



June 29th 2022

Re: The Shelley Fralic Award and CTV's Penny Daflos

Dear Jack Webster Foundation

I'm writing to respectfully suggest you consider CTV News Vancouver reporter Penny Daflos for the Shelley Fralic Award. Like Shelley was, Penny is a fearless journalist and her tenacity and refusal to accept government spin for an answer has been on display almost daily throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. I have personally fielded calls from government officials wanting to express their concern to me over Penny's tough questions during some of the briefings on the failure by our public health officials to keep the pandemic from spreading inside BC hospitals and long term care facilities. To me, these calls smacked of the kind of quiet sexism that Shelley always stood up against and I was proud to explain that Penny's tough questions reflect our newsroom's belief in accountability. But it was Penny who took that belief to a deeper level, working sources and filing access to information requests that, among many other revelations, revealed a systemic effort at the highest levels of government to keep the BC public in the dark about how pandemic outbreaks had spread inside BC's public health facilities and what, if anything, they were doing to prevent these deadly outbreaks from happening again and again. This what Penny does for journalism in BC: She breaks stories and pursues accountability by doing her homework and refusing to accept spin and deflection from people in positions of power. This, in my opinion, is local reporting at its finest and I hope you'll give Penny a close look as you pick this year's winner.

Sincerely,

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cc: CBSC