



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers  
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**Concordia U GPE student Frances Aymot wins undergraduate research award for work on sustainable river management:** Municipalities bordering rivers spend a lot of resources ensuring water is accessible and clean. Officials in Saint-Zotique, Quebec, have been dealing with the particularly difficult problem of sediment accumulation in their canal system — making management of their river a challenge. This summer, Frances Amyot — who's enrolled in a double major in Human Environment and Western Society and Culture — worked with the municipality and other agencies such as Hydro Québec to shed light on why so much sediment is accumulating in the canals. Supervised by Pascale Biron, a professor in the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment, Amyot started by studying aerial photos of the canals over a 70-year span. She interviewed stakeholders to understand what they thought could be causing the problem. In her fieldwork she used sonar technology coupled with a Global Positioning System (GPS) to measure the depth of the sediment. The goal is to create a comprehensive map that will allow the municipality to get a complete picture of the challenge at hand. [Concordia News](#)

**U Waterloo's Derek Robinson and Rich Petrone warn plans to reclaim mined land risk failure and could cost industry and government billions:** Under Alberta's Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act of 1993, oil sands mining companies are required to return natural areas to a natural state once a mine closes. They must submit a reclamation plan and set aside an environmental deposit as part of the permitting process. Regulators currently do not require mining companies to incorporate predictive modeling into reclamation plans, nor do they consider proposals to reclaim with types of vegetation better suited to the projected future climate. Professors Rebecca Rooney, Derek Robinson and Rich Petrone outline a six-step process to improve success rates for ecological reclamation projects and control mine closure costs; reconciling government-mandated mine closing procedures with long-term climate projections. "Significant advances have been made in the science of reclamation and the criteria with which we evaluate reclaimed landscapes," said Petrone, a professor of Geography and Environmental Management from the Waterloo Faculty of Environment. "The big question is how we use this knowledge to adapt in the face of climate change." Mega projects like oils sands extraction, mountain-top removal and open-pit diamond mines are so large that they can take several decades, sometimes up to a hundred years, from opening to closure. Over these time spans, habitats like the boreal forests are predicted to shrink in Alberta, even under the most optimistic climate scenarios. The six-step process proposed by the Waterloo academics uses climate modeling, hydrologic modeling, bioclimate classification, and landscape and habitat modeling to provide planners with more adaptable closure designs that meet the provincial regulations. [Waterloo GEM News](#)

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**Simon Fraser U PhD graduate Gretchen Hernandez is an academic social entrepreneur who fostered Bolivian development:** Bolivia's indigenous people are now charting their own development path, thanks in part to a training program initiated by Gretchen Hernandez, who graduates this month with a PhD in geography. Between 2007 and 2013, she helped train 4,000 Bolivian municipal officials, non-governmental organizations, development professionals and indigenous leaders in [Community Economic Development](#) (CED) at the Universidad Mayor San Andres. In CED, communities work together to improve their social, environmental and economic conditions. The development model challenges leaders to leverage and build on existing assets to improve their community. "Most times when people are poor, they focus on what they don't have," says Hernandez, whose PhD research explored the ways that Bolivia's indigenous peoples are organizing collective economic activities. "The whole concept of CED is to look at what you have and by working together, you can achieve a kind of scale that makes it possible to thrive." For example, CED encourages communities to use public funds more strategically. This means pooling funds to afford larger projects that can benefit more people and communities. "Because of the program, a group of communities decided to buy a backhoe and well digger, and share them," Hernandez says. "It's quite a feat to get 20,000 people to share equipment rather than divvying up the money." She says seeing CED "flowering" all over Bolivia is exciting and inspires her to continue her work as an "academic social entrepreneur." "I'm doing research to actually support people and improve their daily lives in a significant way," she says. [SFU News](#)

**U Toronto's Matti Siemiatycki says Ottawa can play major role in transportation, affordable housing, daycare:** Professor Matti Siemiatycki says implementing a national standardized assessment process for infrastructure spending would be just as important as money. Siemiatycki is an associate professor of geography focusing on infrastructure planning, transportation, cycling and public-private partnerships. He has conducted transportation studies in London, Los Angeles, Sydney and Delhi as well as Toronto. And, in September, he was one of the organizers of the launch of an unprecedented survey of university students on their public transit needs. While municipalities are creatures of the provinces and the federal government is more hands-off, Siemiatycki believes Ottawa can play a major role in both funding and creating national programs "to benefit key urban agendas on transportation, public housing and child care." "These are areas that deeply affect cities, and where sustained funding is necessary to make these programs a reality, and really improve the quality of our cities," Siemiatycki said. "The federal government can play a unifying role at the national level." Committing large amounts of money is important but "what is most important about the funding package is the duration and stability of it," he said. Major infrastructure programs are ongoing initiatives that roll out over many years but, in the past, funding for municipalities has come in "short bursts or unpredictable bursts, with decisions being made ad hoc" for political reasons. The federal government can make a real contribution in the area of public transit by creating "common frameworks on how we evaluate transportation priorities," he said. [U Toronto News](#)



**Memorial Geography Department** to host the Arctic Alive! Giant floor map. The events will take place during Geography Awareness Week (Nov. 16-22) and will profile the research that the department, and wider MUN community, carries out in the Arctic. [MUN Geography News](#)

**Saint Mary's U geography Honours Student Jo Fitzgibbons** is conducting a survey evaluating what young people in the Halifax Regional Municipality think about their power to be heard on local urban planning issues. If you are young and from the HRM, [speak up](#).

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## Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Megan Bailey, Brett Favaro, Sarah P. Otto, Anthony Charles, Rodolphe Devillers, Anna Metaxas, Peter Tyedmers, Natalie C. Ban, Taylor Mason, Carie Hoover, Thomas J. Duck, Lucia Fanning, Chris Milley, Andrés M. Cisneros-Montemayor, Daniel Pauly, William W.L. Cheung, Sarika Cullis-Suzuki, Louise The and U. Rashid Sumaila. 2016. [Canada at a crossroad: The imperative for realigning ocean policy with ocean science](#). *Marine Policy* 63:53–60.

Patricia A. Collins and Ajay Agarwal. 2015. [Impacts of public transit improvements on ridership, and implications for physical activity, in a low density Canadian city](#). *Preventive Medicine Reports*. DOI:10.1016/j.pmedr.2015.10.001

Bethany Coulthard and Dan J. Smith. 2015. [A 477-year dendrohydrological assessment of drought severity for Tsable River, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada](#). *Hydrological Processes*. DOI:10.1002/hyp.10726

Adrienne Cunnings, Edward Johnson and Yvonne Martin. 2015. [Fluvial seed dispersal of riparian trees: transport and depositional processes](#). *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms*. DOI:10.1002/esp.3850

J.D. Ford, L. Berrang-Ford, R. Biesbroek, M. Araos, S.E. Austin and A. Lesnikowski. 2015. [Adaptation tracking for a post-2015 climate agreement](#). *Nature Climate Change* 5:967–969.

Taeyoung Hwang, Victoria U. Ndolo, Mangani Katundu, Blessings Nyirenda, Rachel Bezner-Kerr, Susan Arntfield and Trust Beta. 2015. [Provitamin A potential of landrace orange maize variety \(\*Zea mays\* L.\) grown in different geographical locations of central Malawi](#). *Food Chemistry*. DOI:10.1016/j.foodchem.2015.10.067

P.D. Morse and Steve A. Wolf. 2015. [Geological and meteorological controls on icing \(aufeis\) dynamics \(1985 to 2014\) in subarctic Canada](#). *Journal of Geophysical Research*. *Earth Surface* 120:1670–1686.

Cheryl McKenna Neuman and OttO Bédard. 2105. [A wind tunnel study of flow structure adjustment on deformable sand beds containing a surface-mounted obstacle](#). *Journal of Geophysical Research*. *Earth Surface* 120:824–1840.

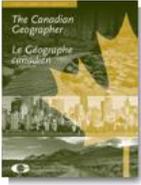
Lenore Newman, Lisa Jordan Powell and Hannah Wittman. 2015. [Landscapes of food production in agrirurbia: Farmland protection and local food movements in British Columbia](#). *Journal of Rural Studies* 39:99–110.

Tor H. Oiamo, Isaac N. Luginaah and Jamie Baxter. 2015. [Cumulative effects of noise and odour annoyances on environmental and health related quality of life](#). *Social Science & Medicine*. DOI:10.1016/j.socscimed.2015.10.043

Rebecca C. Rooney, Derek T. Robinson and Rich Petrone. 2015. [Megaproject reclamation and climate change](#). *Nature Climate Change* 5:963–966.

Amir Sadeghian, Dirk de Boer, Jeff Hudson, Howard Wheeler and Karl-Erich Lindenschmidt. 2015. [Lake Diefenbaker temperature model](#). *Journal of Great Lakes Research*. DOI:10.1016/j.jglr.2015.10.002

## New in [The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien](#)



Leith Deacon, Jamie Baxter and Michael Buzzelli. 2015. [Environmental justice: An exploratory snapshot through the lens of Canada's mainstream news media](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12223

Nicole Laliberté, John Paul Catungal, Heather Castleden, Arn Keeling, Bernard Momer and Catherine Nash. 2015. [Teaching the geographies of Canada: Reflections on pedagogy, curriculum, and the politics of teaching and learning](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12236

Greg Oulahan. 2015. [The production of unequal vulnerability to flood hazards: A conceptual framework for hazards research in Canada's cities](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12232

Tarmo K. Remmel. 2015. [ShrinkShape2: A FOSS toolbox for computing rotation-invariant shape spectra for characterizing and comparing polygons](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12222

Tayyab I. Shah, Brenna Bath and Stephan Milosavljevic. 2015. [Comparing geographical distribution of community-based physiotherapists and family physicians across Saskatchewan](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/cag.12224

Allison M. Williams, Peter Kitchen, James Randall, Nazeem Muhajarine, Bruce Newbold, Melissa Gallina and Kathi Wilson. 2015. [Immigrants' perceptions of quality of life in three second- or third-tier Canadian cities](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12221

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### Other “Geographical” News

**Toronto’s geography of inequity:** Between 1980 and 2010, income inequality among Toronto neighbourhoods increased by 96 per cent, and the number of low-income neighbourhoods increased as well: in 1980, low-income neighbourhoods made up 28 per cent of the city’s neighbourhoods, but by 2010, half of Toronto was low-income. That is a staggering percentage that should have everyone worried. [Toronto Star](#)

**Ottawa Mayor to communism memorial backers: 'This project should be put on hold':** It’s “highly unlikely” the Memorial to the Victims of Communism will ever be built on the proposed site near the Supreme Court of Canada now that the federal Liberals have swept to power. The mayor says he noted there is virtually no public support for the site in question, and that those expressing concerns have ranged from Supreme Court Chief Justice to members of Parliament and city councillors to renowned architects and community activists. [Ottawa Citizen](#)

**The editor is deceased: Fake science journals hit new low:** Academic fraud has reached a new level of deceit as a “predatory” journal that prints low-quality research for cash has stolen the identities of a dead doctor and the head of a Canadian science funding agency. Sir Richard Doll was an eminent British epidemiologist who was among the first to realize that smoking causes lung cancer. He died in 2005, aged 92. Now his photo has popped up with an altered surname — Turner — on the list of people who supposedly edit a shady academic journal. It’s no slip. The entire editorial board appears to be fake, though most of the other stolen identities at least belong to the living. [Ottawa Citizen](#)

**Not every professor’s remark is ‘academic’:** Academic freedom is best understood as the freedom of a professor to pursue intellectual inquiry and advance knowledge and scholarship. Last year, the University of Saskatchewan tied itself in knots by dismissing Professor Robert Buckingham after he publicly dissented in his role as a university administrator. That was fair enough, but people on both sides mixed it up with his teaching role, and some wrongly invoked academic freedom. [Globe and Mail](#)

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### Some not so “Geographical” News



### Whose Mother would this monstrous monument be?

With the change in government, it is time to reassess the outsized Mother Canada statue, a privately promoted expression of monumentality proposed for an evocative coastline site in Cape Breton Highlands National Park. This gigantic tribute to Canada’s war dead, whose style and scale would do Stalin proud, has proved to be a disheartening exercise in disunity – largely because the overseers of Parks Canada severely limited public input into the highly flawed proposal’s design and purpose. While the eight-storey monolith enjoys local support from those who hope it will create jobs and draw tourists, it remains an ugly and unfitting memorial. History needs to be honoured by something better than a monumental mistake. [Globe and Mail](#)

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