



Professor Gordon on our Suburban Nation

In recent weeks, **Professor David Gordon's** research on the suburban landscape of Canada has served as the basis for articles in the *Globe and Mail*: "Politicians need to remember that this is a suburban, car-commuting nation," (John Ibbotson) and "Canada may be a suburban nation, but that's because of policy as much as preference" (Rino Bortolin et al). While there is consensus between authors on the classification of Canada as a "suburban nation," each piece leverages Dr. Gordon's research quite differently to argue the contributing factors and implications of Canada's residential complexion. Are we a suburban nation due to public preference, or as a consequence of public policy?



Professor Gordon published the ***Canadian Suburbs Atlas*** in October 2023, updated with 2021 census data and completed while he was a Visiting Professor at the University of Toronto's School of Cities. Dr. Gordon worked with students at the University of Toronto and Toronto Metropolitan University to develop this latest version of the research, which is unique in providing a detailed analysis of large and small cities across Canada.

While the *Canadian Suburbs Atlas* is successful as a comprehensive reference document that illustrates the growth rates of suburban populations from a variety of metrics, Professor Gordon's other research acknowledges the role of public policy in this expansion and describes the multi-pronged planning policy approach that created this suburban nation. Understanding this historical path is essential to achieve a balance of urban and suburban growth in the future. The key turning point in our path to becoming a suburban nation was an obscure 1944 federal post-war reconstruction document, known as the Curtis Report, after its Chair, Professor Clifford Curtis of the Queen's Economics Department.



Is your neighbourhood considered a suburb? Check out this **interactive map** that covers all 41 Canadian metropolitan areas:
<https://www.canadiansuburbs.ca/interactive-map/>

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In the past month, Dr. Gordon has published three refereed articles on this topic, wrapping up a six year SSHRC research study:

- “The Curtis Report as a Critical Juncture in Canadian Urbanism,” *Planning Perspectives*; pre-published January 2024, pp. 1-31 (R). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/02665433.2023.2296922>
- “The Post-War Revival of Canadian Planning: Assessing the Impact of the Community Planning Association of Canada” *Journal of Planning History*, pre-published January 2024 (with Miranda Virginillo, MPL’22), pp.1-16 (R). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/15385132231222853>
- “The Disappearing Grid: How the Canadian Government Changed Suburban Community Design, 1944-69” *Journal of Urban Design*, pre-published November 2023 (with Matthew Harding, MPL’23) pp. 1-29 (R) DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13574809.2023.2255150>

Visit the [Canadian Suburbs Atlas](https://www.canadiansuburbs.ca/) and Professor Gordon’s affiliate research website, <https://www.canadiansuburbs.ca/>, to learn more about the important research that has sparked a national discourse on Canada’s suburban character.



Congratulations, Carolyn!



On November 23, 2023, Ph.D. Candidate **Carolyn Bonta** successfully defended her doctoral thesis, “Recent changes in vegetation productivity on the Bathurst caribou range.” Carolyn’s thesis was completed under the academic supervision of Dr. Ryan Danby. The Thesis Examination Committee included Chair and Head Dr. George Bevan, Supervisor Dr. Ryan Danby, Internal Examiner Dr. Robert Way, Internal/External Examiner Dr. Paul Grogan from the Department of Biology, and External Examiner Dr. Esther Lévesque from the Université du Québec. Well done, Carolyn!



February is **Black Histories and Futures Month**, serving as a catalyst for conversation to ensure the positive impacts of Black communities are recognized, in Canada and around the world. Learn more about events in the Queen’s and Kingston communities by reading [this article](#) in the *Queen’s Gazette*.





Dr. Heather Dorries

Assistant Professor

Centre for Indigenous Studies and
Department of
Geography and Planning, University of
Toronto

Geography and Planning Seminar Series Winter 2024

02/07

03:30 - 05:00

Watson Hall 217

**“Sacred Fires, Homeless
Encampments, and
Planning Toronto Parks”**

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Natural Sciences & Engineering:

- [Amazon Research Awards-Foundation Model Development](#) - Deadline: Mar. 06, 2024
- [Impact Canada: Agricultural Methane Reduction Challenge](#)
- [NSERC- NRC: Alliance Quantum grants](#) - Deadline: Jun. 14, 2024

Opportunities for Multiple Disciplines:

- [The Trebek Initiative](#) - Deadline: Apr. 11, 2024
- [Undergraduate Student Summer Fellowship \(USSRF\)](#) - Deadline: varies by department
- [Tri-Agency Undergraduate Student Research Awards \(USRA\)](#) - Deadline: varies by department

EVENTS

- Feb. 6, 2024 - [R4R@Q - Research and the Sustainable Development Goals](#) - Registration now open!
- Feb. 15, 2024 - [R4R@Q - The Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy, Three Years In](#) - Registration now open!
- NSERC CREATE Information Webinar for Prospective Applicants - Important Changes to CREATE:
 - Feb. 7, 2024, 1:00 pm ET - [English Session](#), Teams Meeting ID: 287 863 459 907 Passcode: a5uBiX
 - Feb. 8, 2024, 1:00 pm ET - [French Session](#), Teams Meeting ID: 287 863 459 907 Passcode: a5uBiX
- Apr. 4-5, 2024 - [Grant Training Center - Professional Grant Development Live Online Workshop](#)