

Mayor and Council.

Greetings on behalf of ink-stainedwretches.org, our grassroots volunteer advocacy group dedicated to building a culture of appreciation for quality public-service journalism in Canada.

Although our group includes more than 30 volunteers across the country, unfortunately we do not have a representative in Whistler at this time. So, as the group's co-ordinator, I'm submitting this request.

We respectfully ask that you proclaim **May 3, 2023**, as [World Press Freedom Day](#) (WPFD) in Whistler. In 1993, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed that day each year to be WPFD.

As quality journalism is essential for healthy democracies to function, we are asking municipalities across Canada to recognize WPFD in some fashion. In eight provinces last year, 15 municipalities — including Vancouver and Prince George — recognized the day in one way or another. Please feel free to [view the list](#).

I'd like to propose the wording displayed below my contact information.

In addition to this proclamation request, I have submitted a request for the Fitzsimmons Covered Bridge to be lit for the occasion.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mirko Petricevic

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Proposed proclamation wording:

WHEREAS, a healthy, professional news media is essential for the proper functioning of civil society and democracy at the local, regional, federal and international levels, and

WHEREAS, The Public Policy Forum declares — on its website for the 2017 report *The Shattered Mirror: News, Democracy and Trust in the Digital Age* — that “real news is in crisis” in this country, and

WHEREAS, according to Canada’s federal government’s Canadian Heritage department, from 2008 to August 2021, almost 450 news outlets have closed, with nearly 63 of those closures happening since the COVID-19 pandemic began,

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that I, Mayor Jack Crompton, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2023 to be “WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY” in The Resort Municipality of Whistler.