



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers  
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**Thompson Rivers U's Michael Mehta warns of dangers of wildfire smoke:** A TRU professor is writing a book on the health effects of various air pollutants that will include a chapter on this summer's wildfires. "It's really important that we understand the nature of the risk and how it's managed," said Michael Mehta, Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies at TRU. "There was a lot of government mismanagement of the exposures and denial on the part of government as well as everyday people to admit that these risks exist." Wood smoke contains more than 200 toxic chemicals and can cause a variety of health issues for people of all ages. "There's studies that link air pollution to kidney disease. There are even a large number of studies emerging on osteoporosis risks where pollution is affecting the important proteins and hormones that are responsible for laying down mass." Mehta says he will focus on public reaction to the summer wildfires, government response as well as a comparison of air quality data provided by the environment ministry and the air quality monitoring website Purple Air. "The objective is to explain to the public how our understanding of air pollution has changed and to stimulate changes in policy and cue family doctors to look for the effects of exposure to air pollution." The city reached a staggering level 49 on the Air Health Quality Index during the height of the wildfire season. It was the worst air quality recorded in recent history in Kamloops. [CFJC Today](#)

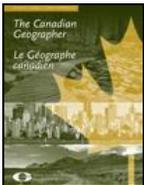
**U Calgary masters student Kylee van der Poorten examines illegal secondary suites in Calgary:** Kylee van der Poorten has lifted the curtain and is hoping her work uncovering the mystery behind illegal secondary suites, can help reshape the conversation behind the contentious living arrangements. Kylee van der Poorten recently published her work in [The Canadian Geographer](#), using a combination of publicly available data sets to show where suites are hidden in the city, and who may own them. In 2015, the city had at least 13,812 suites, and 2 per cent of those suites were listed on the city's suite registry as fully sanctioned. From that original number, she was able to determine 67% operated by absentee landlords. When it gets into the classic "illegal" suite narrative, she applied land use data along with census information about housing structure types to narrow down single-detached homes and further identify which ones had additional single-dwelling units. These numbers, the remaining 13,534 units, she divided up into the 73% that exist in suite-permitted zones and 27% in restricted zones. "What we do through local law ... it shapes the housing market. It's not as simple as supply and demand," van der Poorten said. "The geography of this housing and the geography of opposition really speaks to that." In her paper, van der Poorten shows that illegal suites are concentrated in Calgary's low-income and immigrant-rich areas, especially in the northeast. [Vancouver Metro](#) | [CBCNews|Calgary](#)

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**Western U postdoctoral associate examined how activities and spaces within gyms become gendered:** Are there typically masculine or feminine activities in a gym? Is weight-training only for men? And cardio only for women? Or is it more complex? Stephanie Coen, a postdoctoral associate in the Department of Geography, examined how activities and spaces within gyms become gendered. Her article, "[It's gym, like g-y-m, not J-i-m": Exploring the role of place in the gendering of physical activity](#)". She asks, what happens on the gym floor that includes or excludes people from participating in the full range of potential physical activity opportunities? In her study, participants reported feeling intimidated when trying to use certain spaces or equipment. Many participants felt they could or could not do specific exercises because they were viewed as 'not normal' for their gender, such as intensive weight training for women, or stretching and cardio for men. Coen found that for many gym users, men and women alike, the presence of people perceived to express a particular masculine image could impact how comfortable they felt while using the gym. Coen was interested in gyms because they are viewed as everyday places, and she wanted to "look at environments and how they can be implicated in shaping gendered behaviour." Coen argues that remedying gender disparities in physical activity requires examining the places where such differences may become routinized and taken-for-granted. As women are less likely to meet the minimum levels of physical activity recommended in Canadian guidelines, it is important to consider why people may not feel welcome or comfortable in common spaces like gyms. "We talk a lot about just getting people more active, but we have to talk about creating more equitable opportunities," said Coen. "If you just focus on activity, inequality may still persist and people may miss out." Making gyms more inclusive places requires re-defining the gender relations governing use of gym space to benefit everyone involved, while taking care not to inadvertently exclude some people or some gender expressions, Coen said. This could include drawing attention to commonalities and shared experiences among women and men, or even reconsidering the conventional layout of gyms to intersperse traditionally gendered activities throughout the gym. [Western Social Science](#)

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



Anne Godlewska, Laura Schaepli, Jennifer Massey, Sheila Freake, Jones K. Adjei, John Rose and Chloe Hudson. 2017. [What do first-year university students in Newfoundland and Labrador know about Aboriginal peoples and topics?](#) The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien.  
DOI:10.1111/cag.12428

This paper delivers the results from a quantitative analysis of the Assessing Student Awareness of Indigenous Peoples survey carried out in Newfoundland and Labrador in 2013. The results suggest that most students are substantially unaware of Aboriginal people including their presence (geography), their cultural continuity (history), the laws structuring their conditions of life (governance), current events, and their cultures. Most students entering Memorial University learn what they know from the K–12 curriculum, which is woefully inadequate—although where the curriculum is strong students do perform better, suggesting that curricular and text reform could make a large difference. This paper is the first in a two-part series in which we focus first on quantitative results and then a discourse analysis of students' words.

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## Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Seyed Mohammad Amirshahi, Eva Kwoll and Christian Winter. 2017. [Near bed suspended sediment flux by single turbulent events](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.csr.2017.11.005). Continental Shelf Research. doi.org/10.1016/j.csr.2017.11.005

Donald C. Barker and Janok P. Bhattacharya. 2017. [Sequence stratigraphy on an early wet MARS. Planetary and Space Science](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pss.2017.11.012). doi.org/10.1016/j.pss.2017.11.012

Sarah L. Bell, Ronan Foley, Frank Houghton, Avril Maddrell and Allison M. Williams. 2018. [From therapeutic landscapes to healthy spaces, places and practices: A scoping review](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2018.09.005). Social Science & Medicine 196:123–130.

L.M. Brooker, M.R. Balme, S.J. Conway, A. Hagermann, A.M. Barrett, G.S. Collins and R.J. Soare. 2017. [Clastic polygonal networks around Lyot Crater, Mars: Possible formation mechanisms from morphometric analysis](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.icarus.2017.11.022). Icarus. doi.org/10.1016/j.icarus.2017.11.022

L.E. Chasmer, C.D. Hopkinson, R.M. Petrone and M. Sitar. 2017. [Using multi-temporal and multi-spectral airborne Lidar to assess depth of peat loss and correspondence with a new active normalized burn ratio for wildfires](https://doi.org/10.1002/2017GL075488). Geophysical Research Letters. DOI:10.1002/2017GL075488

Stephanie E. Coen. 2017. [Connecting qualitative research on exercise and environment to public health agendas requires an equity lens](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2017.09.005). Health & Place. doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2017.09.005

Ann Dale, Sarah Burch, John Robinson and Chris Strashok. [Multilevel governance of sustainability transitions in Canada: Policy alignment, innovation, and evaluation](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2018.03.005). In: Climate Change in Cities. Innovations in Multi-Level Governance. Edited by: Sara Hughes, Eric K. Chu and Susan G. Mason. Springer. 343-358.

Nick Eyles, Lina Arbelaez Moreno and Shane Sookhan. 2018. [Ice streams of the Late Wisconsin Cordilleran Ice Sheet in western North America](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quascirev.2018.03.005). Quaternary Science Reviews 179:87–122.

Mohammad Hesam Hafezi, Lei Liu and Hugh Millward. 2017. [A time-use activity-pattern recognition model for activity-based travel demand modeling](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tran.2017.11.009). Transportation. doi.org/10.1007/s11116-017-9840-9

Kristen Lowitt, David Johnston-Weiser, Ryan Lauzon and Gordon M. Hickey. 2017. [On food security and access to fish in the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, Lake Huron, Canada](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jglr.2017.10.009). Journal of Great Lakes Research. doi.org/10.1016/j.jglr.2017.10.009

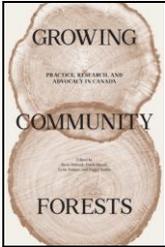
Wayne Pollard. 2018. [Chapter 15 – Periglacial processes in glacial environments](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jglr.2018.03.005). In: Past Glacial Environments (Second Edition). Edited by: John Menzies and Jaap van der Meer. Elsevier. 537–564.

Linda Rothman, Alison K. Macpherson, Timothy Ross and Ron N. Buliung. 2017. [The decline in active school transportation \(AST\): A systematic review of the factors related to AST and changes in school transport over time in North America](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpmed.2017.11.018). Preventive Medicine. doi.org/10.1016/j.jpmed.2017.11.018

Piotr Wilk, Andrew F. Clark, Alana Maltby, Christine Smith, Patricia Tucker and Jason A. Gilliland. 2017. [Examining individual, interpersonal, and environmental influences on children's physical activity levels](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2017.11.004). SSM - Population Health. doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2017.11.004

## New Book

Ryan Bullock, Gayle Broad and Lynn Palmer (Editors). 2017. [Growing Community Forests. Practice, Research, and Advocacy in Canada](#). University of Manitoba Press. 232 p. ISBN-13: 978-0887557934



Canada is experiencing an unparalleled crisis involving forests and communities across the country. While municipalities, policy makers, and industry leaders acknowledge common challenges such as an overdependence on U.S. markets, rising energy costs, and lack of diversification, no common set of solutions has been developed and implemented. Ongoing and at times contentious public debate has revealed an appetite and need for a fundamental rethinking of the relationships that link our communities, governments, industrial partners, and forests. The community forest is one path that promises to build social, economic, and ecological resilience. This model provides local control over common forest-lands in order to activate resource development opportunities, benefits, and social responsibilities. Implementing community forestry in practice has proven to be a complex task, however: there are no road maps or well-developed and widely-tested models for community forestry in Canada. But in settings where community forests have taken hold, there is a rich and growing body of experience to draw on. *Growing Community Forests* brings leading researchers, practitioners, Indigenous representatives, government representatives, local advocates, and students together to share resources, and tools to forest communities, policy makers, and industry.



**2017 conference of Atlantic Canadian Geographers (ACAG)** was hosted at SMU by the Geography and Environmental Studies Department. GEOG Practicum students delivered a very successful Careers in Geography Workshop. [Check out the highlights and awards.](#)

**McGill U geography masters student Shayne Levoy** earned 1st place among graduate students at the recent international conference of the [Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation](#) for his poster, "Impact of Eutrophication on *Spartina patens* Belowground".

**Western U's James Voog** explores resilience in city, residents at London Environmental Network seminar: London needs to become a resilient city to build its economic and environmental prosperity, speakers at the conference said. James Voogt, a geography professor at Western University, was among the more than 200 people who attended the sessions. "We are talking about action that can come out of this, and how do we link education to the reluctance of people to adapt to change. Part of that is how we educate people." [London Free Press](#)

**U Toronto's Matti Siemiatycki** highlights the opportunities provided by the new TTC subway extension on [CityNews](#).

**U Victoria Geography alumna Janet Ruset** received a Governor General's History Award for Excellence in Teaching. Using the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation as a backdrop, Janet encouraged her Chemainus Secondary School students to go beyond the textbook to research diverse and lesser-known stories that were meaningful to them. Last spring, Ruset was the recipient of the Prime Minister's Certificate of Achievement Award for Teaching Excellence, where she was recognized for a series of achievements, including continuously bringing community into her classroom. [Canada's History](#) | [LadySmith Chemainus Chronicle](#)

**UBC PhD candidate Craig E. Jones** addressed the topics of densification, displacement, and underused housing in a series of media publications. [UBC Geography](#)

**U Calgary's Ryan Burns and Brent Else** receive funding under a unique project to develop a new model for the role of libraries in multidisciplinary research. Burns heads a team examining [Open Data for a Smarter City: Creating A Data Infrastructure Pilot Initiative](#) and Else is the PI for a team focused on the [ArcticSensorWeb: A Research Platform for Real-Time Dissemination of Arctic Data](#). [UToday](#)

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### Other "Geographical" News

**UBC study finds family-friendly overpasses are needed to help grizzly bears:** Researchers have determined how female grizzly bears keep their cubs safe while crossing the Trans-Canada Highway. Adam Ford at UBC's Okanagan campus, along with Montana State University's Tony Clevenger, studied the travel patterns of grizzlies in Banff National Park between 1997 and 2014. In most cases, a mother bear travelling with cubs opted to use a wildlife overpass instead of a tunnel to cross the highway. [UBC Okanagan News](#)

**Want to get a promoted in a university? Learn the art of self-branding:** I've been in my post for the best part of a decade now. Despite improving my reputation with papers, books and keynote presentations at major conferences, I have yet to be promoted. Why? Because I don't put myself forward. This has been a deliberate act because I believe the promotions system in my university – and in many others – to be not fit for purpose. It is overly bureaucratic, lacks transparency and forces academics to be individualistic and uncollegiate. There's a similar promotion system in many universities all over the world. Every member of staff completes a standardised CV form. It is often formulaic and asks for the usual markers of success: papers, books, grant income, successful teaching initiatives and any activity that has "enhanced the university's reputation". These are viable measures of an academic's calibre, and can be undertaken collaboratively. Yet in using only these criteria, it encourages academics to pursue these at the expense of less visible, but no less important, activities. In an environment in which universities are being consistently measured by the research excellence framework, the teaching excellence framework and now the knowledge exchange framework, institutions are being forced to look inwards to find ways to gain more students and funding. Rather than fostering a collegiate institutional milieu to counter this, the current promotions system is forcing academics to focus on how they're boosting the university's bottom line. [The Guardian](#)

**Mapping the Future. Cartography Stages a Comeback:** Cartography is the new code. Increasingly, everything from your takeout delivery to your UberPool route is orchestrated not just by engineers but by cartographers. Between 2007 and 2015, the number of grads earning master's degrees in cartography increased annually by more than 40% on average. And as advanced satellites, digital mapping tools, and open-source geographical software progress, the demand for cartographers is projected to grow nearly 30% by 2024. [Wired](#)

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## Some Not So “Geographical” News



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GeogNews Archives: <http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/cag/geognews/geognews.html>  
[@CanGeographers Weekly](#): <https://paper.li/CanGeographers/1394987315>

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