



Announcing the Winners of the Sitka Messengers of Biodiversity Reporting Grants

For Immediate Release

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VANCOUVER - The Sitka Foundation, in partnership with the Science Media Centre of Canada (SMCC), is pleased to announce the second round of **Sitka Messengers of Biodiversity Reporting Grants** to sixteen outstanding journalists from across Canada and the United States. Each will receive up to \$10,000 towards their reporting.

These grants are designed to support reporting and writing or broadcast stories about biodiversity issues in British Columbia that will be published or broadcast in a range of media in Canada, the U.S., and internationally.

Accurate, evidence-based journalism is a foundation of our democracy that serves the public and is critical to our ability to have well-informed public dialogues

and make wise decisions about our future. Yet in Canada and around the world, media outlets have been forced to cut budgets and reduce resources for in-depth reporting.

Many journalists today are limited to working the phones and rarely leaving their desks. Those dedicated to covering the issues of our time struggle to find resources to visit remote locations and take in eye-witness assessments. Even national and international media outlets lack travel funds, which restricts their ability to do on-the-ground reporting and investigation.

That's where the Sitka Biodiversity Reporting Grants can make a difference, allowing the journalists to use the money to cover travel and research time.

These sixteen accomplished journalists will report on the complex biodiversity issues that affect British Columbia's nature and people - where gains are being made - and tell stories about the people and partnerships working on solutions. The grant recipients are:

- **Odette Auger**, Cortes Island, B.C.
@odetteauger.bsky.social
www.linkedin.com/in/lesleyevansogden
www.instagram.com/odetteauger/
- **Leslie Anthony**, Whistler, B.C.
@docleslie.bsky.social
www.linkedin.com/in/leslie-anthony-76186510
- **Brad Badelt**, Vancouver, B.C.
- **Katherine Cheng**, Salt Spring Island, B.C.
www.linkedin.com/in/katherinekycheng
www.instagram.com/katherinekycheng
- **Anna Dulisse**, Nelson, B.C.
www.linkedin.com/in/anna-dulisse-459859260
- **Isabelle Groc**, Vancouver, B.C.
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www.linkedin.com/in/isabellegroc
www.instagram.com/isabellegroc
- **Ruth Kamnitzer**, Kimberley, B.C.
www.linkedin.com/in/ruth-kamnitzer-92a534ba
- **Arno Kopecky**, Vancouver, B.C.
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www.linkedin.com/in/arno-kopecky-b5427b40
www.instagram.com/arnokopecky
- **Annie Labrecque**, Saint-Hubert, Québec
@ninilab.bsky.social
- **J.B. (James) MacKinnon**, Vancouver, B.C.
@jbmackinnon.bsky.social
- **Adrienne Mason**, Tofino, B.C.
@toughcitywriter.bsky.social
www.instagram.com/toughcitywriter
- **Lesley Evans Ogden**, Vancouver, B.C.
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www.linkedin.com/in/lesleyevansogden
www.instagram.com/ljevanso
- **Jane Palmer**, Eldorado Springs, Colorado
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- **Brian Payton**, Comox, B.C.
- **Spoorthy Raman**, St. John's, Newfoundland
@spoorthyraman.bsky.social
www.linkedin.com/in/spoorthyraman
- **Alexis Riopel**, Montréal, Québec
www.linkedin.com/in/alexis-riopel

Selection of the grant recipients was an exciting but challenging process. An expert panel of adjudicators selected the winners from the talented pool of applicants. The panel included: Jim Handman, Executive Director of the Science Media Centre of Canada and former Senior Producer of CBC Radio's *Quirks & Quarks*; Francine Compton, Associate Director of the Indigenous Journalists Association and former producer for APTN and CBC Indigenous; Nancy Baron, a science communications expert, author, and Sitka board member; Jimmy Thomson, Editor-in-Chief of Canada's National Observer and a former recipient of this grant, and Carolyn Beaty, the Executive Director of the Sitka Foundation. Funding for this grant was provided by the Sitka Foundation and the project is led by SMCC. Neither Sitka nor SMCC will have any editorial control or influence on the journalist's work

"We see great story-telling as a window into biodiversity," said Carolyn Beaty, "shining a light on the problems and solutions facing the people, plants, animals and ecosystems of this province".

ABOUT THE SITKA FOUNDATION

The Sitka Foundation is a charitable family foundation that funds the conservation of nature and the protection of biodiversity through granting programs.

ABOUT THE SCIENCE MEDIA CENTRE OF CANADA

The Science Media Centre of Canada (SMCC) is a charitable organization that supports science and health journalism in Canada. SMCC aims to improve public understanding and engagement in science issues through media coverage that is accurate, incisive and evidence-based.

MEDIA INQUIRIES

Media inquiries can be directed to:

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