

GEOGRAPHY 379B

Instructor: Siobhan McPhee



PURPOSE

Fieldwork is a cornerstone of geographical research, and should be an integral part of an undergraduate education in Geography. Noting the lack of an annual, local field course in Human Geography and Environment and Sustainability here at UBC, Dr. Siobh  n McPhee developed such a course through a Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund grant. The primary course objective is to provide students with an opportunity to apply skills learned in the classroom to community building projects in BC, with an emphasis on mutual benefit between the student and the community. The course is now in its second year.

CONTEXT

The field component of the inaugural year took place in the first week of May 2015 in Williams Lake, a community of around 11,000 in the Cariboo region of BC. Likewise, this year's cohort will be in the field from May 1st-7th. The economy in the town is largely dependent on forestry and mining, and has seen a recent decline. Economic woes are manifest in social issues, particularly exasperated by the historical conflict between First Nations and European settlers in the region. A wide range of organizations and initiatives dealing with these challenges made Williams Lake an ideal community partner for this course.

CURRENT PARTNERS



The T'exelcenc People



The Cariboo Mining Association



The Social Planning Council



The Cariboo Friendship Society

School District No. 27
CARIBOO • CHILCOTIN



PAST PROJECTS

Upon completion of fieldwork, students were to submit research findings using any presentation format agreed on with community partner and approved by the instructor. Formats ranged from the traditional research paper to video, policy, posters, and interactive multi-media. Included here are examples of visual material from students' findings.

A. A Demand-Based Spatial Analysis of Transit Ridership and Demand for Service in Williams Lake

by Iain Marjoribanks, Maegan O'Neill, Stephanie Soo, and Stella Zhou

"Without adequate access to transit, many mobility-challenged community members turn to hitchhiking."

B. Williams Lake ICSP: Affordable Housing and Livable Neighbourhoods

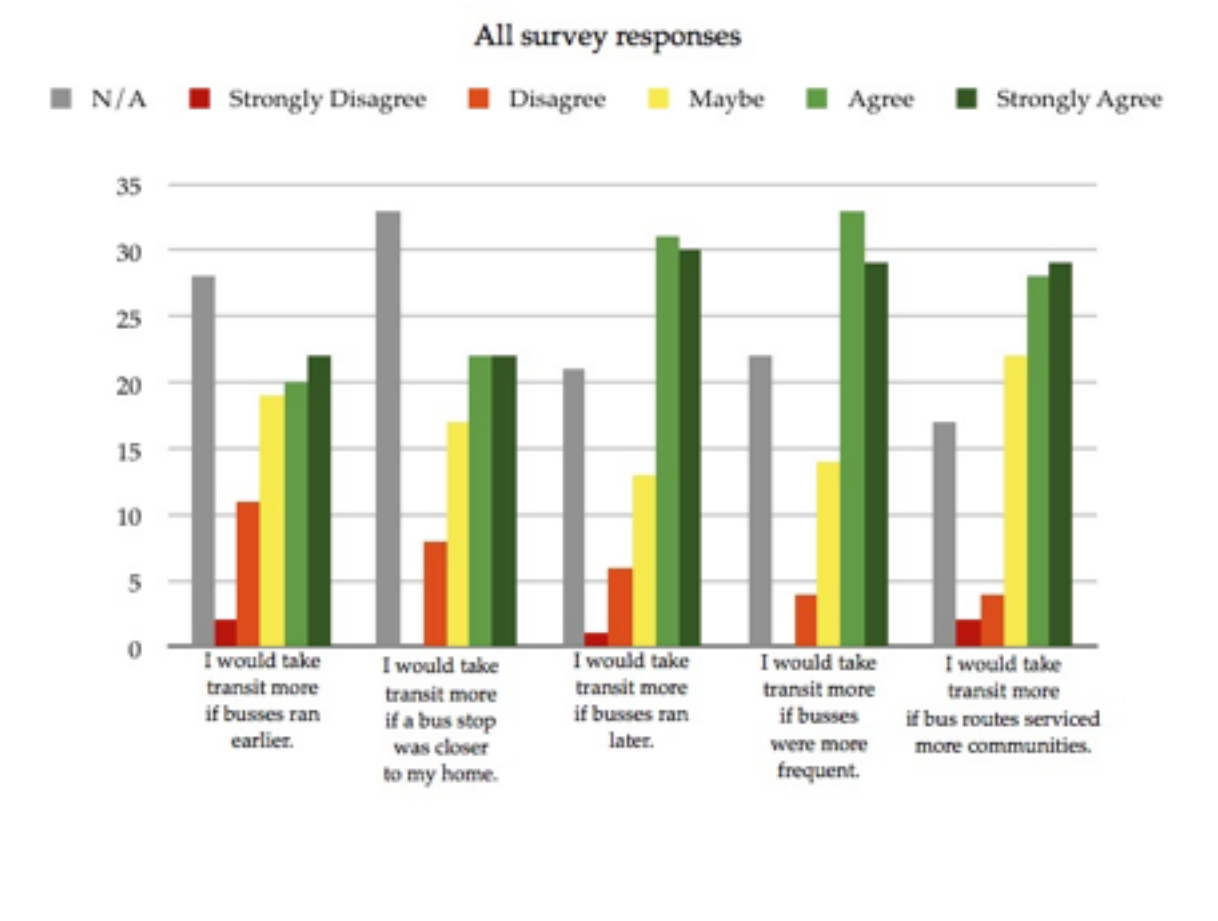
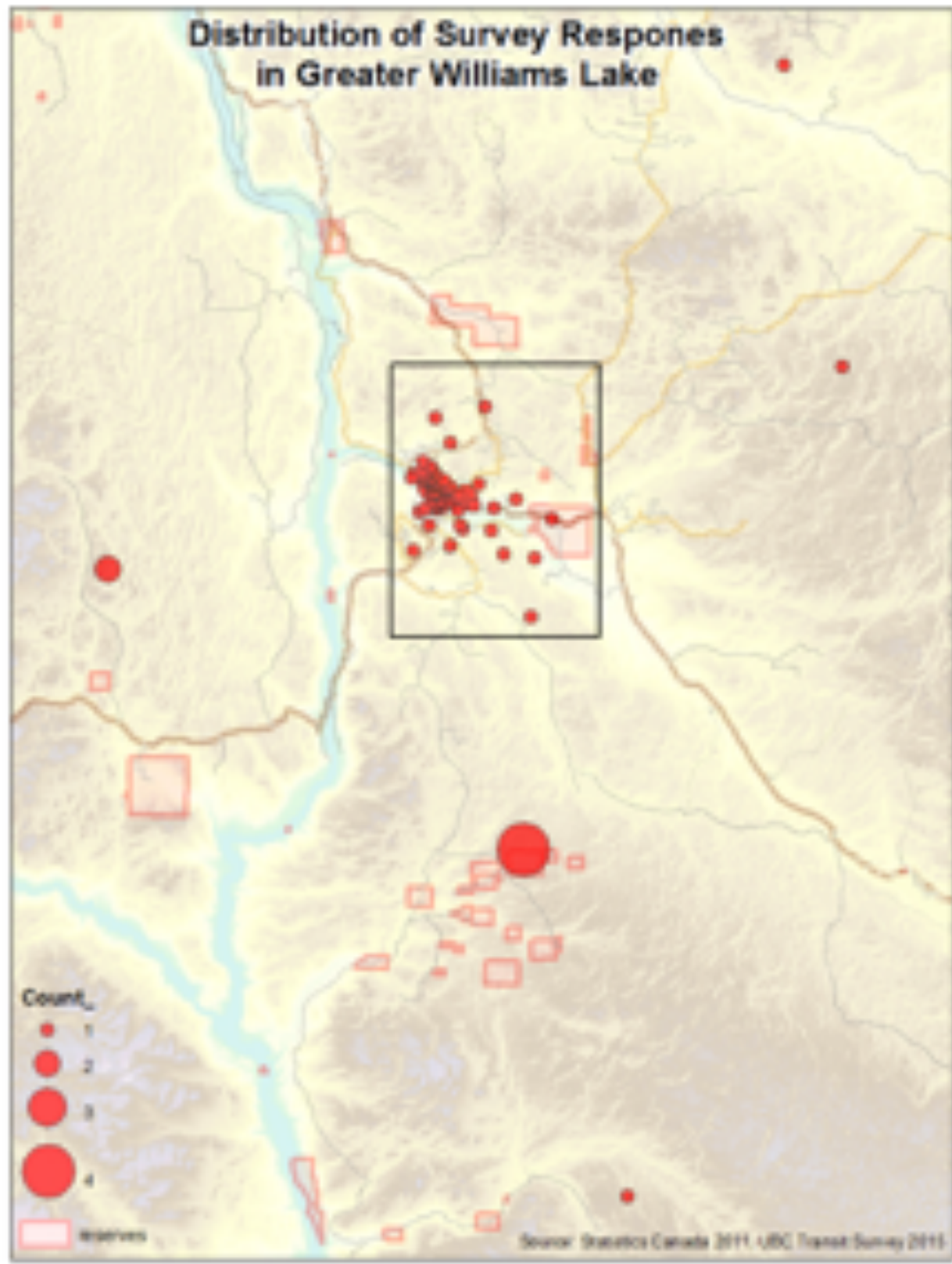
"We plan on using our research and analysis of any trends that we find to recommend ways for the City to further promote and implement ICSP housing affordability based on our survey responses, interviews and multivariate mapping project"

C. Local Purchasing Habits in Williams Lake

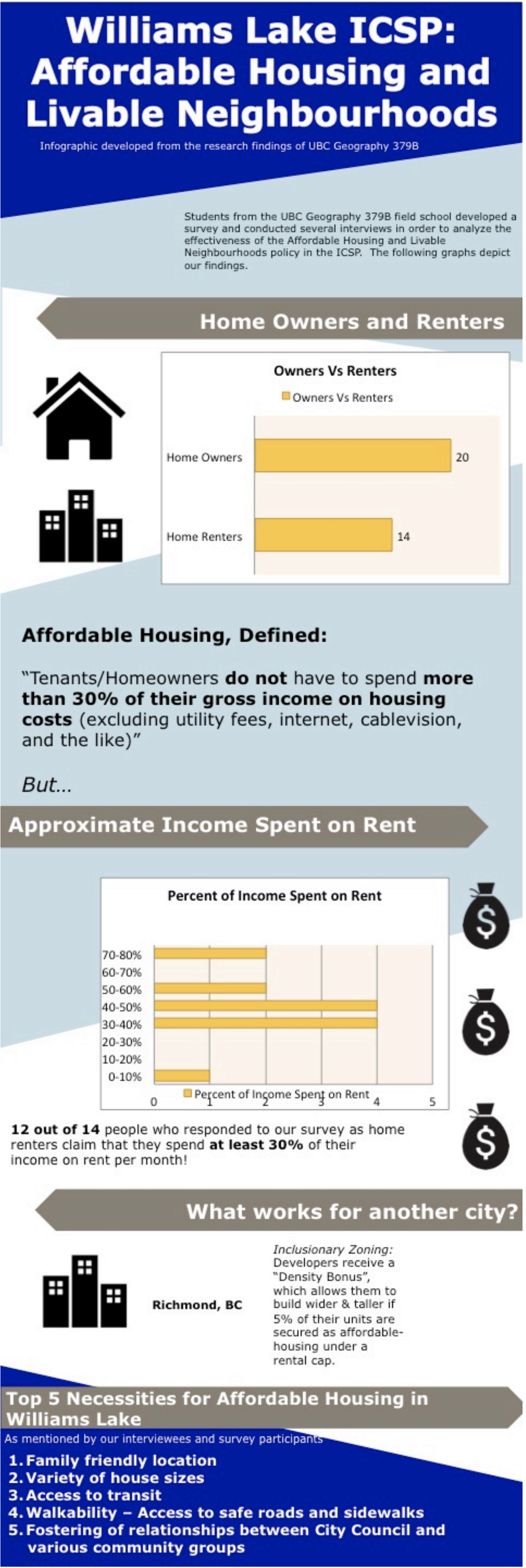
by Sean Heinrichs and An Huang

"In an attempt to both connect our community partner, Brianna van de Wijngaard - the owner of Puddle Produce Urban Farms - with her customer base and increase the overall income of her operation, this study focuses on investigating the purchasing behaviour of Williams Lake's residents."

A.



B.



C.

