



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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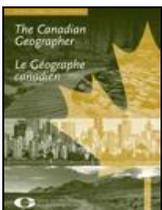
Memorial U's Trevor Bell participating in Labrador project combining local knowledge with new technology to make ice travel safer: In Nain, Labrador, a new project is combining the ice expertise of Inuit hunters with sophisticated technology to take some of the guesswork out of ice travel in changing times. It's also giving young people an opportunity to get involved in science. For Inuit, the sea ice is a highway, a vital link to hunting areas where they obtain much of their country food. In Nunatsiavut, the Inuit region of Labrador, people also travel over ice to collect firewood for heating their homes. They use routes their ancestors established, and which have stood the test of time — until recently. The warmer arctic winters of recent years have brought some unpleasant surprises for Inuit, including unsafe ice in unexpected places. "The ice is thinner, it forms later and it breaks up earlier than before," says Trevor Bell, professor of geography at Memorial University of Newfoundland. "Ice travel can be more dangerous because local knowledge of traditional routes — based on past climatic conditions — is less reliable." The wake-up call for Nunatsiavut came in 2009, says Bell. "That winter it rained in February (normal temperatures are around -30 C), and there was slush on the ice. Snowmobiles were getting stuck and people were falling through. Hunters couldn't travel and so families ran short of food." As if that weren't enough, open water and fog prevented aircraft from landing and bringing in fresh supplies. Unable to get firewood, some people burnt furniture and their front steps to try to keep their houses warm. Many in Nain saw that winter as a warning — a window into the future — and it spurred them into action. They teamed up with Memorial University, the Nunatsiavut Government and other organizations to look for ways to adapt. "Our goal," says Bell, "was to find a simple and affordable method that the community could use to augment local knowledge, to identify in advance where the thin ice is so people don't have to travel on it to find out." The result is SmartICE, a pilot project developing the technology to do exactly that. [Canadian Geographic](#)

Simon Fraser U's Kirsten Zickfeld and U British Columbia's Simon Donner collaborate on a report about whether Canada's climate targets align with the Paris agreement: Donner and Zickfeld explore whether Canada can reconcile its climate policy targets with the temperature limits in the Paris Climate Agreement. The answer depends on how the world divides up the carbon that could be burned while keeping the planet within the temperature limits. From the [report](#): "If you divide the pie based on each country's present-day emissions, wealthy high-emitting Canada gets a generous helping for a country of its size (1.6-1.8% of the remaining carbon budget). If you divide the pie based on population, Canada gets a more equitable but much smaller slice (0.5% of the remaining budget)." The 1.5°C limit is "at best unrealistic, at worst politically impossible." The current Canadian target of reducing emissions by 30% below 2005 levels by 2030 could be consistent with the 2°C limit, provided emissions continue to rapidly decline after 2030. [National Observer](#)

U Ottawa's Jackie Dawson selected for membership to the prestigious Global Young Academy (GYA): The GYA is a group of outstanding young scientists and scholars from around the world providing a rallying point to lead international, interdisciplinary, and intergenerational dialogue with the goal to make global decision making evidence-based and inclusive. Dawson was accepted into the GYA for her ground-breaking and interdisciplinary research on the human and policy dimensions of environmental change across the Arctic. Her work incorporates physical, social, and policy science to uniquely answer some of the region's most pressing questions as climate change has caused the Arctic to become more accessible to tourism trade, transport, and resource development— bringing with it challenges related to safety and security as well as environmental and socio-cultural impacts. Her applied approach to research has her working directly with government, Inuit organizations, northern communities, environmental NGO's and private sector organizations to collectively establish innovative and effective policy responses to climate, environmental, and socio-economic change across the region. Her partnerships ensure her research is directly relevant to stakeholders and that study findings are taken up within policy and planning exercises. Dawson will serve a 5-year term as a member of the GYA. She is a tier II Canada Research Chair and was also recently the recipient of an Ontario Early Research Award (2015) and elected as a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographic Society (2015).

U Toronto's Ron Buliung looks at declining trend of kids walking to school: The percentage of students getting a drive to school has doubled across Greater Toronto — even tripled in some areas — with Durham and Peel showing the largest increases, a new study has found. From 1986 to 2011, the number of 11- to 17-year-olds who walked or rode a bike to school declined by 12.9 per cent, while the percentage who rode in a car jumped from 14 to 33 per cent, according to the study, based on the Transportation Tomorrow Survey that looks at regional travel patterns every five years. The study, by University of Toronto Professor Ron Buliung, was released by the SmartCommute branch of regional transportation agency Metrolinx. “It's consistent with some of the national trends but we definitely see it as a serious problem,” said Metrolinx director of planning and policy Chris Burke. “Once a pattern of behaviour starts in the younger years it continues and gets worse,” he added. “It's the same as studies that have found children that are more active remain relatively active.” The findings come amid ongoing concerns about the declining activity levels of Canadian children, as well as the region's choking congestion. [Toronto Star](#) | [Globe and Mail](#)

New in [The Canadian Geographer](#)



Lawrence D. Berg, Edward H. Huijbens and Henrik Gutzon Larsen. 2016. [Producing anxiety in the neoliberal university](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12261

Andrei Rosu and Dongmei Chen. 2016. [An improved approach for geocoding Canadian postal code-based data in health-related studies](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12261



Carleton Geographers Scott Mitchell and Ruth Waldick to host session about extreme weather at Adaptation Canada 2016, April 12, 2016. This national symposium will provide opportunities for industry, government, non-governmental organizations, practitioners, scientific experts, decision-makers and others to network, discuss, and learn about the latest products and tools in the field of climate change impacts and adaptation from across Canada. [Carleton Newsroom](#)

Simon Fraser U's Eugene McCann gives keynote at City Debates 2016, Beirut: In early March, McCann gave the opening address of the American University of Beirut's "City Debates 2016: Policy Mobilities, International Aid, and Urban Planning: Rethinking Regionalism and Refugees Policies" conference. His talk was on "*Crisis, policy-making, and 'crisis urbanism': A policy mobilities perspective.*" [IUF](#)

U Saskatchewan PhD candidate Kabir Rasouli selected to attend to the upcoming 2016 DCMIP Workshop and Summer School on "Dynamical Core Model Intercomparison Project 2016" scheduled June 6th - 17th, 2016 at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) Center Green (CG) campus.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Najat Bhiry, Dominique Marguerie and Susan Lofthouse. 2016. [Paleoenvironmental reconstruction and timeline of a Dorset-Thule settlement at Quaqtaq \(Nunavik, Canada\)](#). Arctic, Antarctic, and Alpine Research.

Jeremy R. Brammer, Nicolas D. Brunet, A. Cole Burton, Alain Cuerrier, Finn Danielsen, Kanwal Dewan, Thora Martina Herrmann, Micha Jackson, Rod Kennett, Guillaume Larocque, Monica Mulrennan, Arun Kumar Pratihast, Marie Saint-Arnaud, Colin Scott and Murray M. Humphries. 2016. [The role of digital data entry in participatory environmental monitoring](#). Conservation Biology. DOI:10.1111/cobi.12727

Bhupesh Khadka, Tariq M. Munir and Maria Strack. 2016. [Dissolved organic carbon in a constructed and natural fens in the Athabasca oil sands region, Alberta, Canada](#). Science of The Total Environment 557–558:579–589.

Simon Springer and Philippe Le Billon. 2016. [Violence and space: An introduction to the geographies of violence](#). Political Geography. DOI:10.1016/j.polgeo.2016.03.003

Other "Geographical" News

Nunavut Impact Review Board says no to proposed Kahuna diamond project: The Nunavut Impact Review Board has said no to a diamond exploration project as proposed, recommending that Dunnedin Ventures Inc.'s Kahuna Diamond Project be "modified or abandoned." In its screening decision NIRB says the company's exploration and sampling project near Chesterfield Inlet "as currently designed is likely to cause significant public concern, and is likely to result in significant adverse ecosystemic and socioeconomic impacts." [CBCNorth](#)

Massive Ontario landslide washed away a cottage and wiped out 10 hectares of land overnight:

The floodwaters and debris have receded in Horton Township near Renfrew, but Steve Osipenko hasn't forgotten the frightening speed of last week's massive landslide, and the flooding it caused. Ten hectares of land slid into the Bonnechere River downstream from Renfrew on the night of March 28 to 29, clogging the fast-running river with trees and clay. With the river blocked by trees and debris, water backed up behind the blockage. It rose more than seven metres near the landslide, and about five to six metres upstream in Renfrew. There are definitely ancient, large landslides that are mapped in that area," said Greg Brooks, a landslide expert with Natural Resources Canada. "This is another one. "You can't stop them. When they're going to happen, they're going to happen." He said the land includes a lot of Leda clay — the former bottom of the ancient Champlain Sea, which is prone to collapsing suddenly, especially when it is sodden. Early spring, while the ground is thawing, is prime time for these landslides. [National Post](#)

Half of World Natural Heritage Sites threatened by industry: Almost half of all natural World Heritage Sites, including the Great Barrier Reef and Machu Picchu, are threatened by industrial activities such as mining, oil exploration and illegal logging. The 114 threatened sites, virtually half the total listed by UNESCO, provide food, water, shelter and medicine to over 11 million people — more than the population of Portugal, according to a WWF-commissioned report. [DNews](#)

1200 years of water balance data challenge climate models: Water availability in the Northern Hemisphere has seen much larger changes during the past twelve centuries than during twentieth century global warming, a new study reports. The team concludes that climate models overestimate wet and dry extremes as temperatures increased during the twentieth century. The new results can help to improve the ability of climate models to predict future hydroclimate changes. [ScienceDaily](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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