



Jack Webster Foundation to Postpone Fall In-Person Gala However, 2020 Webster Awards Are On

Vancouver, BC (April 27, 2020) – In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Jack Webster Foundation announced it will be postponing the fall in-person gala event for the 2020 Webster Awards, however the Webster Awards themselves will take place with the Foundation considering new award presentation options for 2020.

“Foundation Trustees concluded this week that holding a fall awards dinner is not feasible at this time,” said David Hoff, Co-chair. “Normally, in April and May we would begin to make financial commitments for the annual event, but as a small non-profit society we are not able proceed.”

For the last 32 years, the Jack Webster Foundation has hosted an annual media awards dinner that celebrates excellence in B.C. journalism across print, radio, television and on-line platforms.

“We are committed to presenting a version of the Webster Awards in the late fall,” added Joy Jennissen, Co-chair. “We are looking at new approaches for award nominations, judging and presenting, and will consider these options and will announce what the 2020 Webster Awards will look like soon.”

The annual gala event attracts between 800 and 1,000 B.C. media professionals, community leaders and business representatives. In addition to the Webster Awards, the Foundation also presents the Bruce Hutchison Lifetime Achievement Award and the Bill Good Award at the fall event.

“We appreciate the support and flexibility of our partners and sponsors,” said Janet Mitchell, Executive Director, “many of whom have supported us loyally for numerous years. Also, the media indeed needs our support and should be recognized for all they're doing to bring us the news, the facts and the truth, now more than ever.”

The Jack Webster Foundation will continue to operate its Professional Development Fellowship Program for the media and its Student Journalism Awards and Indigenous Student Award programs this year. Planned professional development seminars will be evaluated and may be converted into webinars. For more information and updates on these programs visit www.jackwebster.com.

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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