



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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**Community First: Impacts of Community Engagement:** Carleton researchers, in partnership with other post-secondary institutions and a host of community-based organizations across the country, are looking for real solutions to poverty, violence against women and other consequential issues of economic hardship and shrinking social services that marginalize people in our communities. Ted Jackson principal investigator of a new program called [Community First: Impacts of Community Engagement](#) (CFICE), says it's essential and timely that we keep our eye on the prize of prosperous, fair and clean communities. It is universities' responsibility," notes Jackson, "to be useful to citizens as they cope with new social conditions. We cannot afford to stand back and be apart from the communities in which we operate." The CFICE approach to leveraging resources, adds Todd Barr, is one "that must be embraced in a world with fragile and finite resources." His academic co-lead [Patricia Ballamingie](#), a geography and environmental studies professor at Carleton, points to the academic "position of privilege" for effecting positive change and believes Carleton, through the CFICE program, will be able to demonstrate its relevance to some of our most pernicious problems. [Carleton U Research Works](#)

**Western U's Chantelle Richmond Inspires Indspire to Act:** Chantelle Richmond from the Department of Geography and First Nations Studies at Western University was looking to give her students a fun assignment to wrap up her second year Indigenous Environment class. Little did she know it would take on a life of its own. "A lot of the stuff in this class is really hard to learn because it is about the hardships of indigenous people," she said. "So, I wanted to create an assignment that would allow our students to see that, in spite of the fact so many people have gone through so many hardships, that Native people can be important champions not just within their own communities, but for Canadians in general." To that end, she turned to the Indspire Institute – and its Indspire Awards nomination process – for inspiration. [UWO Communications](#)

**Wilfrid Laurier U's Alison Blay-Palmer reports on how sustainable food systems strengthen the health of local communities:** A new report by Ontario researchers documents how farmers' markets, co-ops and other sustainable food systems strengthen the economic, environmental and social health of local communities. After extensive consultation with the Ontario food community, the report called [Models and Best Practices for Building Sustainable Food Systems in Ontario and Beyond](#) documents local initiatives that have successfully supported local food systems. A local food system is one in which sustainable food production, processing, distribution and consumption is integrated to enhance the economic, environmental and social health of a particular place. "Community consultations are at the

heart of this report,” said Alison Blay-Palmer, an associate professor at Wilfrid Laurier University and lead author of the Nourishing Ontario team that produced the report. “We hope that this report will be a tool for communities and policy-makers to work together to build resilient food systems, reflecting what works for where they live.” [WLU Headlines](#)

**U Calgary’s Shelley Alexander and the Calgary Coyote Project:** Like magpies, deer and porcupines, coyotes are wild creatures living in our midst but, unlike magpies, we respond to them with equal parts fear and wonder. They are afraid of humans and largely keep out of our way— a recent article referred to them as “the ghosts of the cities.” When they do emerge, pets and children are at higher risk of an encounter because they’re smaller. Still, it’s important to keep perspective, says Shelley Alexander, an associate professor of geography at the University of Calgary. “The numbers of children who die from consuming household chemicals are astronomical compared to the incidences of kids getting bit by a coyote,” says Alexander, who has studied coyotes, their behaviour and their movements across the landscape for more than 20 years. In 2006 she started the Calgary Coyote Project to examine regional coyote ecology and look at their conflicts with people. [Calgary Herald](#)

**U Waterloo’s Peter Johnson on tweet-mapping American TV ratings:** This past winter semester Peter Johnson, assistant professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management at the University of Waterloo, launched a new course called “[The Geoweb and Location-Based Services](#)”. This 4th-year course introduced senior undergraduate students to the theoretical concepts and practical techniques of Web 2.0, Volunteered Geographic Information, Open Data, the Geoweb, and location-based services using mobile phones. As part of the course, students worked in groups to complete a major project. One project that stood out was “Tweet-Mapping American TV Ratings” by the team of Andrea Minano, Sarah Knight, and Michael Goldring. The aim of their project was to analyze the relationship between social media and the popularity of television shows through ratings. To do this, they gathered data from the social media network Twitter. The use of Twitter to rate the popularity of TV shows was tested in this project by gathering tweets from March 18, 2013 to March 24, 2013, and then mapping their spatial distribution. [Click here](#) to view an interactive map of these results. These individual tweets were then aggregated to the state level, to give the most popular shows per state. These most-tweeted TV shows per state were then compared to official national TV ratings. [U Waterloo Geospatial Participation Research Group](#)

**McMaster U’s Corinne Schuster-Wallace receives a Grand Challenges Canada Stars in Global Health Grant:** Corinne Schuster-Wallace, a School of Geography & Earth Sciences Adjunct at McMaster University received a Grand Challenges Canada Stars in Global Health Grants for her project “From Waste to Health”. Corinne is leading an international team that’s planning a sanitation system for Uganda that would turn human excrement and byproducts from fish farming into biofuel. “It’s exciting that we can move forward with the project because we can see a huge potential for changing lives in Uganda,” she said. Children in Uganda play near a waste pit that contains both litter and human excrement. Not having access to proper sanitation facilities, researchers says, is a major threat to human health. She noted the sub-Saharan country, like many in the developing world, does not have proper sanitation systems. Many Ugandans are left with little choice but to defecate in fields, creeks or ditches — often contaminating the water supply. The biofuel project, Schuster-Wallace said, offers a potential fix for the problem. Service providers would cart off the waste and put it into massive underground tanks. The methane gas produced would be captured and then used as fuel. And the remaining sludge, Schuster-Wallace said, could be sold as fertilizer. “The argument is, and what we’re premising with this grant, is that there’s wealth in waste,” she said. “This could be a different finance model for sanitation.” [CBC Hamilton](#)

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## New in [The Canadian Geographer](#)



Anne M. C. Godlewska, Laura M. Schaeffli and Paul J. A. Chaput. 2013. [First Nations assimilation through neoliberal educational reform](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12016

Gregory Martin and Tony Brown. 2013. [Out of the box: Making space for everyday critical pedagogies](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12015

Elsie H. Lewison. 2013. [Consuming development: Responsibility, citizenship and the corporate university](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12011

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## Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Justin R. Adams, Aaron A. Berg, Heather McNairn and Amine Merzouki. 2013. [Sensitivity of C-band SAR polarimetric variables to unvegetated agricultural fields](#). Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing. DOI:10.5589/m13-003

Mathew G. Brown, T. Andrew Black, Zoran Nestic, Vanessa N. Foord, David L. Spittlehouse, Arthur L. Fredeen, Rebecca Bowler, Nicholas J. Grant, Philip J. Burton, J. A. Trofymow, Dominic Lessard and Gesa Meyer. 2013. [Evapotranspiration and canopy characteristics of two lodgepole pine stands following mountain pine beetle attack](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI:10.1002/hyp.9870

Steeve Deschenes, Eleanor Setton, Paul A. Demers and Peter C. Keller. 2013. [Exploring the relationship between surface and subsurface soil concentrations of heavy metals using geographically weighted regression](#). E3S Web of Conferences. Volume 1, 2013. Proceedings of the 16th International Conference on Heavy Metals in the Environment. doi.org/10.1051/e3sconf/20130135007

Victoria Kramkowski 2012. [END-games: The political and material interests of emulating natural disturbances in the Canadian boreal forest](#). Environments. 28(1): Epub online

C.-Y. Martin Lin and Jeremy G. Venditti. 2013. [An empirical model of subcritical bedform migration](#). Sedimentology. DOI: 10.1111/sed.12056

Robert Milne, Lorne Bennett and Mathew Hoyle. 2013. [Weather variability permitted within amphibian monitoring protocol and affects on calling \*Hylidae\*](#). Environmental Monitoring and Assessment. DOI:10.1007/s10661-013-3221-4

Marie-Jeanne S. Royer, Thora Martina Herrmann, Oliver Sonnentag, Daniel Fortier, Kenel Delusca and Rick Cuciurean. 2013. [Linking Cree hunters' and scientific observations of changing inland ice and meteorological conditions in the subarctic eastern James Bay region, Canada](#). Climatic Change. DOI:10.1007/s10584-013-0773-9

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## Other “Geographical” News

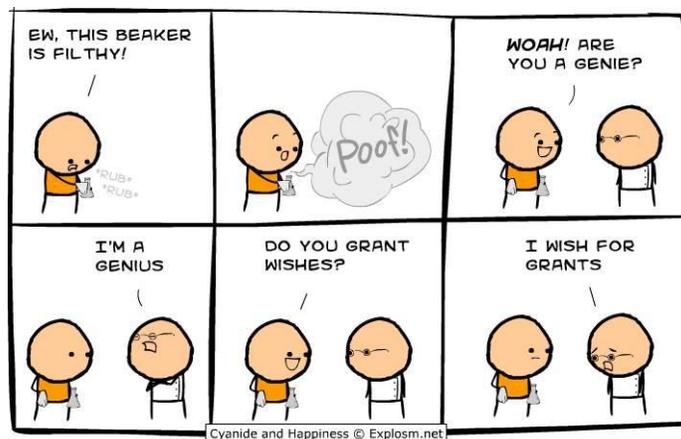
**Family-friendly tenure policies result in salary penalty for professors:** Well-intentioned policies to make achieving tenure more family-friendly actually have negative consequences for the salaries of faculty members. Whether it's for the birth or adoption of a child, or a family situation that involves extended caregiving, both male and female faculty members who "stop the tenure clock" for family reasons earn a salary that's 3.1 to 4.3 percent lower the following year -- even when there is no significant drop-off in the number or quality of their research output. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Students: how to take notes in lectures:** Technology is doing a lot to sort out our note-taking. One big advance is that lecture presentations are usually uploaded to a university's intranet for all to see. On the downside, this guarantee of availability gives you an excuse to zone out and let the lecturer's words drift over you. While this is tempting, it's better to listen out for the in-depth explanations that aren't on the presentation – the bits you can't access later are usually the most valuable. [The Guardian](#)

**The problems facing women are inherent to the academic job:** The implication here seems to be that academia is essentially incompatible with values such as work-life balance or motherhood (but presumably not fatherhood). Need it be so? Excellence shouldn't simply mean being prepared to work all hours of the day and night, travelling insane distances just to prove that you can stand up in all the continents of the world during a single year to give conference presentations, meanwhile building up a team of PhD students you have no time to treat as more than bench monkeys. A neat phrase I heard recently was that "you shouldn't use airmiles as a proxy for excellence". No more than you should use a journal's impact factor (groan) as a proxy for the quality of the papers published therein. If a department and university is serious about improving the working environment for everyone, then careful thought needs to be given to promotion criteria to ensure that someone who works less than a 100% contract, for whatever reason, is judged on the work they do in that time, not against some notional norm of the over-committed. [The Guardian](#)

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## Some not so “Geographical” News



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