

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Office of the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia
Jack Webster Foundation

July 25, 2023

2023 Lieutenant Governor's B.C. Journalism Fellowship recipient announced

VANCOUVER – In the spirit of supporting a healthy democracy with a thriving journalistic community, the Honourable Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, is pleased to announce the 2023 recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's B.C. Journalism Fellowship is Kim Bolan.

Bolan is an experienced award-winning journalist who has covered gangs in British Columbia for the past 25 years.

With the support of the Government House Foundation and in partnership with the Jack Webster Foundation, the fellowship is offered and designed to afford a working journalist the opportunity to develop a well-substantiated, long-form piece of journalism to shed light on a subject of importance to British Columbians.

"I am honoured to support another year of the Lieutenant Governor's B.C. Journalism Fellowship," Austin said. "British Columbians deserve a thoughtful and in-depth exploration of these complex stories, and I thank Kim Bolan for her coverage of such an important issue. I extend my gratitude to all journalists who applied for the 2023 Fellowship, with recognition for their efforts and desire to produce a level of storytelling that is vital to our province."

Bolan has been awarded funds to produce a series of articles about the increasing international tentacles of B.C. gangs and organized crime groups. Building on her years of experience covering gangs at home, Bolan will travel to some of the places these organized crime groups have expanded and examine the effectiveness of Canada's efforts to tackle organized crime.

"I am honoured to receive this fellowship and look forward to digging deeper into the reach of local gangs and organized crime groups that operate far beyond our borders," Bolan said. "I also hope to explore solutions to the gang violence that has plagued our region for almost two decades."

Last year, the first fellowship was awarded to Francesca Fionda, who produced a multi-part series for The Tyee about displacement due to climate disasters in the province.

Application intake for 2024 will begin in early 2024 with the recipient(s) being announced in spring or summer of 2024. The Lieutenant Governor's B.C. Journalism Fellowship is committed to delivering the annual award for three years: 2022, 2023 and 2024.

Quotes:

Harold Munro, editor-in-chief, Vancouver Sun/The Province –

"Postmedia is dedicated to ambitious journalism exploring issues most critical to B.C. This project by investigative reporter Kim Bolan will examine the global reach of the province's criminal organizations and why it can be difficult to put gang leaders behind bars here at home. I'm grateful for the Lieutenant Governor's continued support of the critical role played by local

journalism in our democracy and constructive civic engagement."

Gillian Shaw, chair of the board, Jack Webster Foundation –

"We are grateful and privileged to partner with the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia on this fellowship program, which recognizes the role of journalism in fostering a vibrant and thriving democracy. We extend our congratulations to Ms. Bolan, an internationally recognized, award-winning investigative reporter, whose work is a testament to journalistic excellence."

Learn More:

Details regarding eligibility and requirements for applications for next year's fellowship can be found here:

<https://www.jackwebster.com/lieutenant-governors-bc-journalism-fellowship/>

A backgrounder follows.

Contacts:

Janet Mitchell
Executive Director
Jack Webster Foundation
604 603-4218
info@jackwebster.com
604 603-4218

Amanda Campbell
Director
Communications and Programmes
Office of the Lieutenant Governor of British
Columbia
Amanda.Campbell@gov.bc.ca
250 480-8948

Rachel Rilkoff
Communications and Events Officer
Office of the Lieutenant Governor of British
Columbia
Rachel.Rilkoff@gov.bc.ca
778 679-2278

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BACKGROUNDER

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Facts about the Government House Foundation, the Jack Webster Foundation

Government House Foundation

The Government House Foundation was created in 1988 to preserve, enhance and support the legacy of Government House, the ceremonial home of all British Columbians. Resources raised by the foundation also help fund the legacy programs of lieutenant governors, past and present.

The Honourable Janet Austin is the 30th Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, acting as the representative of the Crown in the province, and serving British Columbians through the themes of her mandate: Reconciliation, diversity and inclusion, and engagement in democracy. Her Honour's previous role was as CEO of the YWCA Metro Vancouver. Her professional career includes work with BC Housing and Big Sisters, in addition to serving on various boards, such as Translink and the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade.

Jack Webster Foundation

The Jack Webster Foundation was established in 1986, upon the retirement of its namesake, who was Western Canada's best-known and most influential reporter, in order to foster and celebrate excellence in journalism, protect the public interest for British Columbians, and create a community where trusted outstanding journalism thrives.

Contacts:

Janet Mitchell
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604 603-4218
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