



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Compiled by Dan Smith cag@geog.uvic.ca

U British Columbia's Simon Donner says king tides a reminder of climate change's sea rise threat to B.C.: A flood of king tides over the past week offered plenty of opportunity to snap photos of the ocean lapping just steps away from some iconic Metro Vancouver spots. But it also offered a reminder of what the future holds, with sea levels expected to rise over the next century. "This is a preview of the future, absolutely," said Simon Donner, a University of B.C. climate researcher. "The best way to describe it is it takes an astronomical king tide to get flooding in Stanley Park, Kits Beach, parts of Surrey's coastline and elsewhere. "In the future, it won't." Because of the quantity of carbon dioxide already in the atmosphere, Donner added, some sea-level rise is inevitable, no matter what happens to global carbon emissions over the coming years. Those rising levels of carbon dioxide are already having an impact on global temperatures, and is leading to higher rates of melting of the world's glaciers and ice sheets. The melt-off from those fields of ice ends up in the ocean. NASA says the world's oceans have risen more than 80 millimetres since 1980, and nearly 200 mm since the beginning of the industrial age in the second half of the 19th century. Governments and communities need to start preparing for that future now, Donner said. "The impacts of sea-level rise are things that the region are not going to be able to avoid. A lot is going to happen regardless because it's already baked into the system." [Vancouver Sun](#)

U Toronto's Matti Siemiatycki weighs in on the shifting role of the Canadian infrastructure bank: Canada's new infrastructure bank is on track to be up and running by the end of the year and will look to attract investment from major pension funds, the country's infrastructure minister said. "We can tap into pension funds and institutional investors. Those institutions are looking for more stable, predictable returns over the longer term," Amarjeet Sohi told a conference in Toronto. "If we can find projects that generate revenue and there's a return on their investment I think there's potential for us to work with the private sector." Matti Siemiatycki, an associate professor of geography and planning at the University of Toronto, says the bank's purpose has evolved. First proposed as a method of providing low-cost funding to municipalities, the bank has become much more focused on attracting private investment — in particular, pension funds and other institutional investors, he said. "That's a pretty significant shift in perspective and goals for the bank," Siemiatycki said. "That does, then, take this into quite a different direction that has quite a wide variety of other implications," he said, adding private participation in infrastructure globally has a "mixed record and has to be handled with extreme care to make sure the public interest is protected" in any large deals. Siemiatycki says one unanswered question is "what gap is the infrastructure bank trying to fill?" [The Globe and Mail](#) | [Toronto Star](#)

U Waterloo's Daniel Scott finds that by 2050 many prior Winter Olympic Games locations may be too warm to ever host the Games again: Because of climate change by 2050 many prior Winter Games locations may be too warm to ever host the Games again. A team of researchers, led by Daniel Scott, a geography professor at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, came to that conclusion by taking climate data from previous Winter Games locations and applying climate-change models to predict future winter weather conditions. The research, originally published in 2014, was updated this month to include the Pyeongchang Olympics, which begin Feb. 9, and the 2022 Winter Games in Beijing. According to Scott's research, using emissions projections in which global greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise through midcentury and global temperatures increase by 4 degrees Fahrenheit by 2050, nine of the host locations will be too hot to handle the Games. But that temperature increase won't be felt equally. Chamonix, France, the site of the first Winter Games, will have winter temperatures 5.4 degrees Fahrenheit warmer by midcentury. Scott's model factors in artificial snowmaking, but that has its limits. The technology involves pumping water through small nozzles under high pressure. When the water hits cold air it freezes almost instantly and turns into snow – but only if the air is cold enough. "You're relying on cold air to do the refrigeration for you," Scott said. [The New York Times](#)

U Victoria's Chris Darimont on the debate about Alberta cougar hunt: Hunters have been killing cougars in Alberta for decades. Last month, outdoor television host Steve Ecklund's cougar hunt led to online threats and criticisms after he bragged about it on social media. Similar outrage followed the killing of No. 148, a well-known Banff grizzly bear, by a hunter in British Columbia last summer. Both kills were legal. Scientists say a cultural divide still exists – even within their own community – about hunting large carnivores. One scientist said the outrage is not generally with hunting, but an ethical debate over killing large carnivores that can suffer. Chris Darimont, associate professor of geography at the University of Victoria, said hunting for sport makes people uncomfortable. "They cannot accept the idea that people kill carnivores not to feed their families, but to feed their egos," said Darimont, who is opposed to killing animals other than for food or protection. Ecklund said in a social media post that he made a stir-fry from the cougar, although eating the meat isn't required by law. Darimont, who hunts one elk or deer a year for food, said it's a "thin veil of deception" for hunters to say they're eating the animals, because predator meat isn't very tasty. "Wildlife managers for decades have acknowledged that these (animals) are not killed for their meat, but for their trophy items." The cougar hunt in Alberta should be re-evaluated, Darimont suggested. Science shows there are risks in overharvesting, because it's tough to count carnivores and get a clear picture of the population, he said. "There's lots of uncertainty. Managers can and do make mistakes, and then we are just starting to learn of the evolutionary and social costs of killing large carnivores." [National Post](#) | [CBC News](#) | [Globe and Mail](#)



U Waterloo welcomes Erin O'Connell and James Nugent: Erin O'Connell has a PhD in Geography from the University of Waterloo, an MA and BA in Geography from WLU and a Bachelor of Education from Western. Her academic interests and research publications are in areas of natural hazards and disaster recovery; faith-based perceptions of environmental phenomena; and student learning and engagement. **James Nugent** completed his PhD in Geography and Planning from University of Toronto. He holds an MA in Geography and Planning and a BSc in International Studies from University of Toronto, as well as a Certificate of Advanced University Teaching Preparation from University of Toronto. His academic interests and research publications are in the areas of political ecology; political economy and the environment; social movements and anti-poverty activism. [UWaterloo Environment](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Sébastien Breau, Michael Shin and Nick Burkhart. 2018. [Pulling apart: new perspectives on the spatial dimensions of neighbourhood income disparities in Canadian cities](#). Journal of Geographical Systems 20:1–25.

Jessy Carlson, Margaret Johnston and Jackie Dawson. 2017. [Territorial economic development strategies in Nunavut: a hindrance or a help to community economic development?](#) The Journal of Rural and Community Development 12:236-255.

Jessica Ellis and Scott Jasechko. 2018. [Formation waters discharge to rivers near oil sands projects](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI:10.1002/hyp.11435

Charles Hostovsky. 2018. [The relationship between green places and urban society: understanding the evolution and integration of city planning and the ecological sciences](#). In: Planning Knowledge. Edited by Tom Sanchez. Routledge. 85-109.

Greg Oulahan, Stephanie E. Chang, Jackie Z. K. Yip, Tugce Conger, Michelle Marteleira and Christopher Carter. 2017. [Contextualizing institutional factors in an indicator-based analysis of hazard vulnerability for coastal communities](#). Journal of Environmental Planning and Management. doi.org/10.1080/09640568.2017.1399109

Scott R. Parker, Nicholas E. Mandrak, Jeff D. Truscott, Patrick L. Lawrence, Dan Kraus, Graham Bryan and Mike Molnar. 2017. [Status and extent of aquatic protected areas in the Great Lakes](#). The George Wright Forum: Journal of Parks, Protected Areas, and Cultural Sites 34: 381-393.

D.A. Smith, M.B. Holland, A. Michon, A. Ibáñezc and F. Herrerad. 2017. [The hidden layer of indigenous land tenure: informal forest ownership and its implications for forest use and conservation in Panama's largest collective territory](#). International Forestry Review 19:478-494.

Jun-Jian Wang, Melissa Lafrenière, Scott Lamoureux, Andre J Simpson, Yves Gélinas and Myrna J Simpson. 2018. [Differences in riverine and pond water dissolved organic matter composition and sources in Canadian High Arctic watersheds affected by active layer detachments](#). Environmental Science & Technology. DOI:10.1021/acs.est.7b05506

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Nicholas Girard. 2017. [Regional-scale food security governance in Inuit settlement areas: Opportunities and challenges in northern Canada](#). MA thesis. Department of Geography, Environment and Geomatics, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario. Supervisor: Sonia Wesche.

Cameron Proctor. 2017. [Quantification of belowground C flow from root exudation of peatland sedges and shrubs](#). PhD thesis. Department of Geography, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario. Supervisors: Vincent Robinson and Yuhong He.

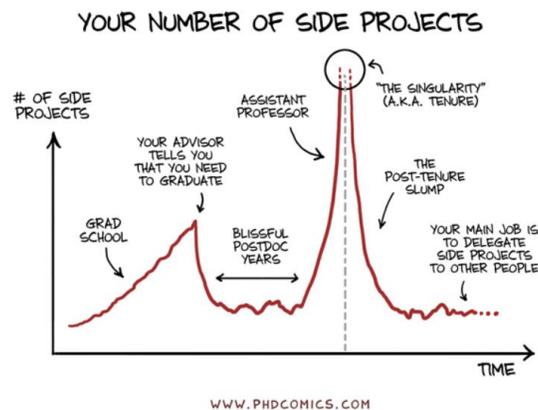
Devin Waugh. 2018. [Inuvialuit Traditional Ecological Knowledge \(TEK\) of Beluga Whale \(*Delphinaterus leucas*\) in a Changing Climate in Tuktoyaktuk, NT](#). MS thesis. Department of Geography, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario. Supervisor: Tristan Pearce.

Other “Geographical” News

'Dancing Backwards in High Heels'. Study finds female professors experience more work demands and special favor requests, particularly from academically "entitled" students:

Numerous studies have found that female professors shoulder a disproportionate amount of service work compared to their male peers. Research also suggests that students hold female instructors to a different standard than they do male faculty members, especially when it comes to personality. Women are expected to be more nurturing and are perceived harshly when they're not, for example. Both sets of findings matter because they have negative implications for women's professional success: service is generally the least valued criterion in the tenure and promotion triad of research, teaching and service, and students who view female professors as unfriendly may rate their teaching poorly as a result. Both lines of inquiry also intersect in a new paper, which says that students request more special favors and friendship behaviors from their female professors than they do of men -- resulting in more actual work demands and emotional labor. The paper also suggests that "academically entitled" students more strongly expect that women will grant their favor requests than will male professors, and that they react strongly when women deny those requests. [Inside Higher Ed](#)

Some Not So “Geographical” News



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