

Mayor and Council.

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

Once again I would like to thank you for granting our request, in 2023, to proclaim May 3 as World Press Freedom day in the Resort Municipality of Whistler.

I am writing again to respectfully ask that you proclaim **May 3** as [World Press Freedom Day](https://www.un.org/en/observances/worldpressfreedomday) (WPF) in Whistler. In 1993, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed that day each year to be observed as WPF.

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.

As quality journalism is essential for healthy democracies to function, we are asking municipalities across Canada to recognize WPF in some fashion.

Last year, 28 municipalities — including Whistler, Vancouver, Toronto, St. John's and Iqaluit — 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 am submitting a request for the Fitzsimmons Covered Bridge to be lit for the occasion as it was in 2023.

Thank you for your consideration,
Mirko Petricevic

Co-ordinator, ink-stainedwretches.org

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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 United Nations has proclaimed "World Press Freedom Day" as an annual observance each May 3rd; and

WHEREAS, 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),

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.