

# GeogNews



UVic Geography 477 Field Camp, Bridge Glacier, BC Coast Mountains

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**York U's Jennifer Korosi and Brock U's Michael Pisaric find habitat flooding caused by climate change is threatening vulnerable wood bison:** New research from a team of scientists shows climate change is causing extensive lake expansion and landscape flooding in the southern Northwest Territories, affecting the protected habitat of the Mackenzie wood bison herd. "The Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary, on the north shore of Great Slave Lake, is home to an important population of wood bison. Observations over the last decade by local land users and wildlife managers suggested the lakes of the region have expanded, flooding large areas of sedge meadows. We set out to assess these changes to better understand their impact on bison populations," says co-lead author Dr. Jennifer Korosi, an assistant professor in the Department of Geography at York University. The team measured the area covered by water in a 10,000 km<sup>2</sup> area using satellite images. Their findings show that the lake surface nearly doubled over that period. The expansion of water on the landscape is disproportionately flooding essential bison habitat by inundating sedge meadows that were prevalent in previously dry lake basins. "Surveys of the bison population at the same time indicate that, as the lakes have expanded, the Mackenzie herd appears to have abandoned the former core of its range within the protected area of the sanctuary in search of forage" explains co-author Dr. Michael Pisaric, professor of geography at Brock University. Bison movements, caused by habitat changes, have led to a higher risk of collisions between bison and vehicles on the highway in recent years. [Brock U News](#) | [Globe and Mail](#)

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**York U's Steven Tufts** recently spoke with CBC Radio Metro Morning about the growing concern around wages and unstable jobs at Pearson International Airport. Listen at [Metro Morning](#).

**Western U masters student Michael Allen** awarded Excellent Oral Presentation Student Award at American Meteorological Society conference. His conference presentation, "A climatology of urban surface heat islands derived from hemispherical radiometric surface temperatures", can be found [here](#)

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**U Calgary hosting 54th Annual Geography Department Conference** on March 3rd. This year's theme is Diverse Geographies, emphasizing the united and divisive nature of the discipline. Harvey Locke, a leader in international wilderness conservation, will be presenting the keynote address, followed by a series of graduate student and faculty presentations and posters showcasing department research. A panel of experts will conclude the day with a discussion on the evolution of geography as a discipline, and what this means for the future of geographers. Read the [technical program](#) for more information. [U Calgary Geography](#)

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### New in [The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien](#)



Glen M. MacDonald. 2017. [The new nature: Limitations and prospects of the paleoenvironmental tradition in biogeography in the 21st century](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12356

Yvonne E. Martin and E.A. Johnson. 2017. [Towards a strategy for Critical Zone science in Canada](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12358

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### Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

A.E. Cassidy, A. Christen and G.H.R. Henry. 2017. [Impacts of active retrogressive thaw slumps on vegetation, soil, and net ecosystem exchange of carbon dioxide in the Canadian High Arctic](#). Arctic Science.

Geneva List and Oliver T. Coomes. 2017. [Natural hazards and risk in rice cultivation along the upper Amazon River](#). Natural Hazards. DOI:10.1007/s11069-017-2758-x

Nanfeng Liu, Paul Budkewitsch and Paul Treitz. 2017. [Examining spectral reflectance features related to Arctic percent vegetation cover: Implications for hyperspectral remote sensing of Arctic tundra](#). Remote Sensing of Environment 192:58–72.

Emilie Novaczek, Rodolphe Devillers, Evan Edinger and Luiz Mello. 2017. [High resolution habitat mapping to describe coastal denning habitat of a Canadian species at risk, Atlantic wolffish \(\*Anarhichas lupus\*\)](#). Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences. DOI:10.1139/cjfas-2016-0414

Xiaoying Ouyang, Dongmei Chen, Si-Bo Duan, Yonghui Lei, Youjun Dou and Guangcheng Hu. 2017. [Validation and analysis of long-term AATSR land surface temperature product in the Heihe River basin, China](#). Remote Sensing 9. DOI:10.3390/rs9020152

Valentina Savo, Cedar Morton and Dana Lepofsky. 2017. [Impacts of climate change for coastal fishers and implications for fisheries](#). Fish and Fisheries. DOI 10.1111/faf.12212

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## Other “Geographical” News

**In Vancouver, a climate program that's all about the neighbors:** For all the work that goes into building climate action plans, cities often run up against one problem: Many well-meaning residents are stuck in the same old habits, unsure of how to make meaningful change. In Vancouver, the solution is starting small. About two and a half years ago, some residents in the Riley Park neighborhood wanted to put the city's Greenest City Action Plan to work in their community. With support from [Evergreen](#) and a grant from the city, they created the [Green Bloc](#) initiative and set an ambitious goal: to decrease the carbon footprint of participating households by 25 percent. [The Atlantic](#)

**New scholarship for Arctic communities established at Carleton:** The Arctic Fishery Alliance (AFA), in partnership with Carleton University, has established a scholarship for students of the AFA's owner communities of Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, Qikiqtarjuaq and Resolute Bay. The Arctic Fishery Alliance Fund will be awarded to one student each year from one of the four communities, and cover the cost of tuition, accommodations, living expenses, travel to and from Ottawa, as well as all compulsory miscellaneous fees. [Carleton Newsroom](#)

**Inside the fight for admissions transparency at UBC:** In 2012 UBC became the largest Canadian university to screen all undergrad applicants using broad-based admissions, a holistic model that supplements grades with four to six short essay questions, gauging the applicant's life skills from problem-solving to leadership. Questions abounded. Who was reading the student profiles? How much was it costing the school? And how were the responses assessed? The rubric recently published by *The Ubysey* details five attributes sought in applicants that fuels the debate about broad-based admissions—and whether schools have the right to keep metrics hidden from students. Critics argue that broad-based admissions favour wealthier students who might have the money to volunteer internationally or hire a writing tutor. [Maclean's](#)

**'The little MOOC that could': Online UBC course promotes indigenous ways of knowing:** In classrooms across Canada, some children learn about colonialism for the first time by standing on dozens of blankets strewn across the floor. The interactive exercise has participants role-play as First Nations people who make first contact with European settlers in the 16th century. The blankets they stand on represent indigenous land and the different nations that existed before colonization. As the exercise plays out, so too does the history of Canada, and the blankets are folded up until few remain. The simple yet highly compelling exercise about genocide is one of a variety of teaching tools shared and discussed by participants in a massive open online course, or MOOC, on indigenous education by the University of British Columbia. Over 8,200 people from around the world, but largely from Canada, are currently registered for the free course. [UBC News](#)

**Canada's grasslands: 'most endangered, least protected ecosystems':** 150 years ago Saskatchewan used to have 190,000 square km of native grassland. Today there are roughly 33,000 square km — so 80 per cent of it's gone. For 80 years large swaths of the prairie grasslands — stretching across the southern parts of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba — have been managed by the federal government. It all started in the dirty '30s, in the midst of the Dust Bowl years when the government stepped in to reclaim land that had been badly eroded by drought. In 1935, Parliament created the Prairies Farm Rehabilitation Administration to build up the fragile grasslands through something called the Community Pastures Program. But in 2012, the ruling Conservative government decided to phase out the program and today most of the grasslands are no longer federally protected. [CBC Radio – The Current](#)

## Some Not So “Geographical” News



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