



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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U Waterloo’s Sarah Burch leads study that shows Canadian small businesses leading the way in sustainability: In the most significant study of its kind to date, new research from the University of Waterloo shows that Canada’s small businesses are important- and often overlooked- drivers of sustainability and the green economy. [The Waterloo study](#), led by researcher [Sarah Burch](#), discovered that 8 out of 10 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) surveyed think that sustainability is important. SMEs make up 98.2 per cent of all businesses in Canada, representing an enormous potential force in advancing environmental health and social wellbeing in our communities. “Big corporations often get the headlines in debates about sustainable business practices, but in reality, we’ve discovered that many small businesses see sustainability as more important than their larger counterparts,” said Sarah Burch, Canada Research Chair in Sustainability Governance and Innovation at the University of Waterloo. “Small businesses aren’t waiting around to be told to care about the environment, they’re already doing it.” The report, conducted by the GATE (Governing and Accelerating Transformative Entrepreneurship) research project, surveyed close to 2,000 SMEs in Toronto and Vancouver on a variety of sustainability measures including community outreach, reducing waste and supporting social justice through purchasing practices. The survey findings directly challenge the common assumption that SMEs primarily see sustainability as a way to cut costs. SMEs are even more powerfully motivated by building a good reputation within their community and aligning business operations with their personal values. “They may be small, but by their sheer numbers, SME’s can have a massive cumulative effect on the environmental and social well-being of our country,” said Burch. [U Waterloo Environment](#)

U Alberta students identify which Edmonton neighbourhoods might be unexpected gems for millennials and map out cannabis access: Just toss Avenue Edmonton’s best neighbourhood list — that’s Janna Bradshaw and Stephanie Kovach’s best advice for a millennial who is house hunting. The two University of Alberta human geography and planning students set out to use Edmonton’s Open Data catalogue to analyze the best neighbourhoods for the generation born between the early 1980s and 2000s, the millennials. Fellow student Thomas Lippiatt analyzed the impact of Edmonton’s proposed cannabis bylaws. The graduate student found the proposal to ban cannabis retail shops from neighbourhood convenience zones will create “supply deserts” in Terwillegar-Riverbend, west Edmonton and Mill Woods. That’s further restricted by limits on being within 200 metres of a school or library, plus 100 metres from a park or recreation centre. Since his analysis, the city has changed the

proposed rules slightly. It will no longer ban a shop from being close to a liquor store and allows shops in industrial areas. But that won't reduce the supply deserts, especially in the southwest. "One goal of (legalization) is to displace the black market," he said. If people can't access legal cannabis easily, that might not be achieved, he said and urged council to consider that spatial distribution. "It's a pretty significant part of Edmonton." In their comparison Bradshaw and Kovach discovered that the two neighbourhood rankings were completely different. Looking at access to things like bike lanes, good transit, recreation, schools and restaurants — Avenue favourites like Glenora, Strathcona and Westmount didn't even rank. [Edmonton Journal](#)

McMaster U's Allison Williams helps create set of guidelines emerging 'carer-employee' relationship in Canadian workplaces: The "carer-employee" is a growing segment of the Canadian workforce, but their dual roles aren't widely recognized. A McMaster University professor hopes to see that change with 5.6 million of us trying to hold down careers while caring for older loved ones. "People just basically start to breaking down. You just can't carry on two full-time jobs. It's not possible," Allison Williams said. Williams, who's research chair in gender, health and caregiver friendly workplaces, has created a set of guidelines for employers to support workers in this position. The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) is her partner in the project. The CSA Group relies on volunteer experts to help create standards and codes for the workplace. "There are multiple wins," Williams said. Employers gain by reducing absenteeism, improve productivity and retention, while avoiding retraining costs. Some measures, such as flextime, shared work arrangements and unpaid leaves, don't have to be costly to the employer, she noted. Williams knows first-hand what's it like to take care of an aging relative. The Hamilton resident and her cousin are looking after her 88-year-old uncle in Cambridge. A 2012 Statistics Canada study found an estimated 8.1 million Canadians had provided care to a chronically ill, disabled or aging relative or friend. Sixty per cent of caregivers were trying to balance paid work, with 43% saying they'd been late, had to leave early, or took time off during the day to help out. The most reported task was providing transportation (73%), followed by preparing meals, cleaning and laundry (51%), and outdoor housework (45%). The government offers some support, such as compassionate care benefits, which provide Employment Insurance payments for those who must take time off. Ottawa also offers relief through tax credits for caregivers. "I don't think the government is able to do more than it is currently doing, given the challenges it has with the health-care system," Williams said. Williams believes it's time for employers to step up. [The Hamilton Spectator](#)



U Waterloo Geography and Environmental Management Co-op student Aaron Buckley received the 2017 Co-op Student of the Year Award. At CH2M HILL, Buckley managed a project that increased drinking water capacity by 30% in a major North American city. [UWaterloo Daily Bulletin](#)

U Victoria's CindyAnn Rose-Redwood was awarded the Faculty of Social Sciences 2018 Teaching Excellence Award. [UVic Social Sciences](#)

U Victoria's Simon Springer was awarded the Faculty of Social Sciences 2018 Early Career Research Excellence Award. [UVic Social Sciences](#)

Brock U Geography students Mackenzie Ceci, Senanu Kutor, and Jerin Lubna were acknowledged for their extensive research work at a recent Faculty of Social Sciences award ceremony. [The Brock News](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

- Peter Ashmore. 2018. [Transforming Toronto's rivers: A socio-geomorphic perspective](#). In: The Palgrave Handbook of Critical Physical Geography. Edited by: R. Lave, C. Biermann and S. Lane. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. 485-511.
- V.A. Crooks, M. Giesbrecht, H. Castleden, N. Schuurman, M. Skinner and A. Williams. 2018. [Community readiness and momentum: identifying and including community-driven variables in a mixed-method rural palliative care service siting model](#). MC Palliative Care 17:59. doi.org/10.1186/s12904-018-0313-5
- Guido Filler, Tom Kovesi, Erik Bourdon, Sarah Ann Jones, Laurentiu Givelichian, Cheryl Rockman-Greenberg, Jason Gilliland, Marion Williams, Elaine Orrbine, Bruno Piedboeuf and The Paediatric Chairs of Canada Mark Bernstein. 2018. [Does specialist physician supply affect pediatric asthma health outcomes?](#) BMC Health Services Research 18:247. doi.org/10.1186/s12913-018-3084-z
- Adrian J.R. Gaanderse, Stephen A. Wolfe and Christopher R. Burn. 2018. [Composition and origin of a lithalsa related to lake-level recession and Holocene terrestrial emergence, Northwest Territories, Canada](#). Earth Surface Processes and Landforms. doi.org/10.1002/esp.4302
- Stephan Harrison, Jeffrey S. Kargel, Christian Huggel, John Reynolds, Dan H. Shugar, Richard A. Betts, Adam Emmer, Neil Glasser, Umesh K. Haritashya, Jan Klimeš, Liam Reinhardt, Yvonne Schaub, Andy Wiltshire, Dhananjay Regmi and Vít Vilímek. 2018. [Climate change and the global pattern of moraine-dammed glacial lake outburst floods](#). The Cryosphere 12:1195-1209.
- Konstantinos Karanasios and Paul Parker. 2018. [Tracking the transition to renewable electricity in remote indigenous communities in Canada](#). Energy Policy 118:169–181.
- Lauren H. McWhinnie, William D. Halliday, Stephen J. Insley, Casey Hilliard and Rosaline R. Canessa. 2018. [Vessel traffic in the Canadian Arctic: Management solutions for minimizing impacts on whales in a changing northern region](#). Ocean & Coastal Management 160:1–17.
- Eva Mekis, Norman Donaldson, Janti Reid, Alex Zucconi, Jeffery Hoover, Qian Li, Rodica Nitu and Stella Melo. 2018. [An overview of surface-based precipitation observations at Environment and Climate Change Canada](#). Atmosphere-Ocean. doi.org/10.1080/07055900.2018.1433627
- Zainab Moghal and Erin O'Connell. 2018. [Multiple stressors impacting a small island tourism destination-community: A nested vulnerability assessment of Oistins, Barbados](#). Tourism Management Perspectives 26:78-88.
- Sharlene Mollett and Caroline Faria. 2018. [The spatialities of intersectional thinking: fashioning feminist geographic futures](#). Gender, Place & Culture. doi.org/10.1080/0966369X.2018.1454404
- D.R. Newman, J.B. Lindsay and J.M.H. Cockburn. 2018. [Evaluating metrics of local topographic position for multiscale geomorphometric analysis](#). Geomorphology. doi.org/10.1016/j.geomorph.2018.04.003
- Michel Paquette, Daniel Fortier and Warwick F. Vincent. 2018. [Hillslope water tracks in the High Arctic: Seasonal flow dynamics with changing water sources in preferential flow paths](#). Hydrological Processes. doi.org/10.1002/hyp.11483

Mark W. Skinner and Rachel Winterton. 2018. [Interrogating the contested spaces of rural aging: Implications for research, policy, and practice](#). *The Gerontologist* 58:15–25.

Melanie Sommerville. 2018. [Naturalising finance, financialising natives: indigeneity, race, and “responsible” agricultural investment in Canada](#). *Antipode*. doi.org/10.1111/anti.12395

Olena Volika, Richard M. Petrone, Roland I. Hall, Merrin L. Macrae, Corey M. Wells and Jonathan S. Price. 2018. [Organic matter accumulation and salinity change in open water areas within a saline boreal fen in the Athabasca Oil Sands Region, Canada](#). *Catena* 165:425-433.

Other “Geographical” News

Okanagan communities get \$1.45M boost for 3D flood maps: The funding from the National Disaster Mitigation Program and the B.C. Community Emergency Preparedness Fund will allow the Okanagan Basin Water Board to use light detection and ranging (LiDAR) radar technology to create 3D images that will identify low-lying areas at risk for flooding. "This is a huge grant for a huge, significant project," said Anna Warwick Sears, the executive director of the Okanagan Basin Water Board. [CBCNews | British Columbia](#)

The Atlantic Oceans’ circulation hasn’t been this sluggish in 1,000 years. That’s bad news: The Atlantic Ocean circulation that carries warmth into the Northern Hemisphere’s high latitudes is slowing down because of climate change, a team of scientists asserted, suggesting one of the most feared consequences is already coming to pass. The Atlantic meridional overturning circulation has declined in strength by 15 percent since the mid-20th century to a “new record low,” the scientists conclude in a peer-reviewed study published in the journal [Nature](#). That’s a decrease of 3 million cubic meters of water per second, the equivalent of nearly 15 Amazon rivers. The AMOC brings warm water from the equator up toward the Atlantic’s northern reaches and cold water back down through the deep ocean. The current is partly why Western Europe enjoys temperate weather, and meteorologists are linking changes in North Atlantic Ocean temperatures to recent summer heat waves. [Washington Post](#)

Some Not So “Geographical” News



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