



Jan. 29, 2024

Mayor and Council:

Greetings on behalf of [Ink-stained Wretches](https://ink-stained-wretches.org), our grassroots volunteer advocacy group dedicated to building a culture of appreciation for quality journalism in aid of democracy.

Again, thank you for granting our request in 2023 to light the Fitzsimmons Covered Bridge from May 2-4 in an effort to raise awareness of [UN World Press Freedom Day](https://www.un.org/en/observances/worldpressfreedomday) (WPFDD is observed annually on May 3).

Please accept this letter as our request to light the bridge from May 2-4, 2024.

This year's WPFDD theme is "A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the face of the Environmental Crisis."

Also, thank you again for granting our request in 2023 to proclaim WPFDD in Whistler. We have already submitted a request for you to proclaim WPFDD again on May 3rd.

There's no question that quality journalism needs our support: According to the [Local News Research Project](https://www.localnewsresearchproject.ca), 516 news outlets in 345 communities across Canada have closed or merged from 2008 to December 2023 (compared to the opening of 215 in 152 communities). BC residents have not been spared this devastating loss of public service.

Last year, the Resort Municipality of Whistler was among [28 communities across Canada](https://www.localnewsresearchproject.ca) — in nine provinces and one territory — to mark the day. We hope that you will once again help us raise awareness of such a vital part of a healthy democracy.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mirko Petricevic

Co-ordinator, [Ink-stained Wretches](https://ink-stained-wretches.org)

██████ 4 Willow St., Waterloo, Ont., N2J 4S2

(Privacy: Please remove my unit number when posting my address publicly.)



Landmark Lighting Request Form

Please complete the form and scan/email to corporate@whistler.ca along with your cover letter addressed "To Mayor and Council" with information regarding your campaign or cause.

We will contact you to confirm the status of your request.

Contact Name	Mirko Petricevic
Organization	Ink-stained Wretches
Business Address	4 Willow St.
City/Province/Postal Code	Waterloo, Ont., N2J 4S2
Business Phone Number	(519) 504-2367
Business Email	ink.stained.campaign@gmail.com
Website Address	ink-stainedwretches.org
Brief description of the event associated with your request - 75 words or less <i>(Information here will be used for communications and the sign on the bridge. RMOW will edit copy if necessary.)</i>	The United Nations General Assembly in 1993 proclaimed May 3 to be World Press Freedom Day (WPFD) each year. As quality journalism is essential for healthy democracies to function, our grassroots volunteer advocacy group is asking municipalities across Canada to recognize WPFD. In 2023, Whistler was among 28 Canadian municipalities — in nine provinces and one territory — that recognized the day with proclamations, flag raisings and infrastructure lighting.]
Optional: Social Media Campaign Title (include hashtags)	World Press Freedom Day 2024 #WPFD; #WPFD2024; #WorldPressFreedomDay;
Landmark Choice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fitzsimmons Covered Bridge
Date of Event	Please light from the evening of May 2 to morning of May 4
Colour Request	Blue or, if possible, blue and white

Signature: Mirko Petricevic

Date: Jan. 22, 2024

This application does not guarantee that your event lighting request will be approved or your date is available.