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2018 Professional Development Fellowships Recipients Announced

The Jack Webster Foundation Co-chairs, Ernest Yee and Anne McMullin are pleased to announce the 2018 recipients of the Jack Webster Foundation Professional Development Fellowships. **They are Laura Baziuk, BC Digital Editor for Black Press Media, and Alexa Huffman, Digital News Editor at CHEK News in Victoria, BC.**

"In these days of shrinking newsroom budgets, we are proud to provide professional development opportunities for BC journalists," said Ernest Yee. "In some cases, we are the only source of professional development funding for journalists in this province," added Anne McMullin, "and it's an honour to be able to support excellence in journalism, today, more than ever."

Ms. Baziuk's fellowship is in the name of the late BC reporter, Don Matheson, whose estate endowed professional development awards for BC born journalists. She will attend the prestigious Poynter Institute for Media Studies in St. Petersburg Florida where she will take the Essential Skills for Rising Newsroom Leaders course. Ms. Baziuk has worked as a journalist since 2007 and today is responsible for overseeing digital editorial operations and audience growth for 70+ newsrooms as her news sources and company transition from print-centric to audience-centric.

Ms. Huffman will also attend the prestigious Poynter Institute where she will attend the Leadership Academy for Women in Digital Media course. Ms. Huffman has worked as a journalist since 2014 and today at CHEK News writes online articles as well as guides a team of reporters and editors to post content on the CHEK News website where they share stories from around communities on Vancouver Island.

The Jack Webster Foundation Professional Development Fellowships cover the educational/travel costs for professional development and are open to all working BC journalists to apply for. They are available annually for journalists to either attend a course at the Poynter Institute of Media Studies, or to follow a self-defined program of study. To date more than \$220,000 has been awarded by the Foundation.

The Jack Webster Foundation was founded in 1986 and named after the man who was Western Canada's best-known and most influential reporter. He left his mark on the BC journalism scene with his hard-hitting reporting style. In his more than 40 years of print, radio and television journalism, Jack Webster was synonymous with insightful, accurate and unabashed reporting. Today the Jack Webster Foundation carries on Jack's legacy by promoting and

recognizing the achievements of BC based reporters by: holding the annual Jack Webster Awards for excellence in journalism in BC, awarding annual Student Awards to senior journalism students, awarding Professional Development Fellowships to working journalists, and providing educational seminars for the media.

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