



Judging Guidelines

Important Dates, Conflict of Interest, Confidentiality and Award Category and Criteria links

Thank you for volunteering to be a judge for the RTDNA Canada 2022 Awards. These are awards to be presented in 2022 for journalism published in 2021.

Members of RTDNA Canada appreciate the valuable contribution you are making to improve broadcast and digital journalism by accepting the position of judging these prestigious Awards.

Good luck and good judging!

If you have any questions, please email us at awards@rtdnacanada.com

*Awards Committee, RTDNA Canada
Karen Mitchell - Chair
Mieke Anderson
Colleen Schmidt*

Judging - Important Dates and Deadlines 2022

Round 1 Judging: **Regional** and **National** is closed.

Round 2 Judging: **Best Canadian Local News Awards**

OPEN - Thursday, March 31 to Friday, April 8, 2022

CLOSED – Friday, April 8 - Round 2 Judging is closed.

Tie Break scoring, if required, between **Monday, April 11 – Thursday, April 14 @ 8:00PM (ET).**

May 4, 2022	Regional Awards finalists announced
May 26, 2022	Regional Award winners announced - West, Prairies, Central, East
June 8, 2022	National and Best Canadian Local News Awards finalists announced
Mid June 2022 at RTDNA Canada Gala	National and Best Canadian Local News Awards winners announced

Judging and Conflict of Interest

RTDNA Canada's judges come from a wide variety of backgrounds and affiliations - ranging from people working at small private news organizations to large networks to faculty of journalism programs. And just as many Canadian journalists work for a handful of large employers, many

of our judges come from large organizations in this country's very concentrated media landscape.

We have taken certain measures to minimize conflict of interest. For example, individuals are assigned to judge entries that originate in other regions of the country. Similarly, journalists who work at the *National* level are asked to judge *Regional* entries and vice versa.

From time to time, a judge will flag us about a potential conflict of interest, and we will rule whether to assign them elsewhere or leave them as assigned. We trust in the professionalism of judges to vote for excellence even if an entry was submitted by the "competition." Looking at our former judges and their track record, we would say that our trust is well placed.

We have also created a buffer in that all judging is done independently - aside from rare occurrences when a tie needs to be broken. For this reason, we do not release the names of our judges.

If you have any questions or concerns or would like to flag a potential conflict of interest, please contact us at awards@rtdnacanada.com.

We are also sensitive to Canada's employment climate and that some of the country's premier journalists have found their job status has changed - sometimes of their own choice, sometimes not. Consequently, some of our judges are self-employed and others have taken a break from their retirement to judge for us. Their employment status has not diminished their ability to judge journalistic excellence.

We are beholden to all our judges - regional, national, faculty, freelance and retired - for the time and expertise that they donate to us annually!

There would be no RTDNA Canada Awards without you.

Judging and Confidentiality

To ensure the confidentiality of members' submissions and maintain the integrity of the awards, we ask you to keep the information assigned to you private.

Specifically, you undertake to:

1. Respect the confidential nature of all submissions and not disclose information in submissions, in any way whatsoever, to third parties;
2. Use such information as is disclosed to you only for the express purpose of scoring submissions assigned to you, and for no other purpose.

Judging and Award Categories and Criteria

Please click the links to view [Regional](#) and [National](#) Award categories and criteria.