

It's rare to find a journalist who is as tough as she is compassionate, but Penny Daflos fits that description.

Throughout the pandemic, plus the twin tragedies of the heat dome and atmospheric river flooding, she has pushed government policies, decision-makers and their actions into the spotlight and scrutinized their actions and inactions with a steady focus on the impacts to ordinary British Columbians.

Her questioning of Covid testing policies and access to resources for long Covid sufferers have included struggling people, often disabled, who are underrepresented in mainstream journalism. Penny's merciless focus on the catastrophic failures to communicate health risk during the heat dome and resource the paramedic service has laser-focused on the voiceless most impacted by those decisions as her scrutiny of the inexplicable hesitation to use life-saving technologies such as AlertReady in an emergency has increased pressure on the province to change course in its policies, which they have done: the [expansion of AlertReady](#), and new HARS (Heat Alert Response System) came [in the wake of](#) her reporting.

Most recently, healthcare workers across the province have risked their livelihoods by opening up about the realities of our collapsing healthcare system, while a [local woman trusted Penny](#) to tell her story about seeking medical assistance in dying after finding a medical system short on support for healthcare, with easy deathcare instead.

The compassion and respect Penny has shown to her sources, interview subjects and impacted British Columbians is reflected in the many voices and perspectives she includes in her stories every day. It's made her pencil that much sharper when writing about the inaction, hesitancy and even callousness of policymakers' response to the related issues.

She has pushed the ministers of health, public safety and transportation, as well as the provincial health officer and the premier to explain their decisions to British Columbians: a tongue-in-cheek query about [dating](#) during the first pandemic reopening and holding the [premier accountable for his absence](#) during a tense summer are part of the balance Penny strikes in reporting that's detail oriented, pointed, and accessible to every viewer or reader of her journalism.

Very few journalists have held policymakers feet to the fire the way Penny has, particularly in the past two-and-a-half years and we would like to see her recognized for her fearless commitment to accountability, not the least of which has been a [year-long battle to](#) uncover why so many British Columbians walked into hospital Covid-free and ended up sick or dying from the virus.