

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Office of the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia
Jack Webster Foundation

Feb. 13, 2024

Intake opens for 2024 Lieutenant Governor's BC Journalism Fellowship

VANCOUVER – Intake for applications for the 2024 Lieutenant Governor's BC Journalism Fellowship is now open.

The 2024 fellowship will fund a working journalist (or journalists) to develop a well-substantiated, long-form piece of journalism to shed light on a subject of importance to British Columbians.

In the spirit of supporting a healthy democracy with a thriving journalistic community, Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, with the support of the Government House Foundation and in partnership with the Jack Webster Foundation, is pleased to open this next session of the Lieutenant Governor's BC Journalism Fellowship.

It is often the dream of many journalists to have the time and other resources to produce in-depth coverage of important issues. However, budget cutbacks have become a reality for most newsrooms and long-form journalism requires significant resources. The Lieutenant Governor's BC Journalism Fellowship provides funding to encourage and enable journalists to go above and beyond their typical level of coverage so that some of the under-reported but crucial challenges of today receive the deep, complex storytelling deserved by the citizens of B.C.

Kim Bolan, an experienced and award-winning investigative journalist, was selected as the 2023 Fellow. Her work *Lethal Exports*, a five-part series published in the *Vancouver Sun* on Jan. 22, 2024, explores the increasing international tentacles of B.C. gangs and organized crime groups.

"I am so glad that the Fellowship and the Government House Foundation were able to support Kim Bolan so she could produce a series about the international tentacles of B.C. gangs and organized crime groups," Austin said. "Not only does this fellowship draw attention to the challenges journalists face today, it encourages thoughtful reflection on the systems and the processes by which we govern ourselves. It is an opportunity for any B.C.-based journalist to explore complex, important reporting, and I encourage all inspired journalists to apply for the 2024 intake."

Beginning Feb. 13, 2024, journalists in various stages of their careers can apply for a fellowship with a monetary award of as much as \$25,000 to research, produce and publish a project supported by a committed publishing partner. A second fellowship, with an award of as much as \$12,000, may be awarded to an outstanding emerging journalist in the early stages of their career. The subject matter must be clearly tied to British Columbia, its people and communities. The content produced may be written for print or digital publishing, or may be multimedia such as a video and/or a podcast.

"The Lieutenant Governor's BC Journalism Fellowship stands as a beacon of support, empowering journalists to overcome the hurdles posed by shrinking newsroom budgets and economic constraints," said Gillian Shaw, chair of the Jack Webster Foundation. "Kim Bolan, the 2023 Fellow, exemplifies the profound impact this fellowship can have on in-depth and

investigative journalism. This type of comprehensive reporting is crucial to fostering a robust and resilient democracy.”

Details regarding eligibility and requirements for application can be found here:

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

Application intake is open as of Feb. 13, 2024, with the deadline to apply being midnight (Pacific time), March 24, 2024. Recipient(s) will be announced in spring 2024.

About 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.

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.

About 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.

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