



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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**Study of Hamilton neighbourhoods says city one of Canada's most segregated cities by income:** A [new study](#) of the history of Hamilton neighbourhoods says the city has become one of Canada's most segregated cities by income. But the study, led by McMaster geographer **Richard Harris** suggests Hamilton's housing boom and the new desirability of older neighbourhoods can help change that. Ironically, it is the sustained decline and poverty of those central and lower city neighbourhoods over several decades that has turned them into housing bargains — in urban settings that are now seen as attractive to more affluent buyers. "The long term decline of many of Hamilton's older neighbourhoods has created what, to many potential gentrifiers, appears to be a very affordable stock of housing," says the study. "No city showed more clearly than Hamilton the consequences of deindustrialization, the polarization of incomes and the consequent polarization of neighbourhoods." Deindustrialization, a large number of refugees and low income immigrants all "help to explain why Hamilton has been more affected by general income trends than most Canadian cities," says the report, co-written by **Jim Dunn**, the Chair in Applied Public Health at McMaster University and Dr. **Sarah Wakefield** of the University of Toronto & the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton. In 1970, when income inequality was relatively low, seven out of 10 neighbourhoods were "broadly middle class." A small portion were low income and a small portion were high income. Decade by decade since, the proportion of middle class neighbourhoods has fallen. By 2000, 58 per cent of neighbourhoods were middle class, and by 2010 it was 51 per cent. The split away from middle class has gone in both directions, with growth in the number of solely high income neighbourhoods and solely low income ones. In fact, the actual number of low income census tracts doubled between 1980 and 2010. Notable about that evolution of neighbourhoods is how increasingly segregated by income the city has become. [CBC | Hamilton](#)

**U British Columbia's Graeme Wynn, "It's About Time":** Professor Graeme Wynn delivered the last colloquium lecture of the term in the Geography Department, "*It's About Time: Reflections on a Career in Geography*", coinciding with his approaching retirement. Wynn began with almost a reflection on reflections, that "statistics were only half of life; imaginative interpretation is the other half". He narrated his journey from a youthful ambition of wanting to become a merchant marine sailor and "accidentally" falling into geography, and eventually, historical and environmental geography. The talk was not only self-reflective but included reflections over his 40 years in the discipline of geography as a field in the greater web of social sciences and humanities, its trends and fashions, as well as the changing landscape of universities and how academia and scholarship has been affected. [UBC Geography](#)

**Geography at Waterloo leaps up QS rankings to 48th best in the world:** Geography at the University of Waterloo improved on its global ranking from according to results published today. This year the program vaults into the top 50, at 48. "We are thrilled that all of the great work we do in Geography here at Waterloo is being recognized internationally," said Peter Deadman, department chair for Geography and Environmental Management. "We've always taken great pride in the research and teaching we do in critically important areas like climate change, earth systems science, and geomatics. That we have risen steadily in these rankings year after year is proof we're headed in the right direction." [U Waterloo Environment](#)

**York U's Steven Tufts on wage inequality at Pearson Airport:** American airport workers have been demanding and securing their own minimum wage for more than a decade. The American labour movement has focused on airports, in part, because of their sheer size; air transit hubs like Chicago's O'Hare can have workforces in the tens of thousands. And because terminals are tethered to the places they serve, higher wages do not have the effect of displacing employers, the way higher factory wages might. "Unless we develop teleporters, we cannot export our airport location to China," said Steven Tufts, a professor of geography and labour at York University who sits on Pearson's Consultative Committee. Higher wages are also unlikely to dramatically increase airfare prices for consumers, advocates say, since labour costs are such a small proportion of air travel's costs. At Pearson, 40,000 employees are divided between a handful of unions — Unifor, CUPE, the Teamsters, PSAC — which can sometimes work at cross purposes. Another potential obstacle to increasing wages at Pearson is the airport's leadership. Whereas U.S. airports are often run by local governments that are susceptible to public pressure, Pearson is run by the Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA), whose directors are appointed or hired through a search process. "Over time, just like a lot of things in society, governance has been increasingly corporatized," said Tufts. [Toronto Star](#)

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## **CWAG STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION**

The Canadian Women and Geography Study Group (CWAG) of the Canadian Association of Geographers invites submissions for its annual student paper competition. Paper entries must be based on research related to an aspect of feminist geography, broadly defined. The competition is open to any undergraduate, master's or Ph.D. student who has presented the paper at a regional meeting (ie. CAGONT, WDCCAG, etc.) during the 2014-15 academic year or has plans to present the paper at the 2015 CAG meeting in Vancouver. Entries should be submitted electronically, in either French or English, and must not exceed 5,000 words, including references and footnotes. The deadline for submissions is MONDAY May 18th, 2015. Please send papers (and any questions) to the attention of the CWAG Chair at: [sara.koopman@gmail.com](mailto:sara.koopman@gmail.com)

## **PRIX DU MEILLEUR ARTICLE ÉTUDIANT DU CWAG**

Le groupe canadien d'étude sur la géographie et les femmes (CWAG) de l'Association canadienne des géographes invite les candidatures pour son prix annuel du meilleur article étudiant. Les articles considérés pour ce prix traiteront d'une recherche en lien avec la géographie féministe largement définie. La compétition est ouverte aux étudiantes et étudiants au premier cycle ou aux cycles supérieurs ayant présenté cette recherche à une conférence régionale (par exemple le CAGONT, WDCCAG, etc.) au cours de l'année 2014-2015 ou comptant présenter cette recherche lors du congrès 2015 de l'ACG à Vancouver. Les articles doivent être soumis électroniquement, doivent être écrits en français ou en anglais, et ne doivent pas dépasser 5000 mots incluant les références et les notes de bas de page. La date de tombée pour soumettre un article est LUNDI le 18 mai 2015. SVP envoyez vos articles (ou toute question par rapport à cette compétition) à l'attention de la présidente du CWAG à : [sara.koopman@gmail.com](mailto:sara.koopman@gmail.com)

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## Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Moshe Ben-Shoshan, Lianne Soller, Daniel W. Harrington, Megan Knoll, Sebastian La Vieille, Joseph Fragapane, Lawrence Joseph, Yvan St. Pierre, Kathie Wilson, Susan J. Elliott and Ann E. Clarke. 2015. [Eczema in early childhood, sociodemographic factors and lifestyle habits are associated with food allergy: a nested case-control study](#). International Archives of Allergy and Immunology 166:199–207.

N. Crasto, C. Hopkinson, D.L. Forbes, L. Lesack, P. Marsh, I. Spooner and J.J. van der Sanden. 2015. [A LiDAR-based decision-tree classification of open water surfaces in an Arctic delta](#). Remote Sensing of Environment 164:90–102.

Agata Durkalec, Chris Furgal, Mark W. Skinner and Tom Sheldon. 2015. [Climate change influences on environment as a determinant of Indigenous health: Relationships to place, sea ice, and health in an Inuit community](#). Social Science & Medicine. DOI: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2015.04.026

Kirsten Greer. 2015. [Zoogeography and imperial defence: Tracing the contours of the Nearctic region in the temperate North Atlantic, 1838–1880s](#). Geoforum. DOI:10.1016/j.geoforum.2015.03.006

Elizabeth Lunstrum, Pablo Bose and Anna Zalik. 2015. [Environmental displacement: the common ground of climate change, extraction and conservation](#). Area. DOI:10.1111/area.12193

Daniel J Rowe, James R Dunn and Carles Muntaner. 2015. [The impact of job strain on smoking cessation and relapse in the Canadian population: a cohort study](#). Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health. DOI:10.1136/jech-2014-205227

Jennifer J. Silver, Noella J. Gray, Lisa M. Campbell, Luke W. Fairbanks and Rebecca L. Gruby. 2015. [Blue economy and competing discourses in international oceans governance](#). The Journal of Environment Development. DOI: 10.1177/1070496515580797

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## Other “Geographical” News

### **Church of England selling holdings in companies that earn revenue from coal or oil sands:**

**(What about the CAG?):** The Church of England said it has decided to blacklist coal and oilsands investments over climate change concerns. The Church said it would sell £12 million (\$22 million) of its holdings in thermal coal and oilsands companies. "Climate change is the greatest moral challenge of our day, for people of all faiths and people of no faith," said the Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Rev Nick Holtam, lead bishop on the environment. The Church, which has an investment portfolio worth more than 9 billion sterling (\$16 billion), will no longer put its money into any company that gets more than 10 per cent of its revenues from extracting coal burned for energy or oilsands. Heirs to the Rockefeller oil fortune, California's Stanford University and the World Council of Churches have already said they will reduce or cut fossil fuel investments, under pressure from a grassroots campaign that urges divestment of energy sources that lead to climate change. The move comes ahead of the Paris summit on climate change, where the church is among those pushing for a deal to reduce carbon emissions. [CBC News](#)

**Victoria's downtown corridor could be transformed if 20 year plan approved:** The Downtown Victoria Business Association released its vision for what Douglas street will look like in 20 years —

fewer cars, more bikes and an accessible pedestrian corridor. The 20 year plan's main goal is ensuring Douglas becomes a complete street that offers access for transit, bikes and cars, but also encourages pedestrian traffic. [CBC News | British Columbia](#)

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### Some not so “Geographical” News



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