

Dear members of the Jack Webster Foundation,

I am writing this letter of support for the nomination of Sophie Lui – for recognition with the inaugural Shelley Fralic Award.

I have known Sophie for more than two decades – both as a colleague and close friend (full disclosure I am her ex-husband and so know her career better than most!). Sophie would be an excellent inaugural selection for such a prestigious honour.

Sophie epitomizes excellence in journalism – a relentless and dedicated broadcast journalist who has devoted most of her adult life delivering the news to British Columbians. She embarked on her broadcast news career at C-FAX 1070 radio – Victoria’s news authority and was especially instrumental in the coverage of the historic Blizzard of the Century in 1996 - a blizzard that crippled the capital and C-FAX was the essential lifeline for stranded residents. It was then a seamless transition to television when she moved to CHEK-TV in 1999 and quickly established herself as a trusted and well-respected anchor for Vancouver Island viewers.

She moved on to Global BC – first for a long stint anchoring the morning news (both weekends and then weekdays) – before receiving the well-deserved promotion to co-anchor the legendary News Hour – to my knowledge – becoming the first visible minority to anchor that storied suppertime newscast.

Her passion for storytelling and revealing truths is undeniable. Along with her full-time job – she has created a production company “Get Lost” – that has seen her produce and host documentaries in Myanmar and Colombia – on the daily challenges those countries face.

She’s a champion for countless causes - and gives an extraordinary amount of her time to various charitable organizations. How she manages her time between her demanding job and all the requested events she commits to – is nothing short of astounding.

Finally – yes she’s a formidable opponent in the Vancouver market – and I wish she was on my team - but I won’t hesitate to say that she is a superbly gifted journalist – not only one of the best in the province but in the entire country. She rarely gets recognized (and I know that’s just fine with her) but this is one special award I know in which she will feel truly humbled in receiving. Thank you for considering her nomination.

Best regards,

Jason Pires

CTV Vancouver/CTV Morning Live