



Messengers of Biodiversity REPORTING GRANT



Call for Proposals from the Sitka Foundation for Messengers of Biodiversity Reporting Grant



Are you a journalist or science writer with a great idea for a story about biodiversity in British Columbia, but you lack the resources to research the idea and travel to B.C. to report it? Well now you can. Introducing the **Messengers of Biodiversity Reporting Grant**.

OPPORTUNITY

In partnership with the Science Media Centre of Canada, the Sitka Foundation is offering journalists grants to support reporting and writing or broadcast stories about biodiversity issues in British Columbia. These stories are intended to be published in a range of media in Canada, the U.S. or internationally. To receive this grant they must focus on some aspect of British Columbia's biodiversity although journalists receiving this grant do not need to be based in British Columbia or Canada. The funding is designed to be flexible and can be used to help cover research time, travel and other related expenses. There will be two streams of funding: for research time only (CAD \$10,000) and for research plus travel costs (CAD \$15,000). We have ten grants available this year.

ABOUT THE SITKA FOUNDATION

The Sitka Foundation is a charitable family foundation based in Vancouver that funds the conservation of nature and the protection of biodiversity through several granting programs. These programs are currently focussed on amplifying and protecting biodiversity in British Columbia. Sitka supports the fundamental importance of nature by offering philanthropic grants to messengers of biodiversity: bridge builders, solution seekers, and strategic communicators.

ABOUT THE SCIENCE MEDIA CENTRE OF CANADA

The Science Media Centre of Canada (SMCC) is a charitable organization that supports journalists writing about the sciences, engineering, and technology. Through communication and partnerships, the SMCC aims to improve public understanding and engagement of science issues through media coverage that is accurate, incisive, and evidence-based.

HOW TO APPLY

If you are a journalist seeking resources to support and amplify work that centres on biodiversity issues and solutions in British Columbia, please apply by sending a two-page maximum letter by **November 1, 2023**. Before submitting, please have a thorough idea of your story and an expression of interest from a media outlet. Funding for successful applicants will be made available by December 1, 2023. Your proposed piece should be completed, submitted to, and accepted by a media outlet by **November 1, 2024**.

In your application, please include the following:

- Your name, contact information, professional interest area, location, website, and 3 links to or pdfs of published material.
- **Purpose:** what story/issue and which area/bioregion will you focus on with this funding?
- **Outlet:** briefly detail the outlet(s) from whom you have received an expression of interest for this story.
- **Impact:** what impact do you hope this funding will have on your work (quantitative and/or qualitative)?
- **Need or plan:** how exactly would you use this funding?
- **Clearly articulate if you are applying for Stream 1 or Stream 2 funding and why.**
 - *Stream 1 - \$10,000 for time to research and write/create your work.*
 - *Stream 2 - \$15,000 for time and travel costs.*
- **References:** Please provide two references who have worked with you in your capacity as an established journalist.

DEADLINES, CONTACT AND SELECTION PROCESS

Apply by November 1, 2023. If accepted, you will receive funding by December 1, 2023. Your application will be reviewed by a small but diverse external panel of experts. Send your letter as an attached document to info@sitkafoundation.org with *Messengers of Biodiversity Reporting Grant* in the subject line. We will require a final report by **November 1, 2024**, which will be brief and will include the final story completed, submitted to, and accepted by a media outlet; a financial report detailing expenditures; and a few specific process questions.

DISCLAIMER

At this time, this funding is only for journalists (freelance and those employed by a media outlet) with a story proposal focussed on biodiversity issues in British Columbia.

We are grateful to live, work, and play on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

