



# GeogNews

**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers  
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**Simon Fraser U's Valorie Crooks looks at the dark side of medical tourism:** Some Canadians have deeply regretted their decision to go abroad for medical care. Among them is Emily Reed, 46, who travelled to Tijuana, Mexico, for weight-loss surgery last year. Reed said she has lost more than half her body weight in the last 14 months and now fears for her health as her weight continues to decline. She blames the botched surgery for her health issues. "I often say medical tourism is really good for some people and, unfortunately, really bad for others," said Valorie Crooks, a Vancouver-based expert on the growing trend of international travel for medical care. "And there's often no way to predict from the outset if someone's going to have a wholly positive or wholly negative experience." More than 50,000 Canadian medical tourists make such trips every year, according to a report last year from the Fraser Institute. The same report suggested British Columbians are more likely than anyone else in the country to be medical tourists. Common reasons for going outside Canada for medical treatment include long waiting lists at home and high costs for treatments not covered by MSP. [The Province](#)

**U Victoria's David Atkinson helping northern residents prepare for the impact of Arctic storms:** For most of us, a change in the weather is just an inconvenience—the need to pack an umbrella or throw on a raincoat. But for those in the North, a change in the weather can mean life or death. Arctic storms can pummel ships, trap hunters out on the land and destroy shoreline infrastructure that connects isolated communities with the outside world. UVic geographer David Atkinson wants to help northern residents—in Canada and Alaska—prepare for the impact of Arctic storms and mitigate their effects. His research on Arctic coastal storm surges and analysis of the weather and oceanographic data involving them is unconventional because it relies on the residents themselves to establish the research priorities. "Usually researchers come in with an agenda," says Atkinson. "Our work is guided and refined by the comments and observations of the residents in the area under study. We acknowledge the efforts and expertise of people who understand and monitor the environment in a way that we can't. Essentially, they tell us what to analyze." In Canada, the federal government's coastal Arctic weather stations are able to monitor only a few weather parameters at their airport locations, and forecasters use the information to produce national weather analysis charts. While these charts are useful, Atkinson and other researchers know they don't reveal the entire story of how the complex weather systems of the North play out at the local level. That requires the expertise of the people on the ground. That's why he's headed north again this spring—to Tuktoyaktuk, Sachs Harbour and Ulukhaktok in the Northwest Territories—to interview residents about weather impacts. [UVic knowLEDGE](#)

**U Waterloo graduate Kharam S. Khalsa's 'Trees Can Fly' Initiative:** Kharam S. Khalsa believes he has found a way to balance frequent travelling and sustainability. Kharam is an entrepreneur, visionary and environmental activist. He graduated from the University of Waterloo's Faculty of Environment in 2010, majoring in Geography and Environmental Studies, with a Minor in Peace and Conflict Studies, a Specialization in Environment and Development and an Option in Tourism. Khalsa has worked in aviation since graduating and his mission is to transform the aviation industry into one that is sustainable and environmentally friendly. Kharam's most recent project had its soft launch in November of 2015. The company is called Trees Can Fly and it is a travel website that customers can use to book flights, hotels, and rental cars. What makes this travel resource stand out from others, however, is that for every flight, hotel or rental car [booked through their website](#), Trees Can Fly will plant 10 trees to help offset the carbon emitted from travelling. Trees Can Fly is partnered with Trees.org, an initiative of Trees for the Future, a reputable non-profit organization that supports farmers and the agroforestry industry in sub-Saharan Africa. It is through this organization that Trees Can Fly is planting the trees that they donate. Together, they have already planted 3000 trees since the company's soft launch. [UWaterloo Environment](#)

**U Western Ontario's Jeff Hopkins among inaugural winners of Social Science Dean's Excellence Award for Teaching:** The Faculty of Social Science Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence was developed to recognize the examples of outstanding pedagogy, demonstrated through the active, critical role of the instructor who fosters critical thinking and inspires students to engage in the quest for knowledge as a value and a skill. [Jeff Hopkins](#) of the Department of Geography was recognized for his demonstrated and longstanding commitment to excellence in teaching, particularly in the areas of academic counselling, tutoring and mentoring of students. Before receiving this award, Hopkins was previously recognized by the University Student Council with the Western Teaching Honour Roll seven times.

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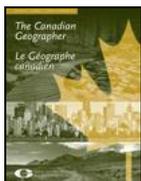


**U Saskatchewan's Kabir Rasouli** has been awarded an NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowships (PDF) for two years.

**U Victoria's Dan Smith** has dire glacier predictions for Vancouver Island. [CTV News](#)

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New in [The Canadian Geographer](#)



Laurence Simard-Gagnon. 2016. [Everyone is fed, bathed, asleep, and I have made it through another day: Problematizing accommodation, resilience, and care in the neoliberal academy.](#) The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12274

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## Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Rukhsana Ahmed and Luisa Veronis. 2016. [Multicultural media use and immigrant settlement: a comparative study of four communities in Ottawa, Canada](#). Journal of International Migration and Integration. DOI:10.1007/s12134-016-0488-7

Logan M. Ashall, Ryan P. Mulligan, Danika van Proosdij and Emma Poirier. 2016. [Application and validation of a three-dimensional hydrodynamic model of a macrotidal salt marsh](#). Coastal Engineering 114:35–46.

Jeffrey R. Brubacher, Herbert Chan, Shannon Erdelyi, Nadine Schuurman and Ofer Amram. 2016. [The association between regional environmental factors and road trauma rates: A geospatial analysis of 10 years of road traffic crashes in British Columbia, Canada](#). PLOS|One.

Jamey Essex. 2016. [International development institutions and the challenges of urbanisation: The case of Jakarta](#). Development in Practice 26:346-359. DOI:10.1080/09614524.2016.1150966.

Adrian Scott Hickin, Olav B. Lian and Victor M. Levson. 2016. [Coalescence of late Wisconsinan Cordilleran and Laurentide ice sheets east of the Rocky Mountain Foothills in the Dawson Creek region, northeast British Columbia, Canada](#). Quaternary Research. DOI:10.1016/j.yqres.2016.02.005

Ben Jestico, Trisalyn Nelson and Meghan Winters. 2016. [Mapping ridership using crowdsourced cycling data](#). Journal of Transport Geography 52:90–97.

Peter A. Johnson. 2016. [Models of direct editing of government spatial data: challenges and constraints to the acceptance of contributed data](#). Cartography and Geographic Information Science. DOI:10.1080/15230406.2016.1176536

Jean-Philippe Martin and Daniel Germain. 2016. [Late-glacial and Holocene evolution as a driver of diversity and complexity of the northeastern North American alpine landscapes: a synthesis](#). Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences. DOI:10.1139/cjes-2016-0004

Ashley C.A. Rudy, Scott F. Lamoureux, Paul Treitz and Karin Y. van Ewijk. 2016. [Transferability of regional permafrost disturbance susceptibility modelling using generalized linear and generalized additive models](#). Geomorphology 264:95–108.

Jean-Sébastien Landry and H. Damon Matthews. 2016. [Non-deforestation fire vs. fossil fuel combustion: the source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions affects the global carbon cycle and climate responses](#). Biogeosciences 13:2137–2149.

Alexis N. Moyer, R. Dan Moore and Michele N. Koppes. 2016. [Streamflow response to the rapid retreat of a lake-calving glacier](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI:10.1002/hyp.10890

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## Recent Theses and Dissertations

Jalene Anderson. 2016. Housing first, affordable housing, and ending homelessness in Alberta. MA thesis. Human Geography, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta. Supervisor: Damian Collins.

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## Other “Geographical” News

**Don't choose a master's before taking these four steps:** In the final term of university, with stress levels peaking, caffeine consumption reaching an all time high and family-members asking “what's next?”, you also need to decide whether you want to embark on a master's or not. And, despite the relative stress, many will apply to stay at uni after the summer in a range of postgraduate courses. I made that decision when I graduated in 2015, opting for a year-long MA degree instead of joining the ranks of unemployed graduates. A lot of the time, I'm glad I did, but I'll also admit there are parts I wish I'd given more thought. Here's what you need to consider before applying. [The Guardian](#)

**NSERC announces review of Discovery Grant funding allocation:** NSERC is launching a review of how new Discovery research funds are allocated among the various natural sciences and engineering disciplines in Canada. An international Advisory Committee will provide advice and recommendations to NSERC on the principles to be used in guiding allocation decisions, with a focus on how to allocate any future increases in discovery program investments. The Committee will review indicators of research quality and research capacity, including areas of current or emerging strength and opportunity, in the context of research trends both in Canada and globally. [NSERC Media](#)

**Academics ‘must adapt to their audience’ for impactful research:** Different researchers have tried to secure impact through methods such as high-level policy seminars or mentoring programmes. It is widely believed to be “a good thing to make researchers work side-by-side with decision-makers”. But is there any evidence for these and many other methods? To find out, the researchers “identified 150 possible interventions from the research literature” (including such little-known techniques as “redteaming” and “dogfooding”) and carried out “systematic reviews” of the studies devoted to them. They soon came across a number of surprises. They could find very little evidence for the much-touted value of “coproduction” or “co-operative inquiry” designed to “bring researchers closer to their audiences”. Far more robustly supported were the advantages of researchers learning to think like marketers and home in on what their audience really wants. [Times Higher Education](#)

**British Columbia sinks into morass of aquifer contamination:** Three professional hydrologists have told the provincial government that it should immediately impose a full ban on spreading liquid manure above a contaminated aquifer that provides drinking water to several hundred householders in the Okanagan Valley. [Vancouver Sun](#)

**Have you heard the Hum? BC man investigates strange sound heard around the world:** Glen MacPherson first heard the Hum in 2012. He was in Sechelt when he detected a low-level drone that he thought was coming from nearby float planes. Over time, he started to realize the Hum had nothing to do with planes and tried to figure out what exactly was going on. So, he did what most people do when they have an unanswered question: he Googled it. He found out he wasn't alone. MacPherson discovered an online community of people who say they have been hearing a mysterious drone that has been dubbed The World Hum. [ReportCA.net](#)

**Urban farms bring a bit of green to vacant lots in Toronto:** When you walk or drive past a vacant lot in the city, your first thought is probably to wonder how quickly it will become a condo or other highrise. But two Toronto women want to fill those lots with temporary vegetable and herb farms to supply fresh, organic food to community groups such as shelters and health centres. Rachel Kimel, co-founder of The Bowery Project, seeks out developers who own the vacant lots to get permission to set up the farms. Produce is grown in milk crates, which means they can be moved easily if or when plans for the land change. [CBCNews | Toronto](#)

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## Some Not So “Geographical” News



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