



GeogNews

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U Alberta's Francois-Nicolas Robinne grades freshwater supply risk from wildfires in the Canadian prairies at top of list: The Canadian prairies top a newly developed index of places where wildfires could create freshwater supply risks. "We are a population depending on water coming from a fire-prone area," said Francois-Nicolas Robinne, a University of Alberta geographer. Larger and more frequent wildfires are one of the more commonly anticipated effects of climate change, as warmer weather dries forests out. Those fires have significant effects on freshwater. Burned-over areas can be prone to floods, mudslides and contamination. Those fires have significant effects on freshwater. Burned-over areas can be prone to floods, mudslides and contamination. All of those create problems for downstream users accustomed to reliable, predictable, relatively clean flows. They also have major impacts on plants and animals living in the watershed. Robinne said his index is the first to try to assess those risks on a global scale. Robinne combed available information from around the world detailing everything from local soil types to precipitation and weather patterns. He looked at topography, lightning strike patterns, runoff, human settlement, forest age, vegetation, wealth, environmental and human water needs, all crunched together and weighted. The result was a colour-shaded map that shows one of the areas at highest risk was the vast belt of forest and parkland that rims Canada's Great Plains and extends from Manitoba to Alberta. [Red Deer Advocate](#) | [CBC News Edmonton](#)

Simon Fraser U's Nick Blomely finds 'red zones' keep offenders trapped in criminal justice system: Unreasonable "red zones" keep offenders trapped in a life of crime, a new joint study out of Simon Fraser University suggests. The researchers said geographic restrictions imposed as part of bail or sentencing conditions, known as "red zones," are often nearly impossible for offenders to keep. "Red zones have been an issue... for at least the past decade or so, but they've gone below the radar," said SFU geography professor Nick Blomely, who wrote the study with teams at the University of Ottawa and the University of Montreal. "It's something that's very, very prevalent in a place like the Downtown Eastside." The SFU team talked to dozens of people in Metro Vancouver who had been assigned "red zones" during a bail or sentencing hearing and found in many cases, these zones included people's homes and heavily restricted their access to social services. While bail conditions may seem logical at first, they stray away from the actual legal reasoning behind bail in the first place. Bail, the study said, was meant to neither punish nor rehabilitate. The study recommended a more judicious approach to red zones that doesn't make abiding by them impossible and trap people into a revolving cycle within the justice system. [Surrey Now-Leader](#) | [CBC News British Columbia](#)

Ryerson U's Pamela Robinson and McGill U's Renee Sieber on Toronto Smart City Project:

Toronto is buzzing with Google's Sidewalk Labs' announcement of a \$50-million investment in a 12-acre waterfront site. With the goal of deploying its smart city technology, this public-private partnership between Waterfront Toronto and Sidewalk Labs, called Sidewalk Toronto, is the first of its kind and the development will be the largest smart-city district built in North America. Smart cities use digital sensors and mobile phone technology to gather urban data about everything from traffic congestion to the route preferences of individual cyclists. This data can then be used to inform policy and municipal operations decisions that can make cities safer and their governments more efficient and effective. Many communities in Canada have active smart city projects underway, from Lethbridge, Alta. to Montreal, Que. to Stratford Ont., but until the Sidewalk Toronto news broke, many Canadians may have been unaware of the degree to which our governments have adopted smart city technology. This Toronto project has important goals, including offering a "superior quality of life" and building an affordable housing development that is energy efficient with many transportation options. Waterfront Toronto and Sidewalk have high hopes for this proof-of-concept development. If they build it, others will come, learn, return home and do the same. If Sidewalk Toronto is ambitious about democracy, it could set the pace for a new kind of smart city planning process that not only delivers on the potential of the technology but also creates a new best-in-show standard for openness and transparency around data collection, analysis and use. With the world watching and learning, Waterfront Toronto and Sidewalk Labs could prove that their smart city is smart for all, not only some. [HuffPost](#) | [Torontoist](#)

U Saskatchewan's Bob Patrick says new fire halls part of the cost of Saskatoon's suburban sprawl:

By 2020, Saskatoon could have two new fire halls and two older ones could be decommissioned, but one expert says those won't be the last new stations the city will be forced to build if Saskatoon continues to grow outward. One University of Saskatchewan expert says having to build new fire stations to accommodate suburban growth is a costly reality. "It's part of the cost of outward growth and it's one of those costs that isn't initially really thought about when we're making decisions about how we are going to grow as a city," Bob Patrick said. The proposed new Fire Station No. 5 near the university campus is expected to cost more than \$8 million. The fire department says because it's decommissioning the Sutherland fire hall, there will be cost savings. Hackl says it'll mean less overlap of services and the two moves will mean better overall coverage for the city. A map provided by the city shows that the areas most under-served and with the worst response times for firefighters are all on the city's edge. Patrick says it's important to look at the cost of providing things like fire and police service as a reason not to continue to build outlying suburbs. "As we expand further and further outward that is one of those very, very expensive costs and in terms of fire protection, expensive for not just land values but human safety," Patrick said. If the city continues to grow, in order to keep up with national standards where response is required within four minutes 90 per cent of the time, Patrick says it's inevitable more new and expensive fire halls will have to be built. "This is one more reason for growth that would be inward focused — growing up and instead out. At some point we need to think about good development, not just outward growth," Patrick said. [CBCNews](#) | [Saskatoon](#)

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Kristin Rasmus. 2017. Seasonal movement of marine-derived nutrients in the surface bed sediment and floodplain hyporheic zone. MSc in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies, University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George, BC. Co-supervisors: Drs. Ellen Petticrew and John Rex. Master of Science (Biology) in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies.



U Northern British Columbia's Greg Halseth and the team at the Community Development Institute are making “a difference locally, but also has national and global impact on health, the environment, the economy and our communities” as they explore how resource-dependent rural communities and small towns in northern B.C. and around the world are adapting to globalization and changing economic conditions. [Prince George Citizen](#)

U Northern British Columbia's Sarah de Leeuw was a finalist for the 2017 Governor General's Literary Awards. Her book '*Where It Hurts*' was nominated in the Non-Fiction category. [CBC Books](#)

Queen's U student Alyssa Aiello participates in Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowship. Ms. Aiello's research on the media's portrayal of Indigenous leadership in renewable energy projects recently won the top poster award at the Ontario meeting of the Canadian Association of Geographers. [Queen's Gazette](#)

U Northern British Columbia's Greg Halseth recently interviewed about the decision by the City of Prince George to will survey several forestry sectors: primary and secondary manufacturers, fibre supply companies, and silviculture companies. The goal is to get a clear picture of the direct and indirect impacts of forestry, as well as to attract more manufacturing companies to Prince George. [CKPG News](#)

U Waterloo's Christine Dow appointed as Canada Research Chair NSERC New Tier 2 CRC in Glacier Hydrology and Ice Dynamics. Dow, an assistant professor in Geography and Environmental Management joined the department following a postdoctoral fellowship at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. [UWaterloo Environment](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Jutta Gutberlet, Sebastián Carenzo, Jaan-Henrik Kain and Adalberto Mantovani Martiniano de Azevedo. 2017. [Waste picker organizations and their contribution to the circular economy: two case studies from a Global South perspective](#). Resources 6:1-12. www.mdpi.com/2079-9276/6/4/52/pdf

Suzzane Huot and Luisa Veronis. 2017. [Examining the role of minority community spaces for enabling migrants' performance of intersectional identities through occupation](#). Journal of Occupational Science. DOI:10.1080/14427591.2017.1379427

Eva Kwoil, J.G. Venditti, R.W. Bradley and C. Winter. 2017. [Observations of coherent flow structures over sub-aqueous high- and low-angle dunes](#). Journal of Geophysical Research. Earth Surface. DOI:10.1002/2017JF004356

Deborah Leslie and Norma Rantisi. 2017. [Deskilling in cultural industries: Corporatization, standardization and the erosion of creativity at the Cirque du Soleil](#). Geoforum. doi/org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2017.09.011

Weeberb J. Requia, Matthew D. Adams, Altaf Arain, Stefania Papatheodorou, Petros Koutrakis and Moataz Mahmoud. 2017. [Global association of air pollution and cardiorespiratory diseases: a](#)

[systematic review, meta-analysis, and investigation of modifier variables](#). American Journal of Public Health.

Sarah Rotz 2017. [Drawing lines in the cornfield: an analysis of discourse and identity relations across agri-food networks](#). Agriculture and Human Values. doi.org/10.1007/s10460-017-9838-0

Luisa Veronis et Suzanne Huot. 2017. [Les espaces de rencontres : Les expériences d'intégration sociale et culturelle des immigrants et réfugiés francophones dans les communautés francophones en situation minoritaire](#). Ottawa: Immigration, réfugiés et citoyenneté Canada; London, ON : Voies vers la prospérité / Pathways to Prosperity. University of Western Ontario. 95 p.

Mark P. Wachowiak, Daniel F. Walters, John M. Kovacs, Renata Wachowiak-Smolíková, and April L. James. 2017. [Visual analytics and remote sensing imagery to support community-based research for precision agriculture in emerging areas](#). Computers and Electronics in Agriculture 143:149-164.

Hussein Wazneh, M. Altaf Arain and Paulin Coulibaly. 2017. [Historical Spatial and Temporal Climate Trends in Southern Ontario, Canada](#). Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology. doi/abs/10.1175/JAMC-D-16-0290.1

Other “Geographical” News

Agriculture misrepresented in Ontario elementary school geography textbook: A farmer and concerned parent took to social media to express concern over material found in his child’s geography homework. One caption from the unidentified textbook’s unit on patterns in human geography says that “large-scale, highly mechanized agribusiness may not be the most beneficial way to farm in all parts of the world.” Another caption referred to aerial pesticide applications in a similar manner to military operations. “(I’m) shocked by the anti-farming content in my son’s grade 8 geography textbook,” said Crosby Devitt, a cash crop producer and vice-president of Grain Farmers of Ontario. “They call (aerial) pesticide use ‘carpet bombing.’” [Farmers.com](#)

Some Not So “Geographical” News



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