



Jennifer Ditchburn

Jennifer was a Liberal Arts student at John Abbott. She joined the staff of Bandersnatch newspaper almost immediately after arriving at the College, going on to become the editor in chief. Jennifer was also a key participant in JAC's Multicultural Week, for which she received the John Abbott College Service Award. Upon graduation in 1992, she received several honours, including a Certificate of Outstanding Achievement in Liberal Arts, the SUJAC award and the IODE book prize. Her success at John Abbott helped her attain two different university scholarships as she started her journalism studies at Concordia, where she became the University's newspaper editor.

Jennifer freelanced during her university years for various publication including The Gazette, the Montreal Mirror and the Sherbrooke Record. She joined the staff of The Canadian Press during her third year, going on to work in the news agency's Toronto and Edmonton bureaus before arriving in the nation's capital in 1997. From 2001 and 2006 she was a national reporter with CBC Television on Parliament Hill, returning to The Canadian Press in 2006. During her more than two decades of daily reporting, she covered several elections and party leadership races, interviewed prime ministers and foreign leaders, and filed from the 2010 Olympic Games. She is the recipient of three National Newspaper Awards, and the prestigious Charles Lynch Award for outstanding coverage of national issues.

In 2016, Jennifer became editor-in-chief of Policy Options, the digital magazine of the Institute for Research on Public Policy. She is a frequent public speaker, and contributor to television and radio public affairs programs, including CBC's Power and Politics and The National's "At Issue" panel.

In 2021, she was appointed President and CEO of Institute for Research and Policy.

Jennifer has a Bachelor of Arts from Concordia University and a Master of Journalism from Carleton University. She is co-editor of the 2016 book "The Harper Factor: Assessing a PM's Policy Legacy" (McGill-Queen's University Press), and a major contributor to "Sharp Wits and Busy Pens: 150 Years of Canada's Parliamentary Press Gallery", published the same year (Hill Times Publishing).

Jennifer graduated from the Liberal Arts program in 1992.