

LINDSAY CRYSLER AWARD

The Lindsay Crysler award is one of QCNA's most prestigious honours because it pays tribute to individuals who set the highest standard of excellence which in turn raises the profile of community newspapers. The award is named after Lindsay Crysler, a former dean of journalism at Concordia University who was instrumental in raising the bar for journalists within QCNA, and for recognizing the high impact of community journalism. In the early 1980s it was Lindsay, and then-editorial services coordinator Judith Taylor, who judged all entries in the QCNA Better Newspapers Competition. Lindsay encouraged his journalism students to do a stint, or forge a career, in a community newspaper so they can truly appreciate the impact of what they write. QCNA wanted to recognize his longstanding contribution, thereby creating the Lindsay Crysler Award, first presented at the QCNA gala in 1994. It was Lindsay's wish that the award be presented to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the community newspaper industry in general or whose work in a community newspaper has made an extraordinary contribution to the community.

*The winner of the
2015 Lindsay Crysler Award
for outstanding contribution to the
growth and development of community
newspapers in Quebec is:*

LYLE STEWART *the Nation*



The Nation magazine would like to nominate Lyle Stewart for the 2015 Lindsay Crysler Award. Stewart has a long history in community newspapers as well as other public interest media.

Lyle started out in 1984 as a staff writer for The Martlet, a community student newspaper at the University of Victoria. His talents were recognized as he went on to be the news editor and then editor in chief of the paper. This is also where he first learned the importance of teaching journalism skills and techniques to those starting out in the trade. It's something he would take with him through a variety of writing and editing posts.

During his time in Victoria, Lyle freelanced for the Western Report, a weekly news magazine serving Western Canada. Then, in 1987 he became a staff writer for Monday Magazine, an alternative weekly newspaper, becoming an assistant editor and a B.C. legislature press gallery member as he covered a series of political, social and environmental issues on the west coast.

In the 1990s, Stewart put on his traveling shoes and headed out to Montreal, where after graduating from Concordia University he accepted a position as contributing editor for the now-defunct Montreal Mirror. From 1995-2002 he worked for the Mirror's rival weekly, Hour Magazine, as a news editor and political columnist.

During this period, Stewart began giving the Nation a much-needed helping hand as a copy editor and later as a member of the magazine's editorial board. He would continue in both of these roles as he went on to become a columnist at The Montreal Gazette in the early 2000s, followed by other jobs at Radio-Canada International and CBC television news.

His experience has proven to be invaluable over the years, mentoring those of us with a less-varied skill set. Many award-winning journalists at the Nation received training and benefited from his editorial treatment of their articles. During this time Stewart has been nominated and selected for several Quebec Community Newspapers Association awards for column, news and editorial writing, even for news photography.

The Eastern Door owner and editor, Steve Bonspiel, who started out at the Nation, still gives him a ring now and then to talk about his publication. When Bonspiel is out of town he has called on Stewart to fill his shoes as guest editor.

He has done much for both of our publications throughout the years because he believes in the value of independent community newspapers and the meaning they have to the readers we serve.

He has taught us a lot about the world we live in and have made such an important part of our lives. Working on news outlets serving First Nations communities, Lyle helped teach us how to practice quality journalism without sacrificing the focus on our way of life. He has made us better without imposing his cultural values upon us.

In the remote Cree communities of northern Quebec, many First Nations people have little expertise or training on how to interact with media. Stewart, along with Nation editor in chief, Will Nicholls, created a Communications Training Program to help community leaders in this important role. While it brought in an additional and much-needed source of funding for the Nation, this activity also helped community leaders deal with apprehension when speaking to journalists.

A modification of this program was created for local artisans so they could better promote themselves, their artwork and handicrafts. Both of these additions to the Nation have resulted in more news articles and features that respond to the needs and desires of the Nation's readership.

Lyle Stewart is the type of community journalist for whom the Lindsay Crysler Award was created, and the Nation is proud to nominate him for this honour.

Recently, Steve Bonspiel of the Eastern Door honoured Lyle during his series of Facebook posts called the "31 Days of Awesomeness."

Steve wrote the following about Lyle Stewart:

"I would certainly not be the journalist I am today without Lyle's patience and help early on in my career (13 years as of Jan. 3). The impact Lyle had on my writing and the tips and editing he provided, pro bono, when I first started freelancing for the mainstream, were invaluable and will always be remembered.

He was a journalist for many years and he was there during the so-called Oka Crisis in 1990, where he learned a lot about our people - and broadened his own horizons, as good people do.

I always appreciated his constructive criticism and his candor; never too harsh but firm enough so I walked away with important lessons from his words.

If I ever needed help, Lyle was there. No questions

asked. I respect all of his accomplishments and look back at his dedication to us, to the craft, to me, with fond memories and admiration.

Today, I honour you, Lyle. The indelible lessons learned, the long hours and the wars we went through, and the beverages we shared, will forever be linked to someone I will always call a friend."

*Nominated by Will Nicholls
Editor in Chief
the Nation*

Lyle Stewart has been helping the Nation in one capacity or another since the late 1990s.

He's been everything from a copy editor, to a reporter and a member of the editorial board at the magazine.

Lyle has been nominated and selected for numerous Quebec Community Newspapers Association awards for columns, writing and photography. In its nomination proposal, the Nation said "Lyle is the type of community journalist for whom the Lindsay Crysler Award was created."

This year, The Eastern Door Publisher, Steve Bonspiel, praised Lyle for his help early in Steve's career.

Through the Nation, Lyle has also been involved in providing media training for First Nations people, creating a program to help local artisans so they could better promote themselves and their work and of course helping up-and-coming First Nations journalists develop in the craft.

For all of these reasons, the jury selects Lyle Stewart as the recipient of the 2016 Lindsay Crysler Award.

Judges
Karen Macdonald
Station Manager and News Director
Global Montreal

George Bakoyannis
Co-Publisher
The Greek Canadian News, The Laval News, The
North Shore News, Nouvelles Parc Extension News