



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Mount Allison U's Leslie Kern earns Fulbright Visiting Research Chair: The visiting research chair award brings Canadian scholars to the U.S. to engage in scholarship that they can then bring back to Canada to create an exchange of ideas on shared issues, concerns, and challenges. Kern has also presented guest lectures and public lectures at both Kennesaw State and at the University of Illinois in Chicago. Her research looks at two neighbourhoods in Chicago that have experienced environmental cleanup of polluted industrial sites. "The question that I'm interested in is when a neighbourhood gets cleaned up, does this spark gentrification in terms of new investment or new residents, as the perception of an industrial site changes to a greener, more attractive location?" she says. "I'm looking at how community groups in these neighbourhoods have organized for environmental justice in terms of getting these locations cleaned up, but also how are they working to make sure the redevelopment serves their needs and not just outsiders, or the city's larger economic needs." Kern came across these locations in Chicago when researching in her regular location of Toronto, where she looks at environmental gentrification. The coal-fired plants, which have existed for many years, have been cleaned up, but there has not yet been a plan for redevelopment. "It is a critical moment to look at these locations to understand if there are ways in which communities can make sure their voices get heard at the table." She says the time to 'be a local' in her research location has been the most valuable part of the experience. [Sackville Tribune-Post](#)

U Victoria's David Chuenyan Lai on why high-end seniors homes proving popular with Chinese-Canadians: Traditionally, Chinese culture emphasizes the elderly staying in the same household as their adult children. Multiple generations living under the same roof is often seen as the ultimate symbol of the Confucianist ideal of filial piety. But David Chuenyan Lai, professor emeritus of geography and an adjunct professor of Asian studies at the University of Victoria, says that stereotype is outdated. "That's the wrong concept," said Lai, who has long proposed the development of "economically integrated" communities where multiple generations live, eat and shop close to one another, instead of everyone living under the same roof. "Many Chinese families are more or less integrated into Canadian society. Some stay together in one house because of cost ... but it depends not on tradition, but rather incomes and resources." Rising demand for high-end seniors housing among Chinese-Canadians and Americans suggests shows (Chinese seniors) may be breaking a new barrier in the lifestyle they are choosing. [The Vancouver Sun](#)

U British Columbia's Dan Hiebert on how B.C.'s ethnic diversity raises political questions: Has B.C. become a province of two solitudes? That is the implication of research showing that Metro Vancouver has become one of the most ethnically diverse cities on the planet, while the rest of B.C. remains relatively homogeneous. Some of the ethnic imbalances between B.C.'s two regions are remarkable. Almost one in five residents of Metro Vancouver are ethnic Chinese, for instance. In the rest of B.C., that ratio drops to just one in 77. And while one in 20 residents of Metro Vancouver have Filipino origins, outside the city Filipinos make up only one in 143 residents. UBC geographer Dan Hiebert says there are not only cultural implications to B.C. dividing into one big city set off from everywhere else, there are also political ramifications. It's often hard, Hiebert said, for Canada's ethnically diverse metropolises, such as Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal, to gain the attention of Ottawa or provincial capitals on issues to do with affordable housing, English-as-a-second-language, higher education or transit expansion. [The Vancouver Sun](#)

U Ottawa's Eric Crighton is promoting awareness on environmental health through the EduTOX Video Challenge, and wants to get your students involved. The EduTOX Video Challenge is a national, bilingual video contest that aims to give young people a platform to promote awareness and action on environmental health – as well as a chance to be nationally recognized for their leadership. This challenge calls on youth, aged 14 to 22, to make compelling, short videos on toxicants in our environment, their potential health effects, and individual or societal level actions we can take to avoid them. Participants with the best videos will be awarded generous prizes such as scholarships and electronics, and will have their videos showcased on our partners' websites. The EduTOX Video Challenge is being conducted in collaboration with some of Canada's most well-known and respected health, environmental and educational organizations, including the David Suzuki Foundation, Pollution Probe, the Sandbox Project, Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and Environment, the University of Ontario Institute of Technology, with funding from Health Canada and Yellow Pages. Have a look at our website for more information (<http://sandboxproject.ca/eduTOX#!/>), or email Eric and his team at info@edutox.ca Please encourage your students to take this challenge and help make Canada's environment a healthier place for all.



Memorial U's Trevor Bell is the lead investigator of the [SmartICE project](#) in the Inuit-controlled region of Nunatsiavut in the north of Labrador, which will see a new system combining traditional ice knowledge with the latest technology in satellite tracking and ice sensing equipment. [Memorial Geography](#)

Passing of a former U Saskatchewan graduate student Brenda Solsten-Will. Brenda Solsten graduated with a MSc degree in Geography in 1998. Her thesis is titled "The Use of a GIS to Assess Terrain Sensitivity to Disturbance, Auyuittuq National Park Reserve, Arctic Canada". Her supervisor was Dr. Alec Aitken and her committee members were Drs. Dirk de Boer and Lawrence Martz. [Saskatchewan Geography](#)

Brandon U welcomed new faculty members, **Rachel Herron** (Health Geography) and **Jamie Spinney** (term replacement for Physical Geography and Geomatics) to the Department of Geography this fall term. [Brandon Geography](#)

Thompson Rivers U student success stories from **Steven Lee** and **Jen Casoro**. Steven is currently in a project management role where he constantly pulls from the skills and knowledge he obtained throughout his university career. Jen works in the field of social and community development and credits her geography degree with enabling her to be an active listener, a connector of ideas and thought, and a collaborator for multiple disciplines, all grounded by strong project management practices and critical thinking skills. [Thompson Rivers Geography](#)

The **CAG Geographic Education Study Group** is among the [founding members](#) of GeoAlliance Canada, a new umbrella organization that will provide leadership to fuse together the energy and resources of existing geospatial business, non-profit, education and government organizations. GeoAlliance Canada will create a neutral platform for members of the geo community to network and collaborate on projects of mutual interest. [GeoAlliance Canada](#)

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Marielle Fontaine. 2016. [Ground ice content and geochemistry of active layer and permafrost in northwestern Arctic Canada](#). MSc thesis. Department of Geography, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Mark Andrachuk and Derek Armitage. 2015. [Understanding social-ecological change and transformation through community perceptions of system identity](#). Ecology and Society 20:26.

Michael S. Becker and Wayne H. Pollard. 2015. [Sixty-year legacy of human impacts on a high Arctic ecosystem](#). Journal of Applied Ecology. DOI: 10.1111/1365-2664.12603

Guido Cervone, Elena Sava, Qunying Huang, Emily Schnebele, Jeff Harrison and Nigel Waters. 2016. [Using Twitter for tasking remote-sensing data collection and damage assessment: 2013 Boulder flood case study](#). International Journal of Remote Sensing 37:100-124.

S.L. Davidson, L.G. MacKenzie and B.C. Eaton. 2015. [Large wood transport and jam formation in a series of flume experiments](#). Water Resources Research. DOI:10.1002/2015WR017446

Christopher G. Fletcher, Lindsay Matthews, Jean Andrey and Adam Saunders. 2015. [Projected changes in mid-21st century extreme maximum pavement temperature in Canada](#). Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology DOI: 10.1175/JAMC-D-15-0232.1

J.-S. Landry, D.T. Price, N. Ramankutty, L. Parrott and H.D. Matthews. 2015. [Implementation of a Marauding Insect Module \(MIM, version 1.0\) in the Integrated Biosphere Simulator \(IBIS, version 2.6b4\) Dynamic Vegetation–Land Surface Model](#). Geoscience Development Model Discussion 8:10365-10409.

J.S. Kargel, G.J. Leonard, D.H. Shugar et al. 2015. [Geomorphic and geologic controls of geohazards induced by Nepal's 2015 Gorkha earthquake](#). Science. DOI: 10.1126/science.aac8353

Georgia Miskell, Jennifer Salmond, Maryam Alavi-Shoshtari, Mark Bart, Bruce Ainslie, Stuart Grange, Ian Mckendry, Geoff Henshaw and David Edward Williams. 2015. [Data verification tools for minimizing management costs of dense air-quality monitoring networks](#). Environmental Science and Technology.

Colin Robertson and Rob Feick. 2015. [Bumps and bruises in the digital skins of cities: unevenly distributed user-generated content across US urban areas](#). Cartography and Geographic Information Science. DOI:10.1080/15230406.2015.1088801

Anton Sizo, Bram F. Noble and Scott Bell. 2015. [Strategic environmental assessment framework for landscape-based, temporal analysis of wetland change in urban environments](#). Environmental Management.

Josie Wittmer and Kate Parizeau. 2016. [Informal recyclers' geographies of surviving neoliberal urbanism in Vancouver, BC](#). Applied Geography 66:92–99.

Other “Geographical” News

Number of severe algal blooms in Lake Erie to double, forecast says: By the latter half of this century, toxic algal blooms like the one that cut off drinking water to the city of Toledo in 2014 will no longer be the exception, but the norm, a study suggests. The findings hold implications for hundreds of coastal regions around the world where nutrient runoff and climate change intersect to make toxic algae a problem. [ScienceDaily](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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