



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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**Compiled by Dan Smith [<cag@geog.uvic.ca>](mailto:cag@geog.uvic.ca)**

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**U Western’s Gordon McBean shares his frustration on changing climate for science:** It’s probably an understatement to say Gordon McBean is frustrated. The Western Geography professor, a scientific leader on climate change, disaster risk reduction and environmental issues, is tired of being on the defensive. Internationally recognized for decades of renowned research and policy work in the field, McBean has faced challenges where one might least expect them – on the home front. “Recent years, since the beginning of the Harper government, have been very frustrating. One of the big hurdles has been the unwillingness of the government to even to talk to scientists like me, to take action on climate change,” said McBean. “The only minister of environment who would ever meet with me was Jim Prentice. And one of them told the CBC, as far as they were concerned, I didn’t exist,” he added.  
[Western News](#)

**Victoria geographer Keith Elwood tells TEDxVancouver crowd to put down your GPS and get lost:** Exercising mental maps is important, geographer tells TEDxVancouver crowd: Geographer Keith Elwood successfully mapped out TEDxVancouver’s theme of stepping out of your comfort zone on the weekend, no doubt making more than a few tech heads squirm in their seats. The message: Put down your GPS and pull out a map once in awhile. Getting lost without relying on technology allows us to use what Elwood calls our own intuitive mental map, something we are all born with that helps us navigate where we are and where we are going in the world. “For ten thousand generations of human evolution we have been doing that, with nothing more than our wits, our eyes, our curiosity and our survival instinct. We are all map makers and we all live to explore.” Elwood, an expert in Geographic Information Systems from Victoria, was speaking to a sold-out crowd of about 2,700 people at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre for the fifth annual TEDxVancouver talks on Saturday. TEDx events, held in cities around the world, are affiliated with TED — the global set of conferences dedicated to ideas worth spreading — but are independently organized. [Vancouver Sun](#)

**Memorial U's Josh Lepawsky writing for open access:** My reasons for choosing to publish open access articles stem from a basic premise: because my work is publicly funded I feel that it should be available, in its published form, to anyone without charge. My interest in open access also stems from what I perceive to be fundamentally problematic aspects of what, for contrast, I will call academia's standard publishing model. At the risk of oversimplification, the standard model entails the author(s) of a given article signing over copyright to a given publisher who then subsequently sells access to that article via journal subscriptions. None of the costs related to data acquisition, fieldwork, time for research, data analysis, or writing are typically borne by publishers. I find it fundamentally wrong that a private entity encloses the research results made possible by public funds. I find it fundamentally wrong that a private entity encloses the research results (and the substantial exchange economies (Elden 2008) publishing them relies on) made possible by public funds. [Open Access: Author Perspectives](#)

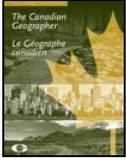
**U Toronto's Danny Harvey takes on tar sands:** In light of accelerating activity from Canadian energy companies, U of Toronto geography professor Danny Harvey is advocating for climate science to combat proliferating pipeline construction across the country. The National Energy Board (NEB), Canada's sole regulatory body for the national oil industry, currently refuses to consider the impact of oil pipelines on global warming during their approval process. Harvey challenged this refusal in August during a hearing for the proposed Trans Mountain pipeline, but his motion was denied. Harvey appealed to the constitutional right to life and health in his motion, providing ample evidence for the direct relationship between the construction of oil sands pipelines and the negative effects of climbing global temperatures. In response, the NEB cited a Supreme Court ruling stating that the right to life and health is not violated in cases that are "unprovable." "They're throwing the precautionary principle out the window," says Harvey. "The National Energy Board's mandate is to assess future risks as a result of oil sands development, and they're failing to do that." [The Varsity](#)

**UNBC's Brian Menounos on why the Jumbo Glacier project is a pipedream:** While the Jumbo Glacier Resort Master Plan predicts the glaciers will survive or even grow because climate change will mean additional snow at high altitudes, climate scientists say glaciers in the Purcell Mountains will have disappeared by the turn of the century. Brian Menounos, professor of earth sciences and Canada Research Chair in glacier change at the University of Northern B.C., said glaciers in the Columbia Basin are unlikely to survive past 2100. It is likely that precipitation will increase from 10 to 15 per cent because of climate change, he said. "But that doesn't compensate for the amount of warming that is likely to occur. The modelling that I have seen says most of the ice in the Columbia Basin will not be there by 2100." Glaciers in western Canada started retreating in the 1920s, probably because of natural warming, but most scientists agree that, since 1980, they are strongly retreating because of human-caused climate change, Menounos said. Large glaciers take a long time to respond, so even if everyone immediately stopped using fossil fuels, the glaciers will continue to melt "because of what we have done to them," he said. Some icefields in the North Coast Mountains will survive past the turn of the century, although they will be reduced by half, Menounos said. [TroyMedia](#)

**Award winners at the Meeting of the Atlantic Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers:** The joint meeting of the Atlantic Canadian Association of Geographers – Canadian Remote Sensing Society, Atlantic region, held in St. John's NL on 17-18 October, featured numerous outstanding presentations by Memorial students. **Ben Bagnall**, Geography, Memorial: Composite hazard mapping in a changing environment, Arviat, Nunavut; **Rudy Riedlsperger**, Geography, Memorial: 'Sustainability' in an Inuit context: An example from Nunatsiavut, northern Labrador; **Lara Miles**, Geography, Memorial: Influence of surficial geology on cold-water coral distribution on the Flemish Cap; and **Kristie Duncan**, Environmental Science, Memorial: Petroleum vulnerability analysis of Newfoundland coastal systems. [Memorial U Geography](#)

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New in [The Canadian Geographer](#)



Jérôme Dupras, Mahbulul Alam and Jean-Pierre Revéret. 2014. [Economic value of Greater Montreal's non-market ecosystem services in a land use management and planning perspective](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12138

Wen Lin. 2014. [Revealing the making of OpenStreetMap: A limited account](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/cag.12137

Caroline Ramirez and Kenza Benali. 2014. [Ottawa, une identité urbaine en mal de définition : analyse des représentations médiatiques de la capitale canadienne / Ottawa, an urban identity in need of definition: examining media's perceptions of the national capital](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12136

Kelly Vodden. 2014. [Governing sustainable coastal development: The promise and challenge of collaborative governance in Canadian coastal watersheds](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/cag.12135

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### Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Elena A. Favaro and Scott F. Lamoureux. 2014. [Antecedent controls on rainfall runoff response and sediment transport in a High Arctic catchment](#). Geografiska Annaler: Series A, Physical Geography. DOI:10.1111/geoa.12063

Laura J. Feyrer and David A. Duffus. 2014. [Threshold foraging by gray whales in response to fine scale variations in mysid density](#). Marine Mammal Science. DOI:10.1111/mms.12178

John J. Gibson and R. Reid. 2014. [Water balance along a chain of tundra lakes: a 20-year isotopic perspective](#). Journal of Hydrology. DOI: 10.1016/j.jhydrol.2014.10.011

Carrie Anne Marshall and Mark W. Rosenberg. 2014. [Occupation and the process of transition from homelessness](#). Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy. DOI:10.1177/0008417414548573

Rae Rosenberg and Natalie Oswin. 2014. [Trans embodiment in carceral space: hypermasculinity and the US prison industrial complex](#). Gender, Place & Culture. DOI:10.1080/0966369X.2014.969685

Cameron D. Willis, Barbara L. Riley, S. Martin Taylor and Allan Best. 2014. [Improving the performance of interorganizational networks for preventing chronic disease: Identifying and acting on research needs](#). Healthcare Management Forum 27:123-127.

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## Other “Geographical” News

**Where do you belong? 20 videos exploring geography:** My students carry GPS-enabled devices (smart phones) in their back pockets and view paper maps as artifacts from a distant past. PBS LearningMedia makes it easy for me to engage these “digital natives.” A quick search turns up high quality, targeted materials that I can easily incorporate into a lesson or homework assignment for my AP Human Geography class. The first time I used PBS LearningMedia, I simply provided my students with several links and instructed them to explore. Soon, everyone in the room was watching or engaging with one of the tools. Here are some links to videos and interactives I’ve discovered so far, organized by AP Human Geography topics. [KQED Education](#)

**Grad student mentorship:** It’s that time of the year when I am starting to get emails from prospective students for admission in 2015, so I’m thinking hard about whether and how many students I would like to accept and what types of students I want. I, and many other professors, receive a variety of requests for more information about grad school. The point of an initial email to a prospective advisor is to introduce yourself and further the conversation through a Skype call or more emails, which will eventually lead to submitting an application and getting admitted. I consistently hear from students (and experienced this myself many years ago) that the first and sometimes biggest obstacle they face is getting a response back to their initial email. So what do you need to do to get a response? [Tenure, She Wrote](#)

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## Some not so “Geographical” News



The CAG works for geographers on [Twitter](#). Keep up-to-date by following [@CanGeographers](#)

GeogNews Archives: <http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/cag/geognews/geognews.html>

@CanGeographers Weekly: <https://paper.li/CanGeographers/1394987315>

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