



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers  
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**Memorial U's Rodolphe Devillers among country's top marine conservation scientists demanding action on Canada's marine protected areas:** Some of the country's top marine conservation scientists are calling on Ottawa to live up to its own targets to protect Canada's coastlines from industrial activity such as commercial fishing and oil and gas development. Fifteen university scientists from St. John's to Victoria have written to Dominic LeBlanc, the minister of fisheries and oceans and Catherine McKenna, minister of environment and climate change asking for stiffer conservation measures in Canada's 12 marine conservation areas (MPAs) as well in as those being proposed in the future. Dr. Rodolphe Devillers, a professor of geography at Memorial University of Newfoundland, said Canada has signed onto international agreements that it falls short of upholding. "In Canada we have a lot of very weak regulations so we tolerate a lot of industrial activities ... mostly fishing and oil and gas activities," said Devillers. Legislation governing marine protected areas comes under the Oceans Act. Devillers said the drawback is that it does not define what a marine protected area is and because of that it does not meet international standards for MPAs. "What we're saying is that there is a difference in what Canada says it shall do and what it needs to do to meet these international agreements," said Devillers. He said a number of existing MPAs are being re-evaluated without any scientific input. Devillers argues that Ottawa should give marine protected areas the same status as national parks where activities that could harm the ecosystem are banned. [CBCNews | Newfoundland & Labrador](#)

**@UVicGeog graduate Aquila Flower building a digital atlas of the Pacific Northwest:** Aquila Flower teaches physical geography and Geographic Information Science at WWU. She received a PhD in geography from the University of Oregon and a MS in geography from the University of Victoria. Her research focuses primarily on the complex, interactive effects of climate variability, human land use patterns, and natural disturbances on forest ecosystems. Understanding processes and patterns that cross international borders is challenging due to a lack of data that covers both sides of the border. Dr. Flower is helping build the Atlas of Pacific Northwest, an online clearinghouse for cross-border datasets. Her first addition to the Atlas uses census records from Washington and British Columbia to allow for seamless analysis of demographic change across the US-Canada border. [CEDAR Western Washington University](#)

**McGill U's Drew Bush and Renee Sieber discuss how technology-based learning with a global climate model impacts students:** Each week, we discussed how technology-based learning with a global climate model (GCM) impacted students. Most mornings, Drew also rode the bus to John Abbott College. Over the course of the winter term in 2014, he collaborated with a Geology instructor there to teach 39 students how to conduct research with an actual GCM from the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Many of the students were shocked by their findings. They had been taught how to design appropriate modeling experiments, run simulations, post-process data, conduct visual analyses and interpret results. One student reported dismay at changes to ice cover at the poles. Others calculated an alarming estimate of global sea-level rise. More than a few realized that a favorite animal, tree or vintage could suffer with climatic changes. These findings were made despite the fact that few of our students had ever worked with computer models beyond "toy" models used to teach basic physics or those generated through statistical programs/Microsoft Excel. The implications of this work are clear. More students understood the complex science of climate change when exposed to actual research processes. More importantly, these students better understood scientific research on the topic, a key tool of researchers (the GCM) and how their own behaviors and social interactions can contribute to solutions. [Teaching for Learning @McGill University](#)

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### **Convocation 2017 at UNBC was a good day for UNBC Geography:**

UNBC Geography Chair Dr. **Catherine Nolin** nominated [Fredy Peccerelli](#), Executive Director of the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation (FAFG), for an Honorary Doctor of Laws at UNBC. The nomination was successful and on May 26th, Mr. Peccerelli participated in the afternoon Convocation in Prince George, BC. [Fredy is recognized for the dedication of his life to upholding human rights and dignity through the application of forensic sciences](#). Peccerelli is an internationally renowned and recognized Human Rights Defender and Forensic Anthropologist, and founding member of the Forensic Anthropology Foundation of Guatemala (FAFG). As the organization's Executive Director, he leads the development and implementation of a Multidisciplinary Human Identification System that applies victim investigation, forensic-archaeology, -anthropology, and -genetics to uncover the identity of victims of mass human rights abuses.

Catherine moderated a [special panel discussion](#) with Fredy, Dr. Antonia Mills, Tribal Chief Terry Teegee, and Erica Henderson on May 24th and hosted the Canadian premiere of the documentary film [Finding Oscar](#) [featuring Mr. Peccerelli and the work of the FAFG]. [Prince George Citizen](#)

Dr. [Alex Koiter](#) (PhD Natural Resources and Environmental Studies – Geography, 2017) received the Governor General's Gold Medal at Convocation 2017. The gold medal is awarded in the final year to the graduate student who has the highest overall academic standing in their graduate program. Supervisors: Drs. Ellen Petticrew (Geography) and Phil Owens (Environmental Science): <http://www.unbc.ca/releases/43374/unbc-celebrate-24th-convocation>

Dr. Zoë Meletis (Associate Professor, Geography) received the University-wide Excellence in Service Award recognizing her pioneering role in developing, with colleague Dr. Annie Booth, the highly successful [Inspiring Women Among Us](#).

UNBC Geography's Dr. **Brian Menounos** (CRC in Glacier Change) worked to secure the donation of amazing K.A. Colorado artwork for UNBC. Colorado is an international artist and sculptor who was on hand for Convocation as it was announced several of his works of art will be permanently displayed at the university. Colorado has spent the last two decades working in various climatic conditions throughout the world, using ice and snow as both a medium and a subject. See [@UNBC](#) | [Prince George Daily News](#)

BA Geography graduate **Mitchell Macfarlane** was awarded the Top BA Geography student award and will have his name forwarded to the Canadian Association of Geographers for the annual listing of top Geography students in the country.

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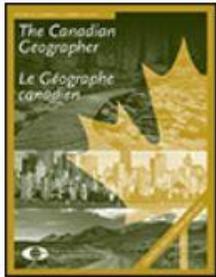


**U Waterloo's Claude Duguay and Merrin Macrae** receive Global Water Futures Funding to deliver new management approaches to enhance the resilience and adaptive capacity of Canada's water resources in the face of climate change. [U Waterloo Daily Bulletin](#)

**Western U's Chantelle Richmond**, an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography, was invited by Research Canada to participate in the Parliamentary Health Research Caucus on [Indigenous Health Research in Canada](#). This event was attended by a number of Members of Parliament including local MP Kate Young, Dr. Carolyn Bennett (Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs) and Dr. Jane Philpott (Minister of Health). The event covered a number of research themes such as; Child and Family Wellbeing, Environment-based Programs and Interventions, Mental Wellness, Chronic Disease among Indigenous Peoples and Communities and the Health System for Indigenous Peoples.

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#### New in [The Canadian Geographer](#)



Haoluan Wang and Feng Qiu. 2017. [Investigation of the dynamics of agricultural land at the urban fringe: A comparison of two peri-urban areas in Canada](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12389

**Abstract:** This study compares the urbanization patterns and dynamics of agricultural land in two peri-urban areas (Alberta Capital Region and Calgary Regional Partnership) in Canada. Hot spot analysis is conducted to identify the spatial clustering of agriculture-to-development conversion and areas at greatest risk. Pearson's correlation analysis is used to explore the association of urbanization and different agricultural land transitions. Key findings include: (1) disparities in the peri-urbanization patterns in the two study areas are associated with a mix of different geographic, economic, and policy influences; and (2) in general, distance from a major city is negatively correlated to agricultural land development and road density is negatively associated with agricultural land abandonment. Policy recommendations such as a call for infill development and regional buffer areas are discussed.

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## Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Michael Bakaic, Andrew Scott Medeiros, Jessica F. Peters and Brent B. Wolfe. 2017. [Hydrologic monitoring tools for freshwater municipal planning in the Arctic: the case of Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada](#). Environmental Science and Pollution Research. DOI:10.1007/s11356-017-9343-4

Daniel G. Cockayne and Lizzie Richardson. 2017. [Queering code/space: the co-production of socio-sexual codes and digital technologies](#). Gender, Place & Culture. doi.org/10.1080/0966369X.2017.1339672

Jill E. Harvey and Dan J. Smith. 2017. [Interannual climate variability drives regional fires in west central British Columbia, Canada](#). Journal of Geophysical Research – Biogeosciences. DOI:10.1002/2016JG003661

Marco A. Hernández-Henríquez, Aseem R. Sharma and Stephen J. Déry. 2017. [Variability and trends in runoff in the rivers of British Columbia's Coast and Insular Mountains](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI:10.1002/hyp.11257

Vanessa Lamb, Laura Schoenberger, Carl Middleton and Un Borin. 2017. [Gendered eviction, protest and recovery: a feminist political ecology engagement with land grabbing in rural Cambodia](#). The Journal of Peasant Studies. doi.org/10.1080/03066150.2017.1311868

Sarah MacVicar, Lea Berrang-Ford, Sherilee Harper, Yi Huang, Didacus Namanya Bambaiha and Seungmi Yang. 2017. [Whether weather matters: Evidence of association between in utero meteorological exposures and foetal growth among Indigenous and non-Indigenous mothers in rural Uganda](#). PLOS|One. doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0179010

Carrie Mott and Daniel Cockayne. 2017. [Citation matters: mobilizing the politics of citation toward a practice of 'conscientious engagement'](#). Gender, Place & Culture. doi.org/10.1080/0966369X.2017.1339022

Hannah Tait Neufeld, Chantelle A.M. Richmond and Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre. 2017. [Impacts of place and social spaces on traditional food systems in southwestern Ontario](#). International Journal of Indigenous Health 12:93. DOI:10.18357/ijih112201716903

Neil Nunn. 2017. [Emotional and relational approaches to masculine knowledge](#). Social & Cultural Geography 18:354–370.

Nilum Panesar, Yolande Pottie-Sherman and Rima Wilkes. 2017. [The Komagata through a media lens: racial, economic, and political threat in newspaper coverage of the 1914 Komagata Maru Affair](#). Canadian Ethnic Studies 49:85-101.

Olena Pavlyuk, Bram F. Noble, Jill A.E. Blakley and Jochen A.G. Jaeger, 2017. [Fragmentary provisions for uncertainty disclosure and consideration in EA legislation, regulations and guidelines and the need for improvement](#). Environmental Impact Assessment Review 66:14–23.

Jonathan Raikes and Gordon McBean. 2017. [Institutional response to disaster risk: the City of Vancouver and District of Maple Ridge, British Columbia, Canada](#). Regional Environmental Change. DOI:10.1007/s10113-017-1179-4

CindyAnn Rose-Redwood and Reuben Rose-Redwood. 2017. [‘It definitely felt very white’: race, gender, and the performative politics of assembly at the Women’s March in Victoria, British Columbia](https://doi.org/10.1080/0966369X.2017.1335290). Gender, Place & Culture. doi.org/10.1080/0966369X.2017.1335290

Pascale Roy-Leveillee and Christopher R. Burn. 2017. [Near-shore talik development beneath shallow water in expanding thermokarst lakes, Old Crow Flats, Yukon](https://doi.org/10.1002/2016JF004022). Journal of Geophysical Research – Earth Surface. DOI:10.1002/2016JF004022

Christopher Scarpone, Margaret G. Schmidt, Chuck E. Bulmer and Anders Knudby. 2017. [Semi-automated classification of exposed bedrock cover in British Columbia's Southern Mountains using a Random Forest approach](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geomorph.2017.05.014). Geomorphology 285:214–224.

Lori White, Koreen Millard, Sarah Banks, Murray Richardson, Jon Pasher and Jason Duffe. 2017. [Moving to the RADARSAT Constellation Mission: Comparing synthesized compact polarimetry and dual polarimetry data with fully polarimetric RADARSAT-2 data for image classification of peatlands](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rse.2017.05.014). Remote Sensing 9:573. DOI:10.3390/rs9060573

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## Other “Geographical” News

### **The GPS of its time: Surveyor James Cook remembered 250 years after mapping Newfoundland:**

A world renowned explorer who literally put Newfoundland and Labrador on the map is being recognized for his work 250 years later. James Cook surveyed most of the province from 1763-1767, charting areas unknown to the British at the time. "He spent 1763 at Saint-Pierre and Miquelon, the Strait of Belle Isle, returned in 1764 and finished that area," said Paul Wylezol, organizer of the James Cook 250 celebrations. "In 1765 and 1766 he charted the south coast and in 1767 he completed between the south coast and the Strait of Belle Isle." Cook was named the surveyor of Newfoundland and his maps were so good they are still used today. "His maps were really the first truly accurate maps, you could still navigate with these maps. Until you got into GPS really, that whole stream all comes from Cook," said George French, archivist at the Corner Brook Museum. [CBCNews | Newfoundland & Labrador](https://www.cbcnews.ca/story/canada/newfoundland-labrador/2017/07/17-cook-250-anniversary)

**Is Online Ed Missing the Mark?** As online education proliferates, is it effective for those students who are already at risk because they may not have been well prepared for higher education in the first place? According to a new study, students who are the least well prepared for traditional college also fare the worst in online courses. For top students, taking an online course didn’t definitively have a negative effect on a student’s grade point average. But for others -- especially lower-performing students -- taking online courses was associated with higher dropout rates and lower grades, both at the time the course was taken and in future semesters, when compared to students who took classes in person. [Inside Higher Ed](https://www.insidehighered.com/digital-learning/article/2017/07/17/online-education-effectiveness)

**Canada's climate leader no more: how B.C. fell from the top:** 2007 was supposed to be the green turning point in British Columbia. That year, B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a memorandum of understanding on climate change and pledged to lead the West Coast into a brave new green world. University of Victoria professor Tom Pedersen, the former executive director of the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, says he can pinpoint the date when B.C.'s climate change policy took an about-turn — July 1, 2013. "That was the day the carbon tax was frozen by ... Christy Clark," he explained. [CBCNews | British Columbia](https://www.cbcnews.ca/story/canada/british-columbia/2017/07/17-bc-climate-policy)

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## Some Not So “Geographical” News



[Crocodile sightings in British Columbia prompt calls to police](#)



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