



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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**UNBC receives funding to research access to cancer care, mental health, and seniors' mobility issues in northern BC:** Greg Halseth, a Geography Professor, Director of the [Community Development Institute](#) (CDI) at UNBC, and Canada Research Chair in Rural and Small Town Studies, will receive more than \$227,000 for his project *From Front Door to Grocery Store: Getting seniors where they want to be* from a grant from the Vancouver Foundation. The program supports communities to improve and advance health and wellbeing. Following the completion in 2012 of a seniors' needs assessment, the CDI, in partnership with the District of Clearwater, is undertaking the study, which will involve seniors and others in the community. The study will be assessing shopping and service areas, community facilities, walking routes, and transportation to determine what is working and what could be improved to help seniors get around in Clearwater. Each area will be assessed in both summer and winter. Following the assessments, community workshops will be held to review what was learned and to help formulate opportunities for improvement. The recommendations will assist the municipality, local businesses, various agencies, and non-profit organizations in planning and providing improved services to seniors. "The work we do in Clearwater will provide a model for other communities to explore mobility issues and assist with planning services and programs," says Marleen Morris, Associate Director of the CDI. "This will enable communities to support seniors to age-in-place so that they can continue to enjoy the quality of life and strong networks that are common in rural areas." "We would like to thank the Vancouver Foundation for supporting this important study." [UNBC Newsroom](#)

**UNBC geography graduate Christine Creyke represents Gwich'in Council International at Arctic Council Ministerial:** Christine Creyke, UNBC Geography major (BA, 2006), who also received her Masters degree from UNBC (MA Natural Resources and Environmental Studies '11, co-supervisors Drs. Halseth & Fondahl), recently sat at the delegates table, with the likes of Minister Leona Aglukkaq, US Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Federation Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. Gwich'in Council International (GCI) is one of six indigenous groups that, along with the eight Arctic States, comprise the Arctic Council. The other GCI delegate, GCI Chair Joe Linklater, underscored the importance of readying the next generation for leadership in his comments at this historic meeting, at which the chairmanship of the Arctic Council was transferred from Sweden to Canada. [Arctic Council](#)

**Dalhousie University - CIHR Postdoctoral Fellow Nathaniel Lewis leads study of attitudes towards rapid POC testing:** According to the Public Health Agency of Canada, there are about 71,000 HIV-positive people in Canada, 26% of whom do not know their HIV status. Early initiation of potent combination HIV therapy helps to preserve the immune system and places the HIV-positive person on a path to better health. A research team, led by Nathaniel Lewis at Dalhousie University, conducted a study of attitudes toward rapid POC testing among people who were seeking anonymous HIV testing. At a sexual health clinic in Halifax the HIV nurse asked potential volunteers if they were interested in the study's questionnaire, explained the purpose of the study and other details, and then obtained informed consent from participants. Overall, there were 411 participants who completed surveys over a period of several months in 2011. The team found that rapid POC testing was "highly acceptable" to this population. The team's report, published in the journal [Sexual Health](#), is important reading for clinics that specialize in screening for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), community-based health centres, and health policy planners. Rapid POC HIV testing can be an important tool to reach busy people and bypass barriers associated with standard HIV testing. [CATIE News](#)

**U Fraser Valley Steve Marsh helping diagnose the health of the Fraser River:** All is not well. In the Fraser River where climate change has dramatically altered the river by triggering the largest mountain pine beetle outbreak in North America. Cold weather typically kills the beetle larvae, but warmer winters have seen the insect's numbers spread unchecked across 18.1 million hectares in British Columbia, and the outbreak now affects 60% river's watershed. The dead forests left behind, and the salvage logging there, have made the Fraser basin vulnerable to erosion and flooding. All of which explains why Steve Marsh is trying to help diagnose the Fraser's symptoms from the water-slicked dock of the Fort Langley Community Rowing Club, about 60 kilometres east of where the 1,375-kilometre river flows into the Pacific Ocean. Every fortnight since 2009, Marsh, a faculty member in the department of geography at the Abbotsford campus of the University of the Fraser Valley, has been supervising his students as they draw murky water from the river, inject the liquid through a filter and into glass bottles and then nestle them snugly into a cooler. The samples are bound for geochemical analysis on the other side of the continent, at the Global Rivers Observatory, in Woods Hole, Massachusetts and will tell a detailed story of what's going on across the river's watershed. [Canadian Geographic](#)

**Update Magazine features UNBC geographers: Joana Paterson** (Supervisor: Dr. Neil Hanlon) was acknowledged as the recipient of the 2013 Rising Star Award presented annually by the Northern Medical Program Trust to a student who demonstrates leadership and represents the future promise of health care professionals who are educated in the north ([Prince George Citizen](#)). **Sarah de Leeuw** was acknowledged for two achievements: the first ever northern-BC based recipient of a partnered scholar award with the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research and the National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health; and, for being awarded the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize for the best work of poetry as part of the [BC Book Prize 2013](#) competition for her book "Geographies of a Lover." Finally, **Greg Halseth's** experiential and service learning course developed in collaboration with the City of Prince George and the Prince George Metis Housing Society, that Dr. Halseth remarked was "the most remarkable teaching experience with which I have been involved" is described. [UNBC Update](#)

**U Manitoba's Lisa Ford award for excellence in teaching:** University of Manitoba Geography instructor Lisa Ford received the Oliver Beatrice Stanton Award for Excellence in Teaching. Completing her B.Sc. in Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Victoria and her M.A. in Geography at the University of Saskatchewan, Lisa has been an Instructor with the Department of Environment and Geography since August, 2008. Ford's students describe her as an exuberant teacher. [Winnipeg Free Press](#)

**Ryerson University student Michael Markieta making a splash in the UK and North-American media:** Ryerson University's graduating Geographic Analysis and incoming Master of Spatial Analysis (MSA) student, Michael Markieta, is making a splash in the UK and North-American media with his [beautiful maps of global flight connectivity](#). On May 23rd, the UK Daily Mail asked "[Can you spot your holiday?](#) The incredible images that reveal exactly where we fly every day" The next day, the Toronto Star picked up the map images and wrote "[Ryerson student produces stunning images](#) of every flight in the world. Our highly interconnected world becomes apparent in a project mapping all the flight paths on the planet". Metro News Toronto included one of the maps and a short text entitled "Have a visually nice flight" in their May 24th print edition. On May 27th, BBC News posted the series of nine [global flight paths visualizations](#), followed by a collection of "[Five interpretations](#)" by an art critic, environmentalist, aviation consultant, data visualization expert, and philosopher. Fox News has published yet another perspective on "[Amazing images show airline flight paths](#) across the globe". Michael first created maps from the OpenFlights airport and airline route databases in September 2011 for [his personal blog](#). On his parttime position with global transportation planning and engineering firm Arup's Toronto office, he redesigned the maps, which were first posted on Arup's online magazine [ARUPConnect](#).

**U Calgary Service Awards to Dianne Draper and Catherine Avramenko:** Dr. Dianne Draper recently received her 25-year University of Calgary Service Award gold pin and Catherine Avramenko who was the recipient of a 'U Make a Difference' award for her dedication and extraordinary service to the workplace. [UCalgary Geography](#)

**Geography at Algoma University:** The Department of Geography has been a part of Algoma University since its inception as Algoma University College in 1964. The founding faculty lay a very strong foundation for the physical and human dimensions of geography that reflect the integrative nature of the discipline. The Geography Program is organized into four major thematic areas: physical geography, human geography, human-environmental studies, and geomatics. The variety of course offerings in the department reflects the four thematic areas. There is intentional overlap among the thematic areas and many faculty work across subfields of the discipline and across disciplines, in both teaching and research. [Geography@AlgomaU](#)

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### Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Matt Dyce. 2013. [The gateway to the last great West': spatial histories of the Athabasca Landing Trail](#). Canadian Historical Review 94:177-206.

Teresa L. Evans and Maycira Costa. 2013. [Landcover classification of the Lower Nhecolândia subregion of the Brazilian Pantanal Wetlands using ALOS/PALSAR, RADARSAT-2 and ENVISAT/ASAR imagery](#). Remote Sensing of Environment 128:118–137.

Stefania Maggi, Aleck Ostry, William Roberts, Amedeo D'Angiulli and Clyde Hertzman. 2013. [Paternal Work stress and the mental health of fathers and children: a role for urban and rural migration patterns](#). Canadian Journal of Community Mental Health 32: 59-78.

Janis L. Webb, Julie Vandendor, Bradley Pirie, Shawn M.C. Robinson, Stephen F. Cross, Simon R.M. Jones and Christopher M. Pearce. 2013. [Effects of temperature, diet, and bivalve size on the ingestion of sea lice \(\*Lepeophtheirus salmonis\*\) larvae by various filter-feeding shellfish](#). Aquaculture 406–407:9–17.

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



Brian Ray and Valerie Preston. 2013. [Experiences of discrimination and discomfort: A comparison of metropolitan and non-metropolitan locations](#). *The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien* 57:233-254.

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The Department of Geography at Memorial University is hosting the 2013 conference and meeting of the Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG), August 11-15, 2013. The bulk of the meeting will take place on the Memorial University campus. To contact the conference organizers, email [cag2013@mun.ca](mailto:cag2013@mun.ca) or call (709) 864-3164.

You can also find more about the conference on Facebook. This is a great way to stay informed about seat sales, news, and more. Facebook @ <https://www.facebook.com/CAG2013>

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## Other “Geographical” News

**I’d rather work late than let machines grade essays:** Sometimes when I’m halfway through a pile of 40 essays, I get tired. At these moments, if I had a grading machine, I would probably be tempted to insert the remaining essays and watch them pop out all freshly marked. The machine grading of essays may not seem like an earth-shattering issue, but it may have serious consequences. [Macleans.ca](#)

**U Alberta’s Catherine La Farge discovers living plants exposed by retreating glaciers:** When Catherine La Farge threads her way through the recently exposed terrain left behind by retreating glaciers, she looks at the ancient plant remains a lot closer than most. La Farge has overturned a long-held assumption that all of the plant remains exposed by retreating polar glaciers are dead. In the field, La Farge noticed that the subglacial populations were not only intact, but also in pristine condition—with some suggesting regrowth. [UAlberta News](#)

**Top 10 weirdest Mars illusions and pareidolia:** 10) a volcanic elephant; 9) rolling stones logo; 8) the "morchid"; 7) the smiling crater; 6) a dead parrot; 5) alien artifacts; 4) bigfoot! (littlefoot?); 3) the tree-lined hills of Mars; 2) Mars rat, possibly a gopher; and, 1) the face of Mars. [DNews](#)

**Should first year count towards your degree?** As universities explore a new degree classification system, some are reconsidering how much weight should be given to first year. The debate about whether first year exams should influence a student’s final result has divided opinion for years. But as universities examine the possibility of replacing traditional degree classifications, the discussion is heating up. [The Guardian](#)

**Microplastic pollution prevalent in lakes:** Microplastics in continental waters may be the main source of microplastic pollution in oceans, where huge hotspots containing high concentrations of these pollutants have formed. Scientists estimate that only around 20% of oceanic microplastics are dumped straight into the sea. The remaining 80% are estimated to originate from terrestrial sources, such as waste dumps, street litter, and sewage. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Global warming caused by CFCs, not carbon dioxide, U Waterloo researcher claims in controversial study:** Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) are to blame for global warming since the 1970s and not carbon dioxide. CFCs are already known to deplete ozone, but in-depth statistical analysis now suggests that CFCs are also the key driver in global climate change, rather than carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Climate change compounds problems for stressed BC agriculture sector:** Climate change will make it even harder to put locally sourced food on our tables if steps are not taken to strengthen the British Columbia agriculture sector, according to a new report. Farmers are taking on increasing risks, costs and responsibilities, while at the same time facing decades of reductions in publicly funded agricultural support services and resources. With climate change now being added to the mix, the pressure on the industry is immense. [UVic Media Release](#)

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### Some not so “Geographical” News



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