

Tara Sharpe  
Media Relations  
University of Victoria  
tksharpe@uvic.ca  
250-213-7099 (c)

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**Re: Jean Paetkau | Jack Webster Foundation's 2022 Shelley Fralic Award**

I'm delighted to write this letter of support for Jean Paetkau, an outstanding CBC journalist and exceptional writer who contributes daily to the fabric of our community not only in the land upon which we both live and work on the traditional territories of the lək'wəŋən and WSÁNEĆ peoples and of the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, but also across all areas of this province.

Through her compassion, dedication, talent and consummate professionalism, Jean embodies the intent and essence of the Shelley Fralic Award. I have witnessed this firsthand: as a media relations contact in the University of Victoria's communications department, I regularly liaise with Jean and have worked with her since 2009, connecting her with research experts on breaking news and coordinating multiple interviews for Jean when she is chasing feature stories (for example, for her [recent article](#) on the Indigenous art exhibition, "On Beaded Ground," at UVic's community gallery, and her [online coverage about Holocaust graphic novels](#) which she'd uploaded with full story treatment following a radio interview she'd lined up).

In reflecting upon Jean's overall collection of CBC coverage over the years, it is unequivocally obvious—with recent stories ranging from the [aftermath of psychedelic treatments on mental illness](#), the [effects of a severe family doctor shortage](#) and the [realities of medical assistance in dying](#), through to "Beyond Beads and Bannock," an [in-depth exploration of the impact the Indigenous curriculum is having on both non-Indigenous and Indigenous students](#)—that Jean applies the most rigorous investigative principles, unwavering journalistic ethics and creative dynamism to her work. And she does all this while infusing her own brand of warmth, humility, humour, empathy and authenticity in shaping and sharing these resonant, complex stories that touch thousands and help contribute to profound change in the lives of people who might otherwise not be heard.

I have absolutely no hesitation in recommending Jean for any journalism award and wholeheartedly believe she is ideally suited for this particular one. The Fralic Award, with its emphasis on excellence in journalism and making community a better place, is Jean writ large.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this nomination.

Regards,

Tara Sharpe

