



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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U Victoria's Chris Darimont comments on why 'Pack it out' plan for grizzly hunts doesn't work:

Trophy hunting of grizzly bears is opposed by 90 per cent of British Columbians, including scientists, environmentalists, First Nations and most hunters. Although the provincial government has steadfastly defended the hunt, a new policy is being proposed as a potential solution, one that has the backing of trophy hunters. It smells fishier than a grizzly's breath in the fall. Oak Bay-Gordon Head MLA Andrew Weaver's private member's bill would require hunters to "pack out" the meat of killed grizzlies. Grizzly bears are one of the few so-called big-game animals in B.C. for which no such requirements exist. Depending on which argument is tabled, this new policy could somehow eliminate the "trophy" element from the hunt or reduce grizzly hunting. We disagree with both of these claims. "This bill would eliminate the trophy hunt," its proponent and sponsor has publicly and repeatedly asserted. No matter how forcefully stated, however, the logic remains incoherent. The hope is that the policy change could — poof! — turn the achievement-focused slaughter of a grizzly into a socially palatable "food hunt." Most people support hunting for food. But most will not believe this far-fetched argument. Why? Because forcing a hunter to pack out grizzly meat does not change the driving motivation, which is to produce a trophy with which hunters can boast to others. While grizzly meat might be consumed by the odd hunter, we should not expect a Martha Stewart recipe soon. [Victoria Times Colonist](#)

McMaster U's Richard Harris and Jim Dunn, along with U Toronto's Sarah Wakefield show report income inequality is taking root in Hamilton: There's no question the tide is rising in Hamilton. There are signs of prosperity creeping across the city and it's not a mirage. But there's something else going on that's worrisome. Hamilton is a city that's becoming more and more polarized between the rich and the poor. Canada's coefficient is about 0.32 — and it's been rising steadily, as it has been across most developed nations as wealth becomes more and more concentrated in fewer and fewer hands. The same is true in Hamilton, as shown in a research paper titled "[A City on the Cusp: Neighbourhood Change in Hamilton Since 1970](#)" by McMaster University professors Richard Harris and Jim Dunn, along with Sarah Wakefield of the University of Toronto. In 1980, the Hamilton census metropolitan area, which includes Burlington and Grimsby, had the lowest Gini coefficient — in other words, the most equal income distribution — of Canada's 12 largest metro areas. In the span of the next 20 years, Hamilton's income inequality grew at the fastest rate of the country's 12 largest metro areas. Hamilton went from the most equal spot in Canada in 1980 to the fourth-most unequal by 2000. At the neighbourhood level, the differences within Hamilton are staggering. [The Hamilton Spectator](#)

Canada's First Science Minister is health geographer Kirsty Duncan: Canada's new prime minister Justin Trudeau has created the post of Minister of Science. Kirsty Duncan, a medical geographer at the University of Toronto in Canada, will be the first to hold the job. Duncan, who contributed to the 2001 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, has also written a book about her expedition to Norway to determine the cause of the 1918 Spanish flu epidemic. Her appointment marks a change from the government of former prime minister Stephen Harper. His administration placed oversight of science in the hands of a junior minister of state in the Industry Canada department. "Harper collapsed the purview of science into the purview of industry, and we've seen a dramatic decline of pure science and public interest research as a result," says Carol Linnitt, an environmental policy analyst. Scientists and science groups say that they are excited by Duncan's appointment but want to know more about the Minister of Science's responsibilities. "A real minister! And someone with a PhD!" says Marc Saner, former director of the Institute for Science, Society and Policy at the University of Ottawa. "From the point of view of image, it's great. How this works in practice, I don't know." [Nature](#) | [National Geographic](#)

U Victoria Masters graduate Michael Branion-Calles mapping his own path forward: A lifelong love of maps led Michael Branion-Calles to the master's degree he receives this month in geography. But his path was not straightforward—it started in English. "I began my undergrad degree at UVic in English," says Branion-Calles, "but once I took an elective geography class I quickly changed my degree path." He says his appreciation for maps goes back to his childhood and as a kid he always liked maps—an affection that eventually pointed him to the spatial pattern analysis and research (SPAR) lab in the geography department. "I really enjoyed the intro geographic information system course and applying practical skills to solve problems was a lot of fun," says Branion-Calles. It was so much fun that he finished his undergrad degree in geography and jumped right into grad studies with geography professor, [Trisalyn Nelson](#), a spatial pattern analysis expert. During his master's thesis research Branion-Calles applied these skills as he worked with the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) on a project involving radon, a carcinogenic and radioactive gas. Radon is odorless, tasteless and found naturally in the environment—produced by the decay of uranium found in soil, rock, water. Branion-Calles developed a novel method of mapping indoor radon risks by creating a model for the entire province of BC. Since radon can travel in the open atmosphere, high concentrations can accumulate in homes with longterm exposure—causing lung cancer, and an increased risk especially for those who smoke. Despite loving UVic and Victoria, Branion-Calles has moved to the mainland to pursue a PhD at SFU in Health Sciences. Among other research areas, he will be working on modelling cycling safety in Vancouver in partnership with [UVic BikeMaps.org](#). [UVic – The Ring](#)

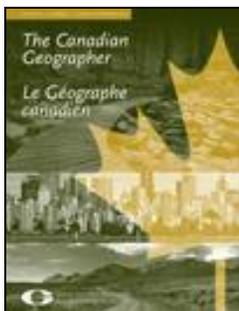
U Regina's Dave Sauchyn that Canada's climate change reputation can't get worse: Environmental experts believe there's a sense of urgency attached to the upcoming climate change convention in Paris. David Sauchyn, geography professor and researcher at Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative at the University of Regina, believes Canada is in a better position than before to improve its track record as a nation willing to work on combatting global warming. Sauchyn attended the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP) in Cancun in 2011 on behalf of the Mexican government. "A lot of the delegates told me that I was brave to actually be there because Canada had such a bad reputation when it came to climate change. And, of course, I wasn't representing the government or Canada," Sauchyn said. "Our reputation couldn't be any worse than it has been," Sauchyn said. "We're optimistic as to the role Canada can play in Paris and going forward." He believes the sense of urgency comes as a result of the Paris conference being the 21st COP and there has yet to be a legally binding agreement to address emission levels for greenhouse gases, of which Canada is among the world's top emitters. [Regina Leader Post](#)

Wilfrid Laurier U's Margaret Walton leads report on international students in Ontario: The Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario just released a report on international students in Ontario that was written by a Research team from Wilfrid Laurier University and the International Migration Research Centre that included students and faculty from Laurier's Geography and Environmental Studies department. The research was led by Margaret Walton-Roberts, a stake holder brief can be found [here](#). **Keegan Williams**, PhD student in GES, also wrote a [policy brief](#) based on the report which was awarded one of the top prizes in the 2015 Ontario Graduate Policy Research Challenge.

U British Columbia's Siobhán McPhee's Geographical Exploration: It's probably safe to assume that [Siobhán McPhee's](#) first international move – to Africa at age three – primed her for her current role as professor in the Geography department and Vantage College. Vantage College – which supports English-language learners through their first year at UBC and welcomed its inaugural class last year – presented a number of opportunities. Having been an international student herself, Siobhán had a head start in understanding the unique and complex needs of the new cohort. “Being a brand new initiative, Vantage is like a living learning lab,” says Siobhán. “It has given me the opportunity to explore new ways of teaching and learning.” One such example is her unique approach to field trips, which she developed last year. For a recent class on urban change, instead of trying to take 89 students on a tour of the Downtown Eastside, Siobhán created her own, guided tour using a voice recorder and Google Maps, for students to complete in their own time. [UBC Geography](#)

U Western PhD candidate Paul van der Werf's waste audit work: Department of Geography PhD Candidate Paul van der Werf was featured in a CTV news story ([watch video here](#)) in Simcoe County about waste composition analysis. Paul's company, 2cg, undertakes extensive waste composition measurement for municipalities and companies who use this data for waste management planning purposes. Paul is also using these waste audits to collect detailed information on food waste, which he is using in support of his PhD dissertation research "Quantifying Food Waste Generation and the Development of Food Waste Reduction Interventions" under the supervision of Professor Jason Gilliland. [Western Geography](#)

New in [The Canadian Geographer](#)



Colin Robertson, Robert McLeman and Haydn Lawrence. 2015. [Winters too warm to skate? Citizen-science reported variability in availability of outdoor skating in Canada](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/cag.12225



Saint Mary's U's Hugh Millward and Cristian Suteanu received a [Destination Halifax Ambassador Award](#) for their efforts to secure Halifax as the host destination for the 9th International Symposium on Digital Earth. [Saint Mary's Geography and Environmental Studies](#)

Memorial U's Ratana Chuenpagdee is a finalist for a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Impact Award in recognition of her ground-breaking work on [small-scale fisheries](#). Dr. Chuenpagdee is a professor of geography in Memorial's Faculty of Arts and the Canada Research Chair in Natural Resource Sustainability and Community Development. [Memorial Geography](#)

Geography Program at the University of Northern British Columbia [@UNBCGeography](#) has announced that the 58th Annual Meeting of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers ([WD-CAG](#)) will be held March 11-12, 2016 at UNBC's Prince George Campus. A call for abstracts, and information about conference registration, accommodations, field trips and the banquet will be released in the coming weeks.

U British Columbia's Dan Moore awarded the [Meritorious Achievement Award](#) by the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC (APEGBC). [UBC Geography](#)

Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers (WDCAG) now has a Twitter feed - [@WDGeog](#). Be sure to follow WDCAG events and notices at: <https://twitter.com/WDGeog>

U Ottawa's Denis Lacelle in the Department of Geography will be joining a team of international scientists to Lake Untersee, Antarctica, in November-December 2015. [uOttawa Geography](#)

McMaster U's Corinne Schuster-Wallace is leading an international team that's planning a sanitation system for Uganda that would turn human excrement and by-products from fish farming into biofuel. [CBC | Hamilton](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Ofer Amram, Nadine Schuurman, Natalie L. Yanchar, Ian Pike, Michael Friger and Donald Griesdale. 2015. [Use of geographic information systems to assess the error associated with the use of place of residence in injury research](#). Injury Epidemiology. DOI: 10.1186/s40621-015-0059-y

Peter Ashmore. 2015. [Towards a sociogeomorphology of rivers](#). Geomorphology 251:149–156.

Thomas Buffin-Bélanger, Pascale M. Biron, Marie Larocque, Sylvio Demers, Taylor Olsen, Guénolé Choné, Marie-Audray Ouellet, Claude-André Cloutier, Claude Desjarlais and Joanna Eyquem. [Freedom space for rivers: An economically viable river management concept in a changing climate](#). Geomorphology 251:137–148.

- K. Gajewski. 2015. [Impact of Holocene climate variability on Arctic vegetation](#). Global and Planetary Change 133:272–287.
- Kevin M. Gorey, Sindu M. Kanjeekal, Frances C. Wright, Caroline Hamm, Isaac N. Luginaah, Emma Bartfay, Guangyong Zou, Eric J. Holowaty and Nancy L. Richter. [Colon cancer care and survival: income and insurance are more predictive in the USA, community primary care physician supply more so in Canada](#). International Journal for Equity in Health 14:109. Doi:10.1186/s12939-015-0246-z
- F. Hugue, M. Lapointe, B. Eaton and A. Lepoutre. 2015. [Satellite-based remote sensing of running water habitats at large riverscape scales: Tools to analyze habitat heterogeneity for river ecosystem management](#). Geomorphology. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.geomorph.2015.10.025>
- Bhupesh Khadka, Tariq M. Munir and Maria Strack. 2015. [Effect of environmental factors on production and bioavailability of dissolved organic carbon from substrates available in a constructed and reference fens in the Athabasca oil sands development region](#). Ecological Engineering 84:596–606.
- Christopher J. Lemieux, Sean T. Doherty, Paul F. J. Eagles, Joyce Gould, Glen T. Hvenegaard, Elizabeth (Lisa) Nisbet and Mark W. Groulx. 3025. [Healthy Outside-Healthy Inside: the human health & well-being benefits of Alberta's protected areas - towards a benefits-based management agenda](#). Canadian Council on Ecological Areas (CCEA). Occasional Paper No. 20. CCEA Secretariat, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.
- Jed A. Long, Stephen L. Webb, Trisalyn A. Nelson and Kenneth L. Gee. 2015. [Mapping areas of spatial-temporal overlap from wildlife tracking data](#). Movement Ecology. DOI:10.1186/s40462-015-0064-3
- D. MacKinnon, C.J. Lemieux, K. Beazley, S. Woodley, R. Helie, J. Perron, J. Elliott, C. Haas, J. Langlois, H. Lazaruk, T. Beechey and P. Gray. 2015. [Canada and Aichi Biodiversity Target 11: understanding 'other effective area-based conservation measures' in the context of the broader target](#). Biodiversity and Conservation. DOI: 10.1007/s10531-015-1018-1
- Jesse L. Morris, Colin J. Courtney Mustaphi, Vachel A. Carter, Jennifer Watt, Kelly Derr, Michael F.J. Pisaric, R. Scott Anderson and Andrea R. Brunelle. 2015. [Do bark beetle remains in lake sediments correspond to severe outbreaks? A review of published and ongoing research](#). Quaternary International 387:72–86.
- Kristin J. Painter, Cherie J. Westbrook, Britt D. Hall, Nelson J. O'Driscoll, and Timothy D. Jardin. 2015. [Effects of in-channel beaver impoundments on mercury bioaccumulation in Rocky Mountain stream food webs](#). Ecosphere 6:art194. DOI: 10.1890/ES15-00167.1
- Marcie Snyder, Kathi Wilson and Jason Whitford. 2015. [Examining the urban aboriginal policy gap: Impacts on service delivery for mobile aboriginal peoples in Winnipeg, Canada](#). Aboriginal Policy Studies 5:3-27.
- Eric Vaz. 2016. [The future of landscapes and habitats: The regional science contribution to the understanding of geographical space](#). Habitat International 51:70–78.
- David Murakami Wood. 2105. [The in\(ter\)visible subjects of security and the \(im\)possibility of a 'public'](#). Dialogues in Human Geography 5:296-300.
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Other “Geographical” News

Kristi Miller, muzzled fisheries scientist, felt like a second-class citizen: A federal edict that prevented government scientists from talking publicly about their work turned them into "second-class citizens", said Kristi Miller, a scientist with Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Miller said she was excited at news the newly elected federal government had lifted the muzzle from its researchers. [CBC New | British Columbia](#)

Next steps in Peel watershed land use planning decidedly murky: The dust has settled following this week's ruling from the Yukon Court of Appeal but it's not clear what the landscape ahead will actually look like. The court found that the Yukon government had not honoured its treaty obligations to the land use planning process, as set out in the final land claims agreements. It also found that the Yukon government has the final authority over what happens on Crown land but — and it's a big but — the government can't act with impunity in the land use planning process. The court ordered the government back to the drawing board: a long way back, to the point when it received the final recommendations from the independent land use planning commission. The appeal court admonished the government to keep the "honour of the Crown" firmly in mind as the planning resumes, but what will happen next is decidedly murky. [CBC News](#)

Northwest's next big earthquake: Source mapped: The Cascadia Initiative deployed 70 seabed seismometers at 120 sites covering the entire Juan de Fuca plate to record mantle movement relative to the plate. Team members have confirmed what geophysicists expected, but one surprise is that a small appendage called the Gorda Plate moves independently of the Juan de Fuca, apparently too light to influence the mantle flow 100 miles down. [ScienceDaily](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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