



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers  
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**U Victoria's Chris Darimont collaborates to reveal that low salmon runs lead to increased human-bear conflicts in British Columbia:** A [study](#) co-authored by Paul Paquet and Chris Darimont of the University of Victoria Department of Geography —with researchers at SFU, the Raincoast Conservation Foundation, and the Hakai Institute—has found that the number of conflicts between bears and humans is higher during years when there are fewer salmon returns in the area. After analyzing 35 years of data on “conflict-killed” grizzlies in British Columbia— grizzlies killed due to a perceived threat to human safety— the researchers found the levels of conflict vary substantially from year to year. The biggest factor determining yearly conflict patterns? The natural availability of food each year, they found. During years when there was a 50-per-cent decrease in salmon availability, the researchers saw an average increase of 20 per cent in the number of conflicts involving the salmon-eating population of grizzlies. [Metro News](#)

**INRS - Centre Urbanisation Culture Société's Damaris Rose argues that affordable housing is the scaffolding refugees need to rebuild and feel settled:** For newcomers to Canada, obtaining decent and affordable housing in a safe and welcoming neighbourhood is an anchor point for a new start. In addition to fulfilling the elemental need for shelter, it provides a base from which to seek out other key resources such as health-care providers, schools, language training and job counselling. It is also the scaffolding for rebuilding a sense of feeling settled, being “at home.” In the medium term, more social housing would provide a sustainable housing solution for some of the high needs refugees who may not be able to achieve economic autonomy through the labour market. They, like many other families on social housing waiting lists, would greatly benefit from a change in federal government policy to reinvest, after a hiatus of more than 20 years, in the construction of low-rent social housing for families — including large and multi-generational families. Another policy measure, reinstating and increasing the federal funding for rehabilitation of the older, private rental housing stock — which has been drastically curtailed since 2010 — could greatly improve the living conditions of government-assisted and privately sponsored refugees. Countless studies of the labour market trajectories of immigrant newcomers lead us to expect that many of the refugees will spend much of their first decade or so in Canada in precarious and low-paid work. While it is above all a matter of social justice, providing refugees with affordable and decent housing also may give them the necessary breathing room to take time for retraining, language skills development and other strategies so they can move faster out of the ranks of the working poor. [Policy Options](#)

**U Victoria's Simon Springer presents a case for rejecting inhumane and deadly evil of neoliberalism:** Simon Springer in the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria has cogently argued the case for utterly rejecting the inhumane and deadly evil of neoliberalism in an article provocatively entitled "F--- neoliberalism." I have politely edited Dr. Springer's indignant use of the F word] (see Simon Springer, "F--- neoliberalism", Academia). Neoliberalism is killing Humanity (mass murder) and the Biosphere (speciescide, ecocide and terracide) and we clearly must dump, can, halt, stop, reject etc. neoliberalism - perhaps "f--- neoliberalism" is the best the English language can do to express the required resolute commitment to the extirpation of deadly neoliberalism. Dr. Simon Springer's article has the succinct abstract: "Yep, f--- it. Neoliberalism sucks. We don't need it", and commences "F--- neoliberalism. Springer's article concludes: "Ultimately neoliberalism is a particularly foul idea that comes with a whole host of vulgar outcomes and crass assumptions. In response, it deserves to be met with equally offensive language and action. Our community, our cooperation, and our care for one another are all loathsome to neoliberalism. It hates that which we celebrate. So when we say "f--- neoliberalism" let it mean more than just words, let it be an enactment of our commitment to each other. Say it loud, say it with me, and say it to anyone who will listen, but most of all mean it as a clarion call to action and as the embodiment of our prefigurative power to change the f---ing world. F--- Neoliberalism". Springer is correct from both a semantic and scientific perspective. Greed-driven neoliberalism is currently the dominant economic philosophy globally but has driven Humanity to the edge – a catastrophic 2 degree Centigrade temperature rise is now essentially inevitable, 17 million people die avoidably from deprivation each year, 7 million people die annually from air pollution and as many as 10 billion people will die this century if man-made climate change is not requisitely addressed. We can only save Humanity and the Biosphere through implacable zero tolerance for deadly neoliberalism and remorseless neoliberals. [MWC News](#)

**U Victoria's Geography SPAR Lab's BikeMaps charts course across the country:** With a newly awarded \$1 million grant, the future is bright for commuter cycling app BikeMaps.org. The website and smartphone app was launched by a group of University of Victoria geographers two years ago and is based out of the Spatial Pattern Analysis and Research Lab. It provides a global map for cycling collisions, near misses, road hazards and thefts. BikeMaps' key feature is the identification of hotspots on bike routes. If a cyclist is involved in a near miss, for example, they place a 'pin' on the map and include a brief description of the incident. The app has gained a solid following in Victoria and is hoping to build its user-ship into Edmonton and Ottawa first, and then Montreal, Halifax and Vancouver. The the BikeMaps crew has officially joined forces with Ottawa-based Traffic Injury and Research Foundation in sharing a \$929,739 grant from the Public Health Agency of Canada. The grant is good for three years and will work to promote BikeMaps as a 'tool for safe and accessible bicycling and healthy living promotion.' "The grant will allow us to do outreach in more Canadian cities, and to get data points in more cities," said BikeMaps executive director Karen Laberee. "TIRF already has a presence in Ottawa and Edmonton and will help promote BikeMaps there." The data that BikeMaps provides is appealing to TIRF and municipalities alike because of the near misses, which help verify whether an area is unsafe. [Saanich News](#)

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## Recent Theses and Dissertations

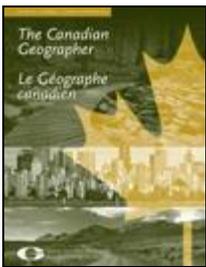
Brodie T. Hague. 2016. [The use of remote sensing to map and monitor coastal dune vegetation change at Southampton, Ontario, Canada](#). M. Sustainability. Faculty of Social Sciences, Brock University St. Catharines, Ontario. Supervisor: Marilyne Jollineau.

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**CAG Annual Reports** – In preparation for the upcoming [Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Geographers](#) in Halifax, Nova Scotia, May 30 – June 5, 2016. Copies of the CAG Annual reports are now obtainable in PDF format. Click click on your choice of report below. Note that hard copies will not be provided at the AGM except for the Agenda and the Financial Statement as prepared by the CAG auditor KPMG.

- [Agenda](#)
  - [President's Annual Report](#)
  - [Financial Statement](#)
  - [The Canadian Geographer Report](#)
  - [Minutes AGM 2015](#)
  - [Student Councillor Report](#)
  - [CFES Report](#)
  - IGU Annual Performance Report
  - [Atlantic Division](#)
  - [Ontario Division](#)
  - [Quebec Division](#)
  - [Prairie Division](#)
  - [Western Division](#)
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#### New in [The Canadian Geographer](#)



Cheryl Teelucksingh, Blake Poland, Chris Buse and Rebecca Hasdell. 2016. [Environmental justice in the environmental non-governmental organization landscape of Toronto \(Canada\)](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12278

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**Western Geography Professor and Human Environments Analysis Lab (HEAL) Director Jason Gilliland** was at Parliament Hill in Ottawa on May 9 to speak to federal MPs, Senators, and numerous representatives of various NGOs at an event entitled “[Pediatric Research and Child Health in Canada](#)”. Dr Gilliland was invited to speak to Parliamentarians about his research on the built environment and children’s health, with particular emphasis on how the environment matters for healthy active living and childhood obesity. The event was organized by [Research Canada](#), with the support of Parliamentary Health Research Caucus Chair, MP John Oliver, Past Chair Senator Kelvin K. Ogilvie, and NDP Representative Carol Hughes.

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## Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Kyle A. Artelle, Sean C. Anderson, John D. Reynolds, Andrew B. Cooper, Paul C. Paquet and Chris T. Darimont. 2016. [Ecology of conflict: marine food supply affects human-wildlife interactions on land](#). Nature Scientific Reports 6:25936. DOI:10.1038/srep25936

Elijah Bisung and Susan J. Elliott. 2016. [‘Everyone is exhausted and frustrated’: exploring psychosocial impacts of the lack of access to safe water and adequate sanitation in Usoma, Kenya](#). Journal of Sanitation and Hygiene for Development. DOI:10.2166/washdev.2016.122

C. Hackett, C. Furgal, D. Angnatok, T. Sheldon, S. Karpik, D. Baikie, C. Pamak and T. Bell. 2016. [Going off, growing strong: Building resilience of Indigenous youth](#). Canadian Journal of Community Mental Health. DOI:10.7870/cjcmh-2016-028

Alice J. Hovorka. 2016. [Animal geographies I. Globalizing and decolonizing](#). Progress in Human Geography. DOI:10.1177/0309132516646291

Eli Paddle and Jason Gilliland. 2016. [Orange Is the new green: Exploring the restorative capacity of seasonal foliage in schoolyard trees](#). International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health 13:497. DOI:doi:10.3390/ijerph13050497

Rosie Simms, Leila Harris, Nadia Joe and Karen Bakker. 2016. [Navigating the tensions in collaborative watershed governance: Water governance and Indigenous communities in British Columbia, Canada](#). Geoforum 73:6–16.

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## Other “Geographical” News

**Black bears scavenging empty Fort McMurray:** The list of challenges facing Fort McMurray evacuees when they return home is a long one. Now it looks like they will have to add a four-legged bother to that list: black bears. For weeks now, thousands of houses have sat empty soaking in the heat. Food in the homes have been rotting, sending off strong aromas to the creatures who just had their habitat destroyed by the wildfire and the bears have been making their way to the city. "The absence of people may actually embolden these bears to be in places they haven't been before and possibly habituate to garbage more readily than in previous times". "Now, they've had free rein and may actually have become entitled." [CBCNews|Edmonton](#)

**Do Trees Sleep?** The idea of an oak or a spruce tree taking a snooze seems a bit bizarre. But for the first time, scientists have observed physical changes in trees that correspond in some ways to sleep in humans and animals, or at least to our day-night rhythm. Researchers used laser scanners to scan two trees and scrutinize a cloud of millions of different points across their surface area. From that, they learned that trees actually move overnight, a phenomena that scientists dating back to Charles Darwin have observed in smaller plants. "Our results show that the whole tree droops during night which can be seen as position change in leaves and branches", Eetu Puttonen, a researcher from the Finnish Geospatial Research Institute, explained in a press release. "The changes are not too large, only up to 10 centimeters for trees with a height of about 5 meters, but they were systematic and well within the accuracy of our instruments." [DNews](#)

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**Academics bemoan the cost of journals but, argues a publisher, the industry funds innovation and development in myriad ways:** Publishers serve researchers by undertaking a wide variety of tasks that the community needs but cannot complete on its own. The fact that they are able to do these things means that those scientists, their institutions, funders, policymakers and other benefactors can focus on their work. Publishers invest heavily in scholarly communication, for example, including the technology-intensive digital platforms upon which authors, reviewers, editors and readers conduct their work. Publishers offer value to research institutions by providing data-driven metrics and analytics that inform their research management activities. This investment allows for rigorous peer review, thereby enabling scrutiny of the collective scientific record and helping to ensure that the business-related aspects of publishing are effectively managed. It also pays for the development of technology of that ensures articles are discoverable, shareable and able to be accessed in underserved regions. If the accusation is that publishers are charging too much, then let's at least ensure that the debate includes proper acknowledgement of the investment academic publishers make in their sector. [Higher Education Network](#)

**Forest-loving moose learning to thrive on Saskatchewan farmland:** While populations of moose have been declining in much of their North American range, research from the University of Saskatchewan shows how these icons of the northern boreal forest are finding success by moving south into farmers' fields. "Thirty years ago, seeing moose in the farmland of Saskatchewan would have been very rare but over time they have expanded to these new areas," said Ryan Brook. "It's unique to see populations well-established in areas with less than one percent forest cover that are dominated by crop production." [ScienceDaily](#)

**Canada wildfires: Burn scar seen in NASA photo:** A newly released satellite photograph details the impact of the ongoing wildfires around Fort McMurray in Alberta. Acquired by the [Operational Land Imager](#) on the [Landsat 8](#) satellite, the false color image shows clouds and smoke as white, active fires as red, and burned areas as brown. At the time the image was taken, fires had burned 930 square miles of land, and 17 active fires were still raging. [DNews](#)

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### Some Not So “Geographical” News



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