



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers  
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**Brandon U appoints Rachel Herron as a Canada Research Chair in Rural and Remote Mental Health:** Areas that currently don't have access to adequate mental health care will be receiving greater attention from researchers at Brandon University (BU) following the appointment of BU professor Dr. Rachel Herron as a Canada Research Chair (CRC). Herron has been named the Tier 2 CRC in Rural and Remote Mental Health. Herron's research will be used to develop supportive environments for mental health in rural and remote Canada, as well as internationally. "People living in rural places face a lot of challenges getting the care they need," Herron said. "Research on rural mental health has tended to focus on what is missing: health professionals, specialized health services, public transportation systems, education about mental health issues, and support for family caregivers. We need to work with rural communities to build on what they have and create better places for mental health." Herron is an Assistant Professor in BU's Department of Geography. Her interest in rural health and well-being stems from her experience growing up on a farm in Midwestern Ontario. Her previous projects have focused on the needs of people living with dementia, and their caregivers, in rural Ontario and Manitoba. Herron's work through the CRC program will focus on caregiving, social inclusion and engagement, as well as the diversity of lived experiences, and how they impact mental health and wellness. "Here in Western Manitoba we can truly appreciate the value of Dr. Herron's research," said Dr. Heather Duncan, BU's Associate Vice-President (Research). "Many of us know people in rural areas, or live in small communities ourselves, and we can see the gap in services available compared to larger centres. This research is going to significantly benefit many people in these areas, allowing them to live healthier and more fulfilling lives." [Brandon University News](#)

**U Fraser Valley's Cherie Enns on abandoned Aldergrove Centre Mall:** Aldergrove is a small town with a big problem. Its population hasn't grown in years, even though it's in one of the fastest-growing areas of B.C.'s Fraser Valley. The town is spending \$40 million to transform the downtown core in the hopes of attracting thousands of new residents over the next two decades. But urban planners say they won't get far unless they demolish an aging, decrepit mall at the centre of town. The Aldergrove Centre Mall thrived in the 1970s, but started to fall apart soon after. UFV Urban planner Cherie Enns said the mall worked back when cars were the dominant mode of transportation. Nowadays, she said people don't want malls at all. "For the most part, [people want] an attractive environment. A place where children can play, older people can stroll and sit and enjoy." Enns said people want to be somewhere with a sense of identity and character. "It's how you experience a place," she said. "A mall — it's the antithesis of that." Enns said people will continue to bypass Aldergrove if the town can't shake the mall — herself included. "I would never stop. I would only drive through," she said. "It's just not a place I would go." [CBCNews | British Columbia](#)

**Western U's Chantelle Richmond newly named Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Health and the Environment:** Academics can't just do research on Indigenous communities; they have to do research with Indigenous communities." For Chantelle Richmond, Associate Professor in the Department of Geography, it is time for Indigenous health research to fundamentally change. "Research focused on Indigenous health is growing, but so are inequities. So why is this?" asked Richmond. Richmond is the newly named Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Health and the Environment. She is part of a growing movement of academics and Indigenous community members who feel that much of the research involving Indigenous communities is too narrowly focused, and does not take into consideration the deeper and more complex situations facing many communities. When researching health, for instance, researchers often focus on narrow areas such as disease burden or behaviours, without considering the other issues that may determine the health and situation of Indigenous people. This could include reverberations and continued effects of the Indian Residential schools, lack of healthy food options, and lack of continued and appropriate access to health care. Researchers may also view issues from a biomedical perspective "that too often forces dichotomies of health and well-being," said Richmond, not giving proper consideration to Indigenous knowledge and Indigenous approaches to health, which generally consider health on a continuum of wellness. Richmond's CRC will build on the concept of relational accountability to examine the processes that both support and constrain relationship building in Indigenous health research. Richmond will consider how to help bridge gaps that may occur as partners view the world through different experiences and philosophies. This includes Indigenous and non-Indigenous worldviews, but, as many of the problems are multi-faceted, it also includes bringing together researchers from different fields to share knowledge. "Sometimes we are coming from different worlds and perspectives," said Richmond. "How do we overcome that?" The change, Richmond says, has to happen with academics, and trainees, connecting them with community members. [Western Social Science News](#)

**Simon Fraser U's Nicolas Blomley slams use of red zones in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside:** There is a growing body of evidence showing that red zones are not only ineffective but may actually contribute to crime and put people at risk. A [study](#) released by researchers at Simon Fraser University and the University of Ottawa slammed the use of red zones in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. "Absolutely these things are contributing to the problems with our justice system," said report co-author and SFU professor Nicolas Blomley. Red zones can be issued in a number of ways, official and unofficial. The first is a court-ordered condition connected to a bail or probation release. These conditions are meant to be used sparingly and only when crafted to fit the accused's circumstances. Larkin and other experts say that is no longer happening; release conditions have become routine over time, chosen from a list and rubber-stamped by an overtaxed justice system. The second way is by a police officer right on the street. They have the authority to arrest someone and, rather than hold them in custody, release them on what's called a promise-to-appear. That can include a number of conditions, including a red zone. [The Star Vancouver](#)

**U Calgary's Shawn Marshall and David Goldblum on Alberta's high wildfire risk:** Though spring was late to arrive in southern Alberta, crews here are gearing up for an especially parched wildfire season. University of Calgary climatologist Shawn Marshall said Albertans should be bracing for "longer and more intense" wildfire seasons as the effects of climate change continue to ramp up. Alberta can likely expect more wildfires like those in Waterton Lakes last September, which happened late in the season, and the relatively early 2016 blaze in Fort McMurray, Marshall said. "Not every year, but more frequently," he added. Other factors — like pine beetle infestations and the legacy of fire suppression in North America — also ensure there's often more dead wood than there should be, leaving Alberta's forests "loaded with fuel," said David Goldblum, an associate professor of geography at the University of Calgary. However, Goldblum said fires are also a part of a healthy ecosystem, it's just a matter of managing them. "These are very natural processes," he said. [The Star Calgary](#)

## [Open Smart Cities Guide v1.0](#)

The [Open Smart Cities Guide](#) is the end result of Open Smart Cities in Canada, a year long collaborative research project led by OpenNorth and funded by Natural Resources Canada's GeoConnections program. This guide provides a first ever definition for an Open Smart City and is intended as a starter kit for city stakeholders and decision makers. We expect that this living document will grow as we receive more input and learn about additional people, projects, practices and resources that contribute to Open Smart Cities.

Check out OpenNorth's Current Projects Page for more information about Open Smart Cities in Canada and descriptions of its outputs. Direct links to project outputs are provided below:

[Open Smart Cities in Canada: Assessment Report](#)

[Open Smart Cities in Canada: Executive Summary of Environmental Scan and Case Studies](#)

[Open Smart Cities FAQ](#)

Webinars 1, 2, and 3 (link available soon).

Open Smart Cities in Canada is a collaborative project. We would like to thank smart city representatives from the cities of Edmonton, Guelph, Montréal, and Ottawa and officials from the provinces of British Columbia and Ontario for sharing their time, expertise, and experiences with us. Furthermore, this project benefits from contributions made by the project's core team of experts and researchers. We are grateful to Professor Tracey P. Lauriault (Carleton University), David Fewer, LL.M., (Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic (CIPPIC)), and Professor Mark Fox (University of Toronto) for providing their expert advice on the design of research and its outputs. Finally, we thank graduate students Stephen Letts and Carly Livingstone (Carleton University) for research assistance and editing over the course of the project.



**Simon Fraser U's Paul Kingsbury's** research on ghost investigators [was recently featured](#) on the Discovery Channel's Daily Planet show. [Ghost Researcher](#)

**U Waterloo GEM and ERS students trek to Everest Base Camp:** On Monday, May 14th, a group of Department of Geography and Environmental Management and School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability students headed out to Nepal, as part of a 22-day course field trip to the Kathmandu and Everest regions. The students will research three specific issues: climate change and natural hazards, biodiversity conservation and international protected areas, governance issues in mountaineering and trekking tourism. Led by GEM Professor Sanjay Nepal and GEM PhD student Nicole Balliston, eight GEM students and one ERS student have embarked for their journey. You can follow their adventure on Environment's social media channels. [U Waterloo Environment](#)

**U Saskatchewan's Joni Onclin** nominated for 2018 College of Arts & Science Dean's Distinguished Staff Award. Joni is executive research assistant to the Canada Research Chair in Water Resources and Climate Change, Department of Geography & Planning. [U Saskatchewan News](#)

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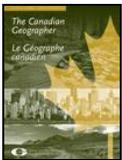
**Simon Fraser U's Alysha van Duynhoven** recipient of the Esri Canada Higher Ed. Scholarship. Alysha van Duynhoven and undergraduate student (BSc Computing Science, Minor in Geography, Spatial Information Systems Certificate) is the winner of the SFU 2018 Esri Canada Higher Education Scholarship Award. Alysha's submission was related to the examination of a parallelized hyperparameter tuning approach for the Random Tree classification of GIS data. [SFU Faculty of Environment](#)

**Western U MSc Candidate Erika Freeman** is the recipient of a Gates Cambridge Scholarship. One of the most prestigious international scholarships available, "The Gates Scholarship aims to identify and select applicants who are academically outstanding and are likely to be transformative leaders across all fields of endeavour. Erika will begin her PhD studies, specializing in Plant Sciences, September 2018. [Gates Cambridge](#)

**U Victoria's Lauren McWhinnie** [interviewed](#) about the deployment of hydrophones along BC's coast to monitor the impact of human activity on the area's marine ecosystem. The project, known as the Salish Sea Acoustic Monitoring and Educational Outreach Project, is a partnership between Ocean Networks Canada and the Vancouver Aquarium. [UVic Geography](#)

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



Razak Abu and Maureen G. Reed. 2018. [Adaptation through bricolage: Indigenous responses to long-term social-ecological change in the Saskatchewan River Delta, Canada](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. doi.org/10.1111/cag.12469

Social and ecological change in Canada's north challenges Indigenous communities to develop responses that secure the continuation of their livelihoods. Although there is significant evidence that effective response and adaptation opportunities exist in Indigenous communities, understanding of how such locally developed adaptations are constructed remains limited. This paper develops and applies the concept of bricolage to demonstrate how Indigenous societies build their adaptive capacity to address long-term social-ecological change. Our concept bridges institutional and productive forms of bricolage to explain how individuals and households make conscious decisions and adjustments to retain their livelihoods. The results of long-term engagement with residents of Cumberland House, Saskatchewan through field observations, oral histories, and semi-structured interviews demonstrate that Indigenous peoples improvise, hybridize, contest, and negotiate existing practices to create different kinds of adaptive arrangements. We find, further, that whereas certain livelihood practices have changed, cultural norms such as respect and reciprocity have remained. Our findings strengthen the argument that Indigenous peoples are well-positioned to take direct roles in adaptation; hence, decision makers should consider them equal partners in adaptation decisions and learn from locally developed responses to focus adaptation planning on the relevant needs of Indigenous communities.

## Recent Theses and Dissertations

Eric Cao. 2018. [Scour pool incision in bedrock canyons](#). MSc thesis. Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia. Supervisor: Jeremy Venditti.

Amber Colibaba. 2017. [Older voluntarism and rural community sustainability: a case study of a volunteer-based rural library](#). M.A. Program in Sustainability Studies, Trent University. Supervisor: Mark Skinner.

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### Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Yukari Hori, Vincent Y. S. Cheng, William A. Gough, Jerry Y. Jien and Leonard J. S. Tsuji. 2018. [Implications of projected climate change on winter road systems in Ontario's Far North, Canada](#). *Climatic Change* 148:109–122.

Riley P.M. Mulligan, Carolyn H. Eyles and Andy F. Bajc. 2018. [Stratigraphic analysis of Late Wisconsin and Holocene Glaciolacustrine deposits exposed along the Nottawasaga River, Southern Ontario, Canada](#). *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences*. doi.org/10.1139/cjes-2017-0081

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## Other “Geographical” News

**New research says location of protected areas vital to wildlife survival:** Location, location, location is not just a buzzword for homebuyers. A new study, by 17 conservation scientists and environmental scholars, say the exact location of protective wild spaces is just as vital as committing to set these areas aside. “Where Canada protects land is a significant decision,” says UBC Okanagan researcher Laura Coristine, the study’s lead author. “We wouldn’t build a school in the highest traffic density area in a city—especially if few children live there.” [UBC Okanagan News](#)

**Learning Tool or Cheating Aid?** Quizlet is a free app for making flash cards and online quizzes, which can be used privately or shared publicly. It’s very popular with students, and many are likely using the site legitimately. But some students are also using the tool to upload questions from real exams, and other students are finding them. Students are openly tweeting about using Quizlet to cheat -- either opening Quizlet in another browser while taking an online test, or studying questions on Quizlet in advance that they knew were likely to be on their test. [Inside Higher ED](#)

**Mount Saint Vincent U condemned for handling of residential schools course controversy:** A group of Canadian professors is speaking out against a Halifax university's handling of a residential schools course quandary, saying the race or ethnicity of a professor should not be a consideration when assigning a course. Mount Saint Vincent University found itself embroiled in controversy after assigning a course about Canada's residential schools to a non-Indigenous professor, something activists say undermines reconciliation efforts. Mark Mercer, a philosophy professor at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, said it's up to the Mount's history department to consider a professor's expertise and perspectives. He said these matters should be judged on academic grounds alone. "The race or ethnicity of the professor is not an academic ground and, thus, should not be a consideration," Mercer said in a letter to Elizabeth Church, vice-president academic and provost at the school. "The idea that only Indigenous scholars can teach topics involving Indigenous people is false and pernicious. Mount Saint Vincent University should clearly and forcefully repudiate it." [CBCNews | Nova Scotia](#)

**University of Calgary on a journey to Indigenize campus:** When the University of Calgary launched its Indigenous strategy last year, it discovered the school needed to increase awareness about culture and history in a creative, innovative way. That's why, in the next step toward Indigenizing the campus, the U of C is giving students, faculty and staff the opportunity to apply for micro-grants to develop programs and ideas that will bring the school closer to reconciliation. This comes less than a year after the November launch of ii' taa'poh'to'p — the school's Indigenous strategy. [The Star Calgary](#)

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### Some Not So “Geographical” News



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