimensions of Environmental Change to include a trip where students are immersed in a place and learn from local residents what environmental issues they are facing," explained Merle Massie, a SENS post-doctoral fellow and course instructor. Massie co-teaches the class with Douglas Clark, assistant professor and Centennial Chair in Human Dimensions of Environment and Sustainability. [U of S on Campus News](#)

**Liberal member of parliament and geographer Kirsty Duncan writes about Peter Kent, shredding Canada's reputation in Doha:** Environment Minister Peter Kent arrived in Doha for the United Nations climate change talks with his work cut out for him. The Harper government is leaving Canada's international reputation in tatters. This year Canada already has won two 'fossil awards', and other countries are saying they do not even know who Canada is any more. The annual Climate Change Performance Index ranked Canada 58th out of 61 countries on climate policy. Canada is trailed only by such environmental stewards as Kazakhstan, Iran and Saudi Arabia. The index also rated Canada as the worst performer in the developed world. [iPolitics](#)



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## Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Lisa Bornstein, Gonzalo Lizarralde, Kevin Gould and Colin Davidson. 2013. [Framing responses to post-earthquake Haiti: how representations of disasters, reconstruction and human settlements shape resilience](#). International Journal of Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment

Thierry Chopin, John Andrew Cooper, Gregor Reid, Stephen Cross and Christine Moore. 2012. [Open-water integrated multi-trophic aquaculture: environmental biomitigation and economic diversification of fed aquaculture by extractive aquaculture](#). Reviews in Aquaculture 4:209–220.

Philip Dearden and Nadine Heck. 2012. [Local expectations for future marine protected area performance: a case study of the proposed national marine conservation area in the southern Strait of Georgia, Canada](#). Coastal Management 40:577-593.

S.M. Guenther, T. Gomi and R. Dan Moore. 2012. [Stream and bed temperature variability in a coastal headwater catchment: influences of surface-subsurface interactions and partial-retention forest harvesting](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.9673

William .C. Mahaney, Rene W. Barendregt, C.C.R. Allen, M.W. Milner and D. Bray. 2012. [Coprolites from the Cretaceous Bearpaw Formation of Saskatchewan](#). Cretaceous Research. doi.org/10.1016/j.cretres.2012.10.005

Sophie Tamas and Jonathan Wyatt. 2013. [Telling](#). Qualitative Inquiry 19:60-66.

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## Other “Geographical” News

**Elisabeth de Mariaffi: Does geography matter?** Here’s a question I’ve spent a lot of time thinking about over the past year or so: How much does place matter to a writer? Does it matter at all? Each community produces its own roster of characters, whether those are Hungarian immigrants in north Toronto or Italians in the south of France. Over the course of the fall I had the chance to go running along the Pacific shoreline in Vancouver. Only a few months after my transplant from Queen West in Toronto to St. John’s, I was surprised to find myself looking out over the water and thinking, How different this ocean is from our ocean. How quickly a new place becomes home. [National Post](#)

**UN atlas links climate change to disease spread:** Asserting that they've uncovered new evidence of the links between climate change and diseases such as diarrhea, malaria, dengue fever and meningitis, the United Nations' agencies for health and meteorology have unveiled an [Atlas of Health and Climate](#). The atlas "provides sound scientific information on the connections between weather and climate and major health challenges. These range from diseases of poverty to emergencies arising from extreme weather events and disease outbreaks. They also include environmental degradation, the increasing prevalence of noncommunicable diseases and the universal trend of demographic ageing," World Health Organization (WHO) Director General Dr. Margaret Chan and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Secretary General Michel Jarraud state in their preface to the new atlas. [CMAJ](#)

**British Columbia coastal communities plan for rising water levels:** Rising sea levels combined with volatile and intense storms provide a challenge for B.C. coastal municipalities, but it's a challenge they say they are meeting head on. Coastal Cities at Risk, a project studying how to protect people, communities and vital economic sectors that are most at risk from the effects of climate change, is studying Metro Vancouver, which it cites as the Canadian urban area most at risk from rising sea levels and other effects of climate change. "In an OECD report, (Metro) Vancouver is rated 15th for exposed assets, with \$55 billion at risk, and 32nd in terms of population at risk, with 320,000 people exposed," Cities at Risk said. [The Vancouver Sun](#)

**Apple will fix its Maps software by rearranging the Earth's geography:** Apple has been receiving a fair bit of flack over its Maps software, which ultimately prompted Tim Cook to release an apology on Apple's website, going as far as recommending alternatives by its competitors. We know that Apple is currently doing everything they can to fix their Maps software, but what exactly is it are they doing? [Ubergizmo](#)

**Province of Saskatchewan, PotashCorp commit \$50-million to Global Institute for Food Security at the University of Saskatchewan:** The Province of Saskatchewan, the University of Saskatchewan, and Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc. (PotashCorp) today formally launched the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) to develop Saskatchewan-led solutions to feed a growing world population. With initial commitments of up to CDN \$35-million from PotashCorp and CDN \$15-million from the province over the next seven years, the institute will apply Saskatchewan's unique resources, innovation and expertise to address the increasing global demand for safe, reliable food. [U of S News Release](#)

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### Some not so "Geographical" News



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