

The logo for OCUFA, consisting of the letters 'OCUFA' in a large, white, sans-serif font. The background of the top half of the page features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of teal and light green, some with a subtle pattern of small circles.

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

**2022-2023**  
**OCUFA Mark Rosenfeld Fellowship in**  
**Higher Education Journalism**

**Citation for David Venn**

**Read by: Lisa Taylor, University of King's College**

The Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations is pleased to present the 2022-2023 Mark Rosenfeld Fellowship in Higher Education Journalism to David Venn. David Venn is a journalist whose work has been published in Maclean's, the Tyee, the Toronto Star, and more.

The selection committee was struck by David's submission for its community focus, compelling narrative, and social justice mission. His proposed investigative journalism story follows the work of Shirley Tagalik, an educator from Nunavut who led the creation of an Inuit education curriculum in the early 2000s. The curriculum was never implemented, but Tagalik adapted her work for Inuit people in Nunavik, Quebec, and has seen positive results for students, educators, and the community.

In his proposed story, David will also explore the role of culturally relevant school curricula in advancing postsecondary gains for Indigenous people and the current landscape of culturally significant educational development for Indigenous and Inuit people in Canada. The Mark Rosenfeld Fellowship supports in-depth investigative journalism on higher education issues that consider public policy and solutions, and David's application highlights the ways in which higher education decisions like community engagement, culturally relevant teacher training, and student empowerment can lead to lasting change for communities.

David has consistently displayed the determination and eye for a good story essential to succeeding in journalism. From 2021 to 2023, he was a reporter at Nunatsiaq News in Iqaluit, Nunavut, writing investigative features on complex Northern issues, including mining and government housing programs. He also has experience breaking news as a reporter with the Toronto Star and has received numerous awards for his reporting. David is currently an assistant editor for the Literary Review of Canada and continues to write freelance stories.

No matter the location—the northern tip of Baffin Island, the mountain town of Kelowna, BC, or downtown Toronto—David seeks out important stories that need to be told and

has not shied away from the difficulties of telling those stories. One of his referees wrote: “David has proven himself to be a reliable reporter—one that can handle difficult files, write hard news and features, and take compelling photographs. He has developed a reputation for being a trustworthy, ethical reporter in the North that pays close attention to the audience he is writing for and the communities his writing serves. He is the best journalist I have ever worked with.”

The selection committee for the OCUFA Mark Rosenfeld Fellowship in Higher Education Journalism is pleased to award this honour to David for his ambitious, culturally relevant, and community-focused reporting project.

# OCUFA

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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.**