

# GeogNews



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**

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**UNBC Geography grad Sam Albers joins researchers investigating aftermath of Mount Polley Mine site breach:** When the tailings pond at the Mount Polley Mine in the Cariboo failed, releasing tens of millions of cubic metres of water and tailings into the environment, concerns immediately surfaced about the environmental impact of the spill. UNBC researchers were able to act quickly in large part due to the location of the Dr. Max Blouw Quesnel River Research Centre (QRRC) near Likely; students and staff were in the field immediately collecting samples. "The tailings pond breach made provincial and national headlines and had a direct impact on people living in the Cariboo, especially in the community of Likely," UNBC Professor of Geography Dr. Ellen Petticrew said. "With the QRRC located so close to the breach site, we recognize UNBC researchers are well placed to study the medium and long term effects of the release of the water and mine tailings into Quesnel Lake and other local bodies of water." The initial findings are just the beginning as ongoing research is required to determine the extent of the impact of the tailings pond release," UNBC Professor of Environmental Science Dr. Phil Owens said. "UNBC researchers at the QRRC and Prince George campus will continue to work with colleagues at other institutions and with government agencies to study the lasting environmental effects of the breach." [UNBC "Update" Magazine](#)

**McMaster U's Paulin Coulibaly will lead develop of flood forecasting systems:** A new research network led by McMaster's Paulin Coulibaly will receive significant support from the Government of Canada to help develop flood forecasting systems. McMaster will receive \$5 million over five years to support the FloodNet network, which will develop advanced warning systems to help protect Canadians from the often devastating effects of floods. Coulibaly, a McMaster professor jointly appointed in the School of Geography & Earth Sciences and Department of Civil Engineering, will work with University of Guelph, Université Laval, University of Manitoba, Université de Moncton, University of New Brunswick, University of Saskatchewan, Trent University, University of Waterloo and University of Western to fill this gap by developing flood forecasting systems. "The direct benefits of enhanced flood forecasts and management for Canadians are tremendous and include the reduced cost of damages, the protection of people and livestock, the reduction of socio-economic impacts and human distress and the protection of community water systems," said Coulibaly. [McMaster Daily News](#)

**Memorial U Master's student Victoria Bailey on mobilizing research knowledge in the digital age:** I first became interested in radio as a means of knowledge production in 2012, when I was invited to participate in Island Vision Radio, a community radio initiative trying to re-link the communities of Fogo Island in the wake of substantial social and economic changes on the Island. It was amazing to see how communities came together to tell their stories, not only to themselves, but also to each other and the world, just as they had done in the late 1960s when the Island also faced serious social and economic upheaval. I feel passionately about the role of radio in research, not only as a means of mobilizing knowledge, but as a way of meaningfully engaging research participants in the process. Traditional research mobilizing has come in the form of written words, theses and journal articles, and these will form the bulk of the research product, but to this I'd like to add more. The spoken word, and aural landscape can be incredibly evocative, and can represent people and places in a way completely different than can be accomplished with a written description.. [MUN Geography](#)

**Ryerson U's featured researcher, Dr. Claus Rinner:** [Claus Rinner's](#) research in Geographic Information Science contributes to the development of novel decision support methods for both, experts and the general public. His goal is to enhance the mapping and analysis functions in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to support "visual thinking" and facilitate effective decision-making. Dr. Rinner received a 2013 Faculty SRC Award from Ryerson University for outstanding achievements in his research on geovisual analytics and the participatory geospatial Web. During his sabbatical year in 2012/13, Dr. Rinner continued to supervise graduate and undergraduate students, who advanced both his conceptual and applied research. For example, with a former undergraduate student, he refined "A Qualitative Framework for Evaluating Participation on the Geoweb" (article under review), which helps improve our understanding of the exploding number of participatory mapping applications on the Web. [Ryerson Geography & Environmental Studies](#)

**York U MA candidate Matthew Stevens focuses on the lived experiences of displaced Syrians in Jordan:** Matthew an MA Candidate in the Department of Geography, affiliated with the Centre for Refugee Studies and the York Centre for International Security Studies, at York University, comments that "The treatment of Syrian refugees living in urban centres in Jordan is changing radically. New laws, passed in July, are placing strict new limits on who can receive services and support from UNHCR, agencies, and the government." He writes "Some UNHCR staff express fear that the future will bring more "underground" urban refugees, typical of the urban refugee situations in Cairo or Nairobi—uncounted, unmonitored, largely unassisted, actively hiding from aid agencies and the government alike. It is hard to see how the new regulations—understandable from a management standpoint but completely divorced from the lived experience of life in exile—will create a situation which is more stable, sustainable, or beneficial for either Jordanian host communities or displaced Syrians." [Eurasia Review](#)

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**York U PhD graduate Sudarshana Bordoloi** is a new assistant professor at St. Cloud State University. She also knows the road between St. Cloud and Toronto, where she earned her doctorate in geography from York University this year. Her specialty was in international development with a focus on regional community development. [SCTimes](#)

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## Recent Theses and Dissertations

Som Pun. 2014. [The opportunities and limitations of First Nations forestry agreements in British Columbia: Collective experience of the Tl'azt'en Nation & the future need for community-based resource management & decision-making](#). Master of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (MNRES - Geography), University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George, BC. Supervisor: Dr. Greg Halseth

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## Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Tor Gjertsen and Greg Halseth (eds.) 2014. "[Sustainable Development in the Circumpolar North: From Tana, Norway to Oktemtsy, Yakutia, Russia, The Gargia Conferences for Local and Regional Development \(2004-14\)](#)." Community Development Institute at the University of Northern British Columbia and the University of the Arctic's Thematic Network on Local and Regional Development in the North.

David M. Grewer, Melissa J. Lafrenière, Scott F. Lamoureux and Myrna J. Simpson. 2014. [Potential shifts in Canadian High Arctic sedimentary organic matter composition with permafrost active layer detachments](#). Organic Geochemistry. DOI:10.1016/j.orggeochem.2014.11.007

Jason F. Kovacs, Kayla Jonas Galvin and Robert Shipley. 2014. [Assessing the success of Heritage Conservation Districts: Insights from Ontario, Canada](#). Cities. DOI:10.1016/j.cities.2014.11.002

Charles Z. Levkoe. 2014. [Strategies for forging and sustaining social movement networks: A case study of provincial food networking organizations in Canada](#). Geoforum 58:174–183.

John F. Rex, Ellen L. Petticrew, Samuel J. Albers and Neil D. Williams. 2014. [The influence of Pacific salmon decay products on near-field streambed sediment and organic matter dynamics: A flume simulation](#). Earth Surface Processes and Landforms 39:1378–1385.

R. T. J. Phillips and Joe R. Desloges. 2014. [Alluvial floodplain classification by multivariate clustering and discriminant analysis for low-relief glacially conditioned river catchments](#). Earth Surface Processes and Landforms. DOI: 10.1002/esp.3681

Heather Richardson and Dongmei Chen. 2014. [Analyzing the potential impact of bird migration on the global spread of H5N1 Avian Influenza \(2007–2011\) using spatiotemporal mapping methods](#). In: Analyzing and Modeling Spatial and Temporal Dynamics of Infectious Diseases. Edited by Dongmei Chen, Bernard Moulin and Jianhong Wu. Wiley. 163-

Richard R. Shaker and Timothy J. Ehlinger. 2014. [Exploring non-linear relationships between landscape and aquatic ecological condition in southern Wisconsin: A GWR and ANN approach](#). International Journal of Applied Geospatial 5.

Mark W. Skinner, Denise Cloutier and Gavin J. Andrews. 2014. [Geographies of ageing. Progress and possibilities after two decades of change](#). Progress in Human Geography. DOI:10.1177/0309132514558444

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Joel Wainwright and Geoff Mann. 2014. [Climate change and the adaptation of the political](#). Annals of the Association of American Geographers. DOI:10.1080/00045608.2014.973807

Daqing Yang, Xiaogang Shi and Philip Marsh. 2014. [Variability and extreme of Mackenzie River daily discharge during 1973–2011](#). Quaternary International. DOI:10.1016/j.quaint.2014.09.023

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### Other “Geographical” News

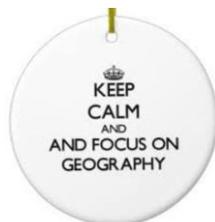
**Evidence of Viking/Norse metalworking in Arctic Canada:** A small stone container found by archaeologists a half-century ago has now been recognized as further evidence of a Viking or Medieval Norse presence in Arctic Canada during the centuries around 1000 A.D. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Ikaarvik bridging the gap between Arctic science and northern needs:** Ikaarvik is Inuktitut for “the bridge” — a fitting metaphor for a program that aims to connect southern researchers with the needs of northern communities. Until now, communities have often been left frustrated by science projects thrust upon them — projects that don’t necessarily make sense to residents, said Elverum, who sat on the Pond Inlet hamlet council for three years. “In my experience, science is trying. They might just not know the right way to listen,” she said. But this bridge goes two ways. Aside from Nunavut communities embracing science, Ikaarvik is allowing southerners to learn about and embrace Inuit culture. Ikaarvik has toured southern Canada with a youth group, visiting a variety of venues from zoos to research centres to the Vancouver aquarium, to teach volunteers, researchers—and just about anyone that wants to listen—about the Arctic. [Nunatsiq Online](#)

**Massive study provides first detailed look at how Greenland's ice is vanishing:** Scientists used NASA satellite and aerial data to reconstruct how the ice sheet changed at nearly 100,000 locations over many years. [ScienceDaily](#)

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### Some not so “Geographical” News



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