

The logo for OCUFA, consisting of the letters 'OCUFA' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The background of the entire page features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of teal and light green, creating a modern, layered effect.

# OCUFA

Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations  
Union des associations des professeurs des universités de l'Ontario

## **2023-2024**

# **OCUFA Mark Rosenfeld Fellowship in Higher Education Journalism**

**Citation for Lauren Phillips**

The Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations is pleased to present the 2023-2024 Mark Rosenfeld Fellowship in Higher Education Journalism to Lauren Phillips. Lauren is an education reporter for The Coast in Kijipuktuk/Halifax, NS, affiliated with the Local Journalism Initiative.

Lauren's proposal for the Mark Rosenfeld Fellowship focuses on the widespread use of non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) at Atlantic Canadian universities in cases of sexual assault and harassment allegations, and the effects of those agreements on the lives of survivors. Lauren will also examine the institutional policies on sexual violence in place at 16 Atlantic universities and efforts underway at some universities to stop using NDAs.

The selection committee was impressed with Lauren's thorough reporting plan and budget for producing an original piece of writing and an original podcast episode. The committee also found her reporting proposal to include important contingency plans for dealing with roadblocks in obtaining freedom-of-information requests and other important documents that may be redacted or restricted.

Lauren is a recent journalism school graduate at University of King's College in Halifax, NS, and has already proven herself to be a tenacious and diligent reporter across beats. She received the 2023 Gold award at the Canadian Online Publishing Awards, Academic for Best Multicultural Story, "Kwe' Eskasoni." Lauren's dynamic approach to storytelling has garnered great respect from her peers and mentors. One recommender wrote about Lauren's work in journalism school: "If a story needed work, she accepted feedback and continued on. If she encountered a barrier, she looked for ways to get around it. Her work was consistently well written and well researched." Another letter states: "The qualification guidelines for the Rosenfeld Fellowship actually describe her better than I can, particularly this alliterative group: independent, incisive, insightful, innovative."

Lauren's considered approach to a difficult subject gave the committee great confidence in her ability to deliver stellar final products. The committee was not alone; Lauren has

already secured a publishing commitment from The Coast for her finished story and plans to pursue publication nationally and in Atlantic Canada. The selection committee is pleased to award this honour to Lauren Phillips for her ambitious and timely reporting project.

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**The OCUFA Mark Rosenfeld Fellowship in Higher Education Journalism was established to help address the shortage of informed investigative reporting on Canadian higher education issues in the Canadian media. Open to full-time, part-time, and freelance journalists, including students, the fellowship is designed to support those wishing to pursue in-depth and innovative journalism on higher education.**