

# Atkinson Fellowship in Public Policy

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## **Catherine Wallace Named 2016-2017 Atkinson Fellow in Public Policy**

Toronto, June 16, 2016 - A 37-year veteran of the newspaper industry, Catherine Wallace, is the winner of the 28<sup>th</sup> annual Atkinson Fellowship in Public Policy. The announcement was made this evening at the Canadian Journalism Foundation's 19th Annual Awards Gala at the Fairmont Royal York.

Wallace will explore the state of Canada's news media industry and propose ways to keep public interest journalism dynamic and relevant in these changing times. She will investigate the shrinking capacity of newsrooms to do the in-depth reporting that engages communities, holds the powerful to account, and strengthens democracy. She plans to examine new partnerships that combine the expertise of news organizations with, citizens, universities, and, other institutions, to feed and fund the news.

Wallace's wide range of journalistic experience equips her to investigate this topic over the next 12 months. She is driven by her concern that too many communities in Canada are, "in danger of losing the breadth and depth of reporting that helps build an engaged society, makes a complex world less alienating, connects people to the places they live, and holds government accountable."

"The operating model that served...so well for so long is collapsing in the face of technological and social change," she says. "The biggest loss isn't just in investments or jobs but the flow of information that is the basis of a solid democracy."

Catherine Wallace was the managing editor of The Gazette in Montreal from 2010-2014 where she piloted and led the weekday tablet edition. Wallace has also worked at the Toronto Star and Globe and Mail. In her almost forty year career, Wallace has held a number of positions including assignment editor, city editor, features and investigations editor, deputy national editor and weekend editor.

*The Atkinson Fellowship in Public Policy was created in 1988 and named for one of Toronto Star's first publishers, Joseph E. Atkinson. For a period of one year, recipients receive a stipend of \$75,000 and up to \$25,000 for research expenses to work exclusively on a "game-changing" series of in-depth articles to be published in the Toronto Star.*

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For more information, visit <http://atkinsonfoundation.ca/AFPP> or contact Colette Murphy, Atkinson Foundation, 416.869.4588, [cmurphy@atkinsonfoundation.ca](mailto:cmurphy@atkinsonfoundation.ca).