

# GeogNews

**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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## **Geographic Education for Canadians: Vision, Engagement and Action, by [geoniagara](#)**

On August 11 -15, 2013 the Canadian Association of Geographers will be having their annual general meeting held this year at Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland. Prior to this meeting however, there is an incredibly important gathering happening – Geographic Education for Canadians: Vision, Engagement and Action. This is a joint meeting hosted by the Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG), the Royal Canadian Geographic Society (RCGS) and Canadian Geographic Education (CGE). The goal is to “strengthen geographic education in Canada by building a coalition of organizations and associations committed to effecting renewal and increased attention to geographical issues and pedagogy”. As part of the meeting, those attending have submitted position papers. These can be access here. These papers have been submitted by a variety of professionals in education as well as the private sector and make for some interesting if not sobering reading. They also offer glimmers of hope that there are others out there that see the immense value in Geographic Literacy and Geographic Education.

Amanda Hooykaas ([paper here](#)): “Geography does not need to remain in a vacuum where one either “is” a geographer or “isn’t” – we are all geographers of our own lives and our individual stories.... Collectively Geography is vibrant, dynamic and exciting and this needs to be pushed further – from the echelons of higher academia to preschools, to secondary schools, to everyday citizens.”

Bob Sharpe ([paper here](#)): “I believe that geographic education is rich in high impact practices and that the content and skills geographic thinking can help to meet the needs of current students, whether or not they major in the discipline...we must continue to help educators develop and refine those high impact practices that make a difference to students.”

Peggy March ([paper here](#)): “I am ever hopeful that this is the genesis of a new, sustainable, successful initiative and that the emergent strategy will leave a holistic lasting legacy. If not, we are lost again for another generation.”

Lynn Moorman ([paper here](#)): “Geospatial knowledge, skills and “habits-of-mind” are increasingly required and valued as the roles of geospatial data and technologies become integral to the effective functioning of society.”

Jean Andrey ([paper here](#)): “My dream is that we can develop structures and momentum to connect geographic education and practice from elementary school through to professional careers.”

Karl Donert ([paper here](#)): “Geography is unique in bridging social (human) sciences and the natural (physical) sciences... we need to actively work together to position and promote geography, so that we can ensure the discipline receives the status, position and respect it should have as a core subject in schools...”

Al Friesen ([paper here](#)): “...we cannot expect our students to get a strong geographic education if faculties of education do not equip teachers to do so... If young children and those in their pre-teen years do not have the opportunity and encouragement to develop quality geographic literacy, we should not expect miracles when they arrive in the post –secondary geography and teacher-training classrooms.”

Niem Tu Huynh ([paper here](#)): “Local professionals and faculty can act as resources, either as presenters, to respond to geography related enquiries from the community, or other engagements.”

James Boxall ([paper here](#)): “This is about the whole of geography; it’s not just geomatics. It is about the sector in government, business, citizens groups and NGO’s. It is about all of us who seem genetically geared to think and work spatially.”

Brent Hall ([paper here](#)): “...geography as a subject, has all but disappeared from many K---12 curricula in Canada. It is certainly almost absent as a subject in Grades 1---9 across the country where it has been supplanted by the broader subject of Social Studies.”

### [Geospatial Niagara – Geography Matters](#)

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**Brock U’s Michael Pisaric named Chancellor’s Chair for Research Excellence:** Assistant Prof. Michael Pisaric in the Department of Geography is the recipient of the Chancellor’s Chair for Research Excellence for 2013-2016. The award consists of an annual research grant of \$20,000 over three years. Up to \$7,000 per annum may be taken as a release-time stipend. Recipients of the award present a public lecture as a way of sharing their contributions to scholarship with the University and wider community. They often receive invitations to present at other universities and events. Offered since 2001 by Brock University to recognize the excellence of the scholarship of faculty, the Chancellor’s Chair for Research Excellence award is intended to encourage and sustain high levels of scholarly performance of faculty and to retain high quality faculty who have made or will make exceptional contributions to scholarship in their field. [The Brock News](#)

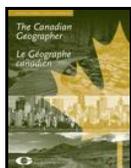
**Humanités 2.0 - Géoweb, mapping et autres chinoiseries:** Le matin de l’entrevue, la Ville de Montréal venait de diffuser un avis d’ébullition d’une ampleur sans précédent touchant 1,3 million de personnes, résultat de la mauvaise conduite de travaux de mise aux normes de l’usine de traitement des eaux à Atwater. Le bon vieux téléphone de la professeure Renee Sieber a sonné dans son bureau du campus de l’Université McGill, au centre-ville de Montréal. Un proche voulait lui apprendre la mauvaise nouvelle tout en lui recommandant de ne pas consommer d’eau des robinets. Cette information aurait pu me parvenir par Twitter ou par courriel, notait la professeure, après la courte conversation téléphonique. Comment les nouveaux outils de communication facilitent-ils les rapports entre les citoyens et les gouvernements ? Qu’arrivera-t-il aux citoyens non branchés ? Ou à ceux qui n’auront toujours pas de téléphone ? Son équipe de chercheurs vient de toucher le gros lot avec une subvention de 5,7 millions pour une nouvelle phase du projet GeoThink, vaste enquête nord-américaine sur l’utilisation du géoweb (la géographie mêlée au Web participatif) et les données ouvertes par les villes. [Le Devoir](#)

**U Northern British Columbia's Greg Halseth on the instant town of Tumbler Ridge:** Greg Halseth is no stranger to Tumbler Ridge. "The first time I came to town it was at night," says Halseth. "You could see this sliver of light in the midst of this vast wilderness; that was the town. The last time I came to town, ... we came over the hill, and there's the little sliver of light, but boom, there's all these red lights from the windfarm". As a professor at the University of Northern BC, he was fascinated by the way communities would spring up in Northern BC, and then, often just as quickly, be abandoned. Rather than just studying the forces that affect northern towns, Halseth is seeking to help communities take control of their destinies. "We are working on place-based community development. I want to help communities look at assets, then creatively repackage and re-bundle those assets to create a community that they want to see." [Tumbler Ridge News](#)

**U Victoria's Chris Darimont warns B.C.'s spirit bears threatened by dwindling salmon populations:** About one in 10 of the bears the Great Bear Rainforest on B.C.'s central and north coasts have a distinctive white coat and are known as white Kermodes or spirit bears. Parents and cubs may be different colours, depending on genetics. Grizzly bears are making their way into the habitat of the Kermodes, killing black bears and stopping Kermode bears from hunting salmon. The dwindling number of salmon along B.C.'s coast also threatens the bears' food supply. A University of Victoria researcher warns that if the bears are endangered, it could hurt the growing tourism trade set up to showcase the bears. "The spirit bears are an economically important resource. To put it bluntly, they're a part of the inventory for eco-tourism businesses," said Chris Darimont, a UVic geography professor who has spent two years studying the bears and their effect on eco-tourism. [Times Colonist](#)

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New in [The Canadian Geographer](#)



Tyler McCreary. 2013. [Mining Aboriginal success: The politics of difference in continuing education for industry needs](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12021

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### Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

R.W. Bradley, J.G. Venditti, R.A. Kostaschuk, M. Church, M. Hendershot and M.A. Allison. 2013. [Flow and sediment suspension events over low-angle dunes: Fraser Estuary, Canada](#). Journal of Geophysical Research: Earth Surface. DOI: 10.1002/jgrf.20118

Radu Dan Captitan. 2013. [Young Glaciation in Astapus Coles and Nilosyrtis Mensae, Mars](#). Scientific Annals of "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi - Geography series. 59.

Julia Christensen. 2013. ['Our home, our way of life': spiritual homelessness and the sociocultural dimensions of Indigenous homelessness in the Northwest Territories \(NWT\), Canada](#). Social & Cultural Geography. DOI:10.1080/14649365.2013.822089

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- R. G. Crilly, M. Klooseck, B. Chesworth, S. Mequanint, E. Sadowski and J. Gilliland. 2013. [Comparison of hip fracture and osteoporosis medication prescription rates across Canadian provinces](#). Osteoporosis International. August 2013
- Simon Dalby. 2013. [Biopolitics and climate security in the Anthropocene](#). Geoforum 49:184-192.
- Jeffery P. Dech, Shawn Mayhew-Hammond, April L. James and Bharat Pokharel. 2013. [Modeling Canada yew \(\*Taxus canadensis\* Marsh.\) distribution and abundance in the boreal forest of northeastern Ontario, Canada](#). Ecological Indicators 36:48–58.
- Belinda Dodson. 2013. [Reconfiguring space, reimagining place: post-apartheid geographies of South Africa and its region](#). Canadian Journal of African Studies 47:1-8.
- Taly Dawn Drezner. 2013. [Variability in reproductive effort of a keystone species](#). Physical Geography. DOI:10.1080/02723646.2013.809833
- Patricia L. Fall and Taly Dawn Drezner. 2013. [Species origins, dispersal, and island vegetation dynamics in the South Pacific](#). Annals of the Association of American Geographers. DOI:10.1080/00045608.2013.805084
- Jana Fried, Alia Sunderji, Steve Birch and John Eyles. 2013. [The reason that I did not go – determinants of the use of antenatal care services in South Africa, two decades after the end of apartheid](#). Canadian Journal of African Studies 47:27-50.
- Maxime Jolivel and Michel Allard. 2013. [Thermokarst and export of sediment and organic carbon in the Sheldrake River watershed, Nunavik, Canada](#). Journal of Geophysical Research: Earth Surface. DOI:10.1002/jgrf.20119
- M-J. Kwak. 2013. [Rethinking the neoliberal nexus of education, migration, and institutions](#). Environment and Planning A 45:1858 – 1872.
- Denis Lacelle, Bernard Lauriol, Grant Zazula, Bassam Ghaleb, Nicholas Utting and Ian D. Clark. 2013. [Timing of advance and basal condition of the Laurentide Ice Sheet during the last glacial maximum in the Richardson Mountains, NWT](#). Quaternary Research. doi.org/10.1016/j.yqres.2013.06.001
- Melissa J. Lafrenière and Scott F. Lamoureux. 2013. [Thermal perturbation and rainfall runoff have greater impact on seasonal solute loads than physical disturbance of the active layer](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI:10.1002/ppp.1784
- Nathalie Paquette and Konrad Gajewski. 2013. [Climatic change causes abrupt changes in forest composition, inferred from a high-resolution pollen record, southwestern Quebec, Canada](#). Quaternary Science Reviews 75:169-180.
- Gillad Rosen and Alan Walks. 2013. [Rising cities: Condominium development and the private transformation of the metropolis](#). Geoforum 49:160–172.
- Mark Rosenberg. 2013. [Health geography I. Social justice, idealist theory, health and health care](#). Progress in Human Geography. doi: 10.1177/0309132513498339
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## Other “Geographical” News

**Ungava gin’s soaked with Nunavik’s Arctic plants:** A little taste of Nunavik can be found on the shelves of liquor stores in Quebec, Alberta and B.C. as well as at bars and other outlets around the world. The Quebec-produced Ungava gin, which displays the name Ungava in syllabics on its labels and bottles, is flavoured with the essences of Arctic plants, Labrador tea, crowberry, wild rose hips, Nordic juniper and cloudberry, collected and dried in Nunavik. The result: a 100-per cent “natural” gin with a yellow, “distinctive sunny hue,” according to promotional materials. [Nunatsiaq Online](#)

**University libraries are shaping the future of learning and research:** "The academic library has died," wrote Brian Sullivan, librarian at Alfred University, in an opinion piece responding to the gloomy tone of a 2011 report on the future of academic libraries. "One reason for cause of death is that library buildings were converted into computer labs, study spaces and headquarters for informational-technology departments." Although Sullivan is being facetious – the headline for his piece was 'Academic library autopsy report 2050' – there's no denying that the university library as we know it is changing. And this has become more evident over the past decade through changes in the way university library buildings look the world over. [The Guardian](#)

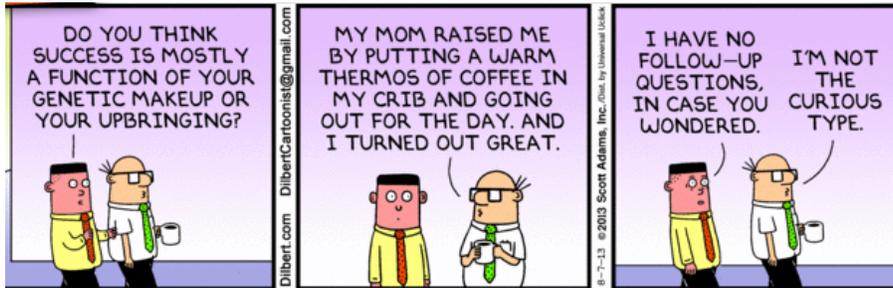
**Are podcasts the next big classroom alternatives?** The original purpose of podcast was for providing entertainment and recreation to users. It has since outgrown its utility and nowadays finds use in education, business, news, and even for advertising. Schools and colleges are among the most prolific users of podcasts these days, though they are not a full substitute for classroom lectures. Podcasts are usually edited and generally run for about 3-5 minutes though longer ones extending to 30 or more minutes are common as well. They are prepared from raw classroom lectures and also include power point presentations to make it interesting. Newer podcast technologies are capable of incorporating PPTs in the podcast itself. [eduGuru](#)

**Co-authors of retracted papers suffer serious career consequences:** Diederik Stapel, Eric Poehlman, Woo-Suk Hwang, Yoshitaka Fujii: these are individuals who have gone down in history for cheating the scientific system. They misused public funds, put patients’ lives in jeopardy and abused the public’s trust. They also left in their wake dozens of researchers who had unwittingly collaborated in their deception. What happens to the careers of scientists who co-author articles that are later retracted for misconduct? [University Affairs](#)

**Arctic Ocean more vulnerable to human-induced changes than Antarctic Ocean:** A research team found evidence suggesting that the Arctic Ocean is more vulnerable to human-induced changes than the Antarctic Ocean. After comparing sites in both oceans, they found the Arctic site to be more acidic, warmer during the summer months, and have fewer nutrients; those disparities account for the differences in vulnerability. [ScienceDaily](#)

**The rise of the ‘non-traditional’ student:** Universities focus on traditional students – those who enter straight from high school, study full-time and live on or near campus. However, non-traditional students – older, part-time and often returning to their education mid-career – are actually the majority of students and their expectations can be very different. The rise of non-traditional students is not just a North American phenomenon but is worldwide. “Every college and university – in Canada and throughout the world – will be grappling with the implications.” Higher education [in the Western world] now has a choice: either we restrict ourselves in serving only the traditional learners – serving the minority – or we look at serving all the learners.” [University Affairs](#)

## Some not so “Geographical” News



The CAG now works for geographers on [Twitter](#). Keep up-to-date by following [CanGeographers](#) GeogNews Archives: <http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/cag/geognews/geognews.html>